



# COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

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Town Hall, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW

☎ 0300 1234 105

✉ [enquiries@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@scilly.gov.uk)

8 February 2022

Dear resident

## **Housing crisis – can you help?**

The shortage of housing on the Isles of Scilly has reached a point where Councillors have voted unanimously to declare a housing crisis in order to raise awareness of the issue. This letter is to ask for your help with our immediate need to find homes.

We want to hear from anyone who has a private residential rental available for medium or long term use or a property they are willing to change from a holiday let to residential use. We are interested in accommodation of any size, including houses, flats and even spare rooms. If you can help, please contact our Housing Officer on 01720 424440 (voicemail only), or email [housing@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:housing@scilly.gov.uk).

At the time of writing, there are 15 households on our homeless list and many more that we know are at risk of becoming homeless because, for example, their winter let accommodation returns to holiday use at the start of the visitor season. The sustainability of the islands depends on the availability of homes for those working here. With each person forced to leave the islands, we run a risk that important services may be disrupted.

## **Help if you're homeless or about to become homeless**

In England, your council must help if you are legally homeless or will become homeless within the next 8 weeks. If you are at risk of homelessness, please fill out our Homelessness Application Form, which you can find at the webpage below; alternatively you can arrange to pick up a paper copy by contacting our Housing Officer at the contact details above.

Homelessness information: [scilly.gov.uk/community-safety/housing/social-housing/homelessness](https://scilly.gov.uk/community-safety/housing/social-housing/homelessness)

## **What is the Council doing about the crisis?**

As a response to the critical need for housing, the council has acquired a property in Hugh Town, 'April Cottage', to convert into 3 dwellings expected to be completed by the end of March 2022. We are also meeting with other large employers that have a presence on the islands to discuss how we might work together to improve the situation. These actions sit alongside our longer term aim to enable up to 23 new build homes at the site of the old secondary school at Carn Thomas and 12 self build homes in Old Town.

## **Public meeting on the housing crisis**

I will be hosting a public meeting on the housing crisis to answer your questions on the matter. Other Councillors will also be in attendance as well as our Strategic Director of Place, Economy & Environment. If you would like to have your question answered at the event, please send it to us no later than **Thursday 24 February 2022**; submit your question to [housing@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:housing@scilly.gov.uk) or by hand at either of our customer hubs at the Library or Carn Gwaval.

## **Public meeting on the housing crisis**

**Time:** Tuesday 1 March 2022, 5pm to 6pm

**Venue:** Wesleyan Chapel, St Mary's

Please understand that we will not be able to discuss individual circumstances in this forum and must respect the privacy of all residents.

## **Drop-in surgeries to discuss individual housing concerns**

I understand that many issues relating to housing are not appropriate for a public meeting but they are no less important to you. I have therefore arranged drop-in surgeries for anyone to talk to me about housing concerns they have.

## **Housing drop-in surgeries with Councillor Tim Dean**

**Session 1:** Thursday 24 February 2022, 10am to 11:30am

**Session 2:** Friday 25 February 2022, 4pm to 6pm

**Venue:** Wesleyan Chapel, St Mary's

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that you can help us with this immediate housing need.

Yours faithfully,

**Councillor Tim Dean**

**Lead Member for Housing and Corporate Estate**