

**Affordable Housing for local people in Great Oakley, Little Oakley, Wix & Beaumont**

Dear Resident,

Great Oakley Community Hub Ltd (GOCH) was set up initially in 2015 to take community ownership of the Maybush Inn in Great Oakley. Having gone from strength to strength, it now intends to expand its remit and look to provide good quality sustainable housing and accommodation for local residents in Great Oakley and the closely connected parishes of Little Oakley, Wix and Beaumont (Full vision and objectives can be seen overleaf). To ensure the housing is matched to the local need, and with the support of the various parish councils, GOCH has decided to work with RCCE (Rural Community Council of Essex) to undertake an independent Housing Needs Survey.

- This is particularly relevant for those wishing to make their first step onto the housing ladder or for those now in a position to downsize, so that local people can be supported in staying close to their support networks, place of employment, or education.
- It will also be important that this new survey reaches all those currently working in the parishes or those who have had to move out of their parish because they cannot find a suitable property but would like to move back, so do feel free to pass a copy of the survey on to them.
- This survey is designed to see if there are households in the village or people with a strong local connection (through family or work) who need affordable housing.
- **This is not a survey to justify large scale or open market developments but will enable GOCH to review the extent and type of housing need in the area.**

We would ask you all, whether or not you have a need for alternative accommodation, to complete the attached Housing Needs survey as fully as possible and return it in the Freepost envelope provided, by **18<sup>th</sup> February 2022** at the latest.

Alternatively, you can complete the survey online using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GOCH>. The survey is very important so that your views can be considered and that a decision can be taken based on all residents' needs and opinions.

All returned forms will be dealt with by RCCE in strict confidence. The GOCH board and relevant Parish Councils will be provided with a summary report but will not see the completed forms nor be made aware of any personal details.

If you have any questions about completing the form or would like additional forms please contact Laura Atkinson, Rural Housing Enabler on 01376 574330 or by email at [laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk). Should you wish to become a member or supporter of GOCH or have any questions for the hub, please direct them here [info@goch.org.uk](mailto:info@goch.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Godfrey**  
Chairman  
Great Oakley Community Hub Ltd

**Laura Atkinson**  
Rural Housing Enabler  
Rural Community Council of Essex