

27/08/21

Chobham Parish Council: comment on local connection criteria

The Parish Council has found it a challenge to have had the opportunity to input into the discussion around local connection only at this very late stage. It feels there is no reason why it could not have been involved earlier in the process. However, it is grateful for the opportunity to be heard now.

The key point of concern to the Parish Council is that a GENUINE local connection is proven and that the housing would only be to meet a GENUINE local need for this type of affordable housing. It does not feel that this need has been adequately established.

The Council agrees in principle that a combination of qualifying usual residence in the Parish, PLUS either condition (b) or (c) would be reasonable, with the term “settled employment” also having an appropriate qualifying period.

It puts forward that either 18 months usual residence in the lead up to the sale, or 12 months PLUS the family or work qualifiers would be appropriate to demonstrate a genuine local connection.

The Parish Council maintains its concern about criterion (d), the “special reasons” at the discretion of the Housing Services Manager.