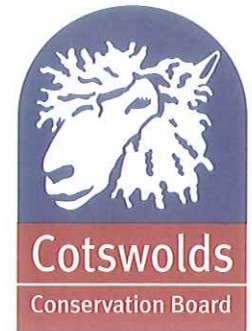


18<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Helen Kelly  
Affordable Housing Division  
Zone 1/G10  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU



**By E-mail only** – Taylorpwg@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Kelly

**Consultation on guidance for local authorities on incentivising landowners to bring forward additional land for rural affordable housing on rural exception sites.**

### **Response from the Cotswolds Conservation Board**

The Cotswolds Conservation Board has obtained information about the above consultation from the DCLG website and having examined the document wishes to make the comments as detailed in the attached appendix (Appendix 1) by way of response.

In addition the Board has adopted a Position Statement on Affordable Housing in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a copy of which is attached at Appendix 2.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') was established by Parliament in 2004.

The Board has two statutory purposes<sup>1</sup>:

- a) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB; and
- b) To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.

In fulfilling these roles, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of people living in the AONB.

The Board adopted the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2008-13 in April 2008. This is a statutory plan prepared under the provisions of section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This plan "formulates their [the Board's] policy for the management of their area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it."

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<sup>1</sup> Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

A Key issue addressed by a policy in the Management Plan is

**DTK2:** The importance of providing affordable housing throughout the Cotswolds is recognised as vital to ensure that balanced communities can survive and prosper, particularly as many jobs within agriculture and tourism are relatively low paid. Younger people are most affected by this issue.

Policy **DTP4:** *That those involved in the care of the AONB have the opportunity to live within it.*

The response of the Board to the consultation questions is attached. It should be noted that not all elements of the public consultation document have been responded to, only those that are considered to have a direct or indirect impact on the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or its management, or the Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board.<sup>2</sup>

Yours sincerely



Mrs Carole Topple  
Chairman, Living and Working Sub Committee  
Cotswolds Conservation Board

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