

Analysis included in the Housing Needs Survey report by RCCE

Question 10: *If a need should be identified, would you be supportive of a small development (typically 4-8 homes) of affordable homes for local people?*

49% supported a small development

46% were against

5% did not respond

Analysis NOT included in the Housing Needs Survey report by RCCE

Question 15: *Can you suggest a site/location where any such a development could be built?*

30% suggested a site in Stisted

33% suggested a site NOT in Stisted

37% did not comment

Question 17: *Any Comments*

10% said that affordable houses were needed in Stisted or would be beneficial for Stisted

33% said that Stisted cannot support additional houses because of lack of employment, amenities, public transport, shops, narrow and poor roads, dangerous access to the A120 etc.

57% did not provide any further comment

Formal Statement on the Validity of the Stisted Housing Needs Survey March 2026

RCCE has reviewed the document recently circulated which claims that the Housing Needs Survey is flawed or invalid. We welcome the opportunity to provide a clear and formal response to the Parish Council.

Having examined the points raised, it is evident that the concerns arise from a **misunderstanding of how certain survey questions are intended to be used**, rather than any flaw in the survey itself. The Housing Needs Survey remains **valid, methodologically sound, and reliable evidence of local housing need**.

Question 10

The close split between those supportive and those not supportive of a small development has always been openly acknowledged. This question is included solely to help the Parish Council understand the likely level of future community engagement.

It is not designed to act as a mandate for or against proceeding with any project, nor does it influence the calculation of local housing need.

Question 15

This question invites residents to offer suggestions to assist the **site-finding process only**.

Responses suggesting sites *outside* Stisted do not contradict the survey or its findings, they simply reflect that respondents were free to comment however they wished.

A site outside the parish would clearly not address **local housing need within Stisted**, so these comments are only grouped and reported back for transparency.

The question did **not** ask whether development should take place elsewhere instead of in the parish.

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Question 17

Open comment questions are optional, and many respondents understandably choose not to add further remarks.

These responses are therefore **summaries of individual views**, not statistically representative data.

Using these comments as if they reflect the views of all respondents is **misleading** and does not invalidate the survey.

Overall

The formal calculation of housing need is based on the core evidence provided, including:

- household-level information
- local connection
- affordability
- property type requirements

These core elements were all correctly captured and analysed using RCCE's established, consistent methodology.

The issues raised in the circulated document do **not** demonstrate any flaw or error in the survey, and they do not affect its conclusions.

In Summary:

The concerns presented arise from a misunderstanding of the purpose and interpretation of a small number of optional questions. The Housing Needs Survey remains **robust, accurate and fit for purpose**, and the Parish Council and Local Authority can continue to rely on its conclusions with confidence.

RCCE remains happy to provide any further clarification or support.