

MOTION TO COUNCIL

This Council recognises that a housing emergency exists in St Germans Parish Council and:

Calls upon the Government to:

1. Finally end the loophole that permits owners of second homes and holiday lets to avoid paying both Council tax and business rates;
2. Allow Cornwall Council to charge a levy for second homes and holiday lets in Cornwall and ringfence the money for the provision of social/council housing in Cornwall;
3. End the right to buy scheme.
4. Charge the planning regulations to require a change of use application for properties to be used as second homes and holiday lets rather than residential use;
5. Introduce regulation of properties used for holiday lets which permits local authorities to set limits on percentage of properties available for let;
6. Introduce safeguards for renters so they cannot be evicted at only 2 months' notice for no good reason and ensure they are offered secure and humane tenancy agreements.

And calls upon Cornwall Council to:

- Ensure covenants on ex-council houses that prohibit the use of the property for anything other than the residential use of local people that they were designed and built for with public money.
- Change the definition of affordable so that local people on their local wages can live in security in Cornwall.
- Prioritize the urgent provision of council housing in St Germans.

St Germans Parish Council has passed the following resolution:

We urge the Government to:

1. End the 'Right to buy' scheme.
2. Scrutinise the principles of affordable housing with a view to creating links to local earnings.
3. New homes must be prioritised for local need and occupancy.
4. Second homes:
 - a. To allow a multiplier of council tax which is passed to local communities
 - b. Scrutiny of the principle of registering houses as businesses
5. Additions to our housing stock should be delivered to high sustainable living standards and offered with secure and humane tenancy agreements.

If this situation remains unchecked, we fear fracturing of our communities leading to long-term social identity issues, workforce problems, loss of family support networks and empty homes bringing a loss of economic vitality and sustainability of our community.

08.21/21. Proposed housing resolution – Cllr Pipe read out the proposed resolution. It was proposed by Cllr Elliott to accept this, seconded by Cllr Griffin. 6 Cllrs were in support, with 1 abstention and 1 opposition.