

Affordable Housing Information

This article provides information for those people trying to understand if they may qualify for affordable housing. It also explains how to register and how to bid for an affordable home.

1. Qualification and Registration

There are three housing associations operating in Longhorsley at this time (contact details below). They each have their own systems and processes. You may wish to register with each of them individually. However, they all use an on-line service, operated by Northumberland County Council, called Northumberland Homefinder (<http://www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk>). When registering with Homefinder your need for housing will be assessed and you will be placed into the appropriate “band”. These bands are; P, 1, 2, 2R and 3 and they are categorised as follows:

Priority Band P for those with an urgent and severe housing need (e.g. the homeless, people who are living in a property in severe disrepair, people leaving social care facilities). Certain armed forces or ex armed forces personnel will be given this status and a one month backdated start date.

Band 1 for those who are in high housing need (e.g. those living in overcrowded or seriously unhealthy conditions)

Band 2 for those who are in medium housing need (e.g. the main breadwinner needs to be nearer to their employment).

Band 2R for those in reasonable preference categories but whose priority is reduced, eg there is no local connection.

Band 3 for those who are adequately housed and do not fit into any of the other bands above.

Properties in Longhorsley are subject to the rural allocations criteria and will be offered to applicants in the following order;

1. To applicants with a connection to the parish or adjoining* rural parish in bands P, 1, 2 or 2R.
2. To any applicant in bands P, 1, 2 or 2R.
3. To applicants with a connection to the parish or adjoining* rural parish in band 3.
4. To any applicant in band 3.

*Where there is no accommodation in the adjoining rural parish consideration will be given to applicants in other local rural parishes

2. Where to find affordable homes

Each of the housing associations and Homefinder will advertise properties that are coming available,

Properties will be advertised in the following places;

- <http://www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk/>
- <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/>
- All housing association offices
- Northumberland County Council Information Centres
- In some public buildings such as libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux
- The Longhorsley Tree

Homefinder also provides an information telephone line on 0845 60 66 546.

Properties will be advertised on Homefinder from 00:01 on a Thursday until 23:59 the following Monday. This period is known as the lettings cycle. Lettings cycles are subject to change or cancellation to accommodate Bank Holidays and other holidays.

3. *Placing a bid*

In order to be considered for a property, applicants are required to express an interest for each property they wish to apply for. This process is known as bidding. Applicants will only be able to bid for properties that they are eligible for.

Applicants can place bids at any time during the advertising cycle via the following methods:

- <http://www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk/>
- An automated telephone number 0845 270 1997
- In person or by telephone at any housing association office
- Through an advocate or support worker
- Through automated means in cases requiring a high level of support
- By Email
- At any Northumberland County Council Information Centre

Bids can only be placed during the lettings cycle. Bids received outside the lettings cycle will not be considered in any circumstances.

Applicants can place up to three bids per advertising cycle.

4. Housing Associations in Longhorsley

Here are the contact details for the three housing associations currently operating in Longhorsley:

Castles & Coasts Housing Association has 2 and 3 bedroom bungalows on the Wilding Place estate.

Office Address: 3 Paternoster Row, Carlisle, CA3 8TT

Contact Number: 0800 085 1171

Contact: Customer Services Team

Website: www.castlesandcoasts.co.uk

Working Hours: Mon to Wed: 8am – 2:15pm & Thurs 9:45am – 2:15pm

Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust has houses & flats in Drummonds Close.

Rosemary Fenwick

Neighbourhood Officer

rosemary.fenwick@jjhousing.co.uk

DDI: 07809 658286

Mobile: 07809 658286

Website: <http://www.jjhousing.co.uk/>

Karbon Homes Housing association has houses in Drummonds Close.

Call the customer relationship team on freephone **0808 164 0111**

Website: <https://www.karbonhomes.co.uk/contact-us/>