

Homefinder Draft Consultation - Exmoor Young Voices feedback

1. *"The housing registration forms - they're almost worded in a way that makes you feel like you're doing something wrong by being in a position where you need help finding housing."*
2. *".....it (the Form) still looks very long."*
3. One respondent suggests, in order to discover true housing need, an introductory form which asks two questions:
 - What is your housing need?
 - What is your local connection?
4. This, or similar, would enable the respondent to write in their own words rather than fit a 'one size fits all' form, which is always difficult when housing need is so variable. An accompanying letter could also be an option for respondents to indicate future need eg currently away on armed or voluntary service or education, but planning to return soon.
5. EYV members also advise that genuine, sometimes deep, local connections can be misinterpreted by 'distant' housing authorities, or not articulated clearly enough by the applicant.
6. The long form needs an N/A option to make it easier for applicants to get started, and an introduction something like:
 - *"Not all questions will be relevant to your situation, but you must answer Yes or No where asked, or write N/A to questions which do not apply to you."*
7. *"An Exmoor form would simplify several questions." This respondent suggests that regulations are different in the Park and affect young housing need differently."*
8. *"The form fulfils the needs of Councils, but not applicants in need."*
9. *"Most applicants will need active, face-to-face, support to cope with this form. It does not work as an initial registration of need."*
10. *"Exmoor young residents living at home (well into their 20s and 30s), young workers and young families, need a higher priority if balanced communities are to be sustainable."*
11. *"(The Form).....probably appropriate for many people but not for young adults seeking to register their interest and needs in Exmoor National Park housing."*
12. One of EYV's housing advisors writes: "Even with a few suggested changes this form will give the new Rural Housing Enabler a 'full-time job' supporting form filling?"
13. EYV calculated, three years ago, that there are 960, 18 to 30-year-olds, living in the Park; approximately 2/3 live at home. 300+ are in the North Devon section of ENP.
14. *"Communities for the young person (not quite adult) is very lacking, such as young farmers, scouts, junior rangers, Roteract (oh those heady days!!). Even discos, no longer happen to any big degree, so for the 14> yr old the natural progression /time to evolve, is cut short, the raising funds for your club, the charities, the team work etc, the feeling of belonging is more for the few than the many. They get to 20+ yrs and they want support in housing etc but no one knows them, the person, unless their family is well known. Maybe homefinder should submit basic info to parish councils/ EYV/ community groups not just those financing it?"*