

## **Bishop Trevor's video message**

*Filmed on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>, at the opening of an affordable housing development in Rolvenden.*

Welcome to two of my passions in my life. The first you've heard me talk about much – partnership in community. The second, not so much but you'll hear more, which is about affordable housing in our rural communities.

I'm here on this glorious summer's afternoon in Rolvenden near Tenterden and I've been invited to open up a new housing development – a number of houses built by partnerships between Ashford Borough Council, the Parish council, English Rural Housing and us as a diocese. We've each put something in to build this community. We're in partnership and each of us had something to offer, but none of us had enough, so together we built it.

What we've built is housing for God's people, for His people here in Rolvenden. We've tried to achieve what I think is critically important for every rural community – affordable housing so that people don't feel excluded. That's not just an age thing, but for all ages. Here in this new development I've met this afternoon a young person who has moved in and an older couple who moved in. They've each said to me how good it is we can live together rather than being separated out.

Our rural communities need that – the sense of sustainability, change, new people coming in, new life. Without it our rural communities will die. So, you're seeing two of my passions today – partnership in community and affordable housing in rural community. They each come back to perhaps the most important thing of all and that's about God who speaks about the dignity of human beings and the fact that we find our best way by living together. Perhaps with me in the future you'll come and see my sort of passions lived out in your community.