**CENSUS DAY 21st MARCH 2021**

A census is done every 10 years and the information collected is used to give a picture of the nation and to underpin both planning and the provision of local services, along with health, education, transport, housing and other areas. Census figures are vital in helping to shape the communities in which we live and work, just as developing effective partnerships with our local authority is vital for the parish council to be able to support our communities needs.

Billions of pounds are allocated to local authorities every year using census information. To ensure a successful census we need a return rate of over 94%.

Census 2021 will be mainly online and you will shortly be receiving a letter through the post with an access code that will enable you to login to a secure website to enable you to complete your form on line. If you are unable to use online services a paper version of the questionnaire is available.

For the first time the census asks for voluntary questions about, UK Armed Forces Service, sexual orientation and gender identity, this information will help organisations deal with inequalities and show where services are needed.

Data protection and privacy - the census asks questions about you, your home and the people who live in it. The information you provide is confidential and nothing is published that will enable you to be identified. The information stored in the census is safe and confidential by law for 100 years.