

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
HOUSING & CORPORATE ESTATE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
12th December 2023**

Attendance: Cllr. John Snell, Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Joe Lane (WCC), Theresa O'Brien (WCC), Helena Fallon (WCC), David Porter (WCC), Lynn Dennehy (WCC)

Item 1: To approve the minutes of Meetings held on 10th October 2023

Cllr John Snell: The approval of the minutes of the last meeting will be deferred until the next meeting as there wasn't the relevant number of members in attendance

Item 2: Matters arising from the minutes

This will also be deferred to the next meeting as per above item 1

A decision was taken by the members present to go through the agenda and update the members who were present

Item 3: To receive an updates on:

➤ **Affordable Housing Scheme in the County**

David Porter: -

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- 20 sold
- HOMEBOND issues sorted

Aldborough Manor Baltinglass – 22 Houses

- 58 applied
- 22 offered

Rathnew – 44 houses

- To be advertised in early 2024.

Cllr John Snell enquired if Lott's Lane will be next lot of affordable houses and Helena Fallon advised that St Earnans, Rathnew, was already in progress

Aoife Flynn Kennedy felt that alternatives were needed in the upcoming housing scheme in Bray at the Golf Lands and enquired if the staff numbers in housing will be increased to take account of the extra work coming down the line.

Current status on Notice to Quit

Theresa O'Brien SEO

262 NTQ'S have been notified to WCC
5 have not been in further contact
216 solutions have been sourced (HAP, RAS Allocation)
16% no solution to date but NTQ no effective until mid-2024

Theresa O'Brien advised that to date no one went to homeless emergency accommodation on foot of a NTQ

Joe Lane DOS advised that the national homeless figures have increased from 10,000 to 13,000

Aoife Flynn Kennedy complimented the work of the housing dept in this regard

Tenant in Situ

Theresa O'Brien SEO gave the update

Joe Lane highlighted some issues

- People want to stay in private house
- HAP units not all perfect
- Rightsizing after purchase can cause issues
- Value for money aspects

In response to a query from Cllr John Snell regarding funding David Porter replied

- Number of units given, no specific budget
- No certainty about 2024

Capital Programme

Housing supply Wicklow

Under construction

- Ballynerrin
- 3 trouts
- Merrymeeting Part 2
- Tinahealy
- Shillelagh

In the Pipeline

- Tinahask
- Carrig Eden
- Merrymeeting Part 3
- Sheephouse Arklow
- Ballihnainch

PPP Bundles

- Burgage will start next year
- Burnaby is underway
- Rehills in new year
- Tinahask is underway

Traveller Accommodation update

Ballinheskin (3 units) completed
Avondale Heights (3 units) – contractor on site
Cooldross Close – upgrade works complete

Age friendly units/ Disability

Millbank - completed and tenanted
Castle villas – almost complete
Knockroe – almost complete
Kilcoole Main Street – almost complete
Carrig Eden – detailed design complete

The committee were also advised that a new updated Tenant handbook had been produced and was being delivered to all tenants of WCC

Ukrainian response

Theresa O'Brien outlined the current position regarding Ukrainian response

- the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,778 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 246 No.
- Baltinglass MD 369 No.
- Bray MD 766 No.
- Greystones MD 198 No.
- Wicklow MD 199 No.

Joe Lane advised that the policy to move people to self-accommodation, away from hotels or communal settings – no allocations from social housing units

Item 4: Correspondence

A letter had been received from the Minister advising that homeless should be a priority for allocations

A brief discussion was held regarding downsizing of units and it was felt by the administration that a team of staff would be required to do this properly as there is a huge amount of work involved.

Item 5: To set date and time of next meeting - Tuesday 30th January 11am (provisional)

A discussion took place regarding membership of the committee and the lack of a replacement for both Cllr Grace McManus and Muireann Dalton and also the non- attendance of some of the members.

Cllr John Snell said that we need attendance of all members at meetings and that the items for discussion are important and need to be discussed by the full membership

Theresa O'Brien SEO advised that she had received the nomination for replacement for Muireann Dalton and he would be invited to next meeting.

Cllr John Snell _____

Date _____