

Minutes of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96 on Wednesday 03rd September 2025.

In Attendance: Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond, Cllr. Paul O'Brien (via Zoom), Cllr. Caroline Winstanley, Mr. John Douglas, Ms. Emma McMillen (via Zoom), Ms. Kathleen Kelleher, Mr. Seán O'Callaghan, Ms. Kathleen Kelleher, Mr. T. J. Foley, Mr. Michael Nicholson, Mr. Joe Lane, Ms. Jackie Carroll, Ms. Caroline Fox, Ms. Linda Healy, Ms. Helena Fallon

Apologies: Ms. Aideen Russell, Cllr. O'Neill, Cici Zheny

Cathaoirleach Richmond opened the September meeting of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee and welcomed all present.

1. To confirm and sign minutes of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council dated 25th June 2025.

It was proposed by Mr. T.J Foley, seconded by Mr. John Douglas and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council dated 25th June 2025.

2. Matters Arising - None

3. Housing – Capital Delivery

A detailed report was given to the SPC Members by Ms. Helena Fallon and Mr. Joe Lane Informing them of the following: -

Housing Infrastructure

Schemes on site

- Merrymeeting Phase 3 - Wicklow (7 bunaglows)
- Lott Lane (75 social units) - Construction has commenced
- Carrigoona (11 units) (was originally 13 but 2 units were removed) - Construction has commenced

Affordable units

- 75 Affordable units – Lott Lane, Kilcoole

Part 8 schemes approved in 2024 - progress

- Merrymeeting ph 3, Rathnew (7 units) – At Tender assessment stage.
- Ballinahinch, Ashford (19 units) – At Tender preparation stage.
- Mountainview, Blessington (10 units) – Stage 2 underway
- Hawkstown ph 2, Wicklow Town (56 units) – Stage 2 underway.
- Tinahask, Arklow (74 units)– Stage 2 underway.

Part 8 Scheme

Barrindarrig scheme – out for public consultation

Public Private Partnership Bundle 3 which included 106 houses for Blessington is not proceeding.

- Other PPP's are currently being evaluated by the department.

4. Housing - Services –

'Navigating Policy Challenges: Housing Solutions for Domestic Violence Survivors'

Presentation made by Ms. Mary Rose Walker, WCC and Ms. Hayley Murphy

Presentation will be circulated to the members. Discussion took place on the facilities for DV in the County and the best model for safe homes for domestic violence. It is noted that there are no safe homes in the County, more facilities required as DV cases are on the increase. Ms. Kelleher commented that there should be a programme on prevention measures. Cllr. Winstanley will send details of a training course on coercive control which she thought might be useful information for the committee members.

General Update

Mr. Nicholson informed the members of that there is a rent review underway. Over 7,500 income forms issued tenants. Under the tenancy agreement tenants are obliged to declare changes to their income amounts. The rent review is based on the new Differential rent scheme, which amalgamated the Bray and Wicklow Differential Rent Scheme.

5. Housing – Integration

Ms. Carroll discussed the IPAS Centres & Ukrainian Response Figures for Co. Wicklow.

Ms. Carroll informed the members that the National Migrant Integration Strategy is almost ready for publication, and this new National Strategy will trigger the requirement to update the Wicklow Integration Strategy. It is proposed that consultants will be engaged to carry out the review and the updating of the Wicklow Strategy.

6. Correspondence:

None received.

7. Any other business:

In response to Mr. Lane and the matter on a need for a higher density development, Ms. Kelleher stated the one-bedroom apartments are not suitable as there is no space for visitors in one bedroom apartments. It was noted that the demand across the Country is 40 percent for 1 bedroom apartments.

8. Date of next meeting.

The next Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting of Wicklow County Council will be held on Wednesday, 5th November 2025 at 2:30pm.

There being no other business, Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond, concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH, Cllr. Graham Richmond

Dated: _____