

SPC1: Housing & Corporate – June 2021

Agenda Item	Notes	Outcome / Decision	Actions Required
<p>3. Vacant Homes Action Plan.</p>	<p>Only 192 homes have been identified as vacant which represents 2.5%. There are a number of reasons for these vacancies including the owners being in a nursing home, mortgage default, bereavement, insufficient funds for repairs....Two homes have been recovered using Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs). 81 of these homes are not registered at all, 28 are registered to their own address. The council has a team of 4 looking at this including a planner and a technician and they have GIS office support. As these are all private sector properties, there is no timescale for their recovery and only a small portion is suitable for a CPO. According to the CSO 19% of homes were vacant in 2016. In 2019 Sligo had 299 vacant homes since then and this last survey in 2021 (about 18 months) many homes have been restored by contractors during the pandemic. The survey is carried out walking street by street in residential areas. The council cannot release the addresses due to GDPR but can provide the information on a map.</p>	<p>A map of vacant homes was requested.</p>	<p>Vacant Homes team to supply the committee with a map showing the location of vacant houses.</p>
<p>4. Housing Delivery 2017-2021 Update</p>	<p>Report received in writing prior to meeting.</p>	<p>No notable discussion</p>	

<p>5. Council Land Bank</p>	<p>Report received in writing prior to meeting. Melinda asked about land that has reverted to scrubland and could greenfield sites be prioritised for development?</p> <p>Alan asked about the potential sites in Cranmore and Ballymote. Will the Land Development Agency (LDA) look to develop these?</p>	<p>This can form part of the decision making during the screening process to determine use. However the urgent housing need is a factor. Too small for the LDA</p>	
<p>6. Sligo Housing and Disability Steering Group Presentation</p>	<p>Pamela Andison gave a presentation. 5 year plan. Target of 15% of all delivery should meet disability requirements. Housing should be coupled with care and support needs – early matching. Decongregation goals for Cloonmahon Cregg: 2024. Incorporate Universal Design and Housing First principles. Disability training for staff. SCC 2265 houses (1286 in Ballymote, 250 in Sligo Drumcliff and 729 in Sligo Strandhill) Audit of approved housing bodies housing stock. Deadline for final submissions 5pm this Friday (11 June)</p>	<p>* see below</p>	<p>Pamela agreed to forward her presentation slides to the committee</p>
<p>7. Work Plan</p>	<p>The previously circulated work plan was passed with little discussion.</p>	<p>Threshold will give a presentation to us in September. The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) will make a presentation in December.</p>	<p>Threshold to be invited to give their presentation in September. IWA To be invited to give their presentation in December Pippa contacted Jill</p>

			Marelich of IWA to pass on the good news.
8. Questions from SPC Members	<p>Serious undersupply of housing in the town. There is a 400k funding shortfall for refitting homes for use. It costs on average €20k/house. Pippa asked whether the Council should consider taking a loan where all other funding avenues have been exhausted given that interest rates are low and the council doesn't look to be carrying any debt presently. Alan asked whether income from Council rents are spent on housing.</p> <p>Melinda had a number of questions answered.</p>		The chair encouraged Pippa and Alan to add their questions about funding to the next agenda.
9. Correspondence	<p>Organised Architecture (OA) would like to make a presentation</p> <p>Pat Fallon is stepping down as the Trade Union Rep and will be replaced by Pascal Connolly</p>	Agreed to hear from OA in March	OA to be invited to address the meeting in March.
10. Aon Ghno Eile (Any Other Business)	RAS. Seeking a review of the Council allocation process. To be added to the Clár (Agenda) for September.		

Pippa contacted Pamela Andison after the meeting to ask for her email address in case anyone wanted to add anything before Friday and she made it clear that there has been a shortage of community sector mental health involvement. Even if groups don't have a submission, these groups would be an important part of the communication and delivery of the plan. She said that the Sligo person for Mental Health Ireland is on maternity leave but she has spoken with Bill from MHI Donegal and was waiting to hear back from him

Pippa contacted the PPN with the deadline and also sent a message to the only Community Mental Health organisation in the social inclusion college: Easkey Mental Health Housing Association.

Perhaps we need to talk to MHI in terms of their PPN membership in Sligo?