

# **Housing Progress Report**

## **Council Meeting**

**11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.**

## **HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The current position is outlined below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>No. of dwellings</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Expected start date</b>	<b>Expected complete date</b>
Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown	24	Completed		Complete
Market Square, Muinebheag	15	Completed in 2016		Completed
Barrett Street Muinebheag	10	In association with Tintéan Housing Association		End 2017
Bagenalstown	42	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
Pound Lane, Borris	4	Completed		
5 Apartments at Maryborough St.	5	Work in progress		Sept 2017
Mount Leinster Park	4	Work in progress		October 2017
The Laurels	5	Work to commence 11.09.2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
Tullow Road, Carlow	63	Turnkey development	Sept 2017	Q2 2018
Graigucullen	26	In association with Clúid – Clúid preparing contracts	Q4 2017	Q3 2018
Graigucullen – Fruithill	40	In association with Co-Operative Housing Ireland – Complete in January, 2017		
Myshall	4	Works in Progress		December, 2017
Myshall	4	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
St. Patrick's Park, Tullow	16	Awaiting tenders	Q3 2017	Q2 2018
Tullow	21	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
Rathvilly	10	Complete		
Rathvilly	8	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
Bilboa	2	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
Hacketstown	4	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
Kildavin	1	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
Ardattin	6	Awaiting approval from D.O.E.		
Rural – Tullow	1	Complete		
Rural – Drummin	1	Tender recommendation	September 2017	
Purchases	50	Ongoing		
Part 5 – Acquisitions Castleoaks/Brownshill	15			

## Housing Provision

<u>Housing Support</u>	<u>Number</u>
HAP Programme	640
RAS Tenancies	570
Rent Supplement	850
Local Authority Tenancies	1647
<b>Total</b>	<b>3707</b>

### **Note:**

- An additional 209 households – involuntarily sharing with their families.
- There are currently 3 households regarded as homeless in receipt of hotel/B&B accommodation.
- There are 15 persons using the Vincent de Paul Hostel.

### Loans

42 housing loan applications have been received and are being processed or approved.

### Grants

- There are 312 dwellings for which disabled and elderly grants have been approved and are currently being processed. Carlow County Council has been allocated €1,526,534, of which €305,307 is to be provided from own resources, for the payment of Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Grants for People with a Disability.
- The Council will need at least €500,000 additional grant aid to progress the applications not finally processed.

### Schemes

- Repair to Let Scheme – 34 expressions of interest received. Applications being examined. 3 applications have commenced.
- Buy and Renew Scheme – This is a very important and beneficial scheme. Since the commencement of the scheme in July we have identified 15 houses for immediate purchase and expect to have acquired over 40 such units this year. This scheme facilitates purchase to suit persons needs – renew element is a major boost to the local construction industry sector.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme – A total of 55 expressions of interest have been received. 5 sales have been completed. 10 applications awaiting approval. The low number of applications is due to the particular terms of the scheme (currently 1647 tenants)
- Energy Efficiency Scheme – 74 houses have received energy upgrades at a cost of €280,000.

## **SEAI Better Energy Communities 2017**

To date over 1600 houses have received energy upgrades in County Carlow. These works have been very well received by householders – whose energy bills have more than halved and with much greater living quality. Carlow Council Council has received grant offer for 2017 in the sum of €550,000 in respect of works to 43 houses.

### **Oak Park Forest Park**

Oak Park Forest Park, on the outskirts of Carlow Town, remains very popular for quiet walks in a beautiful setting. The attractions – universally accessible playground, cleared/replanted forest and exercise areas, are of increasing attraction to everybody.

Extensive works have been completed to the surface of the paths to enhance the walkways and to protect the wooden structure from the elements. Damage to many trees and fencing in the Park required works to ensure safety for all users. The Urban Forest Renewal Programme has completed a further stage – the necessary felling and planting of designated areas of the Forest Park. These self-financing works were completed by Emerald Forestry in conjunction with the programme required by the Forestry Service.



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**Seamus O'Connor,  
Director of Services.**