

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District meeting held on Monday,
30th March 2015 at 1:30pm at the Offices of Clare County
Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present: Councillors Cathal Crowe (Cathaoirleach), Pat McMahon, PJ Ryan, Gerard Flynn, Mike McKee

Mr Niall Barrett, Area Co Ordinator, Ger Dollard, Director of Service, Ruth Hurley, senior executive architect, Fiona Mooney, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies Cllr John Crowe

1. Briefing on implementation of the Social Housing Strategy in Shannon Town

The director of services for housing briefed the members about the change in national housing policy towards local authorities directly providing social housing and in this context referred to the Council site in Tullyglass, beside the housing development at Glaise na Rinne. It was reported that the first preference Shannon town social housing list numbered 340 applicants and rental accommodation was in short supply, as evidenced by the dearth of advertised rental properties.

The purpose of the special meeting was to consult and advise members of progress in regard to Shannon town social housing. A draft master plan was almost completed which was showing approximately 21 or 22 social houses. A detailed design would also need to be prepared, and approved by the Department. The planning and tendering processes would have to occur and it was anticipated that it would be during the second half of 2016 that site works would begin.

The senior executive architect reported that the design scheme being prepared was for two clusters of 8 and 13 high energy efficiency houses in a landscaped setting, consisting of 2 x accessible units, 1 x special unit in conjunction with a voluntary body, 16 x 3 bedroom units and 2 x 4 bedroom units.

The contractor difficulties during the construction of the affordable and six social houses at Glaise na Rinne was referred to and the high cost per unit of that phase of development.

The members highlighted that consultation was important for the community, in particular Cluain Airne and Glaise na Rinne residents. The proposed mix of unit types was discussed and members invited to advise housing officials of particular special needs that may need to be incorporated. Householders at risk of losing their properties were referred to, along with the mortgage resolution process, insolvency rules, and central bank rules for new mortgages. Housing acquisitions were referred to and members expressed concern about possible impacts on private estates of multiple acquisitions. Members suggested wider advertising of the social leasing scheme.

Signed: _____
Cllr Cathal Crowe
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Fiona Mooney
Meeting Administrator

Date: _____