

Housing Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 07.07.20

1. Covid-19 and Housing Business Continuity:

The County Buildings are open by appointment **only**

There is a 2m rule currently in place within the buildings.

Foyer works will be carried out from 20.07.20 until 20.08.20

Space in the building is limited particularly in the planning and housing sections. All are being encouraged to work by phone and email.

Wicklow council acknowledges that those in direct provision, homeless and Travellers are the most vulnerable and at risk during Covid-19

Home loans are being dealt with on a case by case basis. The two main risks currently are income risks and market risk.

Finance: People are encouraged to deal with rent through electronic payments or over the phone. The staff are dealing with a significant amount of queries with regard to this area. Income is down on this.

Allocations have been moved on fairly quickly particularly in Farankelly, Baltinglass, Wicklow Town and the Vale Road in Arklow.

Maintenance:

Emergency Covid-19 designated accommodation has been set aside. They will hold on to some of these units in the case of a second wave. There has been a delay in some re-lets as a result.

Wicklow council has placed Perspex between desks and in the foyer. Staff numbers have been reduced to 25% not including essential services

2. Homeless:

Struggling with CWI – finalisation of property. Had to reduce service to ensure social distancing. San Remo will be ready by the end of August. There has been an increase in presentations of people coming from prison, hospital and Dublin. This has caused a stretch in resources. Questions have arisen over rough sleepers in tents. An evaluation will be done on this.

3. Traveller Accommodation:

There have been no evictions during Covid-19. Acknowledgement that Travellers are particularly vulnerable with regard to Covid. All sites have been provided with facilities. Hygiene packs were issued.

4. Housing Maintenance:

Question from PPN regarding boarded up housing and development in Ashford:

There has been a delay on some of the boarded up houses ie some with fire damage. Some turned over very quickly. Some need to be completely refurbished. Some are private houses. There have been delays due to Compulsory purchase orders. There are lots of relets happening. Rewiring. New kitchens. Re-let's need to be of a high standard. If there is a query on certain houses / areas, people are free to write in and ask.

Ashford – this is in the private sector. There have been some proposals around this site and options being discussed.

Retrofits:

Phase 1 – cavity. Going out to tender. Will be appointing someone soon

Phase 2 – Windows and doors – procurement will be going ahead

5. AOB:

Next meeting 9th September