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The Housing Debate: (Re)Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government

Maynooth University



Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Seminar Programme

9.00 – 9.45	Registration, Tea/Coffee & Refreshments
9.45 – 10.00	Welcome & Opening Remarks Mr. Tim Caffrey, Chief Executive, Longford County Council Ms. Caroline Creamer, Director, ICLRD
10.00 – 10.30	Ministerial Addresses Minister's Representative, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government Minister Mark H. Durkan, Department of Environment
Session 1: Housing & Local Regeneration - Setting the Context	
10.30 – 10.40	Opening Remarks by Chair Prof. Janice Morphett, Visiting Professor – Bartlett School of Planning, University College London
10.40 – 11.15	Housing Policy and Delivering for Communities: The Evolving Roles of Central Government, Local Government, Housing Providers and Communities in Delivering Housing and Place-Making Mr. Michael Clegg, Head of Programmes for Affordable Housing, Homes and Communities Agency
11.15 – 11.40	Data, Trends and Changing Housing Needs: Creating & Managing a Sustainable Housing Supply Ms. Nicola McCrudden, Director Northern Ireland and Ireland, Chartered Institute of Housing
11.40 – 12.00	Housing And Local Regeneration - What Role For Local Government? Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council
12.00 – 12.30	Q&A
12.30 – 1.20	Lunch
Session 2: Regenerating our Communities - The Role of Housing Provision	
1.30 – 1.45	Opening Remarks by Chair Ms. Catriona Regan, Director of Leisure & Development (Banbridge), Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon District Council
1.45 – 2.45	Case Study 1 - Cranmore Estate, Sligo Mr. Bartley Gavin, Directorate of Housing & Corporate Services, Sligo County Council Case Study 2 – Forkhill Regeneration Mr Raymond McCumiskey, Chairman, Forkhill District & Development Association Mr Bernard Boyle, Secretary, Forkhill District & Development Association
2.45 – 3.00	Q&A
Session 3: Moderated Panel Discussion (with refreshments)	
3.00 – 4.00	Moderator: Ms. Anna Lee, Local and Community Development Consultant Panel Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Donal McManus, Executive Director, Irish Council for Social Housing • Ms. Esther Christie, Assistant Director, Strategic Planning & Research, Northern Ireland Housing Executive • Mr. Sean O'Leary, Executive Director, Irish Planning Institute • Mr. Hubert Fitzpatrick, Director of Housing & Planning Services, Construction Industry Federation • Mr. Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City & County Council • Dr. Chris Boomer, Planning Manager, Mid Ulster District Council • Cllr Claire O'Driscoll, Meath County Council • Alderman Jim Dillon, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
4.00 – 4.15	Q&A
Plenary Session & Close	
4.15 – 4.45	Closing Address Prof. Peter Roberts, Vice Chair, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The Housing Debate:

(Re)Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government

Across the island of Ireland, both jurisdictions have experienced dynamic changes in demographics, economy, socio-economic conditions and political attitudes - all of which, in turn, have impacted on housing policy and provision and influenced how and where we live (settlement patterns).

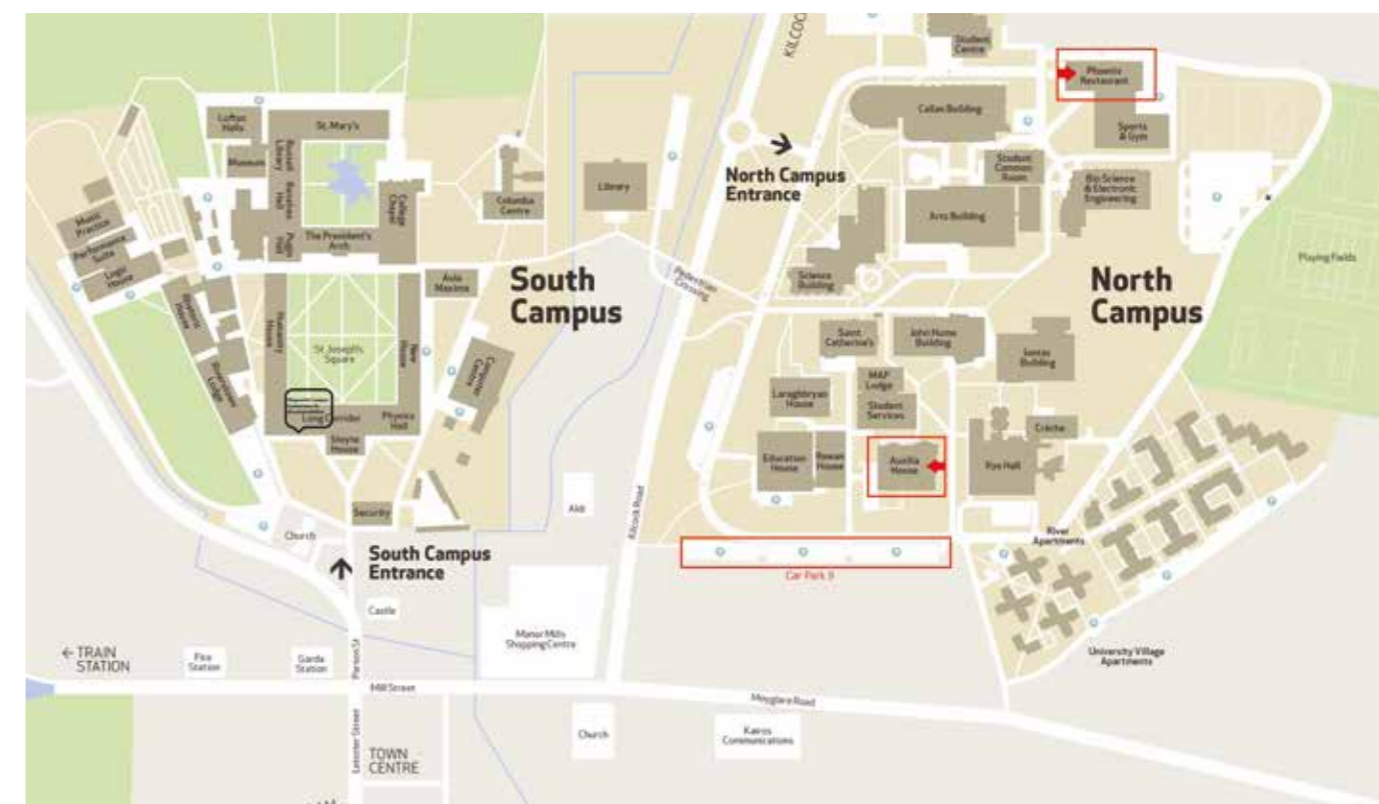
Since the 1980s, there has been a significant shift across both jurisdictions in terms of how housing is financed, constructed and managed. In parallel, the role of local government in the provision of social housing also changed significantly during this time - largely in response to neo-liberal policies. Economic and associated population growth during the 1990s and 2000s visibly manifested itself in a boom in construction including the building of new houses and apartments.

As a result of the global financial crisis, the property and banking systems in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland

largely collapsed. In property terms, this has manifested itself through issues of oversupply in some areas, extensive mortgage arrears, widespread negative equity, stalled regeneration of social housing stock and a large social housing waiting list (*The Atlas of the Island of Ireland, 2014*).

While the role of local government in housing provision differs in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland, local authorities have a key role to play from the location and servicing of housing developments to housing regeneration and (re)building communities to estate management. To be effective, this necessitates inter-agency visioning and collaboration. It requires local government to be an active player in the housing debate.

This conference considers the role of local government in housing across the island of Ireland through examining the challenges of inter-agency working, the issues of supply and demand - and the role of evidence in forecasting need, the provision of mixed tenure housing (at the right time in the right locations), and the contribution of regeneration programmes to building and nurturing sustainable communities.



Tim Caffrey



Tim Caffrey is currently Chief Executive of Longford County Council since 2006.

He has held the role of Designated Manager for the Midland Regional Authority, actively involved in Regional Planning and also sits on the Midland Region Emergency Management Committee. He has represented the City & County Managers' Association (CCMA) on various Committees including HR, Electoral Register and continues to represent the CCMA on the Housing, Information Communications Technology and Change Management Committees. He is currently Chair of the Health & Safety Steering Committee and Co-Chair of the Water Industry Health & Safety Committee.

Caroline Creamer



Caroline Creamer is Acting Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) and a Research Fellow with the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis

(NIRSA) at Maynooth University. A qualified town planner, her research interests include spatial planning practice and policy, regional and local development and regeneration, collaborative and participative decision-making, and inter-territorial and cross-border development. Caroline holds a Diploma in Environmental Resources Management from Dublin Institute of Technology, an MA in Geography from Maynooth University, an MA in Town and Country Planning from University of the West of England / Open University, and is currently a part-time PhD candidate in Maynooth University.

Prof. Janice Morphet



Janice Morphet is a Visiting Professor in the Bartlett School of Planning at University College London. Recently, she has

been working on infrastructure delivery planning and sub-state governance in the UK including the role of the British Irish Council and the practices of devolution. Janice has held senior posts including as a local authority Chief Executive and as a senior advisor on local government modernisation at DCLG. Janice was Head of the School of Planning and Landscape at

Birmingham Polytechnic and on the Planning Committee of the London 2012 Olympic Games. She is a member of the RTPI's English Policy Panel and has served in a variety of chairing and committee roles for the Institute since 1974, including as a trustee and chair of the education and Lifelong Learning Board. Her recent books are *Modern Local Government* (2008), *Effective Practice in Spatial Planning* (2010) and *How Europe Shapes British Public Policy* (2013). Her latest book, *Applying Leadership and Management in Planning* was published in April 2015 and her next book on infrastructure delivery planning will be published in 2016.

Michael Clegg



Michael Clegg (HCA) is Head of Programmes at the Homes and Communities Agency, with particular responsibility for existing stock (Decent Homes, Housing PFI, stock transfer and retrofit), design

and sustainability, and IT systems and analysis.

He is HCA lead for implementation of the Government Construction Strategy. He previously worked as Deputy Director for Investment Policy, Analysis and Planning at the Housing Corporation and on the HCA set-up team, where he led work on the organisation's first Corporate Plan. Before working in housing Michael led policy and research teams in both the voluntary and Government sectors, having started his career as an academic researcher in cognitive psychology.

Nicola McCrudden



Nicola McCrudden is a Director with the Chartered Institute of Housing with responsibility for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Nicola has worked in housing for most of her professional career. In her previous role she headed up the policy and communications functions at Housing Rights Service, Northern Ireland's leading housing advice charity and was Information Manager with Shelter in Britain. She has significant experience in public affairs work - providing evidence to NI Assembly Committees on law and policy and advising government on a range of public policy areas including homelessness & social inclusion, financial capability and regulation of the private rented sector. She also set up Northern Ireland's first Private Tenants' Forum to advocate for changes in the sector.

Eugene Cummins



Eugene Cummins is Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council since 6th January 2014.

He has over 31 years of Local Authority experience having previously worked in Roscommon, Limerick, Meath & Galway County Councils. Mr. Cummins is Chairman of the CCMA Housing, Social and Community Committee and is also a member of the Social Housing Strategy 2020 Project Board. Prior to coming to Monaghan County Council he was Director of Services with Galway County Council in charge of Corporate, Housing, Fire & Emergency Services. Mr. Cummins has a B.E in Civil Engineering from University College Galway and a Masters in Business Administration from Dublin City University.

Catriona Regan



Catriona Regan is Interim Head of Community Services at Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council.

She was appointed Director of Leisure & Development in 2008 (by the former Banbridge District Council) and she retains responsibility for the service areas of Regeneration, and Leisure in Banbridge. Prior to working in her current post, Catriona was responsible for the Business support programmes in InterTrade Ireland.

Bartley Gavin



Bartley Gavin is Director of Services for Housing, Corporate, Cranmore Regeneration and Health and Safety in Sligo County Council. He is also chairman of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann which has recently completed a second

successive run in Sligo. Bartley is a Civil Engineer by provision and worked in the private sector before working in a number of local authorities including Cavan, Donegal Leitrim and Galway County Councils. He was appointed Director of Cranmore Regeneration in 2008. Since then the project has gone through numerous changes in response to developments in the community, developments in the political environment and of course the changed economic circumstance of the State. The success achieved to date in Cranmore is credited to building a strong community organisation that can work with a high level of trust with public bodies including Sligo County Council.

Raymond McCumiskey

Raymond McCumiskey is a retired Clerk of Works for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. He is founder member and current Chair of Forkhill and District Development Association (FADDA) Limited. Raymond has been an active member of the local community for the past 40 years. In addition to being Chair of FADDA, he is also currently Chair of Forkhill Community Association. Raymond has been instrumental in the co-ordination of local voluntary and community groups in projects for the benefit of all the community. Raymond's experience and knowledge of housing and construction have been invaluable to FADDA.

Bernard Boyle

Bernard Boyle is an Accountant with his own practice in the South Armagh village of Forkhill. He is a founder member and Secretary of Forkhill and District Development Association Limited (FADDA). Bernard has been involved in local community activities since his return to the village in his late twenties. FADDA was formed 1984 to promote the social, environmental and economic welfare of the village and the surrounding areas. FADDA's achievements to date include the building of a thriving Business Centre in the village. There are 12 separate unites in the Business Centre providing an additional 20 jobs in the village.

Anna Lee



Anna Lee has considerable experience of the local/ community development sector with a particular focus on the development of anti-poverty and social inclusion programmes, including economic and

employment strategies. She has been centrally involved in the design and implementation of integrated actions at local and regional level and was Chief Executive Officer of South Dublin County (formerly Tallaght / Dodder Valley) Partnership from 1991 until July 2014. She currently chairs Volunteer Ireland and the South Dublin County Local Community Development Committee. She is a Board member of the Community Foundation for Ireland, Focus Ireland and Tallaght Hospital.

Donal McManus



Donal McManus is currently Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH), the national federation of housing associations in Ireland. Previously he worked in the public and housing

association sectors in both Scotland and Northern Ireland. This included various housing development, housing management and finance as well as regeneration roles. He was previously a Board member of Housing Europe (the EU Social Housing Federation), the Chair of the European Housing Forum, and appointed from 2004-2006 to the UNECE Task Force on Social Housing.

Esther Christie



Esther Christie is a qualified Town & Country Planner and has achieved considerable experience in all aspects of planning for housing through an extensive career in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This

has included responsibility for the Belfast Housing Renewal Strategy, the delivery of the Northern Ireland Private Sector Grants service and organisational Corporate and Business Planning. Currently, she is responsible for Strategic Planning and Research within the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This includes the delivery of a variety of statutory and legislative housing and planning functions ranging from housing needs assessment, research into housing conditions, Home Energy Conservation Authority (HECA) and Community Planning Partnership. She liaises regularly with the new Local Councils on Community Planning and has completed a suite of 11 Housing Investment Plans to help inform local Community Plans and forthcoming Development Plans in Northern Ireland.

Seán O'Leary



Seán O'Leary is Executive Director of the Irish Planning Institute (IPI), the all-island body for professional planners engaged in physical, spatial and environmental planning in Ireland. He is author of *Sense of Place - A History of Irish Planning* (2014). He is a corporate member of the Irish Planning Institute and previously worked in community, rural and regional development.

Hubert Fitzpatrick



Hubert Fitzpatrick is a Director of the Construction Industry Federation (CIF). Hubert's brief includes Development, Housing and Planning Services, Taxation Investment and Public Spending,

Financing / Banking, and Regulation including Registration of Builders. He is also Director of the Irish Home Builders Association which represents the interest of house builders countrywide. Prior to joining the CIF, Hubert held senior management positions in a number of local authorities throughout the country.

Conn Murray



Conn Murray has 34 years experience of working in Local Authorities and is currently Chief Executive of the newly established Limerick City & County Council. He is currently Chair of the

County & City Management Association (CCMA) and also chairs the Change Management Committee of the Local Government Management Agency.

Dr Chris Boomer



Chris Boomer is a Planning Manager for Mid Ulster District Council. He is also responsible for Development Plans, Development Management and Enforcement. He has

nearly 30 years experience in both plan making and development management and has worked in the voluntary sector and local government in England and was with the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland until Local Government reform in April 2015. With powers transferring from Civil Servants to Councils his key task is to aid Council Members make sound planning decisions.

Cllr Claire O'Driscoll



Claire O'Driscoll works part time as a General Practitioner in Balbriggan Co. Dublin and spends the rest of her working week in her role as a county councillor as well as Cathaoirleach

of the Ashbourne Municipal District in County Meath. She also serves on the National Council of the National Association of General Practitioners (NAGP), one of the two GP representative bodies.

Alderman Jim Dillon



Jim Dillon has been an Ulster Unionist member of Lisburn City Council since 1977 and served as Mayor from 2000 to 2002. He was elected to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in May 2014 with the

Council assuming full powers including planning on 1st April 2015. He represents Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), he is party alternate office bearer, Chair of the NILGA Planning & Regeneration Working Group and is a member of the NILGA Executive Committee. Jim takes a keen interest in planning and economic development and is a member of several committees involved in both urban and rural development.

Prof. Peter Roberts



Peter Roberts is Vice Chair of Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Professor Emeritus at the University of Leeds, Visiting Professor at Ulster University and Honorary Professor at Queen's

University, Belfast. His research and professional interests cover a range of topics, including strategic planning, regeneration, housing and community development. In recent years he has served on a number of public bodies, including the Academy for Sustainable Communities (Chair) and the Homes and Communities Agency (a non-executive director).

DECLG

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, led by Minister Alan Kelly T.D., is responsible for a range of activities that touch the lives of every citizen of the state. These range from the quality of the environment, to housing and water services, strengthening local government and the development of strong and vibrant communities.



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

DOENI

The Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland operates under the direction and control of the Minister for the Environment, Mark H Durkan MLA. Responsibilities currently include all planning matters for Northern Ireland, environment and marine policy, promotion of roads safety and the reform of local government. The full implementation of local government reform commenced on 1st April this year. The reforms will provide for more effective service delivery through the introduction of the new duty of community planning, and by transferring functions from central to local government including planning, thereby giving councils some powerful tools with which to shape their areas and communities.



Department of the Environment

All-Island Local Authority Forum

The All-Island Local Authority Forum is a strategic partnership of Chief Executives from the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE NI) and County Managers from the County and City Managers' Association (CCMA). Established in 2002, the Forum works to provide leadership in areas of mutual interest to Local Authorities on both sides of the border, and to support sustainable co-operation between local governments in both jurisdictions through the delivery of key projects.

At a previous Local Authority Forum event, Ministers from both jurisdictions commended the work of Co-operation Ireland and the All Island Local Authority Forum as follows;

“Co-operation Ireland deserves great credit for its peacebuilding work over several decades, and it strikes me that the Local Authority Programme is a real and vibrant example of how to facilitate cross-border co-operation”. Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

And NI Environment Minister, Mark H Durkan MLA pointed out “It is clear that the key aspects of the reform programme, particularly in the Border region, cannot be achieved without close partnership working with our counterparts in the South”. Further information on the work of the Forum is available at www.cooperationireland.org.

ICLRD

The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) is a North-South-U.S. partnership. It was formally established in 2006 to explore and expand the contribution that spatial planning and the development of physical, social and economic infrastructure can make to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, and elsewhere. The ICLRD has developed out of a unique collaboration between academics and spatial planning specialists from the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at Maynooth University, the School of the Built Environment at Ulster University and the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

A central objective of the ICLRD is to strengthen the policy and operational linkages between central, regional and local policy-makers and among officials and practitioners involved in spatial planning and social and economic development across the island of Ireland. It does this through research, policy advice and publications; professional education and capacity building programmes that assist local governments and communities to translate policy into 'on the ground' action; and active outreach and networking that includes conferences, workshops and international cooperation and exchanges to identify best practices.

The ICLRD continues to expand its collaboration with other institutions and has built up close working relationships with individual faculty and researchers from universities and research institutions - both on the island of Ireland and internationally - and with other organisations involved in cross-border research and activities including Co-operation Ireland. Further information on the work of the ICLRD is available at www.iclrd.org