

Report for Environmental linkage of the PPN from Anny Wise representative on SPC Planning and Housing. November 2015

Planning

At our meeting in the first week of November we dealt with both the Ennis Development Plan which is now in the draft stage and the County Development Plan which is about to reach the draft stage. The Ennis plan is to be part of the County plan in its final stage.

Housing

The main agenda was dealing with housing and firstly we looked again at the proposed levy for derelict sites in urban regeneration areas. The urgent need of land for housing has brought about this levy to encourage the owners to register by January 2017 and either develop that site or pay an annual levy. First year of charging will be in 2018. The idea is to encourage development by land owners who are keeping vacant sites until the prices increase.

Part V of the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015

A discussion was had about the 10% reduction in social and affordable housing within estates. If the purpose was to encourage the demand for social and affordable housing, then this reduction does not make sense. We thought there to encourage developers as was a reduction on the contribution scheme.

There was a power point on Travellers Accommodation in Clare with details of what is available at the Travellers sites and that the Housing Department is waiting for funding.

Personal Opinion: The housing lists will not become smaller as long as the HAP system insist that registration onto this list is compulsory – even though there is no interests that the time of joining HAP in requiring social housing. The inflation of the lists could become suddenly smaller when the HAP system moves from the Social Housing List to the Transfer List. At the present our “housing lists” are inflated by the fact when you request “Rent Allowance” you **have** to go on the housing list but many of these individuals and families are not interested in changing their accommodation or wanting to move in to a social house. In the meantime we have no real facts on how many people are in need of housing. This will not clear up until HAP replaces the present system for the “transfer list” these being those who want to change their accommodation. This fact is not generally made public and the full “housing list” is referred to without it.