



Co-operative Housing News

Spring 2022

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Co-operative Housing News.

I hope you and your families are keeping well. It's been a busy few months for CHI with allocations, key handovers, estate launches, ongoing retrofitting programmes, and Members' events.

CHI welcomed new Members to Baunacloka Heights, Limerick earlier this Spring and released our national figures for 2021. We were delighted that the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Daniel Butler and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien, TD were there to celebrate with us. It was great to meet and chat with new Members who will become active participants in their new community. Just a few weeks earlier the Minister for Housing and Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alison Gilliland, launched St Canice's Hall in Finglas, Dublin, welcoming new Members to their homes. The co-operative continues to grow, delivering a record-breaking 592 homes last year, meaning CHI now manages close to 4,000 homes, housing almost 12,000 people nationwide.

I'm pleased to share some opportunities for Members to take part in activities that may be of interest. CHI will host three 'Walk to Connect' events for Members to meet and get to know each other in an informal setting. Within this Newsletter you'll find more opportunities and activities to get involved in.

Remember, if you have any events or activities that you have organised in your community, please contact us at members@cooperativehousing.ie

to have them featured in upcoming newsletters – we're always interested in hearing your stories and learning how Members are working with one another to achieve common goals.

We endeavour to ensure that our Members receive the highest level of support and services. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact us at info@cooperativehousing.ie and we will support you in whatever way we can.

The team wishes you and your loved ones an enjoyable Spring and will be in touch with more news later in the year.



Kieron Brennan

CEO

Co-operative Housing Ireland



Member Associations

Since the easing of restrictions, many Members have wanted to set up Member associations in their communities.

Over the past few months, Carraig Court and Clover Avenue have begun the process. By setting up a Member association, they can run events, apply for grants, and help build a sustainable, flourishing community together. If you and your neighbours wish to start a Member association, talk to your housing officer or get in touch with the Member Engagement Team by emailing member@cooperativehousing.ie



Avonbeg Community Garden

Members at Avonbeg have come together to put a bit of life and colour into their community garden.

The pandemic has been difficult for Members there. The garden used to have chickens running around delivering eggs daily and gardeners grew tomatoes and potatoes for neighbours to enjoy. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, Members found it difficult to sustain the garden. With the easing of restrictions, they now have the confidence to return to the garden and are determined to make it flourish once more.



Hazelbrook:

What does a flourishing community look like?

In 2021, Hazelbrook set up a Member association, which helped bring together a culturally diverse community to achieve shared goals.

Ecological Project/ Wild Area

The Members are actively working on a nature conservation area. They allocated a section from a larger communal green which will be encouraged to grow wild. The garden maintenance team are working with them on the project. It looks great already. Native seeds have been planted and suitable shrubs and trees will follow. The residents plan to place a bug motel and other bug friendly objects in the garden to support ecology and educate both children and adults on the estate.

Community Garda Project / Blue Buddies

The community garda visits Hazelbrook almost daily. He plays football with the children, sometimes hurling, he speaks with the parents, and has a laugh with Members. He walks the whole estate and will often drive in at different times of the day. The evening time drive-in is popular as he turns the lights of the Garda Car on or sounds the siren for the children if it's not too late.

The children LOVE IT. Families really enjoy his presence and good relationships are being developed as a result.

Litter-picking Heroes:

We are lucky to have several Members committed to keeping Hazelbrook tidy. The association has recently nominated team leaders to co-ordinate litter picks. These leaders use Facebook to post reminders or make requests in relation to litter and the joint responsibility towards it.



Growing Community Voice

At the most recent meeting of the Hazelbrook Member association, Members welcomed Melissa Snell as their new chairperson, Melissa looks forward to working together with Thomas Toth, the Treasurer and Atheer Shito, the Secretary.

Members also expressed a wish to appoint a new role to their team to ensure the needs and wishes of the children will be addressed, particularly during summertime. Laura O'Connor was elected as Committee Event Organiser for Children. This role enables Laura, who is a busy mother of four children, to engage with Mary Millet, the SICAP Coordinator of Croi Rath Naoi Community Development Partnership. Mary will assist Laura to train and upskill if required, beginning with a Child Protection Course.

It has taken time and commitment from the Members, not only from the core Member association team, but from the wider community, to achieve so much in such a short period. Everyone is part of making this community as sustainable as possible.

There are plans in motion to liaise with Wicklow County Council to further develop Hazelbrook,

the association identified the following as essential:

- a football/ soccer area with real goal posts for children
- a Wheelchair accessible pathway for prams via the rear of the estate to the shops and GAA Club
- an agreed timetable for icecream vans to enter the estate
- a system for lost or stolen toys



Fiona Earley, Autism Friendly Coordinator. Image by Anthony Burrowes.

Member Engagement Group national activities:

The Member Engagement Group has been developing activities on a national basis.

The first three activities this year were the Valentine's Bingo Night, a Movie Night and an Autism Awareness event. To raise awareness of International Autism Awareness Day, a 'Conversation With...' event took place with Fiona Earley, DCU's Autism Friendly Coordinator via Zoom on 4th April 2022. The event was hosted by Michaela Quinn, CHI's Digital Engagement Officer.

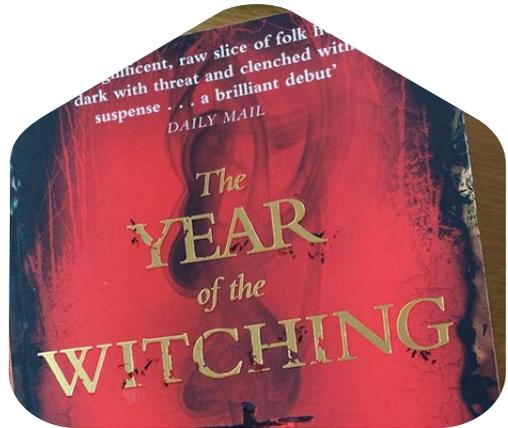
If you want to be part of the Member engagement working group, contact Anthony by email: anthony.burrowes@cooperativehousing.ie



CHI Book Club

The new CHI Book Club read 'The Year of the Witching' as their first book.

The book club is a community of Members from across the country. Every month, the book club meets on Zoom to discuss their chosen book. The person who suggested the selected book facilitates the book club's discussion.



It Takes a Village

In the next few months, CHI will be starting a programme with SOAR, an organisation that focuses on mental health education for young people and adults.

The programme is called 'It Takes a Village'. This programme will focus on delivering two in-person workshops for young people to raise awareness of mental health. The programme will also deliver two adult workshops on Zoom focusing on mental health, what it is, how we manage it and where we should go if things get difficult to deal with on our own. Keep an eye on your email for more information about the workshop dates and locations.



It
Takes
A Village

Walk to Connect



Over the summer months, CHI will be encouraging all Members to get out and walk.



The Member Engagement team and the 'Walking-to-Connect' Members working group have arranged three walks in different locations across Ireland. All Members will be invited to attend. The walks will be accessible to everyone. The focus is to enjoy the walk and get to know the other Members.

The dates and locations of the walks are:

- 28th May - Howth Walk, Dublin
- 18th June - Muckross Lake Loop, Killarney, Kerry
- 6th August - Clashganny Forest Loop, Carlow

If you are interested in learning more about the walks, please contact:

members@cooperativehousing.ie



Recent Launch at St Canice's

CHI launched St Canice's Hall, Finglas, Dublin 11, a development of 32 homes, on 2nd March 2022.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, and Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alison Gilliland, officially opened the development. Speaking about life in his new home, CHI Member, Glenn Alexander said, "The thing I'm looking forward to the most in my new home is having the space to grow and become fully independent."



CEO of CHI Kieron Brennan addresses those gathered at the St Canice's Hall launch.



Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien, Chair of CHI Pearse O'Shiel and CEO of CHI Kieron Brennan at the launch of St Canice's, Dublin. Speaking at the launch O'Shiel said, "Housing need is not uniform. Yes, there's need for 3-bed semi-Ds but there is also need for one and two bed homes, for smaller households. St Canice's provides for this need."

Baunacloka Heights

The organisation launched Baunacloka Heights, an estate of 71 homes at Mungret Gate, Mungret, Co. Limerick, on 28th March 2022.

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Daniel Butler and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien, TD officially opened the development. Discussing life in his new home, CHI Member Brendan Meehan said, "We can't get over the fact that we're in our forever home. It's still a dream as such. You're kind of in 'settle-in' mode and the kids are enjoying it at the minute playing out in the back yard and playing with their friends out the front."



Vice-Chair of CHI Enda Egan speaks at the launch of Baunacloka Heights.



McKenzie, Brendan and Bradley at their new home in Baunacloka Heights.

Halliday Mills

Official visit to Halliday Mills apartment complex in Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Halliday Mills is an apartment complex of 85 BER A3 rated one-bed, two-bed and three-bed apartments delivered by CHI in partnership with Louth County Council, with support from the Housing Agency, the Housing Finance agency and the Department of Housing, in response to need in the area. CHI has welcomed Members to their new homes in the complex over the last number of months. The building has been totally refurbished with additions of insulation, new windows and doors, and air-to-water heat pumps, among other features.



John Lawrence Senior Executive Office LCC, Senator Erin Mc Greehan, Minister Peter Burke TD, Colm Markey MEP, Senator John Mc Gahon on an official visit to Halliday Mills, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Easter in Graigue na hAbhainn, Laois

Children in Graigue na hAbhainn celebrate Easter at an event organised by the community there.



Contact information



CHI's Out-of-Hours Emergency number has changed

Please contact the new number 01 669 2098 in event of any of the incidents below:

- Where major damage is caused to the property
- Where damage may cause a risk to life or safety
- When CHI's offices are closed, however, please do not contact the emergency number unless you are certain it is an emergency and there is a risk to your life or the property.

The out-of-office service is available from 5pm to 9am, weekends, public holidays and over Christmas.

Office Contact Numbers

Member Services Hub

123 Avondale Park,
Mulhuddart,
Dublin 15.

01 6403074

Cork Office

Link Business Centre,
Link Road,
Ballincollig,
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021 4879010

Limerick Office

Unit B8, LEDP,
Roxboro Road,
Limerick
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