

Homes Policy Development Group

Chairman's Annual Report 2019 / 2020

Another year of great challenges, financial, social and logistical. The Homes PDG, along with other groups has been tasked with doing more but with less resources.

A positive and welcome achievement was the Turner Rise site coming to fruition; 22 properties, plus 4 at Birchen Lane which are available for rent and increases the Council's housing stock.

The two most contentious issues have been Homelessness and the Syrian Refugee housing situation. The latter has greatly occupied our time and energy. There is a strong desire to help those more unfortunate but we are constrained by financial and practical implications.

Homelessness is another cause for concern and action. Again it is our wish to help homeless people who for whatever reasons have nowhere to call home being thwarted by the dearth of affordable places to rent.

We have all seen at first hand the efforts of the combined housing services in turning around void properties for reoccupation. Also long term vacant private properties have been brought back to the market. All the officers and workforce engaged in the toils of providing housing needs must be commended for their energy, enthusiasm and dedication.

Further onerous tasks lie ahead, the question of climate change looming large.

For PDG Members who have helped steer this PDG, I thank you whole heartedly for your input and support.

We have lost the 'mighty oak' of Cllr John Daw and I thank Cllr Derek Coren for his help and for stepping into the breach.

Well done to all others who have contributed to our meetings and a vote of thanks to our Committee Clerk whose patience is greatly appreciated.

Cllr Ron Dolley
Chairman of the Homes Policy Development Group
March 2020