

Report from the Chairman of the Homes PDG for 2021 – 2022

This has been another year where Covid restrictions have stymied and affected our aims and progress. Our first meeting of the year being a casualty of this and cancelled.

July 20th 2021 saw us back at Phoenix House for a hybrid meeting, PDG Members there in person and others joining us by Zoom. After the meeting Councillors visited the St George's Court site sitting beside the River Exe. We have watched its progress since then with interest as a MDDC investment project which hopefully will be heading toward fruition in the near future.

The PDG has kept a weather eye as always on the financial situation of rental and other income as well as the day to day delivery of Housing Services. All reports during the year have been presented with efficiency and clarity.

We have been kept up to date on important issues such as the Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement Scheme, the HRA budget and future house building.

One long overdue initiative, the better use of MDDC garages (many no longer fit for purpose) was addressed and real progress made.

Sites at Cullompton and Tiverton, earmarked for social housing pods, have not been welcomed by all but will be built for the greater good in order to house homeless people or those in sub-standard accommodation.

Thanks to all members of the PDG for their contributions.

It is wrong to single out individual people or departments as all have worked through difficult times but extra credit should go to the Building Services Team, led by Mr Mike Lowman, who have been on the front line throughout.

Cllr Ron Dolley
Chairman, Homes PDG