



Respond Tenant Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the Respond Tenant Newsletter. We are working hard to place our tenants at the heart of everything we do in Respond and it is important that we keep in touch with you. We want to let you know what is going on in the organisation and share some of the news from our tenants right across Ireland.

As I write, we are living in uncertain times. COVID-19 has shut down large elements of our society and prevented many of us from having direct contact with people we love and care about. While understanding this good public health advice and a preventive approach it can still be difficult. This will come to an end.

In these times, we really do see the strength of local communities. People have rallied together to help others with shopping, picking up prescriptions and generally checking in on each other. Respond has always been about building more than just homes, we build Communities. As we put this newsletter together what jumped out was the strong sense of Community that there is across your estates. We are very proud of all you have achieved and continue to achieve together.



If we can do anything to help you, please do talk to your Tenant Relations Officer. If you have experienced a change to your income let us know and we will work with you to review your rent payments. You can call your Rent Control Officer on 01 808 7700. We are here to help.

Dolores Grady
TENANT RELATIONS MANAGER

IPB Pride of Place Awards



ipb pride of place 2019

Congratulations to Ardrew Meadows Estate which won 1st Place in the All Ireland IPB Pride of Place 2019. We are very proud!

Ardrew Meadows estate in Athy has a very strong Residents' Association and they work tirelessly to promote numerous community activities and maintain the estate to a very high standard. The Association operate out of the Respond Community Building on the estate. They run Family Fun Days, regular clean-up days and celebrate the achievements of their residents. They have a stated commitment to social inclusion.

We also wish Ardrew Meadows a very happy 10th birthday!



Meet Pete Mullahey



Kildare Community Stories recently carried an article on Pete Mullahey, one Respond's Resident Volunteers in his estate at Easton Meadows in Leixlip.

This dapper gentleman will turn 92 in May and is still active and engaged with his own community.

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Pete leads by example. It's amazing what he does around here.

Tom Walshe
RESPOND SUPPORT WORKER

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Pete is the backbone of everything that goes on in this estate.

Maura Byrne
PETE'S FRIEND/NEIGHBOUR

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Pete says:

I'm a Mayo man originally. I left Ireland in 1949 and spent 40 years working in the United States. I joined the military there and was deployed in the Korean War. I worked in security after that. I was based in New York, but my job took me to all fifty states of America.

In 1990, I started to have health problems, so I decided it was time to retire. I was on vacation in Ireland at the time and I made a snap decision to stay. The Ireland of 1990 was not the Ireland I left in 1949 – so much had changed. I lived in Maynooth for a while before I moved here. That was thirteen years ago now.

From the very start, I got involved in the upkeep of the estate. It was something to do – I don't like to sit around watching TV. I'm an outdoor person. I get cabin fever if I'm stuck indoors. I try to keep the place looking halfway decent. I get involved in painting, cleaning and mending what I can.

If I see a piece of paper lying around, I pick it up. It's common sense. First impressions tell the story of any estate. I do my best to make ours a good one. I like to keep people safe and help them. It's especially important to make the place safe for kids. I respect my neighbours – we live in a lovely place and we can achieve a lot. All we need is to for everyone to come out and help. I love it when everyone's out by the flower beds chatting.

Pete Mullahey

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Ballygrennan Close, Moyross

Look back to December, Santa took some time out of his busy schedule to visit the children and families of Ballygrennan close, Moyross.

Each family met and had a chat with Santa in his grotto. The children received selection boxes and presents and the families had their pictures taken with Santa. In the community room, there were refreshments, music, raffles and games for everyone.

The event raised 25 euro for Milford Care Centre kindly donated by the residents.



Cookery Course Waterford

Did you know?

Respond is an Approved Housing Body (AHB) but we also provide other services such as homeless services, Early Childhood Care and Education services, Elder Daycare Services, Family Support services and Refugee Resettlement Services. Over the next number of newsletters we hope to bring you a short profile of each of these services.



Respond tenants receiving the keys to their new home



Refugee Resettlement Services

The conflict in Syria is a significant humanitarian crisis of our time. Hundreds of thousands of people have tragically lost their lives and more than 11 million people have suffered displacement. As a result, approximately 5.5 million people have fled the region seeking refuge and safety. In response the Irish Government committed to receiving 4,000 refugees, from the area. The Irish Refugee Protection Programme was established in 2015 to oversee the programme. Respond are the implementing partner for the programme in counties Longford, Laois, Wicklow and Kilkenny.

Respond begin working with families once they are housed in the Local Authority area. We provide a Resettlement Support Worker and an Intercultural Worker/Translator to assist the families to integrate in to their new communities. The programme is guided by an Interagency Working Group comprising of the Local Authority, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, P, Education and Training Board, TUSLA, Gardai, County Childcare Committee, Health Service Executive, Department of Justice and Respond. Such interagency co-operation ensures that the families are adequately supported in their integration. We currently work with a total of 68 families across the 4 counties.

Respond Goes Georgian

Tenants, Families & Children move into 31 'Forever Homes' at Nos: 1&2 Mountjoy Square. Respond recently acquired 31 new homes in restored Georgian buildings at 1 & 2 Mountjoy Square and 69 Upper Gardiner Street.

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From its beginning as a Georgian square, through to its literary and political connections, to modern day movies and artists, Mountjoy Square has for a long time played a large part in Dublin's history, architecture, community and culture. One of five Georgian squares in Dublin, Mountjoy Square is the only Georgian Square in Dublin that is truly square, with each side being exactly 140 metres long.



Famous residents

Renowned playwright Sean O'Casey lived in a tenement at No. 35 Mountjoy Square, where one of the apartments is currently occupied by a Respond tenant. W. B. Yeats stayed at No. 53, home to his Fenian friend John O'Leary.

The founders of the modern Irish state were also well acquainted with Mountjoy Square. When the provisional Dáil was forced to go underground during the War of Independence, the assembly managed several meetings at No. 3, home to Walter L. Cole, a wealthy Sinn Féin alderman.

Tim Healy, the first Governor-General of the Irish Free State, lived at No. 1. And more famously perhaps is the association with No.1 of Arthur Mac Murrough, also known as (The Limbless Landlord). Arthur was born March 1831, in Borris Co. Carlow, he was the youngest of four children. Arthur was born with no arms or legs however his mother, Lady Harriet was determined that he would lead a full life, which he did. He was considered an expert horseman, a first class shot, a noted yachtsman, an active local Justice of the Peace and administrator, as well as a Member of Parliament. Arthur's full story is told in The 'Incredible Mr Kavanagh': Arthur MacMurrough Kavanagh, P.C., M.P. (1831-1889).

Present Day

More recently, the Irish Times featured the new Respond apartments in a piece entitled 'Is this the most beautiful social housing in Dublin?'

We wish our new tenants all the very best in their new homes!



Mountjoy Square - Is this the most beautiful social housing in Dublin?