

Clanmil Communiqué

Helping our Tenants become “Savvy Savers”

Clanmil has launched an innovative new scheme offering our tenants an opportunity and incentive to start saving.

The Savvy Saver scheme is designed to promote financial capability by encouraging tenants to start saving regularly and has been introduced with the help of a donation of £15k from Danske Bank.

Consumer Council research carried out in November 2014 shows that social tenants struggle financially more than any other group, with 49% worried about making ends meet and

only 46% saying they have savings compared to 70% of homeowners.

The Savvy Saver scheme runs in conjunction with local Credit Unions and every tenant who signs up will have their membership fee paid and a £5 deposit made to their account to get them started. To encourage tenants to keep saving regularly, those who save at least £5 per week in their Savvy Saver account for 12 weeks will receive a £20 bonus.



Jacqueline Macques, one of the first people to sign up to our new Savvy Saver scheme, with Clanmil Money Advisor Eddie Smith.

Safer Stronger Communities

Clanmil is working with CRJ's Safer Stronger Communities project and South Ulster Housing Association in an exciting new initiative to transform The Demesne housing scheme in Newry into the first “Restorative Estate” in the UK.

The Restorative Estate initiative is an early intervention approach to dealing with issues, and is community led at all stages.

Residents in The Demesne have shown their support by signing up to a Community Charter in

which they have agreed to use CRJ's Restorative Process should any further issues arise in the area.

Restorative Justice brings people together, and helps them to get to the root of the problem to achieve a long term resolution for everyone.

Housing Associations Top Programme for Government Target by 20%

We are delighted to be part of the successful delivery of much needed new homes by housing associations in Northern Ireland, with 6,101 social housing starts and 3,965 new shared ownership homes over the last four years. We are also glad to have the opportunity to feed into the discussion on Social Housing Reform, both through the NI Federation of Housing Associations and through our attendance at meetings/consultations.

It is, we believe, so important that the strengths of housing associations are recognised in developing housing policy, including the high quality of services provided to customers; our collective skills in raising private finance and providing new homes; and

our growing commitment to community investment, often through partnership with the voluntary sector.

A recent exercise by PricewaterhouseCoopers has also illustrated the capacity of housing associations in Northern Ireland to contribute significantly through stock transfer. This would create an opportunity for homes to be modernised quickly, efficiently and cost effectively, directly impacting on the quality of life for the people living in them.

We look forward to being in a position to embrace the changes that are coming and working together with both our housing association and Housing Executive colleagues to provide much needed homes.

Forging Ahead with New Homes

In recent months we have welcomed 75 families to their new homes at Ballyvester Grove in Bangor, Greenwell Mews in Newtownards and Beechview Courtyard in Crumlin.

All of the new homes have been built to high energy efficiency standards and designed to ensure added security for tenants and flexibility of adaptation if required at a later date.

In addition, work is continuing on the construction of more than 500 much needed new homes throughout

Northern Ireland in Belfast, Londonderry, Newtownards, Banbridge, Dromore, Dungannon, Lurgan, Lisburn, Crumlin, Ballynahinch, Kircubbin and Killinchy.

Details of Clanmil's new homes development programme are available at www.clanmil.org/current-developments.php



Mayor of Ards and North Down, Alderman Alan Graham joined Clanmil Chief Executive Clare McCarty to welcome Matthew Moore and his son Luis to their new home at Ballyvester Grove.

Committed to promoting and delivering Integrated Housing

The Life and Times survey showed that over 70% of people in Northern Ireland would prefer to live in a mixed-community. Despite this, opportunities are limited, with 90% of Housing Executive neighbourhoods defined as "highly polarised".

In recent years Clanmil has established Shared Future housing in Causeway Meadows, Lisburn at Springfarm, Antrim and at The Curzon in Belfast and we are working to achieve more.

As part of OFMDFM's Together: Building a United Community strategy two new Clanmil housing developments have been selected for promotion as potential Shared Future schemes - Felden in Newtownabbey and Killard in Newtownards. These schemes offer exciting opportunities to deliver integrated housing.

Clanmil is committed to working with the local community and, at a recent event at The Curzon, political and community representatives local to the Felden site discussed the need to support

tenants who decide to live there as a Shared Future neighbourhood. In addition, tenants from The Curzon shared their experiences of working with Clanmil to develop their scheme as a Shared Space and Professor John Brewer from Queen's University chaired a discussion that has supported the development of a Charter for Felden.

The Charter will be an important tool in ensuring that all who live at Felden understand what is expected of them and what they can expect of others living in their Shared Future neighbourhood. Coming from that discussion were 4 Ps - Perseverance, Patience, Participation and Pride - upon which the Charter will be based.

Homes to be Proud Of

Clanmil is currently implementing a major five year maintenance programme that will see over £8 million invested in our homes.

Over the past year we've completed:

- over 400 kitchen replacements
- in excess of 210 window and door replacements
- loft insulation in 161 homes
- cavity wall insulation in 65 homes
- heating upgrades in 32 homes

Our dedicated tenant liaison officer is helping our residents through any disruption during work

to their homes and so far most are delighted with the improvements.

This substantial investment demonstrates our on-going commitment to providing our tenants with homes they can be proud of.

BELOW: Betty Potter is delighted with the new kitchen in her apartment at The Imperial independent living scheme in Donaghadee.

