

# Owner Forum - 30th October 2007

## Minutes

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### Ciarán McNamara - Speech

Apartment living is becoming more and more of a reality in urban life today. The increase in the number of apartments in the city has been phenomenal in the last number of years. In the light of the city's ambition for more sustainable urban densities, it is also inevitable that apartments will become the dominant form of housing for Dublin in the future: an integral element in the revitalisation of our city.

Dublin City Council is committed to taking a lead in ensuring that apartment living becomes a successful housing form for a diverse range of people. We want to ensure that the environment in which apartment dwellers make their homes is both positive and pleasant.

Effective management of these complexes will be necessary for apartment developments to succeed and while we have minimal direct influence on the operation of private apartments, we are pleased in this instance to be providing a facilitative role in the development of this forum.

We have taken the lead in addressing concerns of apartment owners by commissioning research – Evelyn Hanlon's report on Successful Apartment living has received a remarkable response - providing mentoring, and now here tonight hosting a panel of experts – each one of them an apartment owner occupier - who will bring their specific expertise to bear on the issues raised here and hopefully provide some answers as well as exchanging ideas on best practice

I would also hope that another of the outcomes of tonight's meeting may be an independent apartment owners' forum which will actively represent your needs and issues. The response to this meeting has been huge, which in itself reflects the obvious need. But Dublin City Council doesn't propose to speak on your behalf. Our focus is to empower you to determine what your needs are and to help you seek out services that meet those specific needs.

Acquiring an understanding of all the issues is one of the key tasks here tonight. Tapping into the expertise around our panel of experts may be of some assistance to you in coming to terms with difficulties you are currently experiencing.

But we also need to be careful that we don't end up with a broad-brush criticism of all management companies. As in every walk of life there are some good and some not so good at what they do. Therefore having a real say in the operation of your own complexes going forward should be foremost on your agendas. And setting up an owners' forum will be the first step on that road.