



Housing and Technical Resources

Douglas Water Neighbourhood News 2019/20

Housing Services continues to work with the community, local groups, elected members and other partners to deliver local housing plans

In the last edition, we provided you with an update on the housing plan for Douglas Water which we continue to implement and review each year.

The housing plan sets out the priorities for the year ahead and takes into consideration the supply and demand for housing in the area, the condition and management of open space and condition of gardens.

You will see from the update below 2019/20 has been a busy year for housing services with good progress made against the actions we agreed with some of these continuing to be a focus for 2020/21.

Progress over the last year included:

- extension to grounds maintenance contracts to better maintain the overall appearance of the area
- continued enhanced programme of inspection in the area

A good news story!

Your views matter

We want to continue to build on the housing plan and develop this further year on year for the future sustainment of Douglas Water.

Although at present we are not able to come together in the more traditional ways we are still keen to hear your views and be involved in our future housing plans.

Options may include:

- surveys/questionnaires
- online options to engage
- virtual contact with housing staff

The original plan is available should you wish a copy, or if you would like any further information or to discuss the plan or how you can get involved please contact the Clydesdale Housing Office on 0303 123 1012 or by email at housing.lanark@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Please let us know what you think and we can agree next steps together. We look forward to hearing from you and working together for the long term benefit of Douglas Water community.

Douglas Water Housing Plan

Priorities agreed in 2019	April 2019 – March 2020 update
Address lack of demand for housing resulting in long term empty properties and risk to longer term sustainability of area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services continued to promote available housing to customers who approach our Home Options Service during 2019/20. • No lets have been secured in the last 4 years. • There continues to be very limited demand for housing in Douglas Water. • One property in the area was recovered through the abandonment process in 2019/20. • We now only have three council tenants remaining in the village.
Remove blight of concentrated long terms empty properties in area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed selective demolition work which has now been completed. • In 2019 we identified a further four properties to be demolished at 10, 12, 14 and 16 Welsh Street due to no demand. Demolition was due to take place during 2019/20 however, we have been unable to progress. We hope to be in a position complete these works during 2020/21.
Ongoing maintenance and improvement of housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home+ programme is ongoing to fully meet and maintain Scottish Housing Quality and Energy Efficiency Standards.
Improve standards of individual gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continued our enhanced programme of inspections during 2019/20 and will continue this during 2020/21. • During 2019/20, 186 inspections were carried out. This resulted in a number of actions being progressed including arranging repairs and reporting of abandoned cars. • We have continued to ensure that any new empty properties are added to our ground maintenance programme during 2019/20. • We have continued to issue garden improvement and disposable of household rubbish letters during 2019/20 however, the need for this has reduced throughout the year.
Improve condition of open space/refuse disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There continues to be a number of 'hot spot' areas' for fly tipping. We will continue to focus on these areas with Land Services and Environmental Health.
Promote community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No anti-social behaviour complaints received during 2019/20.
Create opportunities for community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services will support development of any proposals which would benefit the wider community. • Feedback is welcome from the local community and we will endeavour to assist in any way they can.

If you need this information in a different format or language, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs on 0303 123 1015 or equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk