

# **Carran Crescent Shared Future Housing Evaluation**

**NIHE Research Unit  
October 2009**

## **1.0 Introduction**

The Research Unit was asked by the Community Cohesion Unit to carry out research regarding the Shared Future Housing scheme in the Drumcarran area of Enniskillen. The aim of the research was to evaluate the impact of the shared future housing scheme on the residents of Carran Crescent.

Due to the small number of respondents (15), findings in this report are presented in numbers only, in both the textual analysis and the appendix tables.

## **2.0 Policy Background**

A major policy objective in Northern Ireland is to promote a shared future agenda, which is designed to encourage integration and better community relations.

In March 2005 the OFMDFM published its key strategic document "A Shared Future: The policy and strategic framework for Good Relations in N.I.". The following year it published its first Triennial Action Plan re-emphasising its stated aims and policy objectives, including:

- Elimination of sectarianism, racism and all forms of prejudice;
- Reduction of tension and conflict at interface areas;
- Protection of minorities and mixed marriage;
- Promotion of dialogue, communication, education, tolerance and civic mindedness;
- Facilitate, support, promote and encourage the development of a shared community;
- Shape policies, practices and institutions to enable good relations to grow.

In parallel with this and in partnership with OFMDFM, other statutory organisations, the housing associations and the voluntary sector, the Housing Executive has been pursuing the Shared Future Agenda through a combination of policy driven research and policy initiatives.

The Housing Executive is contributing in the following ways;

- Tackling the visible manifestations of sectarianism and racism through the development of an agreed protocol between the P.S.N.I. and key agencies.
- Reducing tension at interface areas taken forward as part of an integrated planning framework led by local councils in collaboration with key agencies and other stakeholders.
- Developing shared communities as well as supporting and protecting existing mixed areas.

It was in response to this desire by the community that the Housing Executive developed the Shared Future Housing Programme. The central purpose of the Shared Future Housing programme is to develop neighbourhoods where people choose to live with others regardless of their religion or race, in a neighbourhood that is safe and welcoming to all, and threatening to no-one.

The first Shared Future Housing scheme in Northern Ireland in a generation was launched in Carran Crescent, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh in October 2006.

### **3.0 Survey Methodology/Response**

The Research Unit designed the questionnaire in consultation with the Community Cohesion Unit, Drumcarran Community Association and Ulidia Housing Association.

In April 2009 all 20 households received a letter explaining the purpose of the survey, along with a questionnaire. The Drumcarran Community Association undertook the fieldwork following training by the NIHE Research Unit.

Fieldwork was completed by mid-April. The policy of the Housing Executive's Research Unit is to aim to achieve a 70% response rate on all surveys. By the completion of the fieldwork 16 of the 20 households had completed the questionnaire (12 collected by the Drumcarran Community Association, four received by post, one of the 16 respondents submitted an incomplete form that was excluded from the analysis), giving an overall response rate of 75%.

### **4.0 Key Findings**

#### **Household type**

Of the 15 respondents, nine were from lone parent households, four were from lone person households, and the remainder were large family households and two adult households (Table 1).

#### **Religious composition**

Ten respondents were Catholic and four were Protestant. The remaining respondents did not state their religion (Table 2).

#### **Gender of household reference person (HRP)**

Eight HRPs were female and three were male. The remaining respondents did not state their gender (Table 3).

#### **Employment status of HRP**

Eight HRPs were looking after the family home, two were working part-time, two were long term unemployed, and two were permanently sick or disabled (Table 4).

#### **Nationality of HRP**

Eight household's said their nationality was Northern Irish; five respondents stated other nationalities (Irish, British, Latvian) (Table 5).

### **Housing History**

Nine respondents had lived in Enniskillen prior to living in Carran Crescent; the remaining six respondents previously had lived outside Enniskillen town but within the Fermanagh District (Table 6).

Eleven respondents said their previous home was not located in a shared future housing estate or area; the remaining four respondents said their previous home was located in a shared future housing estate or area (Table 7).<sup>1</sup>

### **Housing Intentions**

Ten respondents said they did not intend moving from Carran Crescent in the next two years (Table 8).

### **Carran Crescent Area**

Respondents were asked to state, generally, their reasons for living in Carran Crescent. Twelve respondents said they liked the suitability of the property they were living in; eight respondents said they liked being close to family members; 6 respondents said they liked living in Carran Crescent due to it being a shared future housing scheme; five respondents said they liked having shared future services in the area (Table 9).

### **Attitudes to Community Relations**

When asked about community relations in the Drumcarran area, ten respondents said they were not very/not at all concerned and four respondents were very/slightly concerned (Table 10).

When asked about community relations in Northern Ireland, seven respondents said they were not very/not at all concerned and five respondents said they were very/slightly concerned (Table 11).

When asked if they thought relations between people of different community backgrounds in Northern Ireland were better, worse or the same as five years ago, six respondents thought relations were better, five respondents did not know. Only one respondent thought they were worse (Table 12).

When asked if they thought relations between people of different community backgrounds in Northern Ireland would be better, worse or the same in five years' time eight respondents did not know, three respondents thought relations would be better, three respondents thought relations would remain the same. Again only one respondent thought they would be worse (Table 13).

<sup>1</sup> The perception of members of the Community Association is that other local estates (Drumbawn and Drumbeg) are integrated, which may explain the responses to this question.

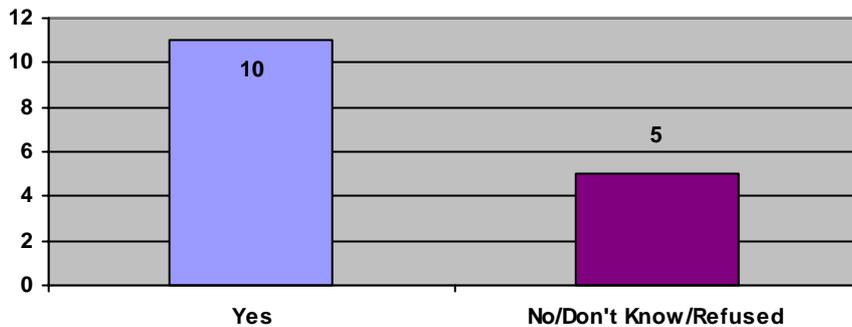
Respondents were presented with a list of options and asked if they thought their involvement would be useful in promoting community relations. Their responses (i.e. those who responded in the affirmative) were as follows (Table 14):

Youth groups or schools.....	12
Residents working with external bodies.....	9
Better community facilities.....	9
Planning restrictions on developments.....	4
Churches.....	1
Community relations do not need to be promoted.....	1

### Attitudes to Shared Future Housing

Ten respondents thought housing providers should promote shared future housing (Table 15).

Figure 3: The Promotion of Shared Future Housing Schemes



Respondents were asked their opinion of the religious make-up of shared future housing estates/areas, 12 respondents thought it should be 50%-50% (Table 16).

The vast majority (13) of respondents said they wished to continue to live in a shared future housing area (Table 17).

Respondents were asked about the search for peace in Northern Ireland. When asked about the previous five years, 11 respondents said they were happy with the progress that had been made (Table 18).

When asked how they felt things would go over the next five years, four respondents said they felt confident about the future, four respondents said they felt optimistic about the future and four respondents said they did not know how they felt about the next five years (Table 19).

### Religious/Race crime

The vast majority of respondents had not experienced religious hate crime or race hate crime in the Drumcarran area. Tables have been excluded due to small numbers.

### **A Shared Neighbourhood**

Nine respondents said half their friends were from a Catholic background and half were from a Protestant background. Three respondents said all or most of their friends were of the same religion and two respondents said most of their friends were of another religion (Table 20).

Eleven respondents whose household had children (Table 21) were asked if their children's friends were of the same religious background as their own children. Six respondents said that half of their children's friends were from the same religious background and half were from a different religious background. Two respondents said all or most of their friends were of the same religion (Table 22).

The vast majority of respondents with children in the household thought it was better to bring children up to live in a shared neighbourhood (Table 23). The 10 respondents who felt it was better to bring children up in a shared future neighbourhood were asked to state why. Their responses suggested that they felt it was a healthier environment for children to grow up in, an environment where they can meet and mix with children from different community backgrounds (Table 24).

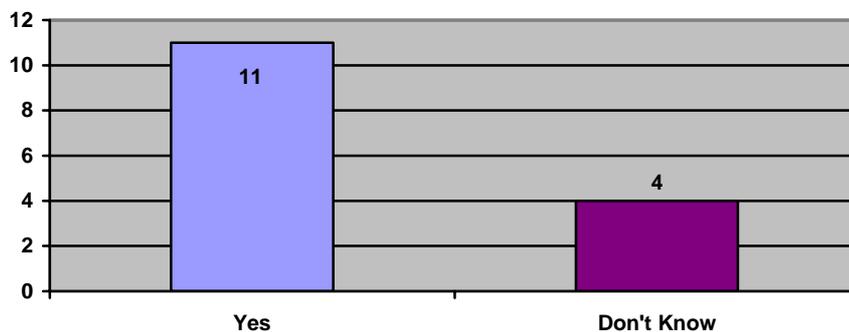
### **Carran Crescent neighbourhood**

When asked about their immediate neighbourhood (Carran Crescent), nine respondents said they knew a few of their neighbours, six respondents said they knew most of their neighbours (Table 25).

Six respondents said living in a shared neighbourhood had not changed their attitudes, six respondents did not know, three respondents said it had changed their attitudes (Table 26).

Eleven respondents said they would recommend further shared future housing initiatives based on their experiences (Table 27).

Figure 4: Shared Future Housing Recommendation



The 11 respondents who said they would recommend further shared future initiatives were asked to state why; the responses given included:  
'Shared future initiatives seem to be working'  
'Shared future housing initiatives are good for society, allowing people to live together and work towards a better future'  
(Table 28).

Six respondents said that the nearby estates of Drumbawn, Drumbawn Close, Carran Mews and Drumbeg should be included in the shared future housing initiative; nine respondents did not know (Table 29).

### **Perceptions about problems in Carran Crescent**

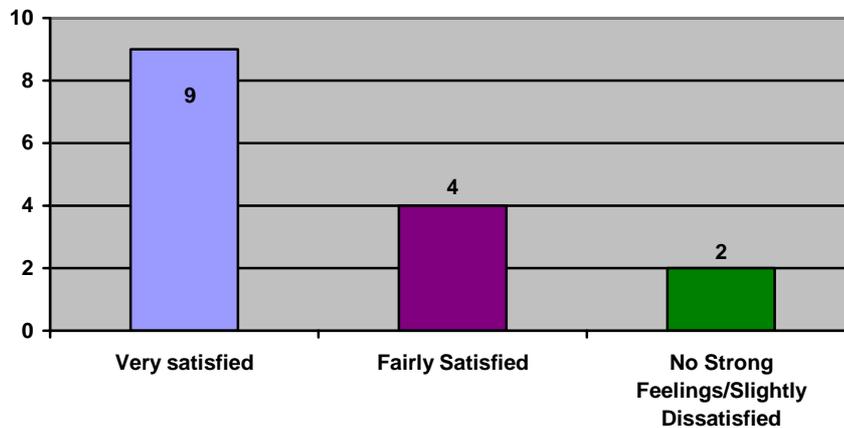
Most respondents did not think there were problems in Carran Crescent, such as sectarian intimidation or attacks, theft/burglary and assaults. Very few respondents thought some issues were a major/minor problem, e.g. anti-social behaviour (4 respondents), alcohol/drug abuse (4 respondents), (Table 30).

### **Satisfaction with Carran Crescent**

Eleven respondents said they were proud or fairly proud of the general image of Carran Crescent (Table 31).

Nine respondents were very satisfied with Carran Crescent as a place to live and four respondents were fairly satisfied (Table 32).

Figure 5: Satisfaction with Carran Crescent as a place to live



Respondents were asked what changes they would like to see in Carran Crescent, responses included:

'Provide litter bin'

'More trees and planted areas'

'Play park for children'

(Table 33).

## **Conclusion**

The survey indicated that;

- Ten respondents were not concerned about community relations in the Drumcarran area.
- Ten respondents thought that housing providers should promote shared future housing initiative.
- Thirteen respondents wanted to continue living in a shared future housing area.
- Eleven respondents were happy with the progress made over the last 5 years regarding the search for peace in N. Ireland.
- Eight respondents were either confident or optimistic about the search for peace in N. Ireland over the next 5 years.
- Ten respondents with children in their household thought it is better to bring children up to live in a shared future housing neighbourhood.
- Eleven respondents said they would recommend further shared future housing initiatives based on their experiences.

## Carran Crescent Shared Future Housing Evaluation Tabular Report

**Table 1: Household type**

	<b>Number</b>
Single parent (sole adult living with one dependent child or more, aged <16)	9
Lone person (lone person below pensionable age – 65 years for men, 60 years for women)	4
Small family (any two adults – related or unrelated – living with one or two dependent children aged <16)	1
Two adult (two people – related or unrelated – below pensionable age)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 2: What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?**

	<b>Number</b>
Protestant	4
Catholic	10
Refusal	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 3: What Gender of Household Reference Person?**

	<b>Number</b>
Female	8
Male	3
Refusal	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 4: Employment status of Household Reference Person**

	<b>Number</b>
Looking after family/home	8
Working part-time	2
Not working long term (>1 year)	2
Permanently sick/disabled	2
Refusal	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 5: Nationality of Household**

	<b>Number</b>
Northern Irish	8
Other (including Irish, British, Latvian)	5
Refusal	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 6: Where did you live immediately before your present home?**

	<b>Number</b>
Enniskillen	9
Outside Enniskillen town but within Fermanagh District area	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 7: Was your previous address in a shared future housing estate area?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	4
No	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 8: Do you think you are likely to move away from this area in the next two years?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	1
No	10
Don't know	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 9: Generally, what are your main reasons for living in this area?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Suitability of property	12	3
To be close to family members	8	7
Shared Future Housing Scheme	6	9
Shared Future Services in the area	5	10

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 10: How concerned/unconcerned are you about community relations in the Drumcarran area?**

	<b>Number</b>
Slightly/Very concerned	4
Not very concerned	4
Not at all concerned	6
Refusal	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 11: How concerned/unconcerned are you about community relations in Northern Ireland?**

	<b>Number</b>
Slightly/Very concerned	5
Not very concerned	5
Not at all concerned	2
Missing/refused	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 12: Do you think relations between people of different community backgrounds in N. Ireland are better, worse or the same as 5 years ago?**

	<b>Number</b>
Better	6
Worse	1
The same	3
Don't Know	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 13: Do you think relations between people of different community backgrounds in N Ireland will be better, worse or the same in 5 years' time?**

	<b>Number</b>
Better	3
Worse	1
The same	3
Don't know	7
Refusal	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 14: Do you think any of the following would be useful in promoting community relations in the Drumcarran area?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Refusal</b>
Youth groups or schools	12	2	1
Residents working with external bodies	9	5	1
Better community facilities	9	5	1
Planning restrictions on developments	4	10	1
Churches	1	13	1
Community relations do not need to be promoted	1		

**Base: 15 respondents**

**Table 15: Do you think that housing providers should promote a Shared Future Housing on their estates?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	10
No	1
Don't Know	3
Missing	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Base: 15 respondents**

**Table 16: What do you mean by Shared Future Housing estate/area? Do you mean...**

	<b>Number</b>
50%-50% religious make up	12
70%-30% religious make up	1
90%-10% religious make up	1
Refusal	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Base: 15 respondents**

**Table17: Which of the following statements applies to you?**

	<b>Number</b>
I live in a Shared Future Housing area and wish to continue	13
I live in a Shared Future Housing area, but would prefer a Protestant area	1
Don't know	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Base: 15 respondents**

**Table 18: Thinking of the last five years and the search for peace for N Ireland – looking at the table below, please select one response that applies to you.**

	<b>Number</b>
I feel happy that we have made progress	11
I have mixed feelings	1
Don't know	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 19: Thinking of the next five years and the search for peace for N Ireland – looking at the table below, please select one response that applies to you.**

	<b>Number</b>
I feel confident about the future	4
I feel optimistic about the future	4
I have mixed feelings about the future	1
I am worried about the future	2
Don't know	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 20: Among your friends, how many would be the same religion as yourself?**

	<b>Number</b>
All are of my religion	1
Most are of my religion	2
Half and half	9
Most are of another religion	2
Refusal	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 21: Does the household have any children?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	11
No	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 22: Thinking generally, if how many of their friends would be of the same religion as them?**

	<b>Number</b>
All/Most of their friends are of their own religion	2
Half and half	6
Refused	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

Base: 11 respondents who had children

**Table 23: Do you think it is better for your children to live in a shared neighbourhood?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	10
Don't know	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

Base: 11 respondents who had children

**Table 24: If yes, please state why you believe it is better to bring children up in a shared neighbourhood.**

	<b>Number</b>
A healthier environment for children to grow up in, an environment where they can meet and mix with children from different community backgrounds	5
No response/refusal	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

Base: 10 respondents who said it is better for their children to live in a shared neighbourhood

**Table 25: In your immediate neighbourhood (that is within Carran Crescent) would you say that you know...**

	<b>Number</b>
Most of the people in your neighbourhood	6
A few of the people in your neighbourhood	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 26: Has living in a shared neighbourhood changed your attitude in any way?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	3
No	6
Don't know	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 27: Given your experiences of living in a shared neighbourhood, would you recommend further shared future housing initiatives?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	11
Don't know	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 28: If yes, please state why.**

	<b>Number</b>
Shared future initiatives seem to be working	6
Shared future housing initiatives are good for society, allowing people to live together and work towards a better future	2
Missing/refused	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

Base: 11 respondents who said they would recommend further shared future housing initiatives

**Table 29: In the future, do you think the nearby estates of Drumbawn, Drumbawn Close, Carran Mews, and Drumbeg should be included in the shared future housing initiative?**

	<b>Number</b>
Yes	6
Don't know	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 30: Please indicate if any of the following issues are a major, minor or not a problem in Carran Crescent:**

	Not a problem	Major problem	Minor problem	Don't know	Refusal/ No response
Sectarian intimidation	12	0	0	1	2
Theft/burglary	12	0	0	1	2
Sectarian attacks	11	0	1	1	2
Graffiti	11	1	0	1	2
Assault	11	0	0	2	2
Vandalism	10	1	1	2	1
Anti-social behaviour	9	1	3	0	2
Neighbour disputes	9	0	3	1	2
Behaviour of young people	9	2	1	2	1
Alcohol/drug abuse	9	1	3	1	1

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 31: How do you feel about the general image of Carran Crescent, if friends or relatives come to visit?**

	Number
Proud	7
Fairly proud	4
No strong feelings	2
Slightly ashamed	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 32: How satisfied are you with Carran Crescent as a place to live?**

	Number
Very satisfied	9
Fairly satisfied	4
No strong feelings/ Slightly dissatisfied	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Base: 15 respondents

**Table 33: Thinking about living in Carran Crescent, could you write down what things you would most like to see change in this area. Please give up to three changes you would like to see.**

	Number
Provide litter bins	3
More trees and planted areas	4
More community facilities including a play park for children	8
Other	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

Base: 21 comments made by 15 respondents