

PRESS RELEASE

Magazine Road Residents Association welcomes Cork City Council motion calling on Government to introduce legislation on houses of multi occupancy (HMOs)

The Magazine Road and Surrounding Area Residents Association welcome the recent all party and Independent Councillors support in Cork City Council passing a motion calling on the Government to introduce legislation re the management, maintenance and standards specific to houses of multi occupancy (HMOs).

Chairperson of the Association Catherine Clancy said: “This legislation should include standards in relation to bedrooms, no.of bathrooms, shared space, general condition and other health and safety concerns of tenants. This would ensure that these HMOs are fit for purpose.”

“This support from Cork City Council and its councillors reinforces our previous calls for specific legislation on HMOs. There are well over two thousand of these type properties in the South and North West wards in Cork City. The experience of residents around UCC here in Cork and the ongoing experience of residents in Limerick and Galway shows that this is a national issue that requires urgent action by our legislators.”

Legislation on HMOs has been in place in the UK including Northern Ireland for the past 30 years.

The Magazine Road and Surrounding Areas Residents Association is calling for:

1. Licensing of all landlords.
2. NCT type test for rented properties where there is certain criteria to be checked and approved and that they are seen to be fit for purpose and reflect the income that can be generated, before they can be rented.
3. This licensing legislation should require landlords to be responsible for the condition of their properties, and especially health and safety and the behaviour of their tenants.
4. A public register of the owners or management companies of all rented properties.
5. Local Authorities should be given the legislative power to license these HMOs

and also be made responsible for the inspection of same.

6. A limit of 3 months rent be put on the amount a landlord can ask for in advance.

7. We are asking legislators to make immediate changes to planning laws, requiring that planning applications should be a statutory requirement for the change of use of a two/three bedroom residential property being converted to a house multi occupancy with up to 5/10 bedrooms.

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