

Innovation, Information, Inspiration

The Empty Homes Conference 2018

Birmingham, Thursday, 18th October 2018

Registration and Breakfast from 9.00am for 10.00am Start

Close at 4.45pm



With sponsorship from



Property Guardian Providers Association

Promoting Best Practice, Safety and Standards



With support from our sponsors we have once again been able to hold our rates low.

Delegate rates

EHN Members

First delegate: **£149**

Additional delegates: **£119**

Small not-for-profits: **£99**

Non-members

First delegate: **£179**

Additional delegates: **£149**

Small not-for-profits: **£125**

Conference web-page, booking form and brochure: www.ehnetwork.org.uk/2018Conference

Conference Programme Overview

The themes of our 2018 Conference cover all the bases: **'state-of-play' reviews, partnership working, new tools and models, best practice** – and quite a bit about **minimising risks**.

Note: this is a draft programme. We have confirmation in principle from all organisations. Speaker details remain to be finalised in one or two cases.

- **Building a professional industry:** Introducing the Property Guardian Providers Association
8 major providers have joined together to develop and promote higher standards in the **Property Guardian industry**. It means better tools in the practitioner toolbox. Here's the why and the what. Speaker tbc.
- **GDPR: through the jungle:** What does it really mean for empty homes work?
In this vital session **Fiona Anthony**, of specialist local government solicitors **nplaw**, gives us a brief overview of the GDPR and how it effects empty homes work, and takes your questions. Not to be missed.
- **Renewing the partnership:** The Empty Homes' dialogue with practitioners.
Will McMahon is the recently-appointed Director of our champions at **Empty Homes**. He is looking forward to building the dialogue between EH and practitioners.
- **Campaign for Community Investment:** Building the momentum.
Chris Bailey, Campaign Manager for the charity **Action on Empty Homes**, will describe the important work being done by the **Coalition for Community Investment** in areas with high levels of empty homes.
- **The Practitioner Surgery:** Enforcement, loans, grants.....and more!
Andrew Lavender of **Housing Training and Law Consultancy Ltd.** will offer his ever-popular Practitioner Surgery where he is guaranteed to be able to answer case queries around enforcement, loans, grants, and, come to think of it, just about anything you care to mention.
- **Behind the scenes:** Liverpool's '£1 house' scheme
Tony Mousdale, who featured as the project lead in Channel 4's mini-series about the **Liverpool** homesteading scheme, offers eye-opening insight from behind the scenes, and compares the scheme with other Liverpool initiatives.
- **Community-based initiatives:** Six demonstration projects reviewed
Brigid Carey of **Empty Homes** reports back on her vital research into six successful community-based projects in areas with high levels of empties.

Conference Programme Overview (continued)

- **Building an Empty Property Service:** Four years on.....
Francis Burton from **LB Croydon**, a star speaker four years back, discusses the key lessons learnt in the development and shaping of a showcase empty homes initiative in London.
- **Flexible finance:** Council subsidised loans for empty homes.
Ellie Lister from **Wessex Resolutions CIC** will be sharing her experiences of working with homeowners and local authorities to deliver tailored financial solutions to bring empty properties back into use. Her main piece of advice, flexibility is key!
- **Community solutions to homelessness:** An exemplary initiative from Leicester.
As Funding and Communications manager for Leicester charity **Action Homeless**, **Reg Mawdsley** is well-placed to show how the money, the community and the empty homes fit together to tackle homelessness.
- **A commercial edge:** A new vehicle to tackle housing standards and empty property.
Dave Galvin, Managing Director of **Blackpool Housing Company**, has led the development of an innovative arms-length company which has a solid track record in bringing empty property back into use for housing: private sector dynamism, public sector ethos.
- **Legal Update:** The latest on CPO ... and more
Fiona Anthony of **nplaw** will also be presenting an important session on the latest changes to **Compulsory Purchase** along with other **key changes in legislation**.
- **Engaging the bad, mad and sad:** Helping the hard-to-engage owner.
Tackling empties with **hard-to-engage owners** is challenging – but successes are that much the more rewarding. Building on a 2015 session on hoarding, **Nick Pritchard-Gordon** of **Reading Borough Council** runs through fascinating case studies that illustrate **the art of connecting with people who don't want to connect**.

Full speaker details are available at:

www.ehnetwork.org.uk/2018Conference

Who's it for?

Local authorities and their partners; housing associations, self-help housing groups and community organisations working in the field of empty homes; organisations involved in leasing properties to meet housing need; allied service providers such as lawyers, accountants, property guardians, builders, green energy firms; and more.

Conference web-page, booking form and brochure:

<http://www.ehnetwork.org.uk/2018Conference>

For further information and bookings contact Claire Hope

email: claire.hope@ehnetwork.org.uk

Phone: 0303 04 01 008 (leave a message: normal landline rates) or 07917 794589 (direct mobile)

About the Empty Homes Network

We are a national network with approximately 550 individual members and associates, launched with 80 members in 2001 as the National Association of Empty Property Practitioners. Then-Minister Sally Keeble wrote

"NAEPP[=EHN] will provide a national voice for local authority and RSL staff in their work to bring empty homes back into use. The Government is keen to see its membership grow into a national network of empty property practitioners."

Since then we have expanded our membership to include those working in regeneration companies, in self-help and community groups, and in private sector firms involved in helping bring empty homes back into use.

We are a not-for-profit membership organisation. We are separate from and completely independent of the charity Empty Homes Agency. We are self-financing through membership fees and our Conference.

Our main role is to support all practitioners and organisations involved in addressing the issue of empty homes, helping them work as effectively as possible. We do this by

- facilitating the sharing of information and experience,
- organising training events and conferences,
- promoting best practice amongst delivery partners
- promoting sound policy at national level.

We argue for service improvement; help those practitioners with the least time and resources to gain confidence and carry out their duties more effectively; and support policy makers in developing approaches that will work in all localities.

Empty Homes Awards 2018 - Sponsors

One of the most important features of the Conference is the presentation of the Empty Homes Awards. On the day of the Conference, time does not permit us to look at the submissions in as much detail as we'd like, but we do publish extensive details on the EHN website after the event. We are very grateful to the various Award sponsors for their support.

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E.ON Empty Home Solutions

Sponsor Empty Homes Awards Ceremony

Sponsor Innovation Award

E.ON is investing in three pilot schemes across the UK and is looking for Local Authorities with an appetite to proactively tackle their empty homes problem in an innovative and effective way. Andrew Angus E.ON Housing Solutions Manager, said:

"We've developed a holistic, cooperative, community focussed approach, which provides Local Authorities with a low risk solution to tackling the issue of empty homes within their authority. The scheme focusses on the empty home owner, addressing their needs, wants and the barriers to action they face in bringing a property back in use. Everyone's circumstances are different and as such we have a broad range of individual solutions available."

email: Joshua.williams@eonenergy.com

e-on
Empty Home
Solutions

Kent No Use Empty initiative

Sponsor Empty Homes Practitioner of the Year Award

No Use Empty, launched by Kent County Council (KCC), celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2015. All 12 authorities in Kent participate in the initiative to substantially increase the number of empty homes returned to use as good quality housing through a range of interventions. Empty property owners can apply for a loan of up to £25,000 per unit to a maximum of £175,000. KCC has issued £24.2M loans since 2005, leveraging additional private funding of £27.8M, boosting the local economy and job market. No Use Empty has created 5,583 new homes to date

www.no-use-empty.org.uk



Empty Property Solutions Ltd.

Sponsor of 'Meeting the Challenge' Award

Carson Millican is Director of Empty Property Solutions Ltd., and is a specialist who engages with Local Authorities to develop empty property approaches and strategies that will win New Homes Bonuses and tap into available funding. It is hoped this award will highlight what works when confronted with difficult long term empties.



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Empty Homes Awards 2018 – Sponsors (continued)

Homesmatch Ltd.

Sponsor of Best Before-and-after Photos Award

MD Cath Whelan writes “We at Homesmatch offer innovative, approaches to matching property buyers and sellers. Importantly for empty homes owners, not only can we help them find purchasers, but we can also source finance to help them upgrade their homes to make them more readily saleable or lettable. So we are really pleased to get the opportunity to demonstrate our support for the people that are working day in, day out to bring empties back into use”.

www.homesmatch.co.uk



Cromwood Social

Sponsor of Best Partnership Award

Abdus Saleh notes “We set up Cromwood Social to bring empty properties back into use for use as social housing. We have partnered with financial intermediaries and created funds that can be used to acquire and/or refurbish empty properties. Our one stop service in London to owners of empty properties includes resolving probate; financing refurbishment; project managing works and management of refurbished property. We expect to expand our operations outside of London.”

www.cromwood.co.uk/cromwood-social/



Orbis Protect

Sponsor of Rising Star Award

Louis Fordham, Orbis Protect , Business Development Director for the Social Housing Sector, said “We are very proud to be sponsoring the Rising Stars Award in this sector. Over my 25 years working with Orbis, who specialise in the protection and management of empty properties, I have worked in many different roles, which for several years included National Training Manager. In this position I had the great opportunity to see many young individuals grow, thrive and contribute back to the protection of empty homes. We are excited to hear all the great contributions.”

www.orbisprotect.com



Our Main Conference Sponsor...



Property Guardian Providers Association Promoting Best Practice, Safety and Standards



Reputable Property Guardian firms keep commercial and residential buildings safe and secure by accommodating their vetted Property Guardians in them until they are needed again. Property Guardians prevent squatting, theft and further criminality. This is a proven and effective way to protect any property, saving up to 80% on security costs.

The recently formed Providers Association has been set up by 7 leading firms to ensure and promote higher standards. They set out their stall in November 2017 with the publication of [Safety First: The Law on Property Guardians](#), authored by three top housing lawyers.

[Ad Hoc Property Management](#)
[Guardians of London](#)

[Camelot Europe](#)
[Live-in Guardians](#)
[VPS Guardians](#)

[Dex Property Management](#)
[Lowe Guardians](#)

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... and Gold Supporters



www.no-use-empty.org.uk



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