

## A Flourishing Community

# Fold Housing



As part of Fold Housing's successful submission to the HFA's Social Investment Fund, flower arranger Lisa Nevin regularly holds classes for the tenants in Café 44, which is part of the complex.

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*The New Dolphin Park development in Dublin's south inner-city was officially opened in 2022 with the support of HFA financing. Developed and managed by Fold Housing, which specialises in providing apartments and housing for older people and families, the 43-apartment complex has helped maintain an already strong community in its original location.*

### **Mick Gorey is a tenant at New Dolphin Park**

“I’ve lived in the area for many years and I was delighted to be offered the new place here when they built this development,” he said. “A lot of people from the older flats all moved over here. The homes are lovely and you can see yourself what a lovely community we have. I help out in the Memorial Garden and around the place with planting, and they regularly have events in the café.”

According to Fold Housing CEO Kathleen Cottier, the HFA Social Investment Fund has been successfully implemented in gardening projects across three of the AHB's housing schemes for older persons, transforming communal spaces into vibrant, accessible and therapeutic environments.

“The funding was used to create raised garden beds, provide accessible planters, purchase flowers, shrubs, and vegetables, and improve outdoor seating areas, ensuring residents can fully enjoy their surroundings,” she said.

“Fold Housing has a vision of a society where older people have a great quality of life and choice. Our contribution to achieving this is to develop homes that older people want to live in and empower residents to live fulfilling lives that foster thriving communities. An important part of being able to do this well is partnership with residents and listening carefully to understand what is important to them.”

“At a focus group in 2024, to support the development of our strategic plan, our resident forum members talked about the challenges of staying healthy in older age and the problems of loneliness for many. This is a clear message to us that older person's housing that enables people and communities to flourish needs services that go beyond the bricks and mortar. Supporting residents to take an active role in their community is a cornerstone of what we do in Fold. We know that it is residents who support each other and contribute most to thriving communities, however our helping hand is often the catalyst.”