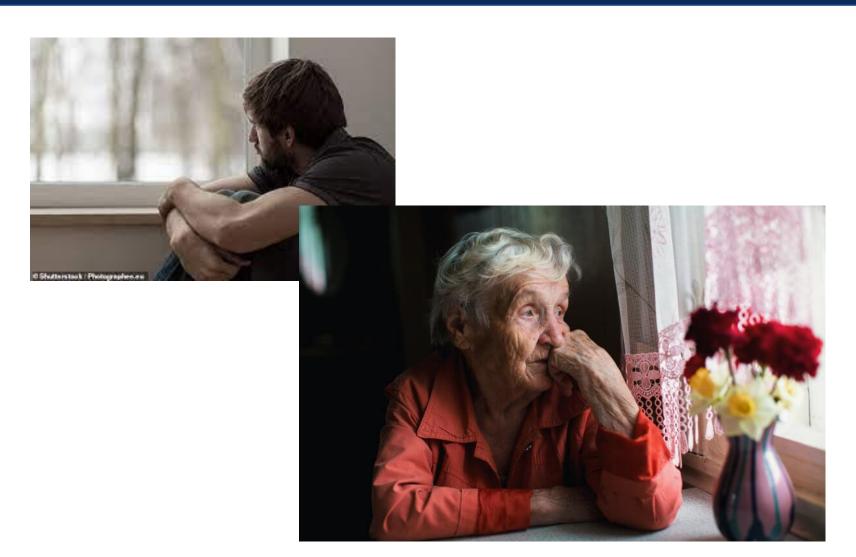




How Almshouses respond to the Affordable Housing and Loneliness Crisis.







What is an almshouse?

Personal view from CEO of The Almshouse Association

"Almshouses provide a stable, warm and secure home within a robust community of light touch support allowing residents to live engaged, independent and fulfilling lives. They are started and run with compassion and thrive on companionship."

They should provide three things:

- A warm, secure, safe home
- A good neighbour
- Something to do, look at and be interested in"





Almshouses

- A good home and community for those in need for centuries to come
- Brother Tim resident of almshouse London "I have been here ten years and I am younger and happier now than when I came through those doors."
- "I found a home where I feel wanted for the first time in my life"
 Tina Midland almshouse.









- Where do almshouses come from?
- How has society changed and how is it set to change?
- What is the weakness in the model?
- What part and value does architecture play in almshouse model?
- What does their future depend on?





Where do almshouses come from?

The essence of **The Seven Works of Mercy**.

The Seven Works of Mercy are a set of charitable acts from Christian tradition, focusing on both the physical and spiritual needs of others.

The Works of Mercy address **physical needs**: **feeding** the hungry, giving **drink** to the thirsty, **clothing** the naked, **sheltering** the homeless, **visiting** the sick, visiting the **imprisoned**, and **burying** the dead.

Early almshouses were the first "hospitals".

Founders act of generosity in exchange for shortened **purgatory.**





Where do almshouses fit in society today?

How has society changed and how is it set to change?

Loneliness/family structure/social structure/work and role of employer/state provision

What do almshouses address?

- Isolation
- Community
- Good neighbour
- Sense of place

Why are they right today? Where are we going?





How can almshouses survive?

Is there weakness in the model?

- Governance
- Scale
- Independence
- Buildings
- Residents
- Awareness
- Funding
- Europe lesson







Spirit through architecture?

Almshouses were designed to encourage neighbourly interaction in "safe" spaces?

- Courtyard "arms around"
- Windows and views
- Benches
- Shared entrance
- Chimneys and steep roofs
- A "huddle" of almshouse cottages
- The village of 8







Almshouses a 50 year view

- Quality and demand must remain high in all cases
- Aging and lonely population increased demand
- Recognition and awareness increasing credible and desirable – move to meet todays most in need
- Research robust and consistent
- Nostalgia and buildings desire
- Government/LG awareness ideology
- Philanthropy tomorrows"in need"
- Trustees the backbone







- Where do almshouses come from?
- How has society changed and how is it set to change?
- What do almshouses address?
- Why are they right today and tomorrow?
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- What does their future depend on?





Almshouses will thrive!

Thank you for being part of the link to the next century

Questions?

