



BROUGHAN VOTES AGAINST BUDGET 2013, SOCIAL WELFARE CUTS & PROPERTY TAX

Deputy Tommy Broughan strongly opposed the introduction of Budget 2013. Deputy Broughan expressed his profound disappointment that wealthy tax-payers were not asked to contribute more in the recent Budget and instead there was a series of new appalling cutbacks imposed on low and middle-income families.

Deputy Broughan said: "The cut of €10 per month in Child Benefit will severely impact on many families. The reduction of three months in Jobseekers Benefit is also a further cruel imposition on the unemployed and the reductions of €50 in the Back to School Grants, of €325 in the Respite Care Grant and cuts in the Household Benefits Package will make life even more difficult for most families. The determination of this government to continue slashing health expenditure is reflected in the egregious increase in the Drug Payment Scheme threshold to €144 per month and the increase to €1.50 of Prescription Charges including a rise in the monthly cap to €19.50. The Education Budget has also taken a significant hit again with the increase of two points in the Pupil Teacher Ratio for Post Leaving Cert VEC Schools and the further increase in Third Level fees by €250 per annum."

Deputy Broughan continued: "Besides the Social Welfare cuts, the other major memory of Budget 2013 will be the new Local Property Tax which will pose a significant burden for householders especially in Urban Areas. Indeed, because there

• TOMMY BROUGHAN T.D.

is no consideration of family incomes in relation to this harsh new measure the serious problems of the old Household Rates have returned. The introduction of the €60,000 cap on pension contributions is welcome and does represent an important step in reducing inequality in Irish society, I will continue to oppose and vote against the macroeconomic policies of this government as reflected in the Fine Gael dominated Budget of 2013."

CONGRATULATIONS TO CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD WINNERS

The outstanding performance of a number of local residents' and community groups in the 2012 final of Dublin City Council's Neighbourhood Awards has been warmly welcomed by Deputy Tommy Broughan.

Raheny Tidy Village Group was runner-up in the overall 2012 City Neighbourhood Award and they also won the Mixed Use Street Category; Woodlawn Residents Association took first place in the Residential 151-300 Houses category; in the Residential Category with over 300 homes, Ard-na-Greine Residents Association took second place; Donaghmede Estate Residents Association took third prize in the Community Environment Initiative; and Aulden Grange Environmental Group came third in the Open Green Space category. Furthermore, Rathmore Park, Raheny made the final list in the Residential Category with 1-150 Houses; NABCO were also recognized in the final grouping of the Flat/Apartment Complex section; Lower Belmont Neighbourhood Group came third in the Best New Entry Category and Newbury Wood Residents Association made the final list in the same category; Ms. Winnie McDonagh, Cara Park won third prize in the Individual Contribution Category; and finally, Cara Park came joint second with Donnycarney West Community Association in the Endeavour Award (Most Improved Entry).



Lord Mayor Andrew Montague with Chairperson Anne Carter and Residents Committee from Ard-na-Greine

CHANGES TO LOCAL BUS SERVICES

The 29A bus has been extended to Baldoyle Village following a long campaign by Baldoyle residents (and supported by Deputy Tommy Broughan). The revised service change came into effect as of November 2012.

However, Deputy Broughan has been in contact with the CEO of Dublin Bus, Mr. Paddy Doherty, to express the concerns of local residents on a number of the other changes to local bus services. These additional changes include:

- Route 32/32a & 32b are being combined and all services will operate as route 32 from Malahide, via the Coast Road, Baldoyle and the Howth Road QBC to the City Centre (Abbey Street). (Route 32b customers in Abbey Park please note, route 29a will be extended via Grange Road to serve this area)
- Route 32x has additional stops on the Clontarf Road, improving connections to UCD from the area
- The timetables on route 29a, 31, 31a & 32 are being integrated, offering a five minute service between Raheny and the city centre
- Route 42 is being realigned to significantly improve the frequency of service to Portmarnock, Malahide (The Hill) and Seabury. Its route is as follows: Sands Hotel, Wendell Avenue, The Hill, Church Road, Malahide Road, Seabury (Yellow Walls Road, Swords Road), Malahide Road QBC to city centre (Eden Quay).

FUNDING FOR CHILDCARE PLACES & LOCAL CHILD POVERTY PROGRAMME

“The allocation of funding under Budget 2013 for additional after school places targeted at children in primary school and further funding for an early intervention programme targeting child poverty in Darndale is an important initiative” says Deputy Tommy Broughan.

The long-established Preparing for Life Programme in Belcamp, Moatview and Darndale has been chosen as one of three areas for continued funding for projects concentrating on child development, educational disadvantage, health, well-being and parenting. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs has allocated €2.5 million for the Area Based Child Poverty Initiative with additional expenditure of up to €4.75 million by 2015.

In addition, 6,000 additional after school places targeted at children in primary school and in particular for low-income families will be offered to people who are currently engaged with the Department of Social Protection’s INTREO service. INTREO is the new one-stop-shop service where Jobseekers can access the employment services (formerly provided by FAS) and the Community Welfare Services (formerly provided by the HSE) and the income support services provided by the Department itself.

DCC TO MOVE TO TIME ON THE LIST HOUSING SYSTEM

Dublin City Council has voted to move away from the historic points and priority housing allocation system to a “Time on the List” system for their Housing and Transfer Waiting Lists. The Time on the List system (which is a “first come, first served” process) has worked effectively and transparently in other local authority areas.

The new system needs a Ministerial Order to come into effect and Deputy Tommy Broughan has asked Minister Hogan in Dail Eireann to urgently sign the order as a matter of priority.



Tommy in Dáil Éireann.

DAIL AGENDA 2013

A new **Taxi Regulation Bill** has been published with a number of new measures for the regulation of the taxi sector. Deputy Broughan continues to raise ongoing issues in the taxi sector with Ministers Varadkar and Kelly in order to ensure a fair and well regulated system for both taxi users and taxi workers alike.

There are also a number of important new pieces of legislation set for discussion in Dail Eireann in the upcoming Spring and Summer 2013 sessions. These include the **Sale of Alcohol Bill**; the **Housing Bill** (including measures on regulating voluntary housing bodies); the **Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries Bill**; the **Amendment of the Constitution (Abolition of the Seanad) Bill** and a new **Road Traffic Bill**. Deputy Tommy Broughan has also repeatedly asked Taoiseach Kenny to introduce the **Noise Nuisance Bill** which would enhance measures to address the problem of noise nuisance in residential estates.

2012 SPORTS GRANTS

A number of outstanding local sports clubs and sporting facilities have been allocated funding by Sports Minister Michael Ring under the 2012 Programme. "Sports clubs provide an invaluable service to both young and old across our constituency. It is good that a number of "Cinderella" sports which have done Ireland proud in recent years such as boxing are now receiving better recognition through these sports grants", said Deputy Broughan.

Under the 2012 Programme, €4,250 has been allocated to Baldoye Boxing Club; €2,500 to Bay City Boxing Club; €3,000 to Glin Amateur Boxing Club; €44,556 to Grange Woodbine Residents Association/Grange Woodbine Football Club; €9,307 to Kilbarrack United FC; €55,000 to St. Paul's Artane FC; €70,000 to Portmarnock AFC; €32,000 to Beann Eadair CLG; €92,650 to Suttonians RFC; €143,426 to Portmarnock Sports and Leisure Club; €16,000 to Portmarnock Sub Aqua Club; €24,734 to Sutton Dinghy Club; €20,000 to Howth Yacht Club; €2,410 to Trackside Lawn Tennis Club and finally €296,751 to Sutton

Lawn Tennis Club. Dublin City Council was also awarded €17,508 for maintaining facilities at Edenmore Park and €21,540 for St. Anne's Park. Deputy Broughan also asked Minister Ring and Taoiseach Kenny to ensure that another round of Sports Grants will be allocated in 2013.



CEO Linda Hayden and Darndale Tidy District Winners

NATIONAL LOTTERY SALE RAISED IN DAIL

The proposed sell-off of the National Lottery has been raised with Minister Brendan Howlin in Dail Eireann by Deputy Tommy Broughan. Deputy Broughan acknowledged the importance of funding the proposed new National Children's Hospital but he asked the Minister to address concerns that the sale of the Lotto may be a case of "selling off the family silver" and may in fact be a license to print money without achieving a decent deal for the Irish people. The National Lottery Bill 2012 comes before Dail Eireann early in 2013.

BROUGHAN BATTLES FOR CREDIT UNIONS

Deputy Tommy Broughan submitted a number of amendments to the recent Credit Union Bill in Dail Eireann to ensure that new regulations do not damage the vital ethos of credit unions which are voluntary, not-for-profit, locally controlled, pooled credit organisations. Speaking in the Dail, Deputy Broughan paid tribute to the remarkable contribution that the credit union movement has made to Irish life over the past 65 years, especially in terms of combating the appalling existence of loansharks. He added: "It was the banks, not the credit unions, that acted in an utterly reckless manner over the past decade and which helped cause the current economic disaster."

Deputy Broughan's amendments to the bill included ones to protect the current role of volunteers and volunteerism in the credit union structure; to facilitate the potential introduction of shared services such as electronic banking in branches; and on the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between the credit union, the regulators and the banks. Deputy Broughan brought the concerns of ILCU and CUDA to the floor of Dail Eireann and urged Finance Minister Noonan to accept these important amendments to the Credit Union legislation at Report stage.

HELP AT LAST FOR PYRITE AFFECTED HOMES

Deputy Tommy Broughan has welcomed the announcement of a new levy on the insurance and construction sectors to help pay for the remediation of pyrite-affected homeowners.

Deputy Broughan said: "Since mid-2007, when I first heard of the pyrite catastrophe, I have raised the issue hundreds of times in Dail Eireann. I now understand that a levy is being placed on the construction sector to help finance a €50 million fund for desperately needed remediation works. I also understand that funding is to be available worth on average €45,000 for the repair works initially for approximately 1,000 homes. I hope that the Minister will now provide a strict timeframe for the establishment and allocation of funds from this scheme."

A RECENT PRIORY HALL PROTEST ATTENDED BY DEPUTY BROUGHAN





President Higgins at St. Thomas School, Clonshaugh.

BROUGHAN PUBLISHES BRIGHTER EVENINGS BILL

Deputy Tommy Broughan has introduced a new Private Members Bill - the Brighter Evenings Bill 2012 - to examine the costs and benefits of advancing the clocks by one hour to allow for brighter evenings and to bring Ireland into the Central European Time zone.

Moving the clocks forward would make the evenings in the winter brighter for longer. The wide benefits of brighter evenings include enhancing road safety and saving lives on the road every year; increasing jobs in the leisure and tourism industries; lowering energy bills by maximising available daylight and decreasing peak power demand; facilitating an improved quality of life with increased time available for exercise and sport in the evening, reduced crime and reduced fear of crime; and a decrease in CO2 emissions.

Under this Bill, after undertaking a comprehensive Cost Benefit Analysis, the Minister could then advance the clocks by one hour for a three year trial period (and then permanently if required). The three year experiment would adopt the Single/Double Summer Time (SDST) model wherein the first year the clocks would not go back in October. They would stay one-hour ahead until March when they would then be put forward by an hour. After this first adjustment clocks would continue to go back and forwards as usual. But they would then be an hour ahead of our current Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and GMT+1 system (i.e. to GMT+1 in winter and GMT+2 in summer) and bring Ireland into line with Central European Time. The Bill is available at www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2012/9612/b9612d.pdf

Getting in Touch

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Visit: www.tommybroughan.com

Meet: Tommy at his regular information clinics all around Dublin North East (no appointment needed):

Every **MONDAY**

11.00 a.m. BESC Offices, Darndale Village

2nd / 4th **FRIDAY**

- 7.00p.m. Concorde, Edenmore Shopping Centre
- 7.30p.m. Foxhound Inn, Greendale Shopping Centre
- 8.15p.m. Marine Hotel, Sutton
- 9.00p.m. Abbey Tavern, Howth/Golf Links Inn, Portmarnock

Every **SATURDAY**

- 10.15 a.m. Clonshaugh Shopping Centre
- 11.30a.m. Donaghmede Shopping Centre
- 1.00p.m. Madigans, Kilbarrack Shopping Centre

1st/ 3rd **SATURDAY**

- 1.45p.m. Bayside Shopping Centre
- 2.30p.m. Racecourse Inn, Racecourse Shopping Centre, Baldoyle

2nd/4th **SATURDAY**

- 2.30 p.m. Walkabout in one of the parishes of Dublin North East/Dublin Bay North

CONCERN AT HOWTH PARKING CHARGES PROPOSAL

Proposals by Agriculture Minister Simon Coveney to introduce parking charges in Howth Harbour have caused serious concern for local residents and business people. "Given the ongoing economic difficulties, Howth marine tourism and leisure businesses and local people are rightly very concerned about the potential very negative impact of any new parking charges on the local Howth economy", said Deputy Tommy Broughan. He has contacted Minister Coveney, Irish Rail, and Fingal County Manager David O'Connor and asked them to respond to these proposals, in particular to their potential impact on local marine tourism. Deputy Broughan has demanded a fullscale public consultation of the people of Howth on this matter.

NEW GUIDE FOR FAMILIES OF ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

Deputy Tommy Broughan has warmly welcomed the publication of a new guide for road traffic victims and their families by the national road safety campaign group PARC – Promoting Awareness, Responsibility and Care on our roads. This valuable guide (FindingYourWay – A Guide for Victims Following the Death or Serious Injury of a Loved one in a Road Traffic Collision") provides the outline of the steps which may be involved in the professional Garda investigation of fatal and serious injury collisions and the legal proceedings which follow. This is an invaluable guide for any family who has tragically suffered a bereavement due to a fatal road collision. A copy of this guide is available on request from PARC Road Safety Group, PO Box 30, Carndonagh, Inishowen, Co. Donegal (including €3 P&P) or see www.parcroadsafety.ie for more details.