

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 22 NO. 2

BROUGHAN LAUNCHES HIGH PAY AND WEALTH COMMISSION BILL

Deputy Tommy Broughan recently introduced the High Pay and Wealth Commission Bill 2014 in Dáil Éireann. Deputy Broughan's Bill will provide for the establishment of a High Pay and Wealth Commission within the Central Statistics Office. The Commission as proposed will collect, compile and publish information on income and wealth throughout the State. The collection of this data will primarily be used to inform economic and fiscal policy so that decisions on State expenditure and taxation will be made in a fairer and more informed manner.

Deputy Broughan is also proposing that the Commission will have a specific role in beginning to address the problems associated with very high levels of pay received by executives in large companies. Deputy Broughan said "growing dissatisfaction on the part of citizens with policy and legislative responses to serious income inequality is one of the key driving forces behind this legislation. As a society, we need to urgently devise ways in which economic and fiscal policy can be fairer. Full knowledge on the distribution of income and wealth in society is a prerequisite for a much fairer budgetary and taxation policy".

A copy of the Bill is available on www.tommybroughan.com

MEDICAL CARD SYSTEM NEEDS RADICAL REFORM

Successive cuts to the medical card budget have had disastrous effects for citizens who have very serious medical conditions. The recent announcement by the government to suspend reviews of discretionary medical cards has been welcomed by Deputy Broughan. These medical card holders had been required to supply huge amounts of information and were very worried about losing their cards. However, discretionary medical cards have already been significantly cut.

Deputy Broughan said "it is now clear that the whole medical card system needs to be radically reformed. There are thousands of children and adults with serious medical conditions who have lost their medical cards on income grounds. Eligibility for medical cards must be based on medical needs". He concluded "the government's u-turn on this issue is significant but the legal changes that will be needed to restore medical cards to those who lost them over the past number of months must now be expedited".



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

CONGRATULATIONS TO RE-ELECTED COUNCILLORS AND MEP

Deputy Broughan has expressed his good wishes to Independent Cllr Cian O'Callaghan who has been re-elected to represent the Howth/Malahide area of Fingal County Council. Deputy Broughan also extended his congratulations to Independent Cllr Paddy Bourke who has been re-elected to represent the Beaumont/Donaghmede area of Dublin City Council. He extends his good wishes to Independent MEP Nessa Childers who has been re-elected to represent the Dublin Constituency.



Tommy and Nessa Childers MEP at the Dáil



SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

Clanmoyle Flood Relief Scheme: The engineer in charge of the Clanmoyle project recently informed the North Central Committee of Dublin City Council (DCC) that the flood alleviation scheme works are on schedule. Works in Clontarf Golf Club will continue until November and following meetings with local residents, works on Clanmoyle Road in Donnycarney are due to start in July.

Clontarf Promenade Development Scheme: DCC Flood Defence Unit informed the North Central Committee in May that there was an agreement with the Joint Working Group that consultant hydrologists would be contracted to model a possible twin wall flood reduction measure and that preliminary environmental studies were being carried out. A recommendation will soon be made on whether an E.I.S. will be required due to the revised proposal.

Traffic Study Group (DCC): The Traffic Study Group has recommended that a yellow box should be provided on the outbound side of Clontarf Road at the junction of **Kincora Road** to assist egress from Kincora Road at peak times. A 3.5 tonne ban for vehicles is also recommended running east to west on the **R103 (Collins Avenue)** from the junction with Howth Road to Mellows Road, Finglas. Further traffic calming measures were not however recommended for **Abbeyfield/The Demesne/St Brigid's** district of Killester.

Enforcement Action at The Coast, Baldoyle: Cllr Cian O'Callaghan received a report recently that illegal dumping on the lands behind the hoarding at the Coast, Baldoyle (specifically between Red Arches, Myrtle and Clongriffin Dart Station) will be investigated and enforcement action may be taken under the Waste Management Act by Fingal County Council.

Carrickbrack Heath, Sutton: Fingal County Council informed **Cllr Cian O'Callaghan** that signage will be erected later this year on the road at the open space at Carrickbrack Heath to ask motorists to slow down as they approach the area.

Belmayne: Along with a number of public representatives, Deputy Broughan is strongly supportive of the work of the Belmayne P5 Residents' Association. Deputy Broughan is liaising with the residents and Dublin City Council to ensure that there are improved public facilities, including a new children's play area.



Tommy with Cllr. Paddy Bourke at the recent launch of the Belmayne Allotments



Tommy with Fergus Lennon of Blood Bikes Leinster. Blood Bikes' volunteers transport blood and medical goods between hospitals across Dublin and Leinster.

Darndale Park Renewal Project: Strong efforts have been made by Darndale and Belcamp residents to enhance Darndale Park. The Moatview Fairfield Development Association, the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre and the Belcamp Estate Steering Committee are also supporting proposals in conjunction with Dublin City Council to implement the new Darndale Park Renewal Project to make the park a useful amenity for local residents.

Howth Junction/Donaghmede Dart Station: Irish Rail informed Deputy Broughan that platforms 2 and 3 at the station will be repainted by the end of June. In response to a query about increasing security personnel at the station, David Franks (CEO of Irish Rail) said that continuous security is not possible but extra security will be funded at peak times. A meeting also recently took place between residents and users of the station and Irish Rail.

Beaumont Hospital: A new psychiatric unit, the Ashlin Centre, opened on 21 May last. The centre will have 44 inpatient beds. Deputy Broughan has been supportive of the new centre. However, he has expressed strong concerns that some patients requiring psychiatric treatment in North Dublin have recently been placed in units outside of Dublin in Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath.

Rose Garden at St. Anne's Park, Raheny: The Parks Superintendent reported to the DCC North Central Committee recently that the Parks Department intends to rejuvenate the 40 year old rose garden over the next five years. The much loved 10 acre oval garden has more than 25,000 plants and the DCC Parks Department says it will 'refocus' the fine displays into the rose garden core area. Deputy Broughan has asked **Cllr Paddy Bourke** to raise this issue at the City Council to ensure that the rose garden is not being seriously reduced in size under this 'rejuvenation' plan.

Enhancement of Streamville/Millbrook Park, Ayrfield, Dublin 13: In response to residents in Foxhill, Millbrook, Streamville and the Donaghies, Dublin 13, Deputy Broughan has asked DCC Area Manager, Dave Dinnigan, and Deputy Manager, Jim Kelly, to come forward with a full enhancement programme for Streamville Park. The provision of litter bins, new public lighting, signs with bans on anti-social behaviour (such as quads and motorbikes using the Park) and the repainting of boundary railings are all long overdue say local Ayrfield and Donaghmede residents.

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL



Tommy speaking in Dáil Éireann

Deputy Broughan has raised a number of important issues in Dáil Éireann in recent months. He spoke in the Dáil about the events leading to the publication of the **Guerin Report** and the need to establish a **Garda authority**. Deputy Broughan repeatedly called upon the government to urgently address the growing shortage of suitable **housing**, particularly for homeless families and those on the Dublin City and Fingal County Council lists. He also raised issues about the **penalty points system** with the Minister for Justice including the continued use of the court poor box by some drivers who have breached road traffic laws to avoid convictions. Deputy Broughan urged Minister Bruton to fully regulate or abolish **zero hours contracts**. These contracts are used in industries such as retail and fast food. Deputy Broughan has been urging Minister Quinn to bring forward a coherent policy on **educating children with autism** because there is a lack of a consistent approach in this area nationally. In topical issue debates, Deputy Broughan called on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to increase **protections for the amenity area of Howth**. He also spoke about the urgent need for new Minister for Children, Charlie Flanagan to address the **funding crisis at the Jigsaw crèche in Darndale**.

NORTHSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE

It has been reported that the loans relating to the Northside Shopping Centre have been sold by NAMA to a UK and Luxembourg equity fund called Patron Capital Partners. Brian O'Farrell, who had plans to redevelop Northside, had his loans transferred to NAMA a number of years ago. The reports suggest that €225 million of Brian Farrell's loans, including a €50 million loan relating to Northside, were sold to the Patron equity fund. Patron has been involved in developing shopping centres in other countries. A live planning permission to redevelop the shopping centre into the Northside Town Centre was granted in 2007 to run for 10 years.



Site of Old Racecourse, Baldoyle, for which planning permission is sought for a new development

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Old Racecourse Lands, Coast Road, Baldoyle, Dublin 13: Fingal County Council has sought additional information from Barford Holdings Ltd regarding its application for permission to build a retirement home, a hotel and a business and leisure centre (including a 25 m swimming pool) and 303 car parking spaces. Deputy Broughan recently made a submission to the Council and noted that constituents had hoped the site on the old racecourse lands would be used for a multi-sports centre. He also highlighted the potential risk of flooding. The additional information sought by the Council relates to surface water management and the car park layout.

Car Park at Burnell, Malahide Road, Dublin 17: Spectrum Developments has been granted permission to build a surface car park with 207 spaces to serve Block E and located to the north of Block B of the City Junction Business Park at Burnell. The new car park will cater for new employees of Mylan Pharmaceuticals because the company plans to establish its global centre there. Deputy Broughan made a submission to Dublin City Council outlining concerns on behalf of residents that the car park could mean more traffic congestion in Burnell. He has also asked the Council to address the ongoing issue whereby a traffic rat-run has developed through Burnell since the removal of bollards on Main Street.

Lands South of the Martello Tower in Balcadden Road, Howth, Dublin 13: Fingal County Council has sought additional information from Nokaq Investments Ltd regarding its application for permission to demolish a disused sports building on Balcadden Road and to build 17 houses and six apartments on the site. Deputy Broughan recently sent a submission to the Council on the planning application. He expressed support for a reduced density development (compared to previous plans for the site) but he expressed concern about building near to the sandy hill above Harbour Road. He also noted that there could be difficulties with access due to Balcadden Road being a one way street.

Proposed Rezoning of Lands to the East of Offington Estate, Sutton, Dublin 13: A proposal to rezone 0.33 hectares of lands to the east of Offington Estate was not considered at the final meeting of Fingal County Council on 12 May last. The proposed rezoning would have involved changing the zoning of the lands from High Amenity and Open Space to residential development. Deputy Broughan registered his concerns with the Planning Department and the new County Manager, Paul Reid, and was strongly supported by his independent colleague Cllr Cian O'Callaghan. The rezoning would have greatly disrupted the amenity character of Offington (which is located close to the lands in Howth protected by a Special Area Amenity Order). The outgoing Council then decided against taking the proposed rezoning and the matter can now only be considered under the forthcoming Fingal County Development Plan (2017/2023).

119 Howth Road, Clontarf and Part of Rear of Gardens of 65, 66 and 67, St. Lawrence Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3: West Register Property Ltd is proposing to demolish an existing two storey house at the above site and to construct 19 new three storey houses with a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced homes.



Tommy's Mobile Information Clinic at Bayside

FUNDING CRISIS AT JISGAW CENTRE NEEDS SWIFT RESOLUTION

The campaign to keep the community crèche operated by the Jigsaw Centre, Darndale open is strongly supported by Deputy Broughan. Jigsaw has had to absorb large cuts to its funding from the State over the past six years. Even though it has vastly increased the amount of money raised through fundraising, the centre is operating at a deficit of around €200,000 this year. In a debate in the Dáil, Deputy Broughan called on new the Minister for Children, Charlie Flanagan to urgently address the funding difficulties at Jigsaw and keep the crèche open. The crèche caters for 260 children on a daily basis and provides vital childcare services to families in Darndale, Belcamp and Priorswood. Officials from the Child and Family Agency and from other funders are working with the management of the centre to come to a resolution.



Tommy cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Golden Years Centre in Darndale with Chairman of the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, Alan Wyley

BROUGHAN SUPPORTS TRANSPORT & AMBULANCE WORKERS

Workers in sectors supported by State funding are suffering from consistent cuts since 2008. In particular, workers of Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann have expressed their concerns about what will happen when 10% of bus routes currently operated by both companies will be tendered out to private companies. Deputy Broughan has been raising the matter with Minister Varadkar and has called on the Minister to end cuts to public service funding for State transport companies including Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus and Irish Rail. He has also urged the government to use its shareholding in Aer Lingus to resolve the company's pension crisis. Deputy Broughan has said "government policy of moving towards privatisation of public transport services is very worrying and I will work with all parties to ensure that vital services provided by workers in companies like Dublin Bus will continue to be supported". Deputy Broughan has also pledged his support for retaining the Dublin ambulance service with the Dublin Fire Brigade instead of merging it with the HSE ambulance service. He has said that "Dublin Fire Brigade provides an excellent ambulance service to all residents of Dublin and it would be very wrong to take it away from the fire brigade".

Getting in Touch

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Meet: Tommy at his regular information clinics in Dublin Bay North

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 (By Appointment)

Every **SATURDAY**

- 10.15 a.m. Clonsaugh Shopping Centre
- 11.30a.m. Donaghmede Shopping Centre
- 1.15p.m. Bayside Shopping Centre

1st/ 3rd **SATURDAY**

- 2.00p.m. Racecourse Inn, Racecourse S.C., Baldoye

CONTACTS FOR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

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HAVE YOUR SAY BY EMAIL OR PHONE

I strongly believe it is important that I keep in touch with you so that I know your concerns and thoughts about local and national issues affecting you.

Please contact me on any matter of concern to you by phone or email.



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