

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 22 NO. 4

I would like to extend my very best wishes to all of my constituents for 2015. Athbhliain faoi Sheán is faoi Mhaise daoibh go léir.



THE DÁIL AT CHRISTMAS • TOMMY BROUGHAN T.D

BUDGET 2015 FAILS TO END AUSTERITY OR ADDRESS WATER CHARGES DISASTER

Budget 2015 continues the financial squeeze on the Irish people. In his own submission to Ministers Noonan and Howlin prior to the Budget, Deputy Tommy Broughan proposed an end to all cuts in health, education and childcare; a rise in tax credits for lower and middle income families; cuts in the rates of the Universal Social Charge; a start in restoring earlier cuts in pensions and social welfare including bringing the Respite Care Grant back to the full rate; and a major capital investment housing programme. While the cuts to the USC rates and the proposed investment in social housing in Budget 2015 are especially welcome, unfortunately the Ministers refused to support many of Deputy Broughan's proposals and have chosen to keep Ireland on the path of austerity.

Taoiseach Kenny and Tánaiste Burton have likewise refused to accept the profound opposition of a vast number of constituents to the imposition of water taxes. Already the levying of a very large property tax to fund local government has put citizens to the pin of their collars in juggling household finances following the savage financial cuts since the recession began. Establishing the bloated quango of Irish Water with ongoing quarterly water taxes is the last straw for many households. Deputy Broughan has proposed the immediate abolition of Irish Water and its charges and the return of water and sewage services to the 31 local authorities, funded as before by national taxation and the local authorities.

OIL PIPELINE A THREAT TO DUBLIN BAY NORTH ENVIRONMENT

Deputy Tommy Broughan has raised serious concerns in Dáil Éireann about a proposal by Fingleton White & Co and the Independent Pipeline Co. for an aviation fuel pipeline of approximately 16km from Dublin Port to Dublin Airport. The current proposal, which has yet to go before Dublin City Council or Fingal County Council, would involve an underground kerosene pipeline passing up along the Malahide Road through East Wall, Fairview, Marino, Clontarf, Donnycarney, Artane, Coolock, Darndale, Ayrfield, Clare Hall and Burnell along the R139 and the M1 to the airport. It is a major change of route from the 2001 Fingleton White oil pipeline plan of 11.1km which was to run through Ballybough and Drumcondra and Gracepark Road onto Griffith Avenue and the Swords Road through Whitehall to the Airport. Deputy Broughan said there had been no consultation with residents affected by the proposal other than two poorly publicised briefings in September. Deputy Broughan referred to the hazardous nature of oil pipelines. He also highlighted the lack of a set-back distance for such pipelines from residential areas in current Irish law. He noted that the Dublin Port Tunnel already caters for HGVs, including vehicles carrying aviation fuel, between the sea port and the airport. In a Dáil debate on the issue. Deputy Broughan said "there appears to have been no cost benefit analysis or EIS carried out on the proposal".

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

Raheny/Donaghmede: Bíonn ciorcal comhrá as Gaeilge ar siúl gach Céadaoin i Rath Éanaigh (River Café) agus gach Sathairn san Ionad Siopadóireachta i Domhnach Míde (thuas staighre i Kays Kitchen) ag 10.30am. Bíonn sprioc ag gach duine a bhíonn i láthair ann Gaeilge a labhairt má's maith leo. There are conversation circles in Irish taking place every Wednesday in the River Café, Raheny and every Saturday in Kay's Kitchen, Donaghmede Shopping Centre. Both take place from 10.30 in the morning. All welcome.

Donaghmede/Howth Junction Dart Station: Following a request by Deputy Broughan on behalf of constituents, Irish Rail CEO, David Franks, instructed the maintenance team attending the station to remove graffiti as part of their work.

Greendale Senior's Apartments: Deputy Broughan sought a report from Dublin City Council regarding its plans for the senior citizens' apartment complex on Greendale Road. Housing Executive Manager, Céline Reilly, informed Deputy Broughan "the City Architects are preparing plans for the conversion of the bedsit units at this location into one bed apartments. We have made a submission to the Department for funding for the conversions."

Newtown: A number of constituents in Newtown raised concerns with Deputy Broughan regarding an illegal occupation of lands at Belcamp Lane, Dublin 17 since October 2010. Deputy Broughan requested reports on the issues raised from the NABCO Housing Association (which manages housing units in the local area) and Dublin City Council. Public lighting in the area has recently been turned back on after Deputy Broughan made contact with ESB Networks in conjunction with NABCO and Jim Kelly, Manager in Dublin City Council.

Belmayne: Deputy Broughan has been working closely with the Belmayne P5 Residents' Association in seeking support from Dublin City Council for better community facilities for the residents of Belmayne. He has sought the removal of debris and other material from derelict lands in front of the P5 and adjoining blocks in Belmayne.

NO. 27 BUS: Deputy Broughan recently received a report from CEO of Dublin Bus, Paddy Doherty, about the No. 27 bus service. Deputy Broughan had raised concerns with Mr Doherty about a poor frequency of buses on the route. Mr Doherty responded by saying that Dublin Bus had underestimated the time allocated for the new 27 route when it was extended to Tallaght and this had caused a "reliability issue, particularly at off peak times". He said that plans were now being finalised to make additional resources available to increase reliability and frequency on the 27 service, including at off peak times.

Metro North: The National Transport Authority is carrying out a study of the transport requirements for Fingal and North Dublin including rail transport links. Minister Paschal Donohoe has informed Deputy Broughan that the study is due to be completed by January 2015. Fingal County Manager, Paul Reid, has previously indicated to Deputy Broughan that he is supportive of improving public transport links between Dublin Airport, Swords and Dublin City Centre, including through the possible development of Metro North.



Tommy Broughan TD and Nessa Childers MEP with Marian Clarke, CEO and Michael Finn, Chairperson at the Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme

Flooding in Howth, Sutton and Baldoyle: Deputy Broughan has been liaising with the Operations Department of Fingal County Council and the Fingal County Manager, Paul Reid, to resolve the problems faced by residents in Howth, Sutton and Baldoyle following recent flooding events (especially in early August). Some residents in Offington, Thormanby Woods and the Coast Road, Baldoyle were worst affected. A report from the Council has advised that two studies are being carried out to identify flood alleviation works for Offington Court and the Old Castle Avenue Area and for the more general Howth area. The Council is also examining other structural works in affected areas (such as Main Street, Howth) to deal with excess water in future major flooding events.

Naniken Flood Relief Project: Chief Executive of Dublin City Council, Owen Keegan, informed Deputy Broughan that the Council has allocated €60,000 from its own funds to carry out a second hydraulic study of the Naniken River catchment.

Dollymount Strand: Dublin City Council has advised Deputy Broughan that the City Manager intends for the ban on vehicles accessing Dollymount Strand to remain in place. Barriers at the entrances to the strand off the Causeway were erected without consultation or adequate notice. The Council plans to erect new information and regulatory signs at each entrance to the strand and to introduce new road markings on the Causeway. The small parking area at the Wooden Bridge will continue to be available. Constituents (especially senior citizens) remain very unhappy at the unilateral action by Chief Executive Keegan in closing Dollymount strand to vehicles.

Clontarf Road: Deputy Broughan has repeatedly asked Dublin City Council to repair the road surface of Clontarf Road and James Larkin Road between the Causeway junction and Castle Avenue. He has also requested the Roads Maintenance Department of the Council to repair missing and damaged sections of the footpath from the junction of James Larkin Road with Howth Road back to the Bull Island junction in Dollymount.

Dublin Fire Brigade: Deputy Broughan received a report from Owen Keegan informing him that the review of the Dublin Ambulance Service provided by Dublin Fire Brigade is due to be completed by end November or early December. Separately, Mr Keegan informed Deputy Broughan that since January 2014, 28 new Emergency Service Controllers (ESCs) had been recruited by Dublin Fire Brigade. A further 28 new recruits were employed through an internal competition across the four Dublin local authorities. However, Mr Keegan said "there are no proposals for additional fire-fighter recruitment in 2015".

Beaumont Hospital: Deputy Broughan has repeatedly raised lengthy delays and problems with overcrowding at Beaumont Hospital, particularly in its Emergency Department (ED), in Dáil Éireann. A report provided to Deputy Broughan by the HSE for the period 30 June to 21 September showed the average waiting time for all patients attending the ED in that period varied from 7.7 hours to 9.5 hours. Minister Varadkar advised that there were a number of reasons for the delays including an increase in patients presenting; reduced medical discharges due to age and acuity of patients presenting; delayed discharges (in excess of 80 patients), with reduced access to private nursing homes for transitional care due to lack of bed capacity. Deputy Broughan demanded that the Minister Varadkar would tackle the delays and overcrowding by providing the necessary resources to frontline services in Beaumont.

St. Vincent's Court, Collins Avenue, Dublin 9: Dublin City Council has applied under the Part 8 Regulations to amalgamate the existing 12 bedsits at St. Vincent's Court into 10 one bedroom units. It is planned to carry out the works on a phased basis over the coming years as vacancies occur.

Moyne Road/Hole in the Wall Road Junction: Fingal County Council are now preparing drawings for the Improvement Scheme for the above junction. While most of this road scheme lies within Fingal, the County Council and Dublin City Council will work together to complete the scheme.



Tommy Broughan TD and Nessa Childers MEP at the Northside Centre for the Unemployed with (left to right) Chris O'Callaghan; Deirdre Smyth, CEO; Pat Holmes; Dick O'Leary and Pauline O'Shaughnessy

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

The Irish Water debacle and Budget 2015 dominated Dáil business in recent weeks. However, Deputy Broughan also engaged in debates on a number of important national and local issues in Dáil Éireann. He highlighted the problems in certain areas of the **construction sector** whereby some workers are forced to become self-employed to drive down wages. He supported a Bill in the Dáil which calls for clauses to be included in contracts for **State-funded construction projects** so that a certain number of unemployed construction workers and apprentices would be hired under each project. In a special Dáil debate, he highlighted concerns regarding the **proposed oil pipeline** for North Dublin. He spoke in support of the **Workplace Relations Bill** which proposes to bring about major changes in the structure of employment law and industrial relations enforcement bodies by amalgamating the Labour Relations Commission, NERA, the Employment Appeals Tribunal, the Equality Tribunal and the Labour Court into the new Workplace Relations Commission and a reformed Labour Court. He highlighted the need for legal loopholes in **road traffic laws** to be closed. Deputy Broughan again appealed to Minister Donohoe to address serious concerns of former workers of **Aer Lingus, SR Technics and DAA** about the restructuring of their pension scheme which could result in huge cuts in their entitlements. He also sought detailed reports from Minister Varadkar about improvements in **drug addiction services**, including the number of available detoxification residential programmes. He asked Minister Joan Burton about delays in rolling out the new **Housing Assistance Payment** scheme to replace Rent Supplement. Deputy Broughan spoke on **Budget 2015** and the **Finance Bill 2014**. He voted against both measures for failing to end austerity.



Tommy at Belcamp Lane/Newtown Lands



Tommy Broughan TD and Nessa Childers MEP at Jigsaw Crèche, Darndale with Director Kelda Barnes and Linda Hayden, CEO of the Darndale Village Centre

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Late Opening at McDonalds, Artane Castle Shopping Centre, Dublin 5: Permission has been granted by Dublin City Council for McDonalds, Artane to remain open up to 3am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The grant of permission also allows for the premises to open from 7am every morning and up to 12.30 at night from Sundays to Wednesdays. McDonalds had applied to Dublin City Council for permission to trade on a 24 hour basis at Artane. Deputy Broughan made a submission to the Council highlighting residents' concerns about additional traffic and noise generated by a long-term grant of permission for 24 hour opening. The new decision from the Council may be appealed to An Bord Pleanála within one month of the Council's decision.

208 Apartments at Marrsfield Avenue, Clongriffin, Dublin 13: Hollybrook New Homes Ltd has applied to Dublin City Council for permission to build 208 new apartments at Marrsfield Avenue on a 4.85 acre site just north of Father Collins Park. The Council has now asked the developers to supply additional information about the proposed apartments, including the plans for the use of open space on the site and how all balconies will have access to sunlight. Deputy Broughan made a submission to the Council as part of the planning process. He referred to his concerns about planning failures across the North Fringe. He suggested that the very high density plans across the North Fringe should be re-evaluated. In relation to the specific development proposed at Marrsfield, Deputy Broughan noted that the majority of the apartments proposed would be two bedroom apartments but he said there is a great need in our area for more one bedroom and three bedroom accommodation.

17 houses and Six Apartments at Balscadden Road, Howth: NOKAQ Investments received permission from Fingal County Council in early September for the above development. The proposed new homes are located at the old Edros community building site beside the Martello Tower. Fingal County Council granted permission for 22 residential units with 27 significant conditions, including the transfer of amenity lands adjoining the Martello Tower to the Council. On 28 October last, an appeal was lodged with An Bord Pleanála against the Council's decision to grant permission.

Lands at 1) Oscar Traynor Road/Junction M1 (14.9 ha); 2) Belcamp Lane/Malahide Road and N32, Dublin 17 (6.3 ha); 3) Bunratty Road, Coolock, Dublin 17 (0.47 ha): Dublin City Council Housing Manager, Dick Brady, has recommended that Dublin City Council seeks expressions of interest from developers for the above lands. The expressions of interest relate to proposed "mixed tenure private and managed social housing units with outline proposals regarding the tenure mix and financial model options for the delivery of long-term sustainable accommodation". The Oscar Traynor Road/M1 (former Laurence lands) are zoned Z12 in the Dublin City Council Development Plan (2011-2017), which includes residential use. The Belcamp Lane Site is zoned Z1 (for residential use) and the Bunratty Road site has an existing planning permission. All of these proposals will be subject to consultation with Dublin City Councillors.

KEY CHANGES IN BUDGET 2015

USC Changes	Social Protection
Incomes below €12,012 are exempt from USC (previously the threshold was €10,036)	Christmas Bonus of 25% on weekly payments for all long-term welfare recipients
Current 2% USC rate cut to 1.5%	€5 per child increase in child benefit
Current 4% USC rate cut to 3.5%	Living Alone Allowance increased from €7.70 to €9 per week.
New 8% USC rate for incomes above €70,044	Qualified Child Increase (€29.80 per week per child) payable for first year after returning to work and at half rate for second year after return to work
New self-employed USC rate of 11% for incomes above €100,000	Education
Income Tax Changes	1,700 new teachers (including SNAs and resource teachers) to keep up with population growth
Entry point to top rate of tax changed from €32,800 to €33,800	1% cut in capitation grants continue in 2015 as well as further increase in Student Registration Fees to €3,000 per year.
Cut in top rate of tax from 41% to 40%	Health
Rent a Room Relief threshold increase to €12,000 per annum (previously €10,000)	Budget of €13.1 billion for 2015. The first year without further cuts but full increase in funding needed to clear waiting lists not provided.
Exemption from paying DIRT on savings used by first time buyers towards deposit on new home	Three year Housing Programme announced with up to 10,000 units planned. Local authorities to start rebuilding homes again.
Relief from corporation tax on trading income of new start-up companies in first 3 years of trading extended to new start-ups in 2015	Limited Civil Service recruitment to recommence in 2015

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Tommy in Dáil Éireann

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., Baldoyle

HAVE YOUR SAY

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.

I would be grateful if you would contact me on any matter of concern to you by phone or email.

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