

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 23 NO. 3

WHAT IRELAND NEEDS NEXT

Deputy Broughan has been very critical of Fine Gael/Labour's continuous austerity measures during their term in Government. He has consistently challenged them, for example, on Irish Water, lack of action on the growing housing crisis, cuts to disability, education, health services and changes to the One Parent Family Payments.

The 31st Dáil was supposed to bring reform and transparency but apparently 'old habits die hard'. The Government is now well into election mode and seems to be attempting to blindside the Irish public with promises of tax cuts, yet we continue to carry the huge debt burden of bailing out our banks.

Ireland needs a new type of Government, an end to austerity and honest election platforms. Party political manifestos are no good if they are thrown aside the moment a party comes into power.

Irish citizens need a Government who will listen to them, who can identify with them and who put their best interests first. As the 31st Dáil comes to an end we need to ensure that those who have been neglected during the Fianna Fail / Fine Gael / Labour days are put back at the heart of policy making.



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

As an Independent, and a recently affiliated member of 'Independents Together', I welcome submissions and ideas from constituents and/or community organisations working with vulnerable and marginalised groups to assist in shaping my forthcoming core policies. (thomas_p_broughan@oireachtas.ie)

HOUSING CRISIS CONTINUES TO WORSEN

Earlier this summer, Deputy Broughan issued a statement demanding that the Dáil be recalled to address the national housing and homeless catastrophe. Deputy Broughan strongly criticised the continued lack of action by the Government which culminated in a family with young children sleeping rough in the Phoenix Park.

This, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. There are reports of families sleeping in their cars, on floors and sofas of friends and families homes and other unsuitable accommodation. Deputy Broughan has been very vocal on this issue throughout the 31st Dáil and has been long warning of a growing housing emergency due to lack of supply and increasing rents.

Immediate solutions include introducing rent regulation (which has been found to be constitutional), ending discrimination by landlords against rent supplement applicants, increasing security of tenure and empowering NAMA to directly plan and build large new developments of social and mixed tenure housing. (NAMA was supposed to have such a role from mid-2014 and given the total and disastrous failures of private developers since 2007 it's now essential to have a nationally owned public housing developer).

EUROSTAT DECISION ON IRISH WATER UNSURPRISING

Deputy Broughan has been a very vocal opponent to the setting up of Irish Water, the introduction of water charges and was unsurprised with the recent Eurostat ruling that Irish Water must remain on the Exchequer balance sheet considering the large amounts of funding that have been pumped into the quango (effectively flushed down the drain). Deputy Broughan has attempted to gather information on the true cost of Irish Water to the Exchequer by way of Parliamentary Questions yet a number of these were disallowed by the Ceann Comhairle, usually stating that "the Minister has no official responsibility to Dáil Eireann for this matter." Most recently, Deputy Broughan disputed this with the Ceann's office specifically due to the large amount of Exchequer funding being paid to Irish Water. While the Eurostat decision will not have a negative impact on Budget 2016, it does mean that our budget deficit will not be as healthy as originally thought.

Deputy Broughan advocates for the immediate dissolution of Irish Water and the return of responsibility of our national water supply and drainage to the Irish local authorities (organised on a regional basis).

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP): The ongoing housing crisis shows no sign of slowing down with approximately 65 families becoming homeless each month during the summer. With decreasing numbers of landlords willing to sign up to accepting Rent Supplement the Government has begun the roll-out of HAP. HAP is a social housing support therefore recipients will be considered housed once placed in a HAP tenancy but will be able to apply to go on the council's transfer list.

Taxi rank at Beaumont: Deputy Broughan was contacted by a number of taxi-drivers who work the public rank at Beaumont Hospital. Management at Beaumont Hospital received correspondence from DCC to say that there was no eligible planning permission to have the rank at this location within hospital grounds. Following representations and the taxi-drivers own campaign a decision was reached to retain the public taxi rank in another area within the grounds.

Bull Island: Access to North Bull Island has been a long-standing issue for constituents of Deputy Broughan and he has made a number of representations calling for improved access and availability of parking. A recent survey showed that there is parking capacity for 798 cars and 4 options are now being reviewed, including options for disabled parking and cycle path. But senior constituents with mobility issues are still very anxious to have a small parking area on the beach itself.

James Larkin Road: Deputy Broughan has also been in touch with the DCC Regional Projects and Flood Advisory Office and the Roads Planning Dept. regarding many complaints about the almost 1 metre height of the new flood defence wall at James Larkin Road. He was informed in late August that the footpaths would be restored and the road heightened slightly but constituents remain concerned at the now more restricted views of Bull Island and Dublin Bay at this location.

Clongriffin Taking in Charge (TIC): Gannon Homes confirmed to Deputy Broughan that the main street TIC works should be completed before Christmas this year. It is then expected that Grange Lodge Avenue or Railway Road will be completed next. DCC have implemented a policy that only one road can be under TIC works at any time. Gannon Homes also confirmed that they will be putting a top coat on the roads around Park Ave. in the near future.

Flood Relief Scheme at Offington/Old Castle Avenue: The CEO of Fingal County Council, Mr. Paul Reid, reported to the July Council that an interim report from the consultation will be available in October.



Tommy speaking on RTÉ News

DCC's Public Participation Network (PPN): Interested members of the public are welcome to group together and partake in DCC's Public Participation Network. Their first Plenary meeting took place in May 2015 and groups representing Community and Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental sectors attended. Groups are still welcome to register and guidelines and information can be found on the DCC website or you can email ppn@dublincity.ie or call 01-2222855.

Gheel Autism Services: Gheel provides vital Day, Residential, Respite and Outreach services for adults with Autism. Deputy Broughan has made a number of representations specifically relating to funding for school leavers and was informed that €708,000 has been granted for "full year costs from September 1st to meet the needs of 24 individuals identified as requiring a day service in 2015". Gheel has also received an additional €80,000 for minor capital projects.

Home Care Packages: Deputy Broughan was very concerned to learn that some constituents had been approved for receipt of Home Care Packages but were placed on a waiting list until resources become available. He raised the issue with the Minister for Health and was informed that a total of 307 persons in the Dublin North and North Central Local Health Office areas are on a waiting list for home care. This is simply unacceptable for older people requiring this important service.

Traffic Matters: Deputy Broughan's representations for a right turn filter light at the junction of Oscar Traynor Rd. and Coolock Drive was not recommended by the DCC Traffic Advisory Group (TAG). DBN Traffic Management measures now at Stage 5 of the TAG process include traffic calming at Millbrook Ave., speed ramps on Swan's Nest Ave., a left turn filter from Springdale Road onto Tonleegge Rd., safety measures at the junction of Greenwood estate and Blunden Drive and a pedestrian crossing at Philipsburgh Ave. (at the Griffith Ave. junction).

86 submissions were received by Fingal County Council on the proposed 30kph speed limit within estates. Among the 8 pilot areas suggested in July were Seacliff Avenue and Drive and College St., Baldoyle.

Old Tramline, Howth: In mid-summer, Howth residents expressed concerns to Deputy Broughan and **Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan** that vehicle signs had been placed on the historic Old Tramline. The signs were later removed and a 'pedestrian counter' was subsequently erected.

Dublin Bay Biosphere: Deputy Broughan warmly welcomed the launch of the Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership in late June. North Bull Island has been a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1981 and that biosphere has now been extended to all of Dublin Bay. Deputy Broughan has long called for such a UNESCO designation for the Bay and the Howth peninsula.



Building in Balgriffin

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Techrete/Teeling Site, Howth Road, Howth: In early August, the receivers of Glenkerrin Homes applied for permission at the above 4.4 hectare site to build 145 apartments and 55 houses. The mainly 2-bed apartments range in height up to 6 storeys and there will also be 6 commercial units including restaurants and a gym, a Community Centre, sports hall & crèche. There are 487 proposed parking spaces (of which 390 are underground). Deputy Broughan has made a submission on these proposals on behalf of Howth constituents.

Marrsfield Parade, Clongriffin, Dublin 13: Hollybrook New Homes has applied for permission to build 124 (mainly 2-bed) apartments at Marrsfield Parade (northwest of Fr. Collins Park) in Clongriffin. The apartments will be in 3 blocks and up to 5 and 6 storeys high.

Former Smurfit Kappa Factory at Tonleagee Rd., Dublin 5: In late July, Dublin City Council granted permission to TLC Spectrum Ltd. for a new 2 and 3 storey, 149 bed Nursing Home at the former Smurfit facility. The existing industrial premises will be demolished.

Greendale Court, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5: A Part 8 planning procedure was held in summer 2015 on the proposed amalgamation of 60 bedsits and one 2-bed apartment at Greendale Court into 31 one-bed apartments for our senior citizens.

Richmond Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 3: NABCO (the National Association of Building Co-ops Society) is progressing a proposal for a 4-storey development of 39 apartments and 2 commercial units at the former 'Panelling Centre' site at 144 Richmond Road, Drumcondra.

St. Joseph's Centre, Gracepark Road, Dublin 9: CTN Developments have sought permission for 125 houses and 41 apartments on a 5.5 hectare site at the above location. The proposal includes a 1 hectare park and amenity area.

Griffith Avenue, Marino, Dublin 9: Argentum Property Holding Three Ltd. have applied to Dublin City Council to build 79 houses and 22 apartments (in a 4-storey block) on a 3 hectare site at Griffith Avenue, Marino.

Curtilege of Santa Sabina, Greenfield Road, Sutton, Dublin 13: Parsis Ltd. applied in late June for a development of 71 apartments and 10 houses on 1.5 hectares at Santa Sabina School. Deputy Broughan has supported concerns of local Sutton constituents at Fingal County Council on the high density, 3-storey height, loss of amenity lands and drainage aspects of this proposal. Special concern relates to the additional 162 car spaces and resulting vehicle movements directly beside the very popular Santa Sabina College.

Aviation Pipeline: In late May Fingal County Council gave permission to the Fingal section of the Fingleton White proposal for an oil pipeline from Dublin Port to Dublin Airport. At the time of writing, no decision had been made by Dublin City Council on the main section of the pipeline running through residential districts from Clontarf through Donnycarney and Artane to Coolock. Deputy Broughan continues to oppose the proposal which is so close to many homes.



Tommy speaking in Dáil Éireann on Housing Crisis

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Deputy Tommy Broughan welcomed the **Commission of Investigation into IBRC** and praised Deputy Catherine Murphy's efforts in highlighting the importance of a full and transparent investigation into certain business deals. He also had the opportunity to question the Minister for Education and Skills on pre-school service providers working with **children on the autism spectrum**. Deputy Broughan spoke on and welcomed aspects of the **Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2015** and **Urban Regeneration and Housing Bill 2015**. Deputy Broughan questioned Minister of State, Kevin Humphries, on the number of **uplifts in Rent Supplement**. He also spoke on the **National Minimum Wage (Low Pay Commission) Bill 2015** and called for a review of a Living Wage to be part of the Commission's remit.

Deputy Broughan put in a Topical Issue Debate to question the Minister for Health about the **funding available to St. Michael's House** and in particular for services for young adults and school-leavers. Deputy Broughan questioned the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the **BSE case in Co. Louth**. Deputy Broughan spoke on the **Civil Debt (Procedures) Bill 2015** and strongly criticised the Government's attempts to take money from people's wages and social welfare payments. Deputy Broughan asked Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on his Department's preparation for the oral examination on the **UN Review on the Rights of the Child** due to take place in January 2016, in particular with regards to what he is doing for the **1,000 plus children experiencing homelessness** in Ireland today. Finally, before the Dáil retired for summer recess Deputy Broughan questioned the Minister for Health on the current status of the **Fair Deal Scheme** and plans for the upcoming **seasonal upsurge in demand for hospital care**.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN HOWTH

Deputy Tommy Broughan was contacted by a number of concerned citizens regarding increased incidents of anti-social behaviour around Howth Pier. On raising the issue with the Minister for Justice before summer recess, Deputy Broughan was informed that 'Operation Irene' would run from 1 June 2015 until 30 August 2015 and was intended to address these sorts of behaviours. Deputy Broughan also contacted the Gardaí who confirmed an increased presence in the vicinity of Howth Pier for the summer months. Deputy Broughan was advised that the Gardaí, Dart Control, Fingal County Council, the Harbour Master and Iarnród Éireann were working together on the issue.



BROUGHAN SUPPORTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

Signing the ICTU Charter

Deputy Broughan met with a representative from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) recently and was happy to support their 'Congress Charter for Fair Conditions at Work' Campaign. By signing up to this charter, Deputy Broughan reaffirmed his open, strong support for a living wage, fair hours of work, the right to collective bargaining and representation, workplace ethics and fair public procurement. He continued to voice his support for fairer employment conditions and a decent wage during his speeches in Dáil Éireann on the Industrial Relations and National Minimum Wage Bills. Deputy Broughan also continued to question the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on the status of **Cadbury/Mondelez** jobs and supported the **Clery's** workers, by signing SIPTU's petition, during their picket at Leinster House earlier this summer.



Signing the SIPTU petition for Clerys staff

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR PUBLIC REPS

Deputy Broughan is the only TD in Dublin Bay North and Ireland to oppose and vote against all of the bondholders blanket bank guarantees.

He has opposed and voted against all austerity budgets and measures since 2008.

If you have the opportunity to question public representatives, ask how they voted on issues that are important to you and what action they took.

Did they or their party support harsh austerity budgets since 2008? Did they support the Government's cuts to health, disability services, education, child benefit and lone parent payment; the establishment of Irish Water and the Bill to allow water payments to be taken from your wages and social welfare, etc?

All voting records can be checked on the Oireachtas.ie website.

Getting in Touch

Tommy Broughan T.D.

- Phone:** 618 3798 (Constituency Office)
618 3557 (Dáil)
- Fax:** 618 4545
- Email:** thomas_p_broughan@oireachtas.ie
- Visit:** www.tommybroughan.com
- 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 (By Appointment)

Every **SATURDAY**

- 10.15 a.m. Clonshaugh 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



On your side, always

CONTACTS FOR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

Nessa Childers MEP

Office Number: 01-2962263
 ✉ info@nessachilders.ie
 Web: www.nessachilders.ie
 Twitter: @NChildersMEP
 Facebook: NessaChildersMEP

Cllr Cian O'Callaghan

Mobile: 0862866631
 ✉ cianocallaghan3@gmail.com

Cllr Paddy Bourke

Mobile: 0872862558
 ✉ pbourkecllr@eircom.net

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.

www.tommybroughan.com

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