

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 23 NO. 4



• TOMMY BROUGHAN T.D. AND THE DÁIL AT CHRISTMAS

*Beannachtaí
na Nollag agus
Athbhliain faoi
Sheán is faoi
Mhaise daoibh
go léir. Happy
Christmas &
very best wishes
for 2016 to
everyone in
Dublin Bay
North.*

BUDGET 2016 WON'T CLOSE INEQUALITY GAPS

In his own 2016 Budget submission to the Government, Deputy Broughan highlighted housing, health (including disability), education, childcare and social protection as areas to immediately receive increased funding. Deputy Broughan suggested that at least €1 billion should be spent annually on social housing directed by a restructured NAMA (as the public interest developer) or by an extended National Housing Executive. Likewise, he suggested increases in the Health current and capital budgets for 2016 and the inclusion of planning for projects like a new A&E Department at Beaumont Hospital.

To balance the national books, Deputy Broughan put forward a number of possible wealth taxes on corporations and citizens with the highest incomes, including a top 48% income tax band for salaries of €100,000 plus, a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), and a Solidarity and Reparations Tax on Financial Institutions (together yielding up to well over €1.5 billion). He also demanded that the effective rate of Corporation Tax should be the 12.5% rate for all companies based in Ireland (yielding perhaps at least another €500 million).

Deputy Broughan said that he welcomed measures which partially restored some of the draconian austerity cuts imposed on citizens since 2008. However, the measly €3 a week partial restoration in the State pension and €5 in child benefit are merely crumbs from the table while powerful vested interests are permitted to dominate national resources by the outgoing government.

BEAUMONT NEEDS NEW A&E

Beaumont Hospital is one of the busiest Emergency Departments (ED) in Ireland, providing services to over 50,000 patients each year. In 2014, increased attendances at the ED and treating patients of an older profile led to a severe over-crowding and trolley crisis and this looks set to continue into winter 2015 without any leadership from Minister Varadkar. While a number of initiatives have been underway throughout the year to try and curb these problems, Deputy Broughan has continued to call for a new, fit-for-purpose, A&E for Beaumont. Recently, Deputy Broughan was informed that “Beaumont Hospital has appointed a design team, incorporating architects and healthcare planners to undertake a feasibility study on the location, size and cost of building a new Emergency Department at the hospital. This is currently at stakeholder consultation phase, with a number of proposals being considered and the report is expected to be available in mid-December 2015”.

With regards specifically to Beaumont Hospital’s “winter capacity planning”, the Day Hospital at St. Joseph’s, Raheny is extending “from a 2 day to a 5 day service”. Also a reply to further Parliamentary Questions stated that Beaumont Hospital intends “to ensure that all funded ward beds will be open for the winter period”. The reply also advised that some beds which were closed temporarily for refurbishment “will re-open as a 21 bedded facility for renal transplantation in early December”.

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy at launch of Sphere 17, Priorswood

DBN Credit Unions: A number of local credit unions have been in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding the introduction of regulation CP88 and the very strict lending conditions currently imposed on Credit Unions. Deputy Broughan has made representations to the Ministers of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform calling for a relaxing of regulations on Credit Unions which were imposed following the financial crash caused by the major banks. The Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) has proposed that red tape should be removed on small loans of €1,000 or less and that lending limits such as €25,000 mean that Credit Unions cannot service all their members' borrowing needs.

Modular Housing at Belcamp Avenue: Deputy Broughan was informed that the location of 38 modular housing units in Belcamp Avenue is due to be on an amenity site that already had detailed plans for a social housing build of 40 actual homes. Now it has been confirmed that instead of bricks and mortar homes at this site, prefabs are intended to be in place and used for up to 60 years as social housing with City Manager, Owen Keegan, saying that these prefabs will house families with homeless priority and then "in all probability revert to standard social housing". On behalf of Belcamp Estate Steering Committee, Deputy Broughan has urgently contacted City Manager, Owen Keegan, to convey the area's concerns for the long-term future of the Belcamp Avenue site and their longstanding request for new permanent homes there.

Tenant Purchase Scheme: The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly, recently signed Statutory Instrument 484 'Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) Regulations 2015' which will come into operation on the 1st of January 2016. This Statutory Instrument (which is available on www.irishstatutebook.ie) allows for the new Tenant Purchase Scheme and contains a number of provisions for this scheme.

Metro North: Budget 2016 saw a commitment to give Metro North the green light. However, Deputy Broughan was critical of the meagre measures announced for Public Transport in the Budget and said that at least another €1 billion p.a needs to be deployed to this area from 2016 to 2019. Given the major completed preparatory work for Metro North, Deputy Broughan suggests that the Metro North project could and should start construction in 2018 with a completion date of 2021. The proposed 2026 completion date makes the government a laughing stock.

Howth Harbour & Maritime Museum: Deputy Broughan has recently asked a number of questions regarding Howth Harbour and was informed that more than €4.2 million was invested in "maintenance, development and upgrading works" at Howth Fishery Harbour Centre as part of the 2011 to 2014 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Programme. He also learned that a further €1.79 million was approved for 2015. Deputy Broughan stressed to Minister Coveney the importance of continuing investment at this historic and valued working harbour. Deputy Broughan has also expressed strong support for the proposed Howth Maritime Museum in a Dáil question to Minister Heather Humphries.

Stand Up for Primary Education: In the lead-up to Budget 2016, local primary schools launched a postcard campaign and contacted Deputy Broughan and asked him to call for a number of important measures to be included in the Budget. He included their requests in his own submission to Ministers Noonan and Howlin. These comprised action on lowering the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), higher primary school capitation and support for school leaders. He welcomed the small steps to address these demands in Budget 2016. Deputy Broughan has also raised the important issue of equal access to national schools for all children, regardless of religious status and will continue to work on this in Dáil Éireann.

Dublin Bay Biosphere: Earlier this summer, Dublin Bay was awarded the status of a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. Deputy Broughan had asked for this status for Dublin Bay, the Bull Island and the Howth peninsula for several years past. It is worrying to think that parallel to this announcement there are plans to dump 10 million tonnes of waste by the Dublin Port Company (DPC). Deputy Broughan raised with the Minister for Environment that no decision had yet been made on the DPC application for the necessary permit which was lodged on July 15th last.

DBN Developments: A report on the vacant **Belmayne Town Centre Lands** at Clare Hall Ave is being prepared by DCC for early 2016. Deputy Broughan has supported a proposal for a **Clontarf Visitor/Heritage Information Centre**. Deputy Broughan continues to monitor preparatory works on the **Greater Dublin Drainage Project** (from Clonsaugh to Portmarnock) under which bore holes were drilled on the Velvet Strand, Portmarnock in September. The **Fingal 2016-2018** capital programme includes funding for Howth Martello Tower, Howth Ward Parks Improvement, Tuckets Lane, extension of the S25 cycle route Sutton to Malahide, Balscadden Beach, Hole in the Wall Rd (€3.1 million to 2018) and Dublin Bay Biosphere (€300,000 to 2018). A further report on the **Naniken River** is expected at the December meeting of DCC. Deputy Broughan has warmly welcomed the plans for expansion at the **Golden Years Service** in Darndale Belcamp Village. Also, Deputy Broughan was delighted to attend the launch of the new **Sphere 17 in Priorswood recently**. Deputy Broughan welcomes the inclusion of Howth Rd. Mixed NS, Coláiste Reachrann, Grange Community College and St. Fintan's High School in the **School Construction Programme 2016-2021**.

Traffic Matters: Deputy Broughan has again raised the problem of traffic congestion at Sutton Cross with County Manager, Paul Reid, following constituent's concerns about serious logjams at the area. Mr. Reid is now carrying out a full traffic survey of this junction. Traffic management proposals in the final Stage 5 group include traffic calming measures at **Harmonstown Rd.**, Dublin 5; **The Stiles Rd.**, Dublin 3; **Blunden Drive** and **Greenwood Drive**, Dublin 13; **Conquer Hall Rd.**, Dublin 3; **Sybil Hill Rd.**, Dublin 5; **Millbrook Rd.**, Dublin 13 and **Vernon Ave.**, Dublin 3. Deputy Broughan has supported requests for traffic calming measures near the Donaghies School on **Streamville Rd.**



Tommy with Heidi Bedell and Derek Cooney at the Baldoye Art Group



Tommy questioning Minister White

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

In the Autumn Dáil session Deputy Broughan spoke on a number of national and local topics. He raised a Dáil Debate on the **Re-alignment of the Malahide Road** at Clare Hall/Burnell and called for it to be included in the Minister for Transport's Capital Expenditure plans. Deputy Broughan spoke strongly in support of a Private Members' Bill for **Social Housing** tabled by Sinn Féin, which was defeated by the government. During Oral Parliamentary questions with the Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection, he asked whether her Department is monitoring the impact of the changes to the **One-Parent Family Payments**.

During Budget 2016, Deputy Broughan spoke on both the **Budget's Financial Resolutions** and on **Budget 2016** itself. While he welcomed the partial restoration of some payments he felt little had been achieved to repair the damage done by seven consecutive austerity budgets. Deputy Broughan put forward a Dáil Debate on the need for **consolidation of Road Traffic Laws** given the consistent discoveries of flaws in the fair application and implementation of legislation and in particular with regard to **drink-driving** cases brought before courts. Deputy Broughan also questioned the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on the current status of the proposed **job losses at the Cadbury Coolock plant**. He spoke on the **Social Welfare Bill 2015** and re-iterated his disappointment that the Government were trying to portray tiny, partial restorations as 'increases'.

Deputy Broughan questioned the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on the **Housing and Homelessness** crisis and again challenged his inaction on this crucial area. He also questioned the Minister for Communication, Energy and Natural Resources on the farcical implementation of the hugely expensive, over-budget and flawed **Eircode** system which has been criticised by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the EU.



Tommy with Mick Duffy of the Alliance of Retired Public Servants



Tommy at Suicide or Survive Event

DBN PLANNING FILE

Aviation Pipeline: On behalf of residents in Clontarf, Marino, Donnycarney, Killester, Artane, Clare Hall, Priorswood and Clonshaugh, Deputy Broughan has appealed a grant of permission by Dublin City Council (DCC) for the above pipeline to An Bord Pleanála. The Fingleton White proposal is for a 14.4km kerosene pipeline to pass through a densely populated region of Dublin Bay North from Dublin Port to Dublin Airport. Among the strong grounds of appeal cited by Deputy Broughan are the lack of a Health Impact Analysis and the lack of a safe setback distance from homes in the proposal.

St. Paul's Sybil Hill, Raheny: Crekav Landbank Investments have applied for 107 (mostly 3 storey) houses and 274 apartments in 5 storey blocks at an 8.73 ha. site to the rear of St. Paul's College. These lands have been the location of football pitches for St. Paul's School and local clubs and until recent years were always considered by the public to be an integral part of the much loved St. Anne's Park. Deputy Broughan was not informed of, or invited to, any consultation on this proposal and heard about it from concerned residents just before the Planning Application was submitted. At the time of writing this newsletter, he was examining the Crekav proposal in detail and preparing a strong submission on behalf of Raheny and Clontarf residents to DCC.

Dungriffin Reservoir, Dungriffin Villas, Howth: In late October, Irish Water applied for permission to build a new 2,600 cubic metre reservoir adjacent to the existing Dungriffin Reservoir and a new pumping station replacing the existing station on the 0.67 ha. reservoir site, at Dungriffin Villas. The project is part of the Howth Phase 2 and 3 Water Network Upgrade Scheme.

Bayside Shopping Centre: On behalf of residents on Bayside Square and surrounding streets, Deputy Broughan made a submission to Fingal Planning Department on Plan F15A/0436 for the redevelopment of Bayside Shopping Centre. His submission related to the construction process and the importance of Bayside Square carpark for community life.

Watermill Road, Raheny: DCC granted permission for a 4 storey, 38 apartment residential development at Brethern Hall, The Glen, Watermill Road. Deputy Broughan continues to support Maywood Lawn residents' concerns about the overlooking height and density of this plan.

St. Joseph's Centre, Gracepark Road, Drumcondra: In October last, CTN received permission for 125 houses and 41 apartments at the above 5.5 hectare location.

Griffith Avenue, Marino: In early Autumn, Argentum Ltd. were given permission by DCC to build 101 homes on a 3 hectare site at Griffith Avenue, Marino.

Main St./Dermot St., Clongriffin: In October, Gannon Properties applied for permission to build 84 apartments and duplexes at the above site.

Additional Information was requested from Parsis Ltd. in mid-November for a proposed 81 unit development at **Santa Sabina, Sutton**. At the time of writing, no further information had been received on Plan F15A/0362 for Glenkerrin Homes at the **Techrete** site, Howth, Dublin 13.

Tommy Broughan - The only TD in Dublin Bay North and Ireland to oppose and vote against all the bondholders blanket bank guarantees.

HOTEL ROOMS FOR CHRISTMAS

In September of this year there were 1,571 children living with their families in emergency homeless accommodation around the country. Figures suggest that by Christmas we can estimate that over 1,600 children will be waking up on Christmas morning in a hotel room. Let's hope that Ministers Kelly's and Noonan's very belated announcements regarding rents and housing construction means that numbers entering homelessness will finally be stemmed. While any measures around rent certainty are welcome, Deputy Broughan fears that it may be too little too late for those in unstable tenancies. If you are currently living in rented accommodation and are unsure about what these changes mean for you please contact Threshold, the PRTB or your local Citizen's Information Office.



On
your
side,
always

Getting in Touch

Tommy Broughan T.D.

Phone: 618 3557 (Constituency Office)
618 3798 (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., Baldoyle

THE "GREAT WALL" OF CLONTARF

Deputy Broughan has received a huge volume of bitter complaints about the height and appearance of the new sea wall at James Larkin Road. He contacted the Project Office and Drainage Department several times about the matter since last July. He has also received data on Dublin Bay sea level rise since 2000 but constituents stress that the area in question has never been flooded in their lifetimes and that Bull Island continues to expand by at least a metre a year in every direction. Last August, Deputy Broughan believed the planning process for the sea wall had not reflected the views of the people of Dublin Bay North and he has asked for all conditions of the Part VIII permission to be implemented. These especially include the establishment of a Liaison Committee of residents and stakeholders and major improvements to the height and appearance of the sea wall. His strong representations are continuing.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ROAD SAFETY LAWS

You may have noted from the media that for the promotion of road safety Deputy Broughan has raised a large number of PQs on behalf of voluntary civic society group PARC (Promoting Awareness, Responsibility and Care on our Roads). Deputy Broughan will continue to raise these questions to ensure that our road safety laws are fairly applied and that the Departments of Transport & Justice, the Gardaí, the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and the Courts Service are all working together to cut the tragic annual toll of death and injuries on Irish roads.

CONTACTS FOR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

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

Clr Paddy Bourke
Mobile: 0872862558
✉ pbourkecllr@eircom.net



Tommy on TV3 news on road safety

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

Twitter: @tommybroughantd Facebook: Like 'Tommy Broughan'