

# NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 24 NO. 3



## TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

by a new statutory independent Parliamentary Budget Office in early 2017 which will have a role of supporting the new Budget Committee and independently evaluating government budgets and economic performance. It is hoped that the Budget Committee hearings and output will stimulate public discussion on a much fairer taxation and public expenditure programme down to 2021. Deputy Broughan is anxious to finally end austerity and restore critical health, education, social protection, justice, transport and key infrastructure funding. He welcomes submissions on these issues at [tommy.broughan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:tommy.broughan@oireachtas.ie).

## BUDGET 2017 - A CHALLENGE FOR FG/FF GOVERNMENT

The 32nd Dáil is facing its first major challenges in Budget 2017 and the 2017 Finance and Social Welfare Bills. The 2016 General Election showed a clear appetite for change, yet the minority Fine Gael led government continues to be propped up by Fianna Fáil. The secret ballot elections of the Ceann Comhairle and his deputy, the application of the d'Hondt system for Committee Chairs, the new Budget Committee and especially the greater availability of speaking and legislative time for opposition deputies are valuable reforms. But the output of the FG/FF government so far has been poor and uninspiring.

Deputy Broughan is a member of the new Dáil Budgetary Oversight Committee which is seeking to involve the Dáil, civil society groups and our constituents much more fully in the pre-budget process. The Budget Oversight Committee will be joined

## BIN CHARGES FIASCO CONTINUES

Deputy Broughan received a very high number of e-mails and phone calls in protest at the introduction of new pay-by-weight waste charges which were to be imposed from 1 July last. When Deputy Broughan was on Dublin City Council in the 1990s, he fiercely opposed the introduction of charges in the first instance because he rightly feared that it would lead to the kind of privatised, chaotic, non-competitive market that now exists.

Following public backlash and political pressure, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Simon Coveney, negotiated a 12 month price freeze with the Irish Waste Management Association. During this 'freeze', companies must raise awareness among customers of their current waste levels and inform them of what the charges would be when the changes come into effect. This ridiculous solution has indeed led to levels of confusion for customers, while other companies such as Greyhound were offering an 'opt-out' option up to August 1st as well as increasing standing charges. The handling of the situation has been terrible and will continue to cause confusion and upset for people around the country. See Deputy Broughan's speech on the issue on his website [www.tommybroughan.com](http://www.tommybroughan.com).

## CRITICAL RESOURCES NEEDED FOR HSE

Deputy Broughan continues to advocate for sufficient resourcing of Beaumont Hospital and for the construction of a new, fit-for-purpose A&E at the busy hospital. By way of Parliamentary Questions, Deputy Broughan has been extracting information on the current state of service provision at the hospital and of course, fully supports the staff and consultants who are doing their best in pressurised environments with severe staff shortages.

Recently, Deputy Broughan was informed that there were 1,780 elective surgeries cancelled at Beaumont Hospital between January 2015 and the end of April 2016. 810 of these were inpatient elective surgeries and 970 were day cases. He was also informed that up to end of May 2016 there were 45 patients awaiting orthopaedic hip replacement surgery in Beaumont hospital and that 18 are waiting for more than one year for this surgery. Deputy Broughan has been calling on new Minister for Health, Simon Harris, to visit Beaumont and see for himself what is needed. He was also recently informed that 21% of CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist posts remain unfilled due to the HSE recruitment crisis. It is time to fix our ailing health service.

# I N D E P E N D E N T

# NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy and some DBN constituents at Leinster House.

**Clare Hall:** Deputy Broughan extends his thanks to the members of the Clare Hall Residents' Association for a very informative meeting recently on matters of importance in Clare Hall.

**Doldrum Bay:** At a recent meeting with Paul Reid, the manager of Fingal County Council, Deputy Broughan raised concerns around the raw sewage pouring into Doldrum Bay in Howth. This meeting follows a number of representations by the Deputy to Fingal, the relevant Ministers and Irish Water. He also supported constituents' petition to Minister Simon Coveney calling for a solution.

**Seeds of Success:** Deputy Broughan was invited to plant a tree at the recent 25th anniversary of the **Northside Partnership**. It was a great event to mark the positive impact of the Northside Partnership on the community and he wished new Partnership CEO, Paul Rogers, and his team every future success.

**Kilbarrack:** Deputy Broughan continues to make representations on behalf of the excellent **Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme (KCCP)**. KCCP is in need of additional resources to ensure that it can develop the important work it carries out in combatting addiction.

**Edenmore Boxing Club:** Deputy Broughan continues to strongly support the Edenmore Boxing Club in its search for a new home. He has been making representations with the Council and the Tánaiste requesting a new, appropriate, permanent venue for this great club which has produced many champions and Irish internationals. It is also expected that the **Springdale Park Sports Changing Building** will be completed by late Jan. 2017.

**Donaghmede:** Deputy Broughan has been strongly supporting facilities for the outstanding community service **TARGET** which has been based at St. Kevin's school for more than 20 years. TARGET provides invaluable services such as counselling, childcare and education.

**Traffic Matters:** Deputy Broughan recently requested traffic calming measures at **Brookwood Grove, Artane** but the Traffic Advisory Group did not recommend traffic calming for this road. There is a public consultation open currently with DCC on the proposed lower speed limits for residential areas and details are available on [www.dublincity.ie/speedreview](http://www.dublincity.ie/speedreview). Submissions were being accepted until the 24th of August. Deputy Broughan also requested a School Warden for the **Main Street in Belmayne** following contact from concerned constituents but Belmayne is still waiting to be taken in charge by DCC. DCC Traffic Engineers did not recommend further traffic calming measures at **Conquer Hill Road, Clontarf**.

**Clontarf:** Road works are ongoing for the **S2S Scheme** and require a number of night road closures to facilitate works on the Clontarf Road. Deputy Broughan shared information via twitter on the mid-August road closure. The Bull Road junction to Mount Prospect junction will also close at night (19:00 hours to 07:00 hours) at the end of September for 14/16 nights.

**CRC Pensions:** Deputy Broughan recently met with a delegation representing those affected by the Central Remedial Clinic's decision to terminate a key staff pension scheme. With the CRC's location in Clontarf a number of Deputy Broughan's constituents are affected by this decision. He made strong representations to the Ministers for Social Protection and Health to bring forward a just solution for these impacted staff and pensioners.

**Belcamp College Site:** Deputy Tommy Broughan is again calling on Fingal County Council, developer Gerry Gannon and NAMA to urgently secure the historic Belcamp College site following recent serious fires. In 1972, Belcamp Hall was placed on Fingal's protected structures list and one of the architectural highlights of the House is the Oval Room which was reported to have been modelled on the White House's Oval Office. The site was subsequently taken in to NAMA but in 2015 developer Gerry Gannon applied for planning permission for over 200 houses & apartments on 15.3 ha. of the College lands. Deputy Broughan has said that the historic Belcamp Hall should be a focal point for the enhanced redevelopment of this North Fringe Area.

**Social Housing:** DCC reported in July that 35 new houses in **Buttercup estate, Darndale** will be completed by Qtr. 4, 2016 and that Phase I of 35 social housing units in **Priory Hall, Donaghmede** should be ready by Qtr. 3, 2016. A tender process for 38 Rapid Delivery Houses in **Belcamp** is also underway say DCC. In all, 643 homes were being acquired or under construction by DCC in early July.

**North Runway & Aircraft Noise:** Deputy Broughan has received many queries and complaints from constituents across the North Fringe of DBN recently regarding loud aircraft noise during the night and very early in the morning. He also attended a recent **Dublin Airport Authority (DAA)** briefing for TDs on the new North Runway project. The DAA are looking to have 2 planning conditions lifted which relate to night flights and the number of night flights to be allowed at the airport between the hours of 11pm and 7am. Deputy Broughan, while always supporting the economic importance of the airport and its status as an employer here, has made strong representations on his opposition to the lifting of these conditions in a submission to the DAA public consultation process.

**TTIP Reading Room:** Deputy Broughan recently visited the 'TTIP Reading Room' in the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Supervised access to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) documents was made available to Deputies recently and Deputy Broughan took the opportunity to access them albeit for a short amount of time. Deputies were not allowed take photos of, or transcribe information from the documents.

While Deputy Broughan welcomes aspects of TTIP around white collar crime and mutual recognition of some professional qualifications, he remains seriously concerned about issues like the 'Corporations Court' and the lack of regulation around genetically modified food, etc. TTIP, like CETA (the Canadian equivalent due to be voted on in the EU Council on October 18th), would water down stringent EU regulations and put European consumers at significant health risks.

# DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

**Glenkerrin Homes at Old Techrete site, Howth:** On June 21st. last, An Bord Pleanála granted permission for 145 apartments, 55 houses, 6 commercial units, community facilities and 487 parking spaces (mostly underground). The Board attached 27 conditions including the full implementation of the mitigation measures in the E.I.S., a detailed Development Phasing Plan, water supply and drainage arrangements, construction times (from 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. during the week and to 2 p.m. on Sat.), a construction waste and demolition plan and an agreement with Fingal Council to provide Part V social housing.

**TLC Spectrum at former Smurfits Factory, Tonleagee Rd.:** In mid-June, Dublin City Council requested additional information on a 3-storey block of 47 apartments for senior citizens being planned in association with FOLD Housing Association.

**MKN Property at 778-784 Howth Rd., Raheny:** In mid-June, Dublin City Council also asked for further information on the demolition of 4 houses at the above site and the proposed construction of 16 houses to the rear of the site and of 52 apartments in 2 four storey blocks to the front of the site. There are ongoing concerns in the neighbouring district at the impact of this proposal which is reflected in Deputy Broughan's recent submission on this plan to DCC.

**Crekav at St. Paul's College, Raheny:** Dublin City Council decided in mid-summer that the period for a decision on Plan 4185/15 at the above site would be extended to November 10th next. The proposal is for 107 houses and 274 apartments on site behind St. Paul's.

**Barina on Swords Rd./High Park:** In July last, Barina applied for an extension of their permission to DCC for 402 dwellings in 5 to 8 storey blocks at the above location in Whitehall.

**Search 4 Alpha at Clare Village, Malahide Rd., Dublin 13:** In July last also, a proposal was submitted for an additional 217 apartments at Clare Village. The apartments will be built in 8/10 storey blocks and Deputy Broughan has made a submission on the proposal to DCC Planning Dept. on behalf of some existing Clare Village constituents.

**Fingal Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023:** Deputy Broughan made a submission on the draft plan to the County Manager in early summer. Following the consideration of the 900 submissions received by the Manager, a report on these was being considered by Councillors in late July prior to the submission of motions on the draft plan.



Tommy visiting TTIP Reading Room

**Musgraves (Supervalu) at Sutton Cross:** In late May, an appeal was made to An Bord Pleanála regarding the earlier Fingal grant of permission for the demolition of a house and a revised entry/exit traffic system for Sutton Shopping Centre.

**Crekav at Edros, Balscadden, Howth and St. Mary's Nursing Home, Baldoyle:** In mid-summer, An Bord Pleanála turned down a proposal for 9 three-storey houses at Edros, Balscadden and Fingal County Council's earlier approval of a proposal for 17 houses and 9 apartment/duplex units at St. Mary's, Burrowstone Road, Baldoyle from the same developer was appealed to An Bord Pleanála in June.



Tommy as Chair of the 32nd Dáil

## TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

While the Dáil has only passed five pieces of legislation this term it has still been a busy time for Deputies. During oral parliamentary questions (pqs), Tommy asked the Tánaiste and **Minister for Justice and Equality on the resources available to Gardaí**. He spoke on the **Adoption (Amendment) Bill** and welcomed the general thrust of it while highlighting some areas of concern. Tommy spoke on the **Dáil Reform Report** and said that he hoped it would lead to a more transparent and accountable Dáil. He asked the **Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, to report on his plans for funding of third level education** and access to 3rd level institutions.

Tommy tabled an Adjournment Debate with the new Minister of State for Disability, Finian McGrath, on the **lack of services for school leavers on the autism spectrum**. During **Statements on Jobs**, Tommy highlighted the still very high rate of **youth unemployment**. During oral pqs with the **Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross**, Tommy requested information on the **traffic management plan for College Green** and also an update on **Metro North**. Tommy spoke in support of Sinn Féin's **Rent Certainty Bill**. He tabled a **Topical Issues Debate on waste charges** to urge the Government to act on the huge increases citizens were facing under new pay-by-weight rules.

Tommy spoke on the **Revised Estimates for Justice and Equality** and focused on criminality as well as resources to improve road safety. Tommy had his first ever **Leaders Questions** where he questioned the Tánaiste on the investigation into the **Stardust Tragedy of 1981** and called for the establishment of a new Commission of Investigation (which followed the motion he had submitted). He also spoke on the **Summer Economic Statements** and cautiously welcomed the improving economic forecast but warned of the lack of preparation for a Brexit vote. Tommy supported colleague Deputy Mick Wallace's call for the setting up of a **Commission of Investigation into NAMA's Project Eagle sale**. He also spoke on the **Energy Bill 2016** and called for Irish Water to be removed from CER's remit.

Tommy tabled a Topical Issues Debate along with colleague Deputy Clare Daly on the **DAA's new North Runway**. He spoke on the **Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Bill** and supported the general thrust of it. Tommy spoke on the Social Democrats' Private Members' Bill on the **Regulation of Charities** in light of the Console scandal and called for greater regulation of charities, in particular those in receipt of public funds. Tommy questioned the new **Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor**, on her **plans to promote employment in Dublin Bay North**. Before summer recess, Tommy spoke on the Fianna Fáil Sale of **Local Authority Housing Bill** and took the opportunity to critique the Government's newly announced **Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness**.



Tommy with Cllrs O'Toole & Gilliland at Seeds of Success



Tommy at the Budgetary Scrutiny Committee

## TOO MANY AWAITING HOME CARE PACKAGES

The Home Care Scheme provided by the HSE is to assist older persons remain in their own homes while requiring a certain level of care. Home Care Packages (HCPs) may include community based services such as home help hours, occupational therapy, day care services, etc. Up to the end of the first quarter of 2016, there were 15,830 persons in receipt of Home Care Packages around the country with 1,436 on waiting lists. Community Health Organisations (CHO) Area 9, comprising Dublin North, Dublin North Central and Dublin North West, had 4,066 persons in receipt of HCPs with 447 persons on the waiting list. This demonstrated the highest numbers across all of the CHO areas for both those in receipt of a HCP and those awaiting a HCP. Deputy Broughan was informed that the average waiting time is approximately 2-4 weeks in most cases. Deputy Broughan has urged the Minister for Health to appropriately resource the Home Care Scheme to ensure that HCPs are available immediately to those who need them.

## LITTLE 'ACTION' IN HOUSING PLAN

On the 19th of July 2016, new Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Simon Coveney, launched the much anticipated 'Rebuilding Ireland' Government Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness. There is a video with emotional music, a website, a twitter account and a 114 page glossy document. Some of the commitments in the Action Plan are to build 25,000 houses per year by 2020, to end the use of hotels as emergency accommodation for families experiencing homelessness and to build 47,000 social houses by 2021 (even though there are over 100,000 people on our Local Authority Social Housing lists today).

While Deputy Broughan welcomes the plan in principle, he has criticised the fact that there will be no tangible effect on the current Housing crisis until the end of 2017 / beginning of 2018 at the earliest. Deputy Broughan condemned the Government for not taking the opportunity to declare a Housing Emergency and introduce emergency legislation similar to measures taken to bail out the banks with the introduction of FEMPI. He criticised the low numbers of housing target units saying that these will have no real impact on the lives of citizens for the next number of years. Most of all, he believes DCC, Fingal and other large local authorities should be directly involved in planning and constructing social housing.

## Getting in Touch

### Tommy Broughan T.D.

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**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 **MONDAY**

12.15pm - Le Chéile, Donnycarney

#### 2nd / 4th **FRIDAY**

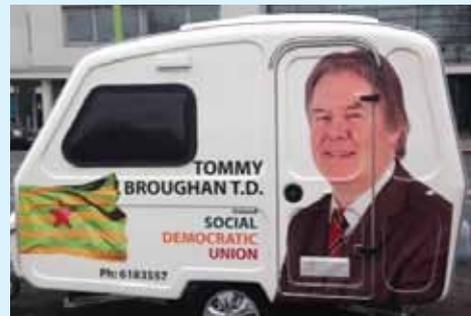
7.00p.m. Concorde, Edenmore Shopping Centre  
7.30p.m. Foxhound Inn, Greendale Shopping Centre  
8.15p.m. Marine Hotel, Sutton  
9.00p.m. Abbey Tavern, Howth (By Appointment)

#### 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



**On  
your  
side,  
always**

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## CONTACTS FOR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

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## 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](http://www.tommybroughan.com)

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