

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 25 NO. 1

UNFAIR PENSION CUTS MUST BE REVERSED

During Leaders' Questions with the Taoiseach and later during questions with the Minister for Social Protection, Deputy Broughan raised the sneaky, 'under-the-radar' changes to the State Pension Contribution bands introduced in Budget 2012. Despite claims by the Government at the time that there were no cuts to the State Pension, the PRSI Contribution bands were expanded from 4 to 6 and pension entitlements for the 4 lower bands were seriously reduced. Age Action commissioned a piece of research by Maureen Bassett to examine the impact of these changes and recently launched the findings in their report "Towards a Fair State Pension for Women Pensioners."

Since September 2012, new applicants for the State Pension (Contributory) with an average of 48 yearly contributions or more receive the unchanged, maximum weekly amount of €233.30. **This amount has increased now to €238.30 since the 10th of March 2017 when increases of €5 were implemented from Budget 2017.** Those with an average of 40 – 47 annual contributions will still receive 98% of the maximum amount (now at €233.60). However, pensioners with an average of 30 – 39 yearly contributions now receive €19.40 less per week with a payment of €214.20. Similarly, those with a 20 – 29 average receive €30.80 per week less with a payment of €202.80. Pensioners with an average of 15 – 19 annual contributions are receiving just €155.20, a reduction of €23.50 weekly. Those in the bottom band of 10 – 14 average contributions have payments of €95.20, which is a reduction of €24 weekly.



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

Over 60% of the 43,000 people affected by these changes are women who reared their children in the 1960s and 1970s when there was little or no childcare. This change, along with the Marriage Bar and the Homemakers Scheme (which doesn't apply pre-1994) all exacerbate the inequality experienced by women pensioners in Ireland. **Deputy Broughan called for the urgent reversal of these changes and for backdated payments to everyone affected.** He is now bringing the issue to the Budgetary Oversight Committee for Budget 2018 preparations.

BROUGHAN MOVES STARDUST MOTION



Tommy with Antoinette Keegan and Gertrude Barrett of the Stardust Relatives' and Victims' Committee

In a moving speech to Dáil Éireann, Deputy Broughan remembered the 48 tragic young victims of the Stardust Inferno and outlined a powerful case for a new Commission of Investigation to finally bring justice, peace and closure for the victims' families and all the districts of Dublin Bay North

so dreadfully affected by the horrific events of that fateful night in February 1981. Unfortunately, Minister Frances Fitzgerald and Minister Finian McGrath opposed the immediate setting-up of a Commission. Knowing that Deputy Broughan's motion would be passed by the House, the Government submitted an amendment to the motion which was then backed by Fianna Fáil (who had committed to supporting a Commission in 2014). But, Deputy Broughan's Dáil motion did become the direct catalyst for action, at last, by the Government. Now a judge is to be appointed to again review the important new evidence of the Stardust Relatives' and Victims' Committee.

Deputy Broughan hopes that an independent judge (acceptable to the Stardust Committee) will review the Committee's new evidence with a view to establishing a new Commission and that this will finally bring justice and peace for all those deeply affected by the Stardust Ballroom Fire.

For the most up-to-date news on the status of this, check out the 'Justice for the Stardust 48' facebook page.

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

Coolock Development Council: Deputy Tommy Broughan recently attended the launch of the NACEC Community Enterprise Report at the Northside Enterprise Centre on the Bunratty Drive campus of CDC. Minister of State, Pat Breen, officially launched the report at the event.

Clontarf: Deputy Tommy Broughan received confirmation from An Post that Post Office services will resume “as soon as possible” in Clontarf and that Social Protection payments will continue to be made at Marino Post Office in the interim.

Baldoyle Boxing Club: Recently, Deputy Broughan accompanied a representative from Baldoyle Boxing Club to a meeting with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross, for information about the Sports Capital Grants application process. Information evenings were also held around the country for interested sports clubs and applicants.

Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme (KCCP): Deputy Broughan has been continuing his long-standing support and representations for KCCP on the need for proper resourcing and premises to maintain vital local services.

Howth: Deputy Broughan has made a number of representations on different issues in the Howth Peninsula in recent months. A number of constituents were in contact with him regarding dumping at Hayden's Field at the Old Tramline and following emails to Fingal County Council this area was cleaned up and a 'No Dumping' sign was erected. Deputy Broughan also requested that the **Howth Beach** walkway be repaired and a handrail be installed for health and safety reasons. Deputy Broughan also again highlighted the sewage at **Doldrum Bay** in his brief submission to Fingal's 'Public Participation on the identification of Bathing Waters' consultation. He also spoke in the Dáil on the need to urgently **dredge Howth Harbour**.

Clongriffin DART Station: At the beginning of the year, a large number of concerned constituents were in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding the anti-social behaviour at the DART Station in Clongriffin. Deputy Broughan made urgent contact with the CEO of Irish Rail, David Franks, and was assured that increased security would be in place at this new DART Station.

Kilmore Rd., Youthreach: Deputy Broughan is continuing to make representations on behalf of Youthreach on the Kilmore Rd in the search for a new, appropriate premises. Deputy Broughan recognises the important work of this Youthreach Centre and the numbers of young people attending courses there and would like to see this important service stay in the locality.

Joyriding: In some areas of Dublin Bay North, there have been recent reports of alleged joyriding and boyracing. Deputy Broughan contacted the Gardaí about this and requested an increased police presence in the areas affected, particularly at certain times.

Belmayne: Residents from Belmayne were in contact with Deputy Broughan asking for representations to be made to the Council regarding litter in the area. The Council suggested that a Community Clean Up be run. There have also been some reports of anti-social behaviours around the area and Deputy Broughan also contacted the Gardaí to report these concerns. It is clear that the whole area needs to be taken in charge by DCC.



Tommy with Minister of State Pat Breen at CDC

Artane Beaumont Family Recreation Centre: This important local centre has been in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding possible supports for its community and sporting activities. Deputy Broughan is supporting the Centre's call for a subvention to ensure that it can continue to be an integral part of the constituency and has made representations to DCC and the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

TARGET, Donaghmede: Deputy Broughan's representations in trying to assist Trinity Adult Resource Group for Education and Training (TARGET) in accessing a new premises are ongoing. TARGET has been providing important counselling and other services to the Donaghmede area for over 26 years now and is anxious to remain in this parish.

Schools: Many constituents have been in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding the lack of school places, particularly in **Baldoyle, Belmayne and Clongriffin**. Further places in **Gaelscoil Cholmchille** were also requested. Deputy Broughan has made representations to the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, on the need to increase school access around Dublin Bay North. He has also been representing **St. Joseph's Primary School, Fairview** in its application for DEIS I status and **St. David's BNS, Artane** in its application for a DEIS status.

'Ayrfield' Site: DCC confirmed to Deputy Broughan that the site 'Ayrfield' which is between Clare Hall Ave and Belmayne South is currently being developed for 150 residential units. It is expected that 100 of these will be general housing and 50 will be for senior citizens.

Check your Passports: A large number of constituents have been in contact with Deputy Broughan recently, distressed that their passport applications or renewals were taking longer than planned. Since Brexit, applications have increased exponentially (from the UK) meaning that anyone needing a passport must allow at least 6 weeks for processing.

Strike Action: Deputy Broughan attended briefings in Leinster House by unions representing **Bus Éireann** drivers and workers. He fully supports the unions and workers' calls that cuts cannot be made to salaries and terms and conditions. Deputy Broughan also fully supports **Tesco workers** in their strike action against plans to cut pay and conditions for workers with pre-96 contracts.

Traffic Management: Deputy Broughan has been in touch with the Traffic Department of Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council on a number of traffic management issues. Due to construction work just off **Belmayne Ave**, residents now no longer have access to some parking which had previously been made available to them. Residents from **Moyclare** were in contact regarding repairs needed to the estate roads. Traffic calming measures for **Clonshaugh Ave** were requested, as were double yellow lines at **the Beeches, Grange Road**. Commuters using **Hollybrook Grove** for parking was also an issue for residents there who contacted Deputy Broughan and requested that 'Parking for Residents Only' signs be erected at this location.



Damage at Clongriffin DART Station



Tommy speaking with RTE on the Stardust Motion



Tommy speaking on the Disability Bill

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Rear of Bank of Ireland, 566 Howth Rd., Raheny: In February, DCC refused permission to the Layden Group Ltd. for 4, 3-storey terraced dwellings.

Dunmull Ltd. at Clare Hall, Dublin 13: Permission was granted by DCC in late January for a 6/7 storey (161 bed) nursing home and related developments beside Clare Village/Clare Hall Shopping Centre, Dublin 13.

Belcamp Hall, Malahide Rd., Dublin 17: In late January, Fingal County Council granted permission to Gannon Properties for redevelopment of 18.3 ha. of the Belcamp College lands. 263 homes will be built including 34 apartments in a refurbished Belcamp Hall, 84 apartments in 2 blocks and a courtyard and 145 houses. Deputy Broughan made a submission on the historic Belcamp Hall.

New Runway at Dublin Airport: In January, the Dublin Airport Authority applied for a 10 year extension of duration of planning permission for its proposed 2nd runway (3110 m long by 75 m wide). The proposal includes realignment of local roads and covers 261 ha.

Adjacent to, and rear of, 17 Station Rd., Sutton: Before Christmas, an application was made for a 2/3 storey apartment block with 22 apartments at this location.

Clayton Hotel and Carra Shore Hotel, Clonshaugh, Dublin 17: In late November 2016, permission was granted for 141 new bedrooms at the Clayton Hotel at the Clonshaugh Roundabout. In December last, permission was also granted to Carra Shore for a new 427 bed hotel in 10 and 7 storey blocks at Stockhole Lane, Clonshaugh.

Marrsfield Crescent, Clongriffin: In February, Gannon Homes applied to construct 167 apartments in 3 blocks at Marrsfield. A 7 storey block includes 48 apartments, a 14 storey block would have 71 apartments and a 6 storey block also has 48 apartments.

Pobalscoil Rosmini, Drumcondra: In February, the Board of Management of Pobalscoil Rosmini sought permission from DCC for a 1, 2 and 3 storey post primary school of 6,786 sq.m. to include specialised classrooms and a PE Hall. The proposal includes a new pedestrian and vehicle exit onto Grace Park Road.

Sutton to Sandycove Works

Members of the Clontarf Residents' Association were in touch with Deputy Broughan to voice their dismay at the pace of the S2S works. This cycle-way is apparently 5 months behind schedule and the works are continuing to cause traffic chaos and disruption to the local area especially for local trades. Deputy Broughan made representations to DCC on the matter and it is receiving attention.

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Prior to the Christmas recess, Tommy spoke in general support of the Labour Party's **Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill 2016** to ensure that a certain percentage of Irish music is played on the airwaves. He also questioned the Minister for **Social Protection**, Leo Varadkar, on **pension reform** and his plans for same.

On January 25th last, Tommy proposed his Motion for the establishment of a **Commission of Investigation into the Stardust Tragedy**. Despite looking like the motion would pass, at the last minute the Government came forward with an amendment which Fianna Fáil backed. Tommy questioned the Minister for **Public Expenditure and Reform**, Paschal Donohue, on a number of topics including **public sector salaries**, the **comprehensive spending review** and the **capital review**.

Tommy welcomed the **Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016** as it would finally allow for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He spoke in support of Fianna Fáil's **Motion on Bus Éireann** but also criticised them for beginning the privatisation of essential services in Ireland in the first place. Tommy again asked the **Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine**, Michael Creed, to urgently **dredge Howth Harbour** now that he has had the site investigation reports for almost a year.

Tommy continued to raise **road safety concerns** and in oral PQs with the **Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport**, Shane Ross, he asked about the **administration of driving licences by the Road Safety Authority (RSA)**. Tommy spoke in support of the Social Democrats' **Media Ownership Bill 2016** and he also warmly welcomed the **Courts (No. 2) Bill 2016** which would allow for the commencement of **Section 44 of the Road Traffic Act 2010** (the 'third payment option' for Fixed Charge Notices).

Tommy questioned the **Minister for Children and Youth Affairs**, Katherine Zappone, on rising **child poverty rates in one parent families** and he also **strongly opposed the Government's Motion of Confidence** in itself following the Sgt. McCabe controversy. Tommy took the opportunity to raise the **inequality in women's pensions** during his Leaders' Question at the end of February and he called on the Taoiseach to reverse the sneaky changes brought in by Fine Gael and Labour in Budget 2012. Tommy spoke in support of the **National Famine Commemoration Day Bill 2017** for an annual memorial day to take place on the second Sunday of May each year. He also strongly supported the **Industrial Relations (Right to Access) (Amendment) Bill 2016** to allow trade union representatives access to workplaces to meet with members.

Tommy questioned the **Minister for Finance** on Ireland's contributions to the EU following **Brexit** and also asked the **Minister for Education and Skills**, Richard Bruton, about **DEIS status for local schools**. He welcomed the **Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill 2016** as it will finally give legally enforceable rights to victims of crime. Tommy also questioned the **Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform** about the decision to move **Seanad Éireann** temporarily to the Ceramic Room of the National Museum.

WATER OUTAGES IN HOWTH/SUTTON/BALDOYLE

Recently, Deputy Tommy Broughan made enquiries with both Fingal County Council (FCC) and Irish Water regarding the increasing instances of water outages in the Howth/Sutton/Baldoyle area which were occurring very frequently towards the end of 2016. Responses from Irish Water confirmed a number of repair works and also outlined the Capital Programmes work that is expected to take place in Howth and Sutton during Quarter 2 of 2017. Full details are available on Deputy Broughan's website (www.tommybroughan.com) from a press release he issued at the beginning of this year. The works include 1,455m of watermain rehabilitation and replacement of 81 No. lead connections (front of house) at Strand Road, Sutton and 940m of watermain rehabilitation at Abbey Street, Balcadden Road and Kilrock Road, Howth, among others. Outages will continue during this time and constituents are asked to check with FCC for info (www.fingal.ie). Deputy Broughan asked that constituents in Howth, Sutton, Bayside and Baldoyle be fully informed of water repair and upgrade programmes for 2017 by Irish Water and highlighted the impact of the almost daily and erratic disruption to his constituents' water supplies since September 2016.



Tommy supporting SIPTU's Early Years Educators Campaign

NO CONFIDENCE IN THIS SHAM ADMINISTRATION

Speaking during the Government's Motion of Confidence recently, Deputy Broughan said that he has never had confidence in this government. He re-iterated his sentiments from May 2016 that it was "a temporary, ghost Administration, one that we know cannot and will not last. It is a Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil administration with the spoils of office divided between the 2 parties and Michael Martin and his colleagues as the chief puppeteers while Fine Gael and the hapless Independents stagger from crisis to crisis".

The great issues facing our nation, in the shocking situation of over 100,000 people in desperate need of housing, the 632,000 citizens on hospital waiting lists, the 250,000 children living in poverty and the multi-faceted profound challenges facing Ireland when Article 50 is triggered next month by Britain are completely overwhelming this weak administration. A common thread through all the suffering of our people is the refusal by Minister Noonan and the vested interests represented by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil to abandon austerity and to raise and spend the necessary funding to give us the decent homes, hospitals and other public services our people deserve. Deputy Broughan concluded by saying that it was time for this government to go.



Tommy speaking on the Motion in the Dáil

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 **MONDAY**

12.15pm Le Chéile, Donnycarney

2nd / 4th **FRIDAY**

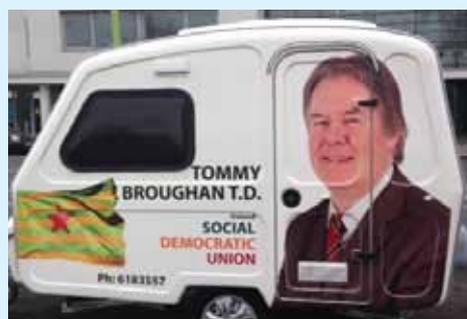
7.00p.m. Concorde, Edenmore Shopping Centre
7.30p.m. Foxhound Inn, Greendale Shopping Centre
8.15p.m. Marine Hotel, Sutton
9.00p.m. Abbey Tavern, Howth (By Appointment)

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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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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