

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 25 NO. 3



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

BUDGET 2018 – MORE OF THE SAME

The Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil Budget 2018 was again a disappointment. Of course, there are some welcome measures, such as the €5 increase for Social Protection payments (but only from March 2018) and some other small partial restorations. But there was a failure to resource key public services and Capital Investment. Most disappointing, of course, was provision for the areas of Housing, Disability, Transport, the lack of restoration of women's pensions and pay for Section 39 workers. It certainly seems that the Independent Alliance was completely ignored by the Taoiseach and Minister Donohoe. There was no Affordable Housing Scheme, no significant social housing build increases, no Cost of Disability Payment and no innovative public transport initiatives. At a time when citizens in Ireland want improved infrastructure, those in charge dragged their heels and scrapped with coalition partners Fianna Fáil about how to position themselves for a General Election.

This past year, Deputy Broughan has benefited greatly in his understanding of the budgetary process and key fiscal issues from the work of the Budgetary Oversight Committee and the new Parliamentary Budget Office. He has made contributions to the lengthy deliberations of the Committee's Pre-Budget 2018 report. As always, Deputy Broughan tries to reflect constituents' views strongly in any contribution he makes to national economic policy and he included those views in his pre-budget submission and speech on Budget 2018. Deputy Broughan's Budget 2018 speech (video and transcript) is available on his website www.tommybroughan.com.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AROUND DBN

This summer saw increasing instances of anti-social and criminal behaviour in some districts of Dublin Bay North. The behaviour being reported to Deputy Broughan includes cars being raced and burnt out, joyriding, vandalism at a number of local DART stations, intimidating behaviour, burglaries, etc. Deputy Broughan has made strong representations to our local Gardaí, to Dublin City Council and to Irish Rail, or other agencies where necessary, on all aspects of this behaviour and has requested speedy and urgent responses from all responsible bodies. David Franks, CEO of Irish Rail, committed to improvements for damaged panels to repair Clongriffin Station aesthetics in the interim while Irish Rail work closely with An Garda Síochána to curtail this behaviour. He also confirmed that a new lift system would be trialled at Donaghmede/Howth Junction Station with the hope of stopping the frequency of outages.

In previous years there have been periods of anti-social behaviour but usually swift interventions and collaboration between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and heroic work by Community Organisations have meant that parishes and neighbourhoods became safer and quieter again. It is imperative that this level of co-operation and Garda visibility continues throughout Dublin Bay North so that constituents can live in peace and without fear.

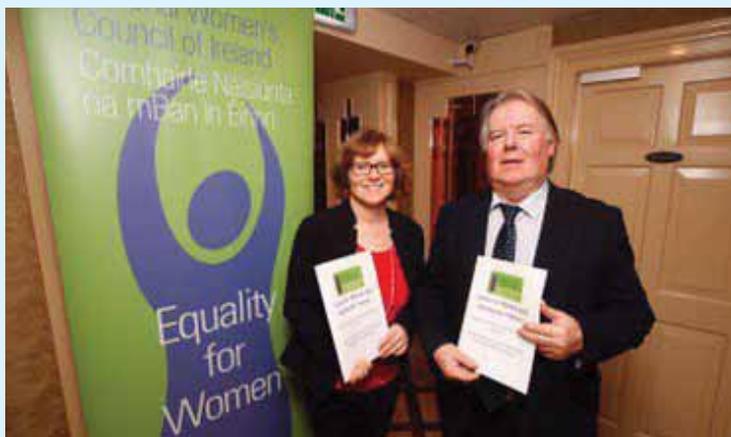
NO ACTION ON HOUSING CRISIS

Deputy Broughan has again strongly condemned the Government for failing to take real action in Budget 2018 to address the deepening Housing Crisis. The failed policy of Fianna Fáil/Fine Gael to house those with a social housing need in the private rental sector through the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rent Supplement (RS) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) received increased funding. The many problems with this approach include relying almost totally on the private rental market, continuing lack of security of tenure for tenants and misspending of billions of Euros. The money would be far better spent building residential units and recognising the current housing emergency for what it is.

Deputy Broughan represents many constituents awarded HAP but who are unable to source properties. It is important to note that since January 1st 2016, under the Equal Status Acts 2000-2015, it is illegal for a landlord or agent to refuse a tenancy to someone because they are in receipt of HAP or RS. Minister Eoghan Murphy confirmed that "if a person feels that they have been discriminated against by a landlord or their agent, they can make a complaint under the Equal Status Acts to the Workplace Relations Commission." <https://www.workplacelrelations.ie>. It is important that all instances of discrimination are reported to crack down on landlords and agents breaking the law.

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy with the National Women's Council of Ireland

Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme: Deputy Broughan made representations in the hopes of securing more supports for this very valuable, vital community service.

Kilbarrack Industrial Estate: Many Kilbarrack residents were in touch about the planning conditions for the former An Post building in Kilbarrack Industrial Estate which is now a builder's merchant (Murdoch Distribution Ireland Limited). Constituents contacted Deputy Broughan about the erection of high scaffolding there and the operating hours.

Donaghmede Library: Deputy Broughan was contacted by a number of constituents very concerned about the future of Donaghmede Library. Many local residents are worried that the library will be moved out of the Donaghmede Shopping Centre when the library's lease is renewed in 2019. Deputy Broughan contacted DCC asking that it commits to retaining our much loved library in the central location of Donaghmede Shopping Centre. DERA and all other Donaghmede Community bodies must be fully consulted on any future plans for our library and other community facilities.

DBN Post Offices: Deputy Broughan approached An Post in relation to **Post Office Services in the Clontarf area** and an earlier possible Postmaster vacancy in **Howth Post Office**. He was informed that An Post is actively searching for alternative premises in Clontarf.

Poolbeg Incinerator: Clontarf constituents had been in touch in relation to the constant white plumes/smoke emitted from both chimneys at the Poolbeg incinerator. Deputy Broughan contacted DCC and Covanta to ensure that the fumes did not have any damaging effects to the local environment. Covanta's reply stated that the plumes visible from the stack at the waste centre are a result of the third phase of the Air Pollution Control system. A wet scrubber introduces a fin cooling mist which creates a plume of white vapour (steam) to rise from the stack. Content on the plume and emission data can now be viewed on Covanta's website.

Dungriffin Reservoir: Deputy Broughan sought an update from Fingal County Council in relation to the Howth Water Supply Scheme. Deputy Broughan has been informed this project is due to go to construction in Q3/Q4 of 2018 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

Coolock: Social Protection recipients who used to collect their payments from Intreo Parnell St. are now being accommodated by the office in the Northside Civic Centre, Bunratty Rd. These changes came into effect from September 25th, 2017.

Raheny Shamrocks Athletic Club: The Deputy attended a very informative presentation in relation to the Club's proposal for a new running track on the Northside of the city. Deputy Broughan made representations to DCC in support of Raheny Shamrocks A.C and is continuing to advocate for a permanent headquarters in Raheny for this distinguished club.

Belmayne: After much campaigning with local residents Deputy Broughan received notice that starting from August 30th, two School Wardens would be placed on a temporary basis in Belmayne at the St. Francis of Assisi and the Educate Together Schools. These Wardens are in addition to the two School Wardens which were provided at the junction of Marrisfield Avenue and Belmayne Avenue in June. But representations are ongoing regarding specific locations where safety measures (including pedestrian crossings and slow signage) are urgently needed in the vicinity of these schools.

Streamville Park, Ayrfield & St. Anne's Park: Deputy Broughan was in touch with DCC in relation to litter in Streamville Park and at St. Anne's. The Deputy requested more bins and dog litter bins to be installed in both locations.

Clonsaugh: Constituents in Clonsaugh, Priorswood and Belcamp were in contact in relation to their water supply being cut off in July with very little notice given to them by Irish Water. Deputy Broughan contacted the CEO of Irish Water, Gerry Grant, in relation to this and asked for early and full notice on changes to their water supply to be given to residents in all areas of DBN.

Kilbarrack: Scoil Eoin Principal, Cathy Burke, invited Deputy Broughan to visit the school at the beginning of the 2017/2018 term and during Budget 2018 preparations. Principal Burke spoke of the needs of the primary education sector, particularly in the growing constituency of Dublin Bay North.

Bord Gáis Networks: Since early summer, Bord Gáis has applied for Relief Vent Stacks and District Regulation Installations for Irish Natural Gas for many street locations in DBN.

Dublin Bay North Repeal the 8th: Recently a group of constituents formed the DBN Repeal the 8th group. The group are on facebook and have been very active around the constituency. Prior to the General Election in 2016, Deputy Broughan pledged his support to the Coalition to Repeal the 8th Amendment.

Public Services Card: Following reports of a pensioner being refused their pension payments because of not signing up to have a Public Services Card (PSC), Deputy Broughan asked the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to report to the Dáil on the matter. Deputy Broughan and fellow opposition Deputies continue to raise concerns around the 'compulsory' use of this card to adhere to SAFE2 identity standards.

Clontarf to City Centre Cycleway: A number of Marino, Fairview and Clontarf constituents contacted Deputy Broughan in August in relation to the proposal to remove 62 mature trees on the boundary of Fairview Park. Deputy Broughan made urgent enquiries with DCC in support of retaining these trees. He has also raised his serious concerns with DCC's plan to remove one inbound traffic lane over a 350 metre length from the junction of Malahide Road/Fairview to south of Fairview footbridge. Fairview is already a bottleneck for commuters as three major road arteries (Malahide, Howth and Clontarf Roads) all flow through Fairview. Deputy Broughan believes that reducing these artery roads to one lane will lead to gridlock on this route and all alternative routes. Deputy Broughan is continuing to follow this issue up with DCC CEO, Owen Keegan.

Traffic Matters in DBN

DCC has information on www.dublincity.ie on some of the roads now closed until the 1st of December (**Clanawley Rd., Clanmahon Rd., Clanhugh Rd. and Kilbride Rd.**). After reports of speeding on **Grangemore Rd. & Rise**, the Deputy asked for DCC to install clear signs stating that this is a 30kph zone. After representations, the Traffic Advisory Group recommended that a yellow box be installed at the junction of **Philipsburg Ave. and Brian Rd.** to facilitate egress at peak hour traffic. **Foxfield Rd.** has been recommended for the provision of traffic calming measures which will be included in a future Works Programme. Deputy Broughan made representations to DCC in relation to construction traffic using **Park St., Clongriffin** at speed. He requested that temporary speed ramps be installed at this location. The Deputy has received notice that **Thormanby Lawns** has been listed for the 2018 roll out for 30kph zones. **Double-yellow lines** have been requested at several locations in **Donaghmede, Harmonstown & Artane**.

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Rear & Adjacent to 17 Station Rd., Sutton, D. 13: The decision of FCC to grant permission to G. Gallagher for 22 apartments in a 2/3-storey block was appealed to An Bord Pleanála in late August.

The Coast, Baldoyle, D.13: An appeal to An Bord Pleanála was also lodged in early August on FCC's decision to grant permission for 379 apartments and 171 houses (550 units) from Coyle & O'Brien, Statutory Receivers at the Coast.

Malahide Rd., Churchwell Ave. & Belmayne Rd., D.13: In June 2017, DCC proposed a development on the "Ayrfield" site (actually between Clare Hall Ave and Belmayne South) (Plan 3238/17). The proposal is to provide 150 units (100 for general social housing & 50 for senior citizens). While the 150 proposed units are a welcome small addition to social & affordable housing supply, Deputy Broughan submitted an observation on the current lack of key infrastructure for Belmayne which has not been delivered over the past 15 years. Deputy Broughan again called on Minister Eoghan Murphy to make the North/South Fringe a Strategic Development Zone.

St. Paul's College, Sybil Hill Rd., Raheny, D.5: The proposed Plan 3777/17 from Orsigna Ltd. comprises a 2-storey sports hall, 2 all-weather playing pitches (one GAA sized floodlit pitch & one 5-a-side sized floodlit pitch). Deputy Broughan made a lengthy submission on this proposal strongly representing Raheny residents' views that the environmental role and amenity of St. Anne's Park needs to be continually protected and that the sports facilities must only be considered along with any new plan for the earlier high density, high rise proposal for this location.

Former Columbans' lands at Hole in the Wall Rd., D. 13: In mid-Sept., DCC approved a plan by Midgard Construction Ltd. for 209 apartments, a childcare facility and gym at this site.

Edenmore House, Edenmore Ave., D.5: In early Sept., a proposal to demolish the former public house and replace it with a 4-storey building comprising 7 apartments and a retail unit was ruled invalid by DCC.



Tommy during Leaders' Questions

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Tommy spoke on the **Pre-European Council Meeting** and on the **Motion on Building Standards** and raised concerns about homeless families being accommodated in Lynam's Hotel, O'Connell St. He asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine about the **export of greyhounds** to countries with little or no welfare standards. Tommy asked the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment about plans for the **An Post Network** (and in particular the Howth/Clontarf areas). He spoke on the **Judicial Appointments Commission Bill**. Tommy had an oral PQ with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on Department funding and resources for agencies such as **IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland**.

Tommy spoke on the **Motion on Bin Charges** and condemned the market failure and lack of action from Government. Tommy spoke in favour of the **Rugby World Cup 2023 Bill** but questioned the need for Ireland to underwrite the profits of the organising company. He raised the issue of **income contingent student loans** again with the Minister for Education. Tommy brought a **Topical Issues Debate on Family Hubs** to the Dáil and criticised the Government again on its response to family homelessness. Tommy spoke during the **Statements on Srebrenica** on the 22nd anniversary of the massacre in Bosnia-Herzegovina and used his Leaders' Question to ask about the paying down of some of the 'stacks' of our very **high national debt**.

In September 2017, Tommy spoke strongly in support of People Before Profit/Solidarity's **Right to Housing Bill**. He spoke on the **Brexit negotiation updates** and again called for Ireland to have a direct seat at the negotiating table. Tommy spoke against the **Water Services Bill 2017** and commended the Right2Water community groups of Dublin Bay North. He asked the Minister for Agriculture on **doping in the greyhound industry** and later that day spoke in support of the **motion on Animal Welfare**.

Tommy asked the Minister for Communications about measures to tackle **Energy Poverty**, especially coming in to the colder months and spoke on **Budget 2018**. He asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport about cracking down on unaccompanied learner drivers in order to **improve road safety**. Tommy questioned the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation on **Microfinancing for SMEs**. He spoke in support of the motion to **restore Women's Pensions** and on the **Aer Lingus Supplementary Pension Scheme**.



Tommy at IWA launch with Eileen O'Mahony, Kevin Doyle and Rosemary Keogh

DISABILITY RIGHTS NOW

Recently, Deputy Broughan highlighted that there are many instances of the HSE not carrying out their statutory duty regarding Needs Assessments for children under the Disability Act 2005. Under this Act, children seeking a diagnosis of their disability and subsequent treatment must first undertake an assessment of need by the Early Intervention Teams in the HSE. There are clear statutory timeframes stating these assessments must be commenced within three months of an application received and completed within a further three months. However, the average duration of the assessment process is over 11 months. Please contact Deputy Broughan's office for further information if you have been waiting for longer than 3 months.

Deputy Broughan was delighted to be asked to launch the **Irish Wheelchair Association's Strategy** and has been continuing to support their call for pay restoration of staff in **Section 39 organisations**. He has also recently been raising the important issue of accessible public transport and called upon the Minister and relevant agencies to implement the necessary changes to improve accessibility for persons with mobility impairment. Deputy Broughan has also been making representations around addressing staffing shortages at St. Joseph's Service for the Intellectually Disabled, Portrane.



Tommy supporting the #MyNameIs campaign

CHECK YOUR NURSING HOME CHARGES

Following contact from concerned constituents regarding 'extra charges' being placed on residents at nursing homes, Deputy Broughan asked the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, to report on the matter.

Earlier this year, there were also reports of additional fees being charged to residents at nursing homes around the country. The Nursing Home Support Scheme (NHSS), also known as the Fair Deal Scheme, is where residents of nursing homes contribute 80% of their income towards the cost of their long-term residential care.

Minister Harris confirmed that he met with Nursing Homes Ireland, Age Action, the National Treatment Purchase Fund, the Office of the Ombudsman and HIQA. The schedule of charges should now be made available to potential residents when they go to view a nursing home or when they make an enquiry with the home rather than when they are admitted.

The Minister also stated that "an operator should not seek payment from residents for items which are covered by the NHSS, the medical card or any other existing scheme" and also that "residents should never be charged fees which are not set out in the contract."

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**

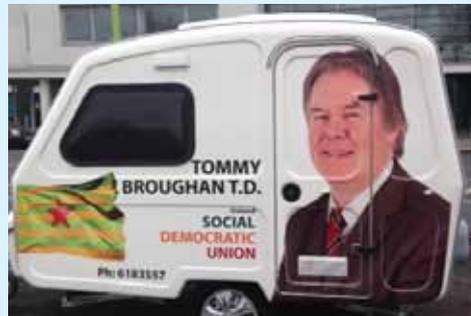
7.00p.m. Concorde, Edenmore Shopping Centre
7.30p.m. Foxhound Inn, Greendale Shopping Centre
8.15p.m. Marine Hotel, Sutton
9.00p.m. Abbey Tavern, Howth (By Appointment)

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., Baldoye



**On
your
side,
always**

0612

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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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