

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 26 NO. 1



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

NO FULL RESTORATION OF 2012 INEQUALITIES

Minister Regina Doherty recently announced some changes to the calculation of contributions to the State Pension. As I have previously reported, Budget 2012 introduced changes to the contribution bands which meant that some pensioners are receiving up to €30 less per week. Age Action commissioned and published a report last year to highlight the inequalities of this measure and up to January 2018, over 42,000 pensioners had been adversely affected by this change (two thirds of whom are women).

According to the Department, officials will be contacting those affected by the 2012 changes towards the end of this year. It is expected that pensioners can choose to be reassessed under a 'Total Contributions Approach (TCA)' (due to be rolled out from 2020) and accept the higher of the weekly payments. New payments will begin in 2019 for

those eligible but will only be backdated to the 30th of March 2018. Pensioners will not receive reimbursement for monies lost since 2012. It remains to be seen how this method will work out in practice. But it does seem that some people who took time out of employment for caring duties may gain some additional money. **Please contact Age Action, your local Citizens Information Board or the Department directly for more information.**

BROUGHAN REQUESTS ORAL HEARING FOR ST. ANNE'S PARK

Deputy Broughan attended a packed meeting at Raheny Utd. FC, where there was strong opposition to the latest high density plan for lands which were traditionally part of St. Anne's Park. Deputy Broughan had previously submitted an observation to DCC last October on the proposed sports hall and sports facilities development at St. Paul's College Raheny. Deputy Broughan also made strong representations on the earlier high density proposal for this part of St. Anne's Park which was thankfully refused by the planning authority.

Those who contacted Deputy Broughan felt strongly that the environmental role and amenity of St. Anne's needs to be continually protected and Deputy Broughan agreed. St. Anne's and the Bull Island are ever more important as vital recreational amenities for the 160,000 citizens of Dublin Bay North and the Northside. In early February, Deputy Broughan sent a detailed submission on the current proposed development (ABP 300559-18) to An Bord Pleanála, strongly called for permission not to be granted for this ill-conceived, very high density development submitted by Crekav Trading and requested that an oral hearing be granted on the proposal. You can read Deputy Broughan's full observation on this plan at <http://www.dublincity.ie/AnitePublicDocs/00654848.pdf>.

TEACHER SHORTAGE MUST BE ADDRESSED

Recent reports have shown that we are facing a severe shortage of teachers in key education curricula such as Maths and Science. Deputy Broughan has long been a supporter of the Equal Pay for Equal Work Campaign for pay restoration for younger teachers completing the same work as their counterparts. Those young teachers began their careers prior to the economic crash. Deputy Broughan has recently been asking the Minister for Education and Skills, and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on their plans to address these shortages and provide the necessary supports and resources to our teachers.

Deputy Broughan is also continuing his support of third level students and their opposition to the introduction of student loans as a means of part-funding the sector. Earlier this year, some students and their families demonstrated the huge costs involved in attending third level and the financial strains placed upon them to access higher education.

Deputy Broughan believes in the importance of free, public, quality education at all levels and will continue to highlight this in the Dáil. Deputy Broughan has also been consistently calling for sufficient school leaver places, and indeed school places, for children and young people with disabilities.

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy with the Stardust Relatives' and Victims' Committee on St Valentine's Day

Dublin Airport: Deputy Broughan recently asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport about noise pollution caused by take-offs and landings at Dublin Airport. Deputy Broughan questioned whether there will be any changes to the noise pollution parameters as set out in the original 2007 planning permission for the north runway. The Minister stated in his reply that aircraft traffic at the north runway will have strict limitations on night-time air traffic. The Government also announced that it has designated Fingal County Council as the noise regulator for Dublin Airport.

N32/R139: Constituents were in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding signage and litter complaints on the R139 Road. Deputy Broughan contacted DCC in relation to this and is happy to report that litter was removed from the area. Overgrown trees and hedges were cut back on either side of the road and the footpath was cleared up. Most importantly new on-road signage on the 60kph speed limit was installed on his proposal.

Private Rented Accommodation Inspections: A new section has been established within Dublin City Council's Housing Department tasked with the inspection of private rented dwellings. If you are aware of gross overcrowding, fire safety issues, ventilation, dampness, heating, pests, and electrical safety in any private rented dwellings you are encouraged to report any of these issues to privaterented@dublincity.ie or by calling 01-2226500.

Redrock, Howth: Fingal County Council and the Howth SAO Committee are developing a management plan for Redrock and are seeking ideas and suggestions from interested parties and the general public. As part of the process, a Public Consultation is taking place. Any ideas or suggestions can be sent to the following email address biodiversity@fingal.ie before March 16th 2018.

Greendale Neighbourhood Centre, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5: A number of concerned local residents made contact with Deputy Broughan regarding the plans for the new Neighbourhood Centre at Greendale. Plans for new community facilities in Kilbarrack and Foxfield are very welcome but need the fullest consultation with all estates and community bodies in the parish.

Poolbeg Incinerator: On constituents' behalf, last year, Deputy Broughan sought confirmation that plumes from the Incinerator are not harmful to people and the environment. Deputy Broughan continues to follow this up with DCC.

Coolock Primary Care Centre: The Primary Care Centre in Kilmore, Coolock was finally opened on the 26th of February 2018 by the Minister for Health, Simon Harris. Deputy Broughan was delighted to attend this long-awaited opening.

Building Control Bill: Deputy Broughan has raised the issue of fire safety and insulation concerns at some newer estates in DBN with Taoiseach Varadkar and Minister Eoghan Murphy. He also brought these concerns to the attention of the Dublin Fire Chief, Patrick Fleming and City Manager, Owen Keegan. The planned new Building Control Bill will include a register of the construction industry.

Illegal Dumping: Deputy Broughan received a lot of correspondence from constituents about illegal dumping in some areas of DBN and he repeatedly contacted DCC to have the areas affected inspected and cleaned.

Doldrum Bay, Howth: During recent storms, the pipe at Doldrum Bay was dragged and displaced and Deputy Broughan contacted the Council on the matter. He was informed that 2021 is still the estimated timeline to have raw effluent pumped into the sewerage network and that the pipe would be repaired in the meantime.

Killester: Irish Rail sent a notice to Deputy Broughan about railway track maintenance works due to take place from Howth Rd Bridge to Venetian Hall Bridge. Works will be carried out from March 30th to April 2nd and May 4th to 7th and local residents should have been advised in advance of these works.

Stardust – 37th Anniversary: Deputy Broughan attended services at St. Joseph's Church Bonnybrook and Stardust Memorial Park to mark the 37th anniversary of the Stardust tragedy. He also demanded a new Commission of Inquiry in a speech at the gates of Dáil Éireann on St. Valentine's Day. Deputy Broughan has a motion before Dáil Éireann to reject the very narrowly based assessment of former Judge Pat McCartan and to proceed with a new Commission.

Youthreach Coolock: Deputy Broughan received this reply from CDETB regarding the premises for Youthreach: "Following the sale of the former St. John of God School in Kilmore Road, Artane, the Youthreach project was temporarily moved by City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB) to premises in Whitehall. CDETB has been actively seeking permanent premises in the Coolock area for over 18 months. It is considering a number of possible options and is examining renovation costs."

Public Service Card: The Road Safety Authority has informed Deputy Broughan that from Monday, April 9th 2018, the Public Services Card (PSC) will become the only form of identity accepted at the National Driver Licence Service (NDLS) when applying for or renewing a driving licence or learner permit. Details are at www.ndls.ie

DCC Traffic and Streets' Work Programme 2018: The 2018 programme includes pedestrian crossings at Clare Hall Ave. and the Millbrook Rd./Tonleegge Rd. junction. It is planned to remove the Plynth and provide new parking at Kilbarron Rd. Traffic calming improvements are planned for Adare Park, Annadale Drive, Edenmore Green, Kincora Rd. and Grove, Hazelwood Park, Thornville Ave., Swansnest Ave., Sion Hill Rd. and Grace Park Heights.

Road maintenance works in 2018 include Collin's Ave. East/Howth Rd., Vernon Ave., Belcamp Gardens and Crescent, Croydon Gardens and Tce., Celtic Park Ave. and Collin's Park, Clanree, Clanranald, Clanmahon, Clanhugh, Clanawley, Foxhill Ave., Blunden Drive, Middle Third and the Grove, Bettyglen.

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Plan 4648/17 for MKN Property Group at 778-784 Howth Road, Raheny, Dublin 5: On 22nd December 2017, an application was submitted for a residential development of 68 units consisting of 16 houses and 52 apartments. This new application (4648/17) is virtually the same as plan 2917/16 which was refused on appeal to An Bord Pleanála in November 2017. Deputy Broughan submitted an observation on this planning application noting the uncharacteristic height of this development, proposed flood defences and traffic movements. Plan 4648/17 was approved by Dublin City Council on February 23rd last.

Gannon Homes at Blocks 25, 26, 27 Marrsfield Crescent, Clongriffin, Dublin 13: On the 16th November 2017, Dublin City Council granted permission for 167 apartment units, over three blocks, Block 25, Block 26 and Block 27, at Marrsfield Crescent, Clongriffin, Dublin 13. Dublin City Council conditions included reducing the height of Block 25 from 7-storeys to 6-storeys and of Block 26 from 11-storeys to 6-storeys.

Glenkerrin Homes at Howth Road, Howth, Co Dublin (the former Techrete Site): On the 26th January 2018, an Extension of Duration of Permission was submitted to FCC for the former Techrete and Teeling Motor Company sites and lands in the ownership of Fingal County Council (including Baltray Park). The proposal still includes 281 apartments and 5 houses ranging in height from 1 to 7-storeys.

Proposed Development at Former Baily Court Hotel Howth: I am told that the proposed development for the old Bailey Court (Reference Number 300879) was submitted for Stage 1 Pre-Application Consultation on 7th February 2018. This consultation stage usually takes approximately 9 weeks. When a planning application is made to An Bord Pleanála members of the public will be able to make submissions directly to An Bord.

Harrington Environmental at Unit 71 Grange Close, Baldoyle Industrial Estate: Plan F18A/0055 was submitted in early February for a change of use to permit storage of packaged and sealed asbestos material prior to onward transfer for further processing.

MKN Property at Verville Retreat, Vernon Ave., Clontarf: In January, MKN applied to develop 72 apartments in 4 blocks (including the change of use of Verville Retreat Nursing Home to residential use).

Layden Group at 566 Howth Rd., Raheny: Plan 2139/18 proposes 7 apartments over a retail unit with just 9 parking spaces (at the Bank of Ireland site).

Coolock Library, Barryscourt Rd.: Dublin City Council has applied, under Part 8, for a major upgrade of facilities at Coolock Library.

SRM at 174 Howth Rd., Clontarf: In mid-February, Plan 2284/18 was submitted for nine 3-storey homes at the above location.



Tommy speaking on the teacher shortage

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Prior to the Christmas recess, Tommy spoke on the **Social Welfare Bill 2017** and tabled and/or spoke on amendments regarding the definition of 'exceptional needs' for the **Exceptional Needs Payment**, regarding **pension inequalities, energy poverty, bereavement grants and payments for under 26s.**

Tommy also raised the issue of **homeless children** during PQs with the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government. He spoke in support of the **Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil constituencies) Bill 2017**. During PQs with the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tommy asked about the **current situation in Kurdistan.**

Following contact from concerned constituents, Tommy again raised the important issue of **joyriding and antisocial behaviour** in areas of Dublin Bay North as a Topical Issue Debate with the Minister for Justice. Tommy questioned the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on **personnel numbers and conditions in the civil service.** Tommy spoke on the **McCartan Review of evidence into the Stardust Tragedy** and rejected McCartan's assessment that no new Commission of Investigation is needed.

During oral PQs with the Minister for Employment and Social Protection, Tommy questioned the **unfair changes to pension contribution bands** and also spoke in support of the Motion on **pay restoration for staff of Section 39** organisations (such as those working in the Irish Wheelchair Association). Tommy supported the **Motion on Teacher Shortages** and called on the Government to immediately address the issue of pay equality and teacher shortages in STEM and other vital subject areas. He also spoke on the Topical Issues Debate regarding the **collapse of construction company, Carillion**, which was involved in some Irish school building programmes.

Tommy told the Taoiseach that the rainy days are here today for the hundreds of thousands of citizens waiting for health procedures, housing and access to support services when he raised the **Rainy Day Fund**. Tommy had a priority PQ with the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation on **funding and supports for Co-Operatives.** Tommy's recent **Leaders' Question** was on the desperate need for social housing in Area B (Dublin Bay North) which has the highest housing waiting lists in Ireland. He also spoke in support of Sinn Féin's **Central Bank (Amendment) Bill 2018** and the **Public Health (Alcohol) Bill 2015.** In a speech on **Project Ireland 2040**, Tommy raised urgently needed housing, transport, health and education investment and he also questioned the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs about **Youth Justice Services.**



Tommy with Jackie Cremin and Fiona Ryan of **Sonas**



Tommy at the opening of the Coolock Primary Care Centre

WHEN EXCEPTIONAL IS UNFORESEEN

The Exceptional Needs Payment (ENP) is a payment under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme which is accessed through the Department of Social Protection. The Exceptional Needs Payment "is a single payment to help meet essential, once-off, exceptional expenditure, which a person could not reasonably be expected to meet out of their weekly income". Examples of allowance expenses, after a means test of income, are for essential items when setting up your first home, funeral costs and some clothing, etc. Deputy Broughan was contacted by a concerned advocate who noticed that people were being denied ENP due to costs not being "unforeseen" as well as "exceptional".

Deputy Broughan has raised the matter with Minister Regina Doherty a number of times since it was brought to his attention and her answers have been wholly unsatisfactory. He also submitted an amendment to the Social Welfare Bill 2017 that would have stated that an exceptional need would not necessarily need to be unforeseen. This amendment, unfortunately, was defeated by the Government. However, in a separate development, the issue has been sent for Judicial Review.

OIREACHTAS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS REPEAL

Before Christmas 2017, the Joint Oireachtas Committee (JOC) on the 8th Amendment, which was set up to examine the proposals of the Citizens' Assembly, submitted its report to the Government recommending the straight repeal of the 8th Amendment. The JOC was a cross-party mix of Senators and TDs and heard from a variety of medical, legal and human rights professionals and ordinary citizens, from Ireland and abroad.

The Government has since decided to work on a 'Repeal and Enact' referendum expected to take place in late May 2018. A repeal of the 8th amendment would permit the Dáil and Seanad to directly legislate on the complex issues involved in women's health and pregnancy.

Deputy Broughan has carefully studied the transcripts from Committee proceedings as well as the report from the Citizens' Assembly, chaired by Justice Laffoy, and deeply considered the stream of emails, letters and calls from his constituents. He has also met delegations of both sides of the debate. As constituents may know, prior to the General Election 2016, Deputy Broughan pledged to support the repeal of the 8th amendment (article 40.3.3 of the Constitution).

Getting in Touch

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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**

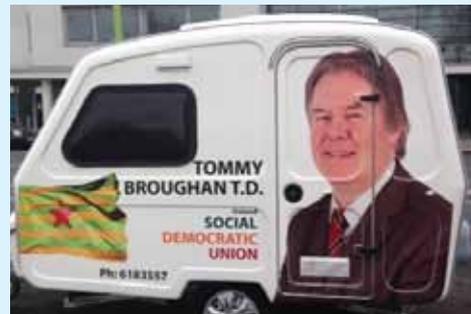
10.15 a.m. Clonshaugh Shopping Centre

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

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

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