

# NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 26 NO. 2



## TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

the CEO of Irish Rail, the Gardaí, both Dublin City and Fingal County Councils, Gannon Homes and also raised the matter during a Topical Issues Debate with the Minister for Justice and Equality. Deputy Broughan has visited the station, contacted the Gardaí and Iarnród Éireann many times to convey the complaints and annoyance of local residents. He had previously requested that a full time security team be placed at this and other affected stations, with regular Garda patrols and the installation of increased security measures.

## BROUGHAN DEMANDS COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR NORTH FRINGE

Deputy Broughan continues to demand community facilities for Clongriffin and the North Fringe. Deputy Broughan recently attended the opening of 'The Junction' Community Centre in Clongriffin. Residents have asked for the provision of a full range of community and commercial services in Clongriffin, Belmayne, Burnell and The Coast of the North Fringe. Deputy Broughan met a delegation from the Clongriffin community who set out a strong case for a new Community Centre to be built in Clongriffin in conjunction with the long promised new secondary schools. Deputy Broughan immediately contacted the City and County CEOs, the Minister for Education and Skills, the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the main developers and has now raised this project with Minister Ring in Dáil Éireann.

In May, Deputy Broughan strongly condemned an atrocious attack on a train at Clongriffin Dart Station. Deputy Broughan urgently contacted

## YOUR VIEWS ON BUDGET 2019

Key decisions on the 2019 Budgets in health, education, housing and social welfare are now being made. Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil are preparing to present their third and final agreed budget. After 10 years of austerity they have failed to address the legacy of savage cuts they implemented since 2008. For example, restoration of pay equality for public servants, such as nurses and teachers who joined the service after 2011, has still not taken place. Initially about €3.8 billion of so-called Fiscal Space was said to be available in 2019 but Minister Donohoe says this has now shrunk to only €1.3 billion or less.

He also wants to put €500 million into a Rainy Day Fund which Deputy Broughan has opposed at the Budgetary Oversight Committee of which he is a member. Deputy Broughan argues that the 'rainy days are here now' for citizens on hospital and housing waiting lists and that Ireland already has a sovereign wealth fund, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF).

As always, Deputy Broughan will be making his own submission to Minister Donohoe and the government in late summer. He will be proposing significant additional resources for health and disability services and for housing. But he is very anxious to hear constituents' views in the lead-up to Budget 2019.

## UNENDING HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

During Leaders' Questions, Deputy Broughan again called for the declaration of a Housing Emergency. April homeless figures show that almost 6,000 adults and 3,700 children were homeless. Of these, 4,005 homeless adults and almost 3,000 homeless children were based in the four Dublin local authority areas, with up to 40,000 Dublin households in all on housing waiting lists. Dublin Bay North is the worst affected constituency in Ireland. This year, Dublin City Council housing area B, which comprises much of Dublin Bay North, has 7,345 households on waiting lists or in emergency accommodation, a higher figure than for all of Fingal, all of South Dublin or for any other Irish local authority area.

Homeless campaigners like Mr. Anthony Flynn of Inner City Helping Homeless have seriously questioned the accuracy of these figures and point to the exclusion of almost 800 applicants from homeless lists in March and April. Another analyst, Mr. Mel Reynolds, has also challenged the Minister's direct build figures and we know that the Central Statistics Office has found that the number of new build homes in the state between 2011 and 2017 is 30,000 units less than the government claimed. Deputy Broughan suggested that the CSO now undertake an independent assessment of all the Department of Housing's homeless and housing statistics.

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

# NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

**MetroLink:** As part of the Public Consultations on MetroLink, Deputy Broughan submitted his own observations on this proposal. Deputy Broughan strongly argued that there was a need to find an alternative location for the proposed underground station at Griffith Park. This station would be located closely to Na Fianna GAA Club, Scoil Mobhí and Scoil Chaitríona.

**Howth Dart Station:** Constituents were in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding litter and anti-social behaviour at Howth Dart Station. Deputy Broughan made urgent enquiries with Acting CEO of Irish Rail, Jim Meade. In his response to the Deputy, Jim Meade stated that Irish Rail will be 'bolstering the level of security coverage along the Dart network' during the school holiday period and additionally at weekends.

**Dublin Bus Routes:** Deputy Broughan made representations to Dublin Bus with regard to two bus routes in Dublin Bay North, the 123 and 27 Bus. Deputy Broughan received news that there is now a revised timetable on Route 123. To help improve reliability and punctuality, Dublin Bus is changing Monday to Friday departures from Marino. Deputy Broughan also made enquiries about the reliability of the 27 Bus and CEO of Dublin Bus, Ray Coyne, stated in his reply that the route would be 'monitored closely' to ensure reliability of the service at all times of the day.

**R139:** Constituents were in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding litter complaints on the R139/N32 Road. Deputy Broughan contacted Dublin City Council in relation to this and is happy to report that extensive works were carried out at this location over the past three months. All litter was removed and the extensive growth on footpaths has been cut back.

**St Thomas' Education Centre, Clonshaugh Rd.:** Deputy Broughan contacted Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, in relation to reports that St. Thomas' school would be closed.

**Kilbarrack Active Retirement Group:** In mid-May, Deputy Broughan facilitated a group of 28 members of the Active Retirement Group to come on a tour of Leinster House. These tours are not as extensive as previously due to ongoing restoration works on the building.

**St. Eithne's Girls' School, Raheny:** Deputy Broughan visited St. Eithne's and met the Principal, teachers and board. He urged the Minister for Education to ensure that St. Eithne's will continue to have an administrative principal.

**Greencastle Road:** Deputy Broughan attended a viewing of the new Family Hub on Greencastle Road and while it is an improved service from emergency hotel accommodation, he has continued to call for an accelerated programme of social housing.

**Clongriffin:** Deputy Broughan was delighted to attend the opening of 'the Junction Community Centre' in Clongriffin. The Deputy has also been making representations about transport links with the airport and was pleased to see that the National Transport Authority (NTA) is processing an application for a bus service for this route.

**Howth:** A new Howth to Swords pilot transport link has launched and is running in the mornings, leaving Howth at 9.30am and returning from the Pavilions in Swords at 12.30pm. Deputy Broughan has also been in contact with Fingal County Council Operations Department in relation to a number of roads and footpaths which need to be resurfaced around the Howth/Baldoyle/Sutton area. It was confirmed to the Deputy that reinstatements are being carried out as part of the 2018 Work Programme in the Howth Peninsula. Some areas in Balkill are included in this programme for footpath works.

**Clontarf:** Deputy Broughan contacted the National Transport Authority regarding the new Clontarf Rd between the Causeway and Wooden Bridge and constituents' concerns that the road was now too narrow for public transport and emergency vehicles and could not adhere to safety standards. In a reply received from Anne Graham, CEO of the NTA, it states that the width of the Clontarf Road is adequate for the use of all standard road vehicles including buses and emergency vehicles. Deputy Broughan continues to follow this up with local and national government.

**Fingal County Council:** Deputy Broughan received notice that Fingal County Council is inviting observations for a Herring Gull survey in Howth. The Environmental Team have been appointed by the Council to conduct the breeding gull survey over the next three months. Michael Bailey from ROD is the ecologist working on this project and any observations can be submitted to him by email [Michael.bailey@tcd.ie](mailto:Michael.bailey@tcd.ie).

**North Coolock:** Deputy Broughan continues to liaise with members of An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council in relation to episodes of anti-social behaviour (including dangerous joyriding) and littering in the North Coolock area. The Deputy has brought this up in Dáil Éireann a number of times with the Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan, whom he has invited to visit the area.

**Fingal County Council New Arts plan (2018-2025):** Deputy Broughan submitted his observations as part of the Public Consultation on the Fingal County Council New Arts Plan (2018-2025). The Deputy strongly argued the need for Fingal to support plans for a Howth Maritime Museum.

**Oral Hearing for St. Anne's Refused & Judicial Review of Plan ABP 300559-18:** In late March, Deputy Broughan was very disappointed that his request for an Oral Hearing into the above Crekav proposal for 536 apartments and houses at St. Anne's Park had been refused by An Bord Pleanála. A few weeks later, An Bord Pleanála granted permission. Deputy Broughan has been informed that on June 14th, Judge Barniville granted leave, in the High Court, to take a Judicial Review of the Bord's decision to three parties. Updates on this legal challenge are available at [Clontarf.res.assoc@gmail.com](mailto:Clontarf.res.assoc@gmail.com) and [ilovestannes1@gmail.com](mailto:ilovestannes1@gmail.com).

## Tommy visiting community facilities



Tommy at Greencastle 'Family Hub'



Tommy at Clongriffin Community Centre 'the Junction'

# DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

**Plan 2139/18 Layden Group at 566 Howth Road, Raheny, Dublin 5:** The proposed development will consist of the demolition of the existing Bank of Ireland building and the construction of 7 apartments over a retail unit with just 9 parking spaces. Deputy Broughan submitted an observation on this proposal as he felt that the height of the proposed new building was totally out of character for the surrounding area.

**Plan 4648/17 for MKN Property Group at 778, 780, 782 and 784 Howth Road, Raheny, Dublin 5:** Dublin City Council granted permission to this development on 23rd February 2018. On behalf of constituents in St. Margaret's Avenue, Greendale Road, Kilbarrack Road and Howth Road, Raheny and other constituents interested in sustainable planning in the Dublin Bay North constituency, Deputy Broughan submitted an observation to An Bord Pleanála with regards to this proposal.

**Plan F18A/0055 for Harrington Environmental Limited at Unit 71 Grange Close, Baldoy Industrial Estate, Dublin 13:** 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. Deputy Broughan submitted an observation on this proposal. Planning permission was granted by Fingal County Council on 4th April 2018.

**Plan F18A/0161 for Tom Gaffney and P.J. O'Connor at Site to Side of Summit Inn, Howth Co. Dublin:** On 28th March, planning permission was lodged for the construction of a campsite with twenty pitches for tents (6 yurts and 14 camp pitches) and a single storey service building. Deputy Broughan submitted a strong observation stating how inappropriate this site would be for such a proposal.

**Plan 3053/18 for 52 Copeland Grove, Clontarf, Dublin 3:** Planning Permission is being sought for a development comprising one terrace of four houses at 52 Copeland Grove. Plans were submitted to Dublin City Council on 18th May 2018. The Deputy is making a submission on the proposal.

**Plan ABP 301722 At Main St. & Balcadden Rd., Howth:** Deputy Broughan has attended public meetings and made a strong submission with a request to An Bord Pleanála for an oral hearing on the above proposal which was lodged by Crekav/Marlet in May. The proposal is for an astonishing 164 apartments on the old Edros Community Centre and Bailey Court Hotel site. There was no consultation with the Howth community on this proposal which has huge environmental, density, design, traffic and drainage impacts for Howth town and peninsula.

**Plan 2921/18 for Genvest at Crown Paints, 1/3 Malahide Rd., Coolock:** In May, a proposal was submitted to DCC for 198 apartments, a 172-bed hotel and 120-bed aparthotel at the above 2 ha site. The proposal is for 8 blocks up to 5 storeys and follows the recent rezoning by DCC of the former Chivers Factory Site on Coolock Drive.



Tommy and group from Foxfield St. John Parish at Dáil



Tommy's Leaders' Question on Housing

## TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

During the spring sessions, Tommy spoke on the **Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill**. He spoke in support of colleagues Deputies Thomas Pringle and Catherine Connolly's Private Members' Bill on the **Preservation of Seaweed Harvesting Rights**. He spoke in support of the long-awaited **ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** but called also for the Optional Protocol to be included.

Tommy spoke in support of the **Thirty-Sixth Amendment to the Constitution** and the need to remove the 8th Amendment from the Constitution. He spoke on the **Motion on Business Insurance** and also on the **Genuine Progress Indicators Bill**. Tommy raised **Building Regulations and Fire Safety issues in Dublin Bay North** during Leaders' Questions with the Tánaiste and also spoke on the **Vehicle Registration Data Bill**.

Tommy **questioned the Minister for Communications** in relation to the INM merger. He spoke in support generally on the **Data Protection Bill**. Tommy asked the Tánaiste about **services for children on the autistic spectrum**. He spoke on **Plastic and Packaging Pollution** and its negative impact on the environment.

Tommy spoke on amendments to **Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017**. He had a priority question on **solar energy** and also a PQ on the **export of greyhounds**. Tommy was critical of Public Private Partnerships and also supported colleague Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan's **Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2018** restricting the travel of sex offenders. He spoke on the **Financial Instruments Bill**, the **Gambling Control Bill 2018** and raised **hare coursing** with the Minister for Heritage. Tommy spoke on President Macron's plans for the **Future of the European Union** and a Topical Issues Debate on the shocking **anti-social behaviour at Clongriffin DART Station**.

Tommy questioned Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe on possible **corporation tax changes** and as Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on both **Public Private Partnerships and Departmental Expenditure**. Tommy spoke during **Statements on Palestine** and condemned the shocking recent upsurge in violence.

During **Leaders' Questions with the Taoiseach**, Tommy asked for an update on the discussions around **Kuvan, the treatment for people with PKU**. He demanded an end to **Pay Inequality in the Public Sector**. Tommy had oral PQs with the Minister for Health on the **CervicalCheck scandal** and **audits of cancer screening programmes**. He again questioned the Tánaiste on the **Housing crisis** during a recent Leaders' Questions highlighting the plight of homeless families and children in Dublin Bay North. Tommy also spoke in support of the need for a public inquiry into the **tragic death of Shane O'Farrell** in 2011. He set out his priorities for **Budget 2019** speaking on the Summer Economic Statement.



Tommy with PARC road safety campaigners

## PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Deputy Broughan has been continuing his work with advocates from the Disability Sector and as a member of the informal Oireachtas Group on Disability he has been meeting with them regularly. On his request, representatives from the Disability Sector were invited to present to the Budgetary Oversight Committee to discuss disability-proofing Budget 2019 and future budgets. In his work on equality on this Committee, Deputy Broughan feels it is important to ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities are represented and included in budget deliberations. The belated ratification of the UNCRPD is very welcome and the necessary resources must now be provided to ensure the full implementation of these important recommendations.

Deputy Broughan welcomed the HSE audit which found that staff in Section 39 organisations (such as the IWA) had indeed been subjected to pay cuts during austerity years and has called for the immediate restoration of pay.



Tommy with Philip Watt and Bevin Murphy for CF Ireland

## ANIMAL WELFARE

Last spring, Deputy Broughan introduced the Welfare of Greyhounds (Amendment) Bill 2017 in conjunction with Dogs' Trust Ireland. The Bill would amend the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 to provide for the control of the export of greyhounds. Dogs Trust and others had also tried, unsuccessfully, to have similar wording inserted into the Government's own Greyhound Industry Bill as an amendment.

There has been no positive progress to date so Deputy Broughan has continued to raise the matter in the Dáil. Meanwhile, greyhounds continue to be legally sold and exported to the UK or other European countries and then sold on to despicable conditions in other countries, such as China.

## Getting in Touch

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**Visit:** [www.tommybroughan.com](http://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., Baldoye

## IMPORTANT – GDPR NOTICE

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018. GDPR will protect the personal data of every citizen and like all other organisations, my Dáil office has carefully studied and responded to the implementation of the new EU wide data rules. I must now confirm your consent before I can make representations on your behalf.

A Privacy Notice and consent form is available on my website (<http://www.tommybroughan.com/contacts/>) I set out in this Privacy Notice the grounds on which I will deal with personal information belonging to you. For more details please visit my website or contact my office.



**On  
your  
side,  
always**

## 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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