

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

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100 YEARS OF DÁIL ÉIREANN

On the 21st of January 2019, I was honoured to attend the special sitting of Dáil Éireann in the Mansion House to mark the 100th anniversary of the first Dáil. It was bittersweet however. When we look back at the democratic programme's commitment that 'no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing or shelter' and compare it to the housing and homeless crisis today where around 8,000 children are homeless or living in insecure accommodation, we can see how desperately Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil have failed our citizens. From bust to boom to crashing into austerity years, the failed developer led model (championed by those parties) of delivering housing and rental properties has failed.

In mid-February, Deputy Broughan brought forward his Motion on Homelessness, calling for the declaration of a housing emergency, for a referendum on the right to housing, for immediate action on increasing Local Authority builds and a number of other measures to alleviate the crisis. The motion was supported by other Independent colleagues and Opposition Deputies and passed Dáil Éireann. As we enter Dáil Éireann's second century, the ideals of the First Dáil in housing, health and education are still far from realisation.



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

STANDING WITH OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS



Tommy with INMO members at Beaumont

Deputy Broughan stood in full solidarity with striking nurses, midwives and other public servants during the various industrial actions across January and February. Deputy Broughan visited picket lines at St. Joseph's Hospital, Raheny and Beaumont Hospital on the first day of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) strikes and joined with

Opposition Deputies in calling on the Government to take action. Ambulance Personnel, who are members of the Psychiatric Nurses Association (PNA) have also been involved in industrial unrest due to lack of trade union recognition. The hypocrisy from Fine Gael and the Government is shocking when it says that it is okay for the costs of the National Children's Hospital to spiral out of control (to perhaps over €2 billion) but that there was no money available for the hard-working, under-resourced, front line staff of the health service. Significant improvements are needed in the running of our Health services and for the past 8 years Fine Gael has proved to be bad for the nation's health.

DISORDERLY BREXIT & BACKSTOP FEARS

Brexit remains one of the greatest threats to our economy and political uncertainty in the UK has merely increased worries of a 'No Deal' Brexit. During Leaders' Questions, Deputy Broughan asked the Taoiseach to confirm that no works of any kind were taking place anywhere along the border on roads or laybys to facilitate the installation of any border apparatus.

Deputy Broughan also noted that much of the proposed Irish legislation, the Omnibus Bill, in e.g. health, education and pensions, protects the rights of UK residents and citizens in the Republic and asked, in the case of a No Deal Brexit, whether there would be similar UK legislation protecting the rights of our people in the North and in England, Scotland and Wales.

Deputy Broughan commended the work of the civil servants in producing the Contingency Action Plan last December and the Omnibus Bill itself in late February. Deputy Broughan observed that the seventeen sections prepared by the nine departments seem fairly comprehensive though he raised concerns that areas like fisheries, which are not covered in the Withdrawal Agreement, are again missing.

At the time of writing, Deputy Broughan continues to hope that a disorderly Brexit will be avoided and that Ireland's crucial economic interests will be protected.

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy with Phil Kearney, An Taisce and Kevin O'Farrell, cyclist.ie

Howth Road Mixed National School: Deputy Broughan was delighted to attend the opening of the extension to this school on February 15th last.

Clongriffin: Members of the Clongriffin Community Association and the Belltree & Parkside Neighbourhood Watch group (B&P NW) were in touch with Deputy Broughan with concerns around anti-social behaviour and a lack of Garda presence in the areas. He made representations on the groups' behalf and is campaigning for a Garda station for the North Fringe, given the size of the population and the projected growth of the area.

Howth: Deputy Broughan has raised the designation of the wilderness areas of Howth as a National Park, given especially the huge volume of visitors to the destination each year and the unique flora and fauna of the Peninsula. The Minister said her officials would examine any proposal submitted.

Baldoye, Sutton, Howth: Many members of the Fingal Dog Owners Group were in contact with Deputy Broughan regarding new bye-laws introduced by Fingal County Council for the control of dogs in parks and off-leash times.

Clontarf: A number of constituents contacted Deputy Broughan with important issues over recent months, including the scaffolding around the Garda station, issues with public transport and requesting updates on the flood defences and promenade. Deputy Broughan raised these matters directly with the CEO of Dublin City Council, Owen Keegan, during a recent briefing for Oireachtas members.

Binn Éadair View Neighbourhood Watch: Members of this local neighbourhood watch were in contact with Deputy Broughan and he has been supporting them to promote household security.

Kilbarrack West Mental Health Service: Deputy Broughan has continued to raise the shortage of a dedicated Consultant Psychiatrist in Kilbarrack West Mental Health Service on Raheny Rd. which has led to 12 months waiting lists for assessment. He was informed that there is a Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse service in Kilbarrack West which helps address urgent cases.

Donaghmede Library: Deputy Broughan was informed that the "lease on Donaghmede library expires in June 2019 and that the City Council is currently in negotiations with the landlord in relation to the extension of the lease."

Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme (KCCP): At the beginning of this year, two young Dublin men flew to Egypt and are cycling through Africa to raise funds for the ORLINDI Orphanage in Namibia and the KCCP. You can follow the **'When We Go South' Appeal** through the KCCP facebook page.

Howth Junction/Donaghmede DART: There have been ongoing issues with this DART Station and Deputy Broughan continues to make representations to Irish Rail and/or the Gardaí when contacted by concerned commuters. Unfortunately, Irish Rail has said that instances of vandalism result in the lift being out of order or switched off. Deputy Broughan has requested increased security presence at this and other DBN stations.

New GoAhead Buses: At the beginning of December, the 17A and the 102 bus services were transferred from Dublin Bus to the new private GoAhead Bus service. There were some initial problems and complaints from commuters and Deputy Broughan made urgent representations to the company and the Minister for Transport to call for improved customer service and communication.

Stop Climate Chaos: In December, Deputy Broughan attended the Stop Climate Chaos briefing in Buswells where a number of different organisations advocating for climate action were available to talk to TDs. Deputy Broughan has been attending this informative briefing for a number of years and has been pursuing funding for the 'Whole of Government Climate Change Strategy'.

Illegal Dumping: There are increasing instances of illegal dumping and Deputy Broughan is consistently contacting the relevant local authorities for them to clear the waste and bring forward anti-dumping measures.

Anti-social Behaviour: There are also ongoing reports of serious anti-social behaviour in a number of areas around the constituency of Dublin Bay North. Deputy Broughan is in regular contact with the Gardaí, the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Local Authorities. He regularly raises this issue also on the floor of Dáil Éireann.

Traffic Matters: Reps for electronic speed signage on **Saint Margaret's Avenue, Dublin 5** were referred to the Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) which decided that additional signage was not recommended for this location. Deputy Broughan made representations requesting that **Balkill Road** and **Abbey St./Main St. Howth** be resurfaced.



Tommy with Lisa and Gerry McNamee and Louise Nolan of TARGET

Oral Hearing on Clonsaugh Sewage Plant: Recently, Deputy Broughan received notice from An Bord Pleanála that an Oral Hearing (which he had also requested) on the proposed massive sewage plant at Clonsaugh will open on Wednesday, the 20th of March at the Gresham Hotel. The notice stated that interested parties had to respond to An Bord Pleanála by the 26th of February, which Deputy Broughan did, as he will put forward the strong views of constituents on the Clonsaugh location, which he had highlighted in his own observation also.

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Plan 4553/19 Beaumont Hospital: Planning permission has been granted for the long awaited Cystic Fibrosis Unit in Beaumont Hospital. The unit will accommodate a new 20-bedroom Cystic Fibrosis Unit.

Plan F16A/0529 & Ref No. PL06F.248034 Murdock's Builders' Merchants, Kilbarrack Industrial Estate, Kilbarrack Parade, Dublin 5: Deputy Broughan received notice that permission and retention has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for alterations to a previously approved builders' merchant yard.

Plan ABP-303296-18 For Cairn Homes Properties Ltd. on Lands Located off Griffith Avenue, Marino, Dublin 9: The development will consist of 385 residential units comprising 377 apartments and 8 terraced houses. The apartments are in 7 blocks ranging in height from 4 to 8 storeys. Deputy Broughan submitted an observation to An Bord Pleanála and asked that a lower density proposal of affordable housing be considered.

Plan 2129/19 15 Richmond Avenue, Fairview, Dublin 3: Planning permission was sought for the demolition of No. 15 Richmond Rd and the erection of 22 apartments in two 5-storey blocks. This application was declared invalid on 7th February 2019.

Plan 4679/18 at 61, 63 & 65 Fairview Strand and existing warehouse at 3 Esmond Avenue, Fairview, Dublin 3: Permission is being sought for a development consisting of two 3-6 storey buildings containing 97 apartments and 5 offices/commercial units at ground floor level.

Plan 4106/18 Cadet at 570, Howth Road, Raheny, Dublin 5 (a corner site with St. Assam's Road West, Raheny, Dublin 5): Planning permission was refused by DCC for the building of 2, 4-bed dwellings and 2 semi-detached 3-beds.

Plan 2139/18 at 566 Howth Road, Raheny, Dublin 5: Planning permission was sought for the demolition of an existing building (currently Bank of Ireland) and the construction of a retail unit and 7 apartments. This application was withdrawn in December 2018.

Plan F18A/0553 lands to the rear of premises numbered 31-34 Baldoyle Road & 'Elphin' licensed premises, Baldoyle Road, Sutton, Dublin 13: An application for the construction of 8 townhouses was withdrawn in January 2019.

Plan F19A/0015 Suttonians Rugby Club, John McDowell Memorial Grounds, Station Road, Sutton, Dublin 13: Permission was granted for a new primary school which will open in September 2019. Temporary permission up to 5 years is being sought for 2 prefabricated buildings.

Plan SID/01/19 Amazon: Amazon has applied to An Bord Pleanála to construct a 110KV underground transmission line over 2kms from the Belcamp Substation north of the R139 to the Darndale Substation located in Clonshaugh Business Park.

Plan F18A/0600 Scoil Mhuire, Tucketts Lane, Howth, Co Dublin: Permission was granted for a new single storey 4 classroom extension on 17th December 2018.



Tommy at Howth Road Mixed National School



Tommy's Leaders' Question on Brexit

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Before Christmas, Tommy asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to increase funding for **Family Resource Centres**. He spoke in support of the **motion on apprenticeships** and he asked the Minister for Agriculture about **dog-breeding establishments**. Tommy also spoke on the **Personal Injuries Assessment Board (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2018**.

Tommy asked the Minister for Housing about the **constitutional right to housing**. He spoke on the **Social Welfare Bill 2018** and highlighted its deficiencies, while welcoming some restorations of payments. **During Leaders' Questions**, Tommy asked the Taoiseach about the **Stardust 'Truth' campaign**. He asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs about the **violence in Yemen** and spoke in support of a **Motion on Older People**. Tommy also spoke on the **Motion on Brexit** and questioned the Minister for Finance about the **National Debt** and the **Digital Services Tax**.

Deputy Broughan spoke in support of the **Irish Human Rights Equality Commission (Gender Pay Gap Information) Bill 2018**. He also spoke on the **European Investment Fund Agreement Bill** and asked the Minister for Transport about **climate friendly transport**. He spoke strongly in favour of the **Anti-Evictions Bill** and participated in the **Aircraft Noise (Dublin Airport) Regulation Bill 2018** (to which he also submitted and debated amendments in February).

Up to the end of February, Tommy has contributed on the **Residential Tenancies (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2018**, **Directly Elected Mayors**, questioned the Taoiseach about **Brexit** during Leaders and spoke in support of Sinn Féin's **No Consent, No Sale Bill 2018** (to prevent the sale of homes to Vulture Funds). He also spoke on the **National Surplus (Rainy Day Fund) Bill 2018**. Tommy spoke on the **Greyhound Racing Bill 2018** and called for improvements regarding the welfare and export of greyhounds. He questioned Minister Donohoe on **capital expenditure on infrastructure**, particularly in relation to the **National Children's Hospital**. Tommy spoke on his own **Motion on Homelessness** and also on the **Industrial and Provident Societies (Amendment) Bill 2018**, both of which were brought forward by the Technical Group, Independents4Change, during its Private Members' slots.

Tommy recently submitted a Topical Issue on the need for a **public inquiry into the death of Shane O'Farrell** and supported the Report entitled '**Accessibility of Public Transport for People with Disabilities**'. Tommy spoke on the **No Deal Brexit contingency Bill**, questioned the Tánaiste about the next **EU Commissioner** and the Minister for Finance about a second budget. During **Leaders' Questions**, he again raised gun crime and the need for a new **Garda Station in the North Fringe**. Tommy also contributed to a **Topical Issues Debate on the NASRA strike**.



Tommy with Independent Councillor Paddy Bourke

STARDUST CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

It has now been 38 years since 48 young people were killed tragically at the Stardust Club in a fire on St. Valentine's Night. Deputy Broughan has consistently supported the Stardust Relatives' and Victims' Committee in its unwavering quest for justice, truth and closure. In late November 2018, Deputy Broughan joined the Committee and their supporters to deliver 48,000 signed postcards to the Attorney General. The 'Truth' postcards call for a new inquest into the Stardust Tragedy under Section 24 of the 1962 Coroner's Act.

When Deputy Broughan questioned the Taoiseach about the campaign later that day, Taoiseach Varadkar said that he had spoken to the Attorney General's office and that they would examine the file once it had been received. Work is ongoing in that regard for the victims of the Stardust disaster and their families.



Tommy with Independent TD Catherine Connolly

DCC HOUSING REPORT

Deputy Chief Executive of DCC, Brendan Kenny, reports that 5 DCC developments are under construction in Dublin Bay North. These new units include Clongriffin (84), New Priory (26), Santry (8) and Gracepark Road (14). Developments, Mr Kenny says, that are planned include High Park (101), Belmayne (150), Bunratty Road (78), Woodville (45), Darndale (83), Glin Court (39), Thatch Road (30) and Sladmore (24). Longer term plans include Oscar Traynor Road, Cromcastle Court and Millwood Court. But there are currently over 5,000 housing applicants in the DCC (Area B) of Dublin Bay North.

Fingal Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure, Ms Ann Marie Farrelly, reports that work is continuing to progress the Stapolin lands in Baldoy under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF).

Getting in Touch

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- Meet:** Tommy at his regular information clinics in Dublin Bay North

- Every **MONDAY**
11.00a.m. BESC Offices, Darndale Village
- 2nd **MONDAY**
12.15p.m. 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**
9.45a.m. Clonsaugh Shopping Centre
10.30a.m. Donaghmede Shopping Centre
12.30p.m. Bayside Shopping Centre
- 1st/ 3rd **SATURDAY**
1.30p.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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