

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 27 NO. 3

WHY ARE WE WAITING?

Another month, another shocking 'new high' for waiting lists across our health service. The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) collects and collates data on waiting lists for various hospitals and specialities as part of its operations. Monthly figures are released and usually show unacceptably long waiting times for most areas and in most counties. Recent reports showed that, at the end of August, there were 569,498 people waiting for an outpatient appointment, which is 4,669 more than at the end of July. The August figures also showed that over 68,300 people are awaiting an inpatient procedure.

People with Disabilities are also often being left waiting for assessment and services or adaptations to their homes. The Disability Federation of Ireland says that only 0.3% of people with disabilities get a Personal Assistant Service and 24% of adults with a disability live in consistent poverty. Why are we still waiting for Fine Gael to fix our struggling Health Service when what is needed is a change of government?



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

FINE GAEL IS SOFT ON SERIOUS CRIME

In recent Dáil sessions, Deputy Broughan continued to raise the issue of gun crime and serious anti-social behaviour in parts of his constituency of Dublin Bay North (DBN). Deputy Broughan has been asking for increased resources and personnel for the Gardaí, schools, employment organisations, youth groups, drug rehabilitation groups and other community enterprises to help community leaders combat escalating anti-social and criminal behaviour. Deputy Broughan called for an interdepartmental Task Force, similar to that which was established for the North Inner City, and an Implementation Group to produce and deliver a strategy to prevent crime along the lines recommended by the Mulvey Report.

Deputy Broughan said that Fine Gael has totally failed to make our communities safer. He told Dáil Éireann that people are being terrorised in their own communities and are outraged because of persistent, serious anti-social behaviour and crimes including the dastardly murders which happened earlier this year. Too many areas of Dublin have been neglected after having draconian cuts foisted upon them by the austerity governments since 2009. Local community organisations, Local Authorities and the Gardaí do not have sufficient resources or personnel to tackle and prevent this criminal behaviour. He welcomed the commitment in late August for a new Operational Model for An Garda Síochána which will release up to 1,800 Gardaí for frontline and community policing. He continued his longstanding call that the new Divisional HQ for our DMR North division of An Garda Síochána be located in the North Fringe. Our communities need to be made safe again and our residents protected from harm.

BROUGHAN CALLS ON PLANNING REGULATOR TO REVIEW NORTH/SOUTH FRINGE

In Dáil Éireann, Deputy Broughan has called on the new office of the Planning Regulator to review the planning of the North/South Fringe region of Dublin Bay North under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). A key function of the Planning Regulator is to oversee the delivery of effective planning services to the public by local authorities. Over the past 2 decades of the development of the North (DCC) & South (FCC) Fringe of Dublin City, there has been a consistent failure to deliver key services including shopping, childcare, education, health, public transport and security in tandem with main housing developments to the new residents of the North/South Fringe.

Deputy Broughan's call follows the submission of 3 huge high-density proposals from Gannon Properties to DCC and An Bord Pleanála (ABP). Plan 3894/19 to DCC is for 420 apartments (of which 187 are 'build to rent') and commercial development including 18 retail units, a cinema and 10 floors of offices. Plan SHD0015/19 to ABP is for 1,030 apartments of which an astonishing 678 are 'build to rent' units with 2 blocks soaring to 15 & 17 storeys. Plan SHD0016/19 to ABP is for 500 apartments (with 265 'build to rent').

Deputy Broughan has made detailed submissions to DCC and ABP on all 3 proposals and he also requested an Oral Hearing from ABP into the density, height and sustainability of these proposals.

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

Clongriffin: In Dáil Éireann, Deputy Broughan has been raising the ongoing issue of a new divisional Garda Station to be located in Clongriffin/Belmayne/Burnell. He contacted and received a lengthy reply from Commissioner Harris and he continues to support the residents in their call for this facility. Deputy Broughan also, again, questioned the Taoiseach about this matter during Leaders' Questions.

Howth: Deputy Broughan has been liaising with some community representatives and the parish priest regarding St. Columbanus' Hall and a Parish Pastoral Centre, Howth. There were concerns that the historic hall would be sold but it is qualified to be a protected structure. Deputy Broughan is continuing contact with stakeholders and hopes that a positive resolution for the whole community is reached.

Millbrook: Residents were in touch with Deputy Broughan regarding trees cracking the paths and grass growing on the roads around Millbrook Road and Ave and he made representations to DCC requesting repairs and clean-up.

Donaghmede & Kilbarrack East & West: Deputy Broughan was in touch with the Local Authority requesting better street cleaning, weeding and tidying up of Donaghmede and Kilbarrack estates following contact from constituents. Residents are also looking to have flower boxes, 'no dog fouling' signs and doggie bins installed around the areas. Deputy Broughan is supporting residents' attempts to improve the visual amenities of the 3 parishes.

Howth Junction DART Station: Deputy Broughan received a notice from Irish Rail about improvement works to the Donaghmede/Howth Junction station. Phase 1 of the works is due to take place during September and Phase 2 is due to take place from mid to end of November. Works will be taking place overnight in an effort to not disrupt scheduled rail services. You can contact the Community Liaison Officer for any queries or issues during the works at communityliaison@irishrail.ie.

Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme (KCCP): Representations are ongoing in the search for appropriate, permanent accommodation for the very important community resource, KCCP.

Fold Ireland: On Tuesday, the 13th of August, Deputy Broughan was delighted to accept the invitation from Fold Accommodation to visit its new premises on Tonlegee Road. Deputy Broughan met with some of the tenants of these lovely new apartments and welcomed much-needed Fold homes in DBN.

Frankfort Football Club: Deputy Broughan has been supporting Frankfort FC in its longstanding desire for a permanent grounds and facility.



Tommy at Fold Ireland

Water Supply Scheme – Howth, Sutton & Baldoyle: Works are progressing on the Howth Water Supply Scheme to upgrade water mains and supply. A Community Liaison Officer (Tomas McAuliffe - 086 817 0421) is on the ground for the duration of the works.

Mental Health & Primary Care Services in DBN: Recently, Deputy Broughan received replies to Parliamentary Questions about the waiting lists for services in the Community Health Organisation Area 9 (CHO for Dublin North, Dublin North Central and Dublin North West). Of the 769 children under 4yrs (age group 0-4) waiting assessment for Occupational Therapy in Dublin North in April 2019, 279 of those have been waiting for longer than one year; 103 have been waiting for 39 – 52 weeks; 99 have been waiting 26 – 39 weeks; 151 have been waiting 12 – 26 weeks and 137 have been waiting less than 12 weeks. There are also very large numbers awaiting Speech and Language Therapy.

Clontarf Baths: Many local residents contacted Deputy Broughan to express their discontent at the lack of public access for swimming at the newly renovated Clontarf Baths.

Teachers & Schools in DBN: INTO, the National Principals' Forum, many teachers and principals from DBN schools have contacted Deputy Broughan with serious concerns about additional personnel and resources for schools and supports for teaching principals. Many parents have also been in touch regarding lack of places in primary schools. Deputy Broughan has strongly taken these issues up with the Minister for Education and Skills.

Animal Welfare: Constituents were shocked and appalled to see the RTE Prime Time Investigates programme in July on the mistreatment of greyhounds in some parts of this industry in Ireland. Deputy Broughan received many emails from concerned viewers and informed them of the legislative measures and amendments that he has pushed in Dáil Éireann, which were voted down by Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael.

Water Quality: Many residents were concerned to learn of high levels of lead reported to be in water pipes around Dublin. Deputy Broughan made representations to ascertain whether areas of Dublin Bay North were also affected. This summer has also seen many no swim warnings at Dublin beaches due to sewage leaks from the Ringsend Waste Water Plant and heavy rain. It is very disappointing to see our bathing waters polluted in this way and Deputy Broughan has been in touch with Irish Water and DCC regarding improvements.

Traffic Matters: Deputy Broughan made representations to the Local Authority regarding alleged speeding around the North Fringe and the **Grange Road/ClareHall Ave/RI 39/N32** corridor and on **Edenmore Ave**. He also raised concerns on parking in the **Brookwood Rise/Harmonstown Road** district. The City Manager reports that final tenders for construction of the **Clontarf to City Centre Cycle Route** are being sought this Autumn.



Tommy with Averil Power, CEO of the Irish Cancer Society



Tommy with INTO Reps (Photo credit: Conor Ó Mearáin).

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Plan 3301/19 Chanel College Lands, Main Street, Coolock, Dublin 5: DCC has granted planning permission for the construction of 2 apartment blocks ranging in height from 5 to 6 storeys and consisting of 88 apartments. Constituents who submitted observations on this development to Dublin City Council are now appealing the high density of this decision to An Bord Pleanála. The Deputy City Manager has stated that the Respond Voluntary Housing Body will own and manage any development on this site.

Plan 2856/19 at 52 Copeland Grove, Clontarf, Dublin 3: Planning permission was sought for the development of 3 adjoining 2 storey houses with access to the side of 52 Copeland Grove and the existing public laneway. This application was refused permission on 20th June 2019.

ABP-304346-19 For Platinum Land Limited for Build to Rent at the Former Chivers Factory, Coolock Drive, Dublin 17: Planning permission was sought for the construction of 495 'Build to Rent' apartments in 4 apartment blocks. The proposed height of these blocks range from 4 to 10 storeys. The Deputy is aware of the acute shortage of housing in Dublin Bay North but he had serious reservations about the density and height proposed for this site and the total rental nature of the development. It was hoped that this land would be used for affordable and social housing. On 10th July 2019, the Deputy was notified that his request for an Oral Hearing was refused and he was disappointed to receive notice that the development, in its current form, was granted permission on 14th August 2019.

Plan 3692/19 at Clonshaugh House, Clonshaugh Road, Dublin 17: Planning permission is sought for construction of a 5 storey, mixed used development consisting of a ground floor Montessori school, with 24 apartments (4 one-bed, 12 two-bed and 8 three-bed) with balconies. Works will include access points onto the Clonshaugh Road. Observations can be submitted to DCC until 10th September 2019.

Plan 3234/19 'The Haven', 126 Howth Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3, 'The Lodge', Ashbrook, Howth Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3 and 183-194 Ashbrook, Howth Road, Dublin 3: Planning permission has been sought for the construction of a total of 44 apartments over 3 blocks ranging in height from 3 to 4 storeys. DCC requested the developer submit additional information for this development on 6th August 2019.

Plan F19A/0132 at Lands to the Rear of 31-34 Baldoyle Road & 'Elphin' licensed premises, Baldoyle Road, Dublin 13: FCC refused planning permission on 13th May 2019 for the construction of an apartment block comprising of 24 apartments. Subsequently an appeal was lodged on 10th June 2019 and is now being considered by An Bord Pleanála.

Plan F19A/0045 at Racecourse Shopping Centre, Grange Road, Baldoyle, Dublin 13: An application for the extension to the rear of the existing Lidl was granted permission 12th August 2019.

Local Authority Planning Powers: Deputy Broughan made a submission to the Minister for Housing regarding the Minister's consultation on Strategic Housing Developments. Deputy Broughan called for local authorities' powers in all planning matters to be fully restored (i.e. to end direct submissions to An Bord Pleanála for larger developments).

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

The highlight of the last Dáil session for Tommy was when he introduced his Private Members' Bill calling for a referendum to insert a Right to Housing in the Constitution, the **Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (Right to Housing) Bill 2019**. The Bill is now at second stage.

The Dáil resumed on September 17th and prior to the summer recess, Tommy raised a number of important issues with Ministers and the Taoiseach. He asked the **Minister for Justice and Equality** why all public representatives were not invited to attend the Minister's visit to DBN. He also asked the **Minister for Housing** about the ill-conceived plans for co-living units. Tommy asked the **Minister for Defence about pay, pensions and conditions** for members of our Defence Forces. He spoke in support of the **Qualification and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) (Amendment) Bill 2019** in relation to the regulation of language and other third level colleges.

Tommy raised the **EU budget with the Minister for Finance**. He spoke strongly on the **Climate Action Plan** and the **Summer Economic Statements**. He spoke in support of the important **Motion on Carers** and during questions on promised legislation, Tommy asked about the shocking **treatment of greyhounds** which had been exposed in a disturbing Prime Time Investigates show. Tommy also spoke on the **Motion on the EU Battlegroups**.

Tommy's priority PQ with the Department of Health was on the **right to a personal assistant for persons with disabilities** and he remains disappointed that the Minister for Disability Services has not ratified the **Optional Protocol of the UNCRPD** to create a mandatory right for citizens to these services. He also asked the **Minister for Agriculture** about guidelines on **tree felling** (given trees' importance to the environment). During **Leaders' Questions**, Tommy again asked the Taoiseach about **resources for the community and local Gardaí**. He spoke in support of the **Judicial Council Bill 2017** and urged wide-ranging reforms in Ireland's judicial system. Tommy's priority PQ with the **Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport** was on **speeding** and he also then asked Minister Ross about disqualified drivers. Tommy also spoke in support of the **Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Bill 2019**.

As always, copies of the transcripts of Tommy's contributions and videos are available on his website www.tommybroughan.com and **facebook** page.



Tommy's Priority PQ with Health



Tommy with Tanya and Emma of the Children's Rights Alliance

NATIONAL CHILDCARE SCHEME WORRIES

A number of advocacy groups for lone parents have expressed concerns that the National Childcare Scheme will adversely affect some families and will force parents out of work and/or education. SPARK has been highlighting this issue and calling for the CCS and CETS Schemes to be continued. The National Women's Council of Ireland (NWC) and An Cosán agreed that there are concerns that childcare will become unaffordable for some of the lowest income and most vulnerable families when they presented in Leinster House before the summer.

An ESRI Report last year, Lone-Parent Incomes and Work Incentives in July 2018, confirmed SPARK's concerns around previous changes to the One Parent Family Payment. Deputy Broughan is calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to ensure that no parent will face unaffordable increases in childcare costs or be forced out of work or education because of the change to a National Childcare Scheme.

TOWARDS 'VISION ZERO'

Working towards a 'Vision Zero' road safety policy requires leadership and accountability. 'Vision Zero' means that there should be no deaths or serious injuries on our roads; it is a policy that is being adapted and implemented in Scandinavia and many countries across the world. All measures should be taken in road and street design and vehicle safety systems (as well as in relation to driver behaviour) to ensure that lives are no longer lost on roads and that no road user is seriously injured. The European Union has pledged to reduce road deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2050 and Transport Ministers have a target to halve road deaths between 2020 and 2030.

Deputy Broughan has supported civic society groups, such as PARC (Promoting Awareness, Responsibility and Care on our Roads), in highlighting legislative loopholes and enforcement issues and in bringing about positive change in road safety policy in this country. Deputy Broughan wants the Government and the Ministers for Transport and Justice to commit to implementing a 'Vision Zero' road safety strategy and for the Road Safety Authority to increase its educational and awareness-raising work, especially with regard to speeding and aggressive driving.



Tommy with Amy and Eoin at the USI Pre-Budget briefing

Getting in Touch

Tommy Broughan T.D.

- Phone:** 618 3557 (Constituency Office)
618 3798 (Dáil)
- Fax:** 618 4545
- Email:** thomas_p_broughan@oireachtas.ie
- 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**

12.00pm Le Chéile, Donnycarney

4th **Monday**

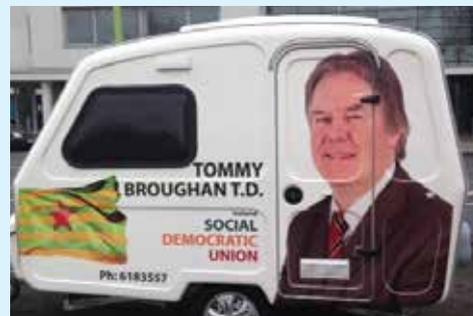
12.00pm Artane Beaumont Family Recreation Centre

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)

1st / 3rd **SATURDAY**

- 9.00 a.m. Clonshaugh Shopping Centre
- 10.00 a.m. Donaghmede Shopping Centre
- 12.15 p.m. Bayside Shopping Centre
- 12.45p.m. Racecourse Inn, Racecourse S.C., Baldoyle



**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

Twitter: @tommybroughantd Facebook: Like 'Tommy Broughan'