

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

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BEST WISHES FOR 2020

• TOMMY BROUGHAN T.D. AND THE DÁIL AT CHRISTMAS



*Beannachtaí
na Nollag agus
Athbhliain faoi Sheán
is faoi Mhaise daoibh
go léir. I would like
to extend my very
best wishes to my
Dublin Bay North
constituents for
2020.*

FG/FF CAN'T BE TRUSTED ON HOUSING

After four budgets together since 2015, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil simply can't be trusted to provide social and affordable housing for our people. In mid-2015, Deputy Broughan met the Children's Ombudsman to complain about the numbers of children and families in emergency accommodation, yet almost 4,000 children continue to be homeless in late 2019 under the FG/FF Confidence & Supply agreement. Dublin Bay North has the highest housing and homeless lists of any Irish constituency and the government's response is to rely heavily on Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenancies with private landlords. DCC's projected delivery of social housing in 2019 is just under 5,000 units but no less than 3,550 of these are HAP tenancies. DCC's projected direct new build units for 2019 is an astonishingly low 92. Fingal is also relying heavily on HAP (1,474 out of 2,184 units in 2019) but the target new build for 2019 is 419 units.

The FG/FF housing market ideology is preventing the state from addressing the massive demand for new affordable and social housing in Ireland. Those parties blind faith in private market developers has by the end of 2019 barely produced 20,000 homes p.a, while 150,000 citizens and families are on housing lists and temporary HAP accommodation. The extension of Strategic Housing Development planning to 2021 hasn't ended land hoarding and the 2 conservative parties continue to rely on failed Public Private Partnership models for social and affordable housing on public lands. Only a massive programme of direct build by local authorities under a regional or national housing executive working closely with the new Land Development Agency can seriously achieve equilibrium between housing demand and supply in Ireland.

REALISTIC HEALTH BUDGETS ESSENTIAL

For 4 years on the Dáil Budgetary Oversight Committee, Deputy Broughan has argued that larger and realistic multi-annual budgets are crucial for a well-functioning and sustainable national health service. Each year, large supplementary Health Budgets have to be brought before Dáil Éireann for previously uncoded services delivery based on demographic and urgent health needs. In 2019, a €338m supplementary estimate is again required for Vote 38, the Health services vote, despite a reported hold up on HSE staff appointments for much of 2019.

Yet hospital outpatient waiting lists have jumped to more than 568,000 people with over 100,000 waiting more than 18 months and it is feared that waiting list surgery targets will be scaled down in mid-winter to free up beds for over-flowing A&E departments. It is also no surprise that the number of speciality consultant doctors in Ireland (at 143 per 100,000 people) is the absolute lowest in the 28 EU states (the EU average is 252 per 100,000).

National Treatment Purchase Fund figures across many health specialities show a remorseless rise in waiting times with e.g. nearly 19,000 citizens waiting for over a year for eye-care treatments. Deputy Broughan demands realistic multi-annual health budgets, well-costed and future-proofed HSE Service Plans, significantly more acute hospital beds, more step-down beds and home care supports, any waiting list targets to be strictly adhered to, full implementation of Sláintecare in a single national health service with increased transparency across the sector.

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy supporting the Climate Strike

Saving St. Columbanus Hall, Howth: Parish representatives have been meeting the Howth Sutton and District Community Centre Committee regarding a possible sale to, or acquisition by, the local community of the historic St. Columbanus Hall. Deputy Broughan has raised the importance for public retention of St. Columbanus Hall with Community Minister Ring.

Garden Allotments At Belmayne: In response to queries from allotment holders, Deputy Broughan was informed by DCC that the allotments are located on lands identified for housing under the Clongriffin Belmayne Local Area Plan and that no alternative locations had yet been identified for the 112 allotments and community garden.

TARGET Donaghmede: Deputy Broughan has been continuing his representations to Minister Zappone on TARGET's application to be recognised as a Family Resource Centre.

Priorswood Parish Centre: Deputy Broughan congratulates the Priorswood Parish Team on this wonderful new pastoral centre which he strongly supported.

Darndale Belcamp Village Centre: Deputy Broughan has been supporting the Village Centre's call for a sensory garden project. He was also delighted to vote for the centre in the Charity Impact Awards in the Social Enterprise category.

Kilmore Celtic F.C: Representatives from Kilmore Celtic Football Club were in touch with Deputy Broughan requesting his assistance for much improved parking and dressing room facilities for this outstanding club.

Hallow'een Festival: Deputy Broughan was in touch with DCC, FCC, An Garda Síochána and the Minister for Justice calling for careful preparations in the lead-up to Hallow'een 2019. He asked DCC about clearing materials which could be used for bonfires and after the day, he also requested the urgent cleaning of any of the areas where bonfires did take place. As usual, Deputy Broughan commends the work of the local voluntary organisations, DCC & FCC staff, An Gardaí Síochána and the Fire Brigade.

Howth Harbour: Deputy Broughan was informed that the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine "is proposing to extend the Middle Pier Quay in Howth Harbour to improve access, maintenance and berthing facilities. Additional berthing space would enable greater segregation between the activities of fishing vessels and the marine tourism and leisure activities which are mainly concentrated on the West Pier". Tenders for the

project were expected to be completed by the end of November with works taking 18 months to complete.

DART: Deputy Broughan again raised commuter issues such as overcrowding and lift faults. The CEO of Irish Rail responded with information about the new 'hub' model which divides DART stations and stations on the Maynooth and Northern Commuter line into zones. There are between one and four stations in each zone one of which will always be staffed and should provide support to other stations in the same zone. There are further details at <http://www.irishrail.ie/travel-information/access-dart-northern-commuter>

24 Hour Bus Service Welcome But BusConnects Concerns Remain: The new 24-hour bus service from December 1st on Route 15 from Clongriffin and the improved timetable for the route are very welcome. But constituents remain anxious not to lose any current direct services across several parishes of Dublin Bay North in the Bus Connects network redesign and further public consultation is thus also welcome.

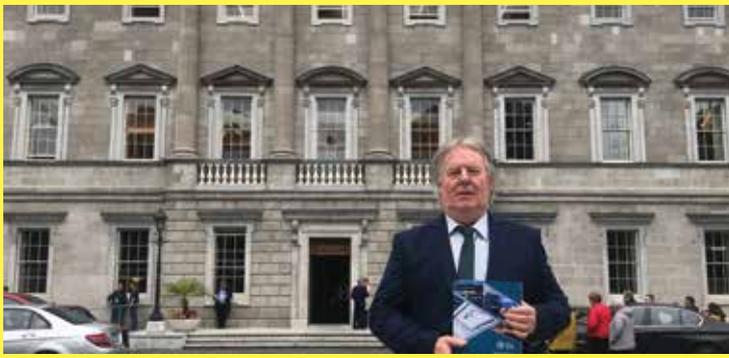
Traffic Matters: On behalf of cyclists, Deputy Broughan asked DCC to provide a cycle lane on the Malahide Road from **Donnycarney Church** to the Kilmore Rd junction. He supported calls from residents from areas in **Clontarf & Sutton** for road and footpath repairs to be completed. Deputy Broughan contacted Fingal about parking issues around **Marian Park**, Baldoyle. Deputy Broughan called for traffic calming on **Chanel Ave.** following reports of large numbers of cars speeding. **Holywell Ave.** was also reported to Deputy Broughan as having speed issues. He also requested that the yellow box at the **Kilbarrack Road junction with Kilbarrack Parade** be renewed. The FCC Traffic engineers did not approve speed works at **Thormanby Lawns**, but the estate is listed for improvements on 'slow zone' signage and street linings.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE

In late November, Deputy Broughan and Deputy Thomas Pringle brought a motion before Dáil Éireann calling for a right to a Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for citizens with disabilities. Nearly half of citizens currently in receipt of PAS get an average service of only 42 minutes per day. The motion which was also supported by Deputy Broughan's Independent colleagues Deputies Joan Collins, Catherine Connolly and Maureen O'Sullivan was passed by Dáil Éireann. It calls for a statutory Commissioner for Independent Living to be set up in the Department of Social Protection.



Tommy with Mark of White Ribbon Ireland



Tommy with the Budgetary Oversight Committee Report

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

An Bord Pleanála Plan SHD 305680 for Crekav Trading GP at St. Anne's Park, Raheny, D.5: On behalf of DBN constituents, in mid-November, Deputy Broughan submitted a detailed objection to the astonishing very high-density proposal from Pat Crean and Crekav for 6.7 ha. of the historic north-west of St. Anne's Park. The proposal is for 657 apartments in 9 blocks (5 of which are 8&9 storeys high). Deputy Broughan believes the loss of this amenity land would seriously damage the St. Anne's Park ecosystem and gravely reduce recreation facilities for the clubs and people of Raheny and Clontarf.

An Bord Pleanála Plan 305623 for Cairn Homes Properties at Parkside 4, Belmoyne, D.13: Deputy Broughan made a submission on the above proposals for the former school's site north of Parkside estate. Parkside residents raised concerns at the 7-storey height and density (282 apartments) of the proposal on this 3.17 ha. site. The area was designated for new homes, but a lower height and density was expected.

Plan 3826/19 for MKN Property Group at the Former Holy Faith Convent, St. Brigid's Rd., Killester and Plan 3768 also for MKN at the Verville Retreat, Vernon Ave. Clontarf, D.3: In mid-October, MKN submitted additional information for an extra 15 apartments at the Holy Faith site (bringing the total to 86 units) with an increase in height of 2 blocks from 4 to 5 storeys. DCC's refusal of an extra storey (to 5 storeys with an extra 5 apartments and 49 apartments in all) at the Verville Retreat, Vernon Ave. was appealed to An Bord Pleanála by MKN in November.

An Bord Pleanála Plan 305828 for Crekav Trading GP at the former Bailey Court Hotel, Balscadden Rd., Howth, D.13: Crekav has now applied for 171 apartments and 6 duplexes in 3 apartment blocks of up to 5-storeys at the above location. Access to the underground car-park would be from the Main St. and 146 parking spaces in all are being provided. On behalf of Howth and DBN residents, Deputy Broughan made a submission to An Bord Pleanála on this very high-density proposal in late November.

Plan F19A/0405 for E. McLoughlin at Osprey, Kilrock Rd., Howth: Additional information was requested in late October on the above proposal to demolish a dwelling and replace with a 3-storey block of 8 x 2-bed apartments.

Plan 3082/19 for Dunluce Ltd. At 257/259 Mount Prospect Ave., Clontarf, D.3: In early November, additional information was submitted on the above plan for demolition of 2 dwellings and the construction of 2 five storey blocks of 69 apartments. Deputy Broughan made an earlier observation on behalf of Clontarf constituents.

Plan 2295/19 for Victoria Homes at Windemere, Hole in the Wall Rd., Donaghmede, D.13: An Bord Pleanála granted permission in late September for a 3 to 6 storey block of 60 apartments following planned demolition of 2 houses.

Plan 3009/19 for the Minister for Education at Belmoyne Ave., D.13: In mid-October, the Minister applied for a 5-year temporary permission for a new secondary school and a new primary school (both initially prefab buildings) at the above location.

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Tommy's major speeches during the Autumn Dáil session were on **Budget 2020** and on the **Finance Bill 2019**. He sharply criticised Budget 2020 as generally a non-event but also an austerity budget for social protection recipients and pensioners. His detailed analysis of the Finance Bill focused on Minister Donohoe's failure to broaden the tax base and create a sustainable revenue stream for the Exchequer.

In September, Tommy asked the **Tánaiste about staff numbers in Irish embassies in the UK** in the lead-up to Brexit. He also asked the Minister for **Housing, Planning and Local Government about the protection of the Dublin Bay Biosphere** following the overflow from Ringsend wastewater treatment plant on numerous occasions during the summer. Tommy spoke on **Brexit** and also raised a **Topical Issue Debate on the urgent need for the Office of the Planning Regulator to review the planning of the North/South Fringes** of Dublin City and Fingal County over the past two decades.

Tommy spoke in support of the **Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Bill 2019**. He asked the **Minister for Finance about the IFAC report** which criticised the Government's spending plans and he welcomed the decision to retain **History as a core subject**. Tommy questioned the **Minister for Transport about road safety campaigns**. He also spoke in support of the **Firearms and Offensive Weapons (Amendment) Bill 2019** and asked the **Minister for Justice about preparations for safety during Hallow'een** and raised a **Leaders' Question with the Tánaiste about housing**. Tommy also spoke in support of the **Motion on Living Wage** and of the **Road Traffic (Use of Electric Scooters) Bill 2019**.

Tommy asked the **Minister for Education about the primary pupil teacher ratio** and about arrangements for students of **Scoil Chaitríona, Measc Ave., Artane** affected by the fire. He questioned the **Minister for Children and Youth Affairs about the performance management in TUSLA** and the **Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht about the Dublin Bay Biosphere and National Park status for the Howth wilderness and SAAO areas**. Tommy also spoke on the **Report of the Implementation Group on Seanad Reform** and highlighted points he made in his own minority report.

Tommy asked the **Tánaiste about recognition of the Armenian Genocide**, he raised a **Topical Issues Debate with the Minister for Education** about increased staff for Our Lady Immaculate SNS, Darndale and about building and upgrades for St. Laurence's NS, Baldoyle. Tommy asked the **Minister for Finance about job losses** in our pillar banks and raised the important **#Justice4Dara** campaign with the Taoiseach during Leaders' Questions calling for justice for Dara Quigley. He asked the **Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on Shared Services** and spoke on the **Motion on Hospital Overcrowding**. Tommy also again lambasted the Government on its creation of the crisis of **child homelessness**.



Tommy in the Dáil

WELCOME STARDUST DECISION

In September, the Attorney General, Seamus Wolfe, made the welcome announcement to hold fresh inquests into the tragic deaths of 48 young lives that were lost on the St. Valentine's Night 1981 disco in the Stardust. Deputy Broughan has been a long and loyal supporter of the quest for truth and justice by the Stardust Relatives' and Victims' Committee. He welcomed Attorney General's Wolfe's comments that the holding of fresh inquests is in the public interest and in the interests of justice.

Ms Antoinette Keegan, her mother Ms Chrissie Keegan, their colleagues on the Stardust Relatives' and Victims' Committee, and all the other families affected by the awful fire, have been treated atrociously by successive Governments since 1981. Deputy Broughan commended the work of Lynn Boylan, former Sinn Féin MEP, and solicitor Darragh Mackin in supporting the Committee and its members to seek truth, closure and justice. Deputy Broughan, of course, is anxious to learn what the parameters of the inquests will be and the timeframe for their completion.



Tommy at the AG's office with the Stardust Committee

SEWAGE PLANT DECISION DEVASTATING FOR DBN & THE BAY BIOSPHERE

On November 13th last, Deputy Broughan was dismayed to learn that An Bord Pleanála had granted permission for a huge wastewater treatment plant on a 30 ha. site in Clonsaugh. The Board overruled strong arguments made by Deputy Broughan and residents from Clonsaugh, Priorswood, Darndale, Ayrfield/Clare Hall, Belmayne, Clongriffin, Baldoyle and Portmarnock at the Oral Hearing which the Deputy had requested.

Despite grave concerns about odour, noise, traffic congestion and river drainage for nearby districts, the 21 Bord Pleanála conditions totally failed to address those local fears. (Condition 6 on UV treatment of effluents was already agreed by Irish Water). The potential for damage to the UNESCO designated biosphere of Dublin and Baldoyle Bay is also a crucial reason why Clonsaugh remains the wrong location for the second major sewage plant for the mid-Leinster region.

NOISE POLLUTION

In this Dáil session, Deputy Broughan introduced his own Private Members' Bill on noise pollution – **the Noise Pollution (Management and Abatement) Bill 2019**, which is now at second stage in Dáil Éireann. The Bill seeks to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 and the Aircraft Noise (Dublin Airport) Regulation Act 2019 in order to make the EPA the body in charge of setting the noise abatement objectives for FCC (the new Competent Authority for noise management at Dublin Airport). It also provides for the publication of regular reports that will make the whole problem of noise pollution (noise nuisances generally including aircraft noise) more transparent and effective.

Aircraft Noise Competent Authority: Mr. Gilbert Power has been appointed Director of the new Aircraft Noise Competent Authority. Fingal County Council was tasked with establishing and operating this authority despite calls from Deputy Broughan and colleagues that this role should be assigned independently to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Getting in Touch

Tommy Broughan T.D.

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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**

12.00pm Le Chéile, Donnycarney

4th **Monday**

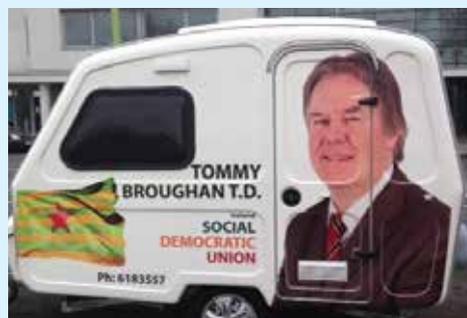
12.00pm Artane Beaumont Family Recreation Centre

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**

9.00am Clonsaugh Shopping Centre
10.00am Donaghmede Shopping Centre
12.15pm Bayside Shopping Centre
12.45pm 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.

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