

CAMPAIGN AGAINST SUPER SEWAGE PLANT INTENSIFIES

At a recent large public meeting of Clonsaugh and Riverside residents, I once again strongly supported residents' opposition to a massive (c. 23.1 ha) sewage plant on the border of Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council at Clonsaugh. A public consultation on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared by the Greater Dublin Drainage engineers ended on August 2nd last and on behalf of residents from Clonsaugh to Portmarnock, I made a detailed submission and objection. The key areas I covered included the potential very negative impacts on the nearby 8,000 households; the total lack of a cost benefit study on the economic and environmental impacts; the dearth of information on the proposed treatment process; the impossibility of siting a sewage outfall close to the Velvet Strand, Portmarnock and Baldoyle Bay and their fragile and heavily protected ecosystems; and the urgent necessity to abandon the Clonsaugh proposal and to examine other more suitable sites and outfalls much further north in Fingal. The Greater Dublin Drainage team intends to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in early 2014 once the EIS is completed.



• TOMMY BROUGHAN T.D.



END AUSTERITY IN BUDGET 2014 - BROUGHAN

I have consistently opposed the government's policy of austerity. I opposed Budgets 2012 and 2013 and I voted against all of the blanket bank guarantees. The mantra of the present and last government is that "there is no other way". But I strongly believe that there are other ways to achieve a primary budget balance by the end of 2015 and to rejuvenate our economy. Government parties have been arguing over whether and how Ireland can meet its targets under the troika and whether further cuts of €3.1 billion are required. They should be recognising that further austerity measures will be disastrous for Ireland's economy.

We still have an unemployment rate of 13.7% and the health budget has been decimated by almost €3 billion since 2008. Cuts to families' income (particularly the cut to child benefit) and increased taxes and charges have put overwhelming strain on citizens and households. Cuts to education and disability budgets have been short-sighted and will have terrible effects for many years to come. The Promissory Notes payments were always impossible but the government should use the imputed 'savings' on the Notes to stimulate the economy. The austerity mindset of this Fine Gael led government must be overturned as Ireland seeks to regain some basic economic independence in 2014.

TIME FOR A CHANGE – BRIGHTER EVENINGS BILL 2012

On July 5th, Deputy Broughan's The Brighter Evenings Bill 2012 was debated in Dáil Éireann. The Bill firstly provides that the Minister for Justice and Equality would bring together an independent group of stakeholders to prepare and publish a report on the costs and benefits of advancing the clocks forward by one hour. Secondly, the Bill allows the Minister to bring forward a daylight saving order with a three year trial period in which the clocks would not be put back in October of the first year and in the March of the following year they would be put forward by an extra hour. This would mean that there would be an extra hour of daylight in the evenings. Deputy Broughan has referred to the many benefits of having brighter evenings including: health benefits; improved road safety; economic benefits; reduced energy emissions; and a reduction in crime. The Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter has referred the Bill to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality.



Tommy with Paul Brady, President Howth Baldoyle Sutton Chamber of Commerce and Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan.

LACK OF SUPPORT FOR DISABILITY HOUSING

Deputy Tommy Broughan has expressed his shock at the announcement that Dublin City Council has closed the home grant scheme for the remainder of 2013. The Scheme provides Disability Adaptation Grants to older people and people with disabilities who require adaptations to their homes.

The funding provided to Dublin City Council from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for the Home Grants Scheme for 2013 was down 40% on the allocation for 2012. The Council sought further assistance from the Department. Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager with Dublin City Council, informed Deputy Broughan that the Council "subsequently received additional funding.... However, in view of the number of grants that are currently approved, which have a value of €1.9m, this additional funding will have no significant impact on the managing of the current scheme. The Department also advised that there will be no further funding available for 2013. It is with regret that it is advised that the grants allocation to DCC is now exhausted."

GOOD WEATHER MARRED BY ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Large crowds of people visited Portmarnock and Howth each day during the recent fine weather. Deputy Broughan was contacted by a number of constituents who were very concerned at the anti-social behaviour of a small minority of individuals and the misuse of alcohol at both of these resorts. Deputy Broughan liaised closely with An Garda Síochána who worked tirelessly to manage the situation. He also brought the matter to the attention of Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter in Dáil Éireann.

He commended members of An Garda Síochána Superintendent Ronan Galligan (Coolock), Superintendent Joseph O'Connor (Raheny) and Chief Superintendent Francis Clerkin (Dublin North Division) for their work in policing at the seaside resorts.

DEPUTY BROUGHAN'S DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

- **Dublin Array:** I lodged a strong objection to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government against the plan to put 145 giant wind turbines which could be up to 160m high just 10km off the south side of Dublin Bay, Dun Laoghaire and North Wicklow. Even though I support the role of wind energy in supplying the national grid, the Array would be incredibly costly and damaging to the environment of Dublin. In my submission I referred to the disastrous visual impact that would occur if the Array project is approved. A development of this kind 'would industrialise the landscape'. I noted in my submission that the foreshore lease for the project was granted under outdated and defunct legislation during the boom years without the involvement of the Dublin or Wicklow local authorities.

- **South Portmarnock Local Area Plan (LAP):** Interested parties were recently invited to make submissions on the draft LAP for South Portmarnock. I recommended that the plan should be integrated into earlier work by Fingal County Council on the Stapolin Baldoyle LAP and with Dublin City Council on the Clongriffin and Belmayne plans. I stressed the need for strong adherence in the LAP to the Fingal County Development Plan objectives and land use aims for Portmarnock and Portmarnock South. Furthermore, I made recommendations in relation to transport provision and the density of residential development in the area. I also flagged the issue of surface water management which is an ongoing worry for residents because their concerns had not been addressed in the LAP.

- **Howth – East Mountain Walkways:** I recently welcomed the decision by An Bord Pleanála to declare that the erection of a gate on a public walkway on the East Mountain, Howth was (in planning terms) "not exempted development under section 5(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000." The Howth Pathways group and Friends of the East Mountain requested that An Bord Pleanála would make a declaration on whether a gate erected on the walkway in question was exempted development or whether it required planning permission. This is part of a long campaign by Howth Pathways and local Howth residents to protect the East and West Mountain heathlands which I have long supported. On old maps of Howth, this historic walkway has always been a right of way. The necessity for this referral shows the urgent need to consolidate and greatly strengthen legal protections for the Howth Peninsula.

- **Petrol Station, Dublin Road:** Deputy Broughan has supported Rosbeg Residents' Association against the grant of permission by Fingal County Council to Maxol Oil Ltd for a new unmanned filling station at Blue Lagoon Service Station, Dublin Road, Sutton. The proposal to Fingal County Council was for a 24/7 unmanned service station. The Council ruled that the 24 hour element of the station receives permission for only two years and that the car wash is limited to operations between the hours of 8am and 10pm only. Residents remain very concerned at the unmanned 24/7 operation proposal.



Tommy presents prizes at St. Aidan's CBS, Whitehall



Howth Seafood Festival

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

• **Baldoye Primary Care Centre:** The HSE informed Deputy Broughan a few months ago that Baldoye has been identified as the location for a new Primary Care Centre (PCC). The HSE has said, however, that "the developer has not been in a position to progress securing the site or going for planning permission until the LAP has been finalised". The Local Area Plan (LAP) for Stapolin Baldoye has since been adopted. Deputy Broughan says "it is hoped that development of the PCC can now progress at a location acceptable to the Baldoye community."

• **Dublinbikes Scheme:** Dublin City Council's (DCC) Dublinbikes Scheme is one of the most successful public bike rental schemes in Europe. Following negotiations with JC Decaux, the Planning Department of DCC concluded a new deal to provide for an additional 950 new bikes and 2,000 additional stands in 58 new stations across the city. The overall cost of the proposed expansion of the scheme will be €35 million over the lifetime of the contract.

• **Clontarf Flood Defence Proposal:** The Joint Working Group of DCC, Clontarf Residents' Association and Clontarf Business Association continue discussions to agree a Flood Defence Proposal which might be submitted to residents and local businesses.

• **Taking in Charge of Island View, Dublin 5:** A few months ago, the DCC North Central Manager reported that the procedure to initiate the taking in charge of Island View estate, Dublin 5 at the request of the owners has been commenced.

• **Proposed Improvements at Donaghmede Park 2013:** The Parks Superintendent for Dublin North Central recently reported on improvement works for Donaghmede Park this year following the campaign of Donaghmede Estate Residents' Association (DERA). These include 680 metres of tarmac surfaced pedestrian pathways, a barrier gateway for pedestrians from Carndonagh Park, 50 additional trees in the 2013/2014 planting season and grounding works on the northern side of the playing pitch.

• **The Wad River – Clanmoyle Scheme and Naniken River Catchment Area:** Work is continuing on the Wad River – Clanmoyle flood water alleviation scheme and local residents and stakeholders are being updated on progress to carry out the urgently necessary works. Over recent years, extensive local hydraulic works have been carried out on the Naniken River Catchment Area at Brookwood Rise, Brookwood Glen, Ardmore Drive and Maryfield Crescent but North Central Management has reported that due to lack of funding in 2013, no overall floodwater scheme is being progressed for the Naniken River.

• **Clonsaugh/Priorswood – New Parish Pastoral Centre:** Deputy Tommy Broughan has been delighted to support the proposal for a wonderful new parish pastoral centre in Priorswood parish and he has commended the parish team and committee for their stellar work in developing the project.

• **Repair of Ramps at Sutton and Baldoye:** Residents of Sutton (in particular from the estates of Sarto Park, Sarto Lawn, Verbena Avenue and Alden Park) contacted Deputy Broughan to complain about the poor state of repair of ramps in their estates. Similar complaints came from residents of Grange Road and Brookstone Road, Baldoye. They informed Deputy Broughan that the ramps were crumbling away and posed a danger to motorists and pedestrians. Deputy Broughan raised the issue with Fingal County Council and he was informed that the necessary work to remediate the ramps would take place in the coming months during 2013.

• **Howth Junction DART Station:** Members of the Kilbarrack Road and Howth Junction Residents Group were in contact with Deputy Broughan recently to highlight their strong concern that all of the three lifts at the Howth Junction DART station were out of order. Deputy Broughan raised the issue with Iarnród Éireann to seek urgent repairs of the lifts. He was informed by Iarnród Éireann that the lifts were damaged in acts of vandalism over the June Bank Holiday weekend and as a result the lifts had to be boarded up because of the extent of the damage. David Franks, CEO of Iarnród Éireann, also informed Deputy Broughan that the necessary work to repair the lifts would take up to six weeks.

• **Retirement of Cllr Peter Coyle:** Deputy Broughan has extended his best wishes to former Councillor for the Howth/Malahide ward of Fingal County Council, Mr. Peter Coyle, on his recent retirement. Deputy Broughan said "Peter has been a truly outstanding Councillor and public representative for the Howth/Malahide ward for almost 20 years. He also made a uniquely valuable contribution to the work of Fingal County Council (including as Fingal Mayor) throughout that period. It was always a great pleasure to work closely with Peter on important local and national issues and I know that he will continue as always to serve his local Portmarnock community." Mr Coyle is succeeded by Councillor Judy Dunne.



Tommy with former Cllr Peter Coyle

Bíonn MAIDIN CAIFE AS GAELIGE ar siúl gach Sathairn san Ionad Siopadóireachta (thuas staighre i Kays Kitchen) i Domhnach Mide ag 10.30am. Bíonn sprioc ag gach duine a bhíonn i láthair ann Gaeilge a labhairt má's maith leo. Thosaigh an Maidin Caife i Domhnach Mide cúpla mhí ó shin. Bíonn Maidin Caife eile ar siúl in áiteanna eile timpeall na cathrach (mar shampla i gCluain Tarbh, Cúleach agus Domhnach Cearna). Bhunaigh grúpa daoine an Maidin Caife mar bhí suim acu an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus bhí said ag iarraidh labhairt na Gaeilge a spreagadh.

The National Consumer Agency has developed a free workplace financial education programme called MONEY SKILLS FOR LIFE. The programme is being delivered by the NCA to employers and employees across Ireland. It involves a free one hour talk in which independent practical financial education is provided to employees in their workplace. For further information for employees and employers about this programme, see www.financialeducation.ie For queries about the programme, contact Sarah on 01 4703615 or email bookings@nca.ie



Tommy speaks in Dáil Éireann

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED FOR SOCIAL HOUSING CRISIS

Deputy Tommy Broughan recently spoke in Dáil Éireann about the critical shortage of social housing provision in the greater Dublin area, particularly in the Dublin Bay North constituency. In recent weeks and months, Deputy Broughan has been approached by people in the constituency who are sleeping in their cars or on the streets.

Deputy Broughan drew Minister Jan O'Sullivan's attention to the recently available statistics on housing which showed there are just under 20,000 people on the Dublin City Council housing list (with 5,152 people on the housing list for Area B). Furthermore, however, the number of allocations made by the Council were only a fraction of that number (115 housing units allocated in 2011 and 149 units in 2012). Deputy Broughan was informed that around 9,000 people were on the Fingal County Council list.

The crisis in social housing in Dublin is linked to the huge problem in Rent Supplement payments and the problems constituents are experiencing with the caps on Rent Supplement payments.

Deputy Broughan urged the Minister to resume construction and direct social housing provision for the many constituents and families who are seeking housing.

The Health Service Executive recently launched a FOSTERING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN. The HSE says that "foster carers are needed throughout the country in larger urban areas" and it "is especially interested in hearing from potential foster carers for young people aged eight to 18". Foster carers provide a service to children who, for various reasons, cannot live with their own family. If you are interested in finding out more about fostering or if you would like to become a foster carer, call the HSE Infoline on 1850 24 1850 or visit the website: www.fostering.ie

Getting in Touch

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Visit: www.tommybroughan.com

Meet: Tommy at his regular information clinics all around Dublin North East:

Every **MONDAY**

11.00 a.m. BESC Offices, Darndale Village

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/Golf Links Inn, Portmarnock
(By Appointment)

Every **SATURDAY**

10.15 a.m. Clonshaugh Shopping Centre

11.30a.m. Donaghmede Shopping Centre

1.00p.m. Madigans, Kilbarrack Shopping Centre

1st/ 3rd **SATURDAY**

1.45p.m. Bayside Shopping Centre

2.30p.m. Racecourse Inn, Racecourse S.C., Baldoye

2nd/4th **SATURDAY**

2.30 p.m. Walkabout in one of the parishes of Dublin Bay North

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