

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 23 NO. 1

FAIR RENT REGULATION & SOCIAL HOUSING URGENTLY NEEDED

5,000 citizens from Dublin Bay North are on local authority housing lists and rent prices continue to spiral with no regulation. Calls to Deputy Tommy Broughan's office show that landlords are continuing to raise rents way above Rent Supplement amounts and available properties are very rarely accepting rent supplement because of current market rental prices. Therefore, those in receipt of rent supplement or on lower wages are unable to meet landlords' increases and often end up homeless. Deputy Broughan has been calling on Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister Kelly to put some immediate measures in place to address the crisis and to prevent more families and individuals from going into emergency homeless services.

In a Dáil Topical Issues Debate, Deputy Broughan called on Minister Alan Kelly and Junior Minister, Paudie Coffey, to immediately introduce provisions for rent regulation. Landlords should no longer be allowed to price people out of their homes. Citizens need security, affordability and stability. Fair and proportionate rent regulation is necessary to help end the housing crisis.



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

Rent regulation and all available housing units are required now to give some hope and security to the thousands of citizens in unsuitable and unsafe accommodation. If necessary, a social housing emergency should be declared to provide the homes desperately needed in 2015/2016.

SELLING AER LINGUS IS NOT IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST

Deputy Broughan continues to call on the Government to reject the I.A.G takeover bid saying that selling our national airline is not in our national interest. The €1.3 billion I.A.G bid would signal the end of Ireland's historic independent aviation company dating from the Sean Lemass era in the 1930's. Deputy Broughan says "It is ironic that this proposal is being brought forward on the 75th anniversary year of Dublin Airport, whose history and that of Aer Lingus are so intertwined as very successful public enterprises". For the 4,000 workers at Aer Lingus and the 50,000 plus northside workforce which depends on Dublin Airport, the possible disappearance of Aer Lingus will be a huge fear and the Government should not even be considering selling such a national asset. If Ministers agree to the takeover bid not only are they putting our island's competitiveness and connectivity at risk, they are also putting thousands of jobs at risk. Deputy Broughan is unequivocally opposed to the idea of selling the Irish government's 25.1% of shares in Aer Lingus.

REFERENDUM 2015 & GENERAL ELECTION 2016

Deputy Tommy Broughan has consistently opposed the Government's unfair economic policies and the harsh austerity measures from 2009. Information on Deputy Broughan's speeches and policies can be found on his website www.tommybroughan.com. The Government has let Irish citizens down and next year's General Election is your opportunity to let them know.

So make sure you are registered to vote! You are not automatically registered to vote on turning 18, you need to register. Registration forms are available from local post offices, libraries, garda stations and local county council offices. Check out www.vote.ie for more information or you can also search www.checktheregister.ie to see if you are already registered.

On the upcoming marriage referendum Deputy Broughan comments "Based on my experience of representing many thousands of citizens and families I intend to vote YES on May 22nd next."

I N D E P E N D E N T

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy in Darndale Village (BESC Offices)

Coolock/Darndale: Planning permission has been granted for a Coolock Primary Care Centre at the current HSE Health Centre site. Building is reported to start before the end of this year and the centre will cover the Coolock/Darndale areas. Preparing for Life is now offering antenatal classes in the Bell Building on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are free and started in January.

Edenmore: A Primary Care Centre is also being progressed for Edenmore and it is expected that a provider will be chosen before the end of June, 2015. Deputy Broughan raised the issue of littering at Edenmore Shopping Centre and is pleased to report that the action to be taken includes that recycling bins will be totally refurbished, CCTV will be installed by the Litter Prevention Officer and 2 bins will be re-instated outside shop premises.

Darndale Belcamp Village Centre: Congratulations to the Golden Years club for their appearance on Ireland AM before Christmas. Congratulations are also due to Darndale Belcamp parish and DCC North Central management on the campaign to improve Darndale Park.

Coolock Drive: Deputy Broughan highlighted the need for double yellow lines on the Aldi side of Coolock Drive. The Traffic Advisory Group have added this to their agenda for examination and report by the Area Traffic Engineer.

Buttercup Estate: Building by Gowna Construction has commenced on the new refurbishment project of 35 new homes at the Lower Buttercup Estate. Deputy Broughan is campaigning to have local, unemployed construction workers contracted for the project.

The Coast Baldoyle: The Fingal Manager reported in February that the Receiver of the Coast development has appointed a Project Manager to bring the estate up to Taking In Charge (TIC) standard.

Lands at Newtown, Dublin 17: A detailed report was given by DCC management to the North Central Area Committee on unauthorised occupation of DCC lands near Newtown Court. The matter was also raised at the local Joint Policing Committee with hopes for an early resolution to be led by City Manager, Owen Keegan.

Clontarf Promenade & Naniken & Wad Rivers: In late January, Dublin City Council reported that a contract for modelling of a secondary flood defence wall at the back of the footpath beside Clontarf Road should be completed in 2 to 3 months. It was also reported that 'intermediate measures' to prevent flooding in the Naniken River catchment area have been carried out and that ongoing works in Clanmoyle and at Clontarf Golf Club to remediate heavy rainfall impacts on the Wad River would be completed by the end of February.

All-Weather Pitches in Raheny & Kilbarrack: The City Parks Superintendent reported in February that Dublin City Council intends to apply in 2015 for a Sports Capital Grant to fund

an All-Weather Pitch adjacent to the Tennis Courts in St. Anne's Park for use by Raheny Utd. FC and Raheny GAA Club. Similar plans are being prepared by Kilbarrack Utd. FC at their Foxfield Green grounds.

Housing Vacancies in Dublin Bay North: It is expected that Phase 2 of the new Belmayne housing units will be available in March. Candidates have already been interviewed and made offers for this phase. Phase 3 will be coming up in May and Phase 4 in July. There are currently approximately 24 vacant units in senior apartments east and west of the Malahide Road.

Tenant Purchase Scheme: Information from Minister Kelly's office received by Deputy Broughan on this topic states that "the scheme will be open to local authority tenants who have been in receipt of social housing support for more than one year, who have not previously purchased a house under a tenant purchase scheme and who have an annual income equal to or greater than a prescribed amount". Minister Kelly's office should be announcing more details on this later in 2015.

Beaumont Hospital: Overcrowding at Beaumont continues to be a problem and Deputy Broughan is continuously challenging the Minister for Health and the HSE on unacceptable waiting times, vacant medical staff positions and a variety of other issues being raised regularly by constituents. Minister Varadkar answers by asking the HSE to report to Deputy Broughan's office or tells Deputy Broughan that strategic plans are being put in place to deal with the problems. Minister Varadkar needs to stop talking and take action.

School Completion Programmes: Deputy Broughan received a number of letters from concerned principals from local schools regarding the drastic cuts to school completion programmes. The annual allocations of funding for the vital programme has reduced from approx. €30 million in 2011 down to approx. €25 million in 2014. A review is taking place and is expected to be completed during this academic year before the Minister for Children will announce what funding will be available for this necessary programme.

Dublin Bay North Bus routes: Luas Cross City construction works are currently taking place and some route changes are needed to facilitate these ongoing works. Routes affected are the 27a and 130 but construction works will be in place for some time so it is recommended to keep up-to-date on these changes on dublinbus.ie.

Traffic Management: Proposed traffic lights at the following junctions remain at Stage 2 (of the 5 stages) of the North Central Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) process: Millbrook Road/Millbrook Avenue, Dublin 13; Grange Road/Grangemore Road, Dublin 13; Malahide Road/Blunden Drive, Dublin 13; Oscar Traynor Road/Armstrong Walk, Dublin 5; Grace Park Road/Richmond Road, Dublin 3; and Clare Hall Avenue/Donaghmede Roundabout, Dublin 13.

Metro North: Deputy Broughan made a submission on the North Dublin Transport Study which was conducted by the National Transport Authority earlier this year. In his submission, Deputy Broughan re-iterated his preference for a fixed line public transport system, such as the Optimised Metro North option and highlighted the deficiencies in Northside public transport.



Tommy at the Stop Climate Chaos briefing in Buswells Hotel

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Dublin City Council Development Plan 2016-2022:

Deputy Broughan made a submission to the DCC Development Plan at the beginning of the year. He highlighted a number of issues that affect the Dublin Bay North constituency such as the completion of the North Fringe, the importance of drainage and water run-off impact on developments, transport linkages, access to housing, flood risk management, upkeep of the green city landscape, Northside Shopping Centre proposals and play facilities for children.

Clongriffin Islamic Centre: Deputy Tommy Broughan has been informed by Gannon Homes that the proposed Mosque Complex in Clongriffin is not now proceeding because of a lack of funding by the proposers. It is intended that the original residential development in the Clongriffin masterplan and Local Area Plan will now take place on the brownfield site in question.

Park Avenue, Clongriffin: Dublin City Council has sought extra information on a proposal from Gannon Properties for 111 houses between Park Avenue and Marrsfield Avenue.

Marrsfield Avenue: Hollybrook New Homes was given permission recently by Dublin City Council for 208 mostly 2-bed apartments of 5 and 6 storeys in 2 terraces of 3 and 6 blocks at Marrsfield Avenue. Deputy Broughan made a submission on behalf of local residents on the proposal which lies adjacent to Marrsfield Avenue and North of Father Collins Park.

Dunbo Hill, Howth: A proposal for retention and permission for 4 detached homes to the rear of Dunbo Hill and Evora Terrace was granted permission by Fingal County Council. The permission is due to expire on March 4th., 2016 (to coincide with earlier permissions) and Deputy Broughan supported residents' concerns at the County Council.

East Mountain, Howth: Mr. Paul Reid recently replied to Deputy Broughan's urgent request that the Inspectorate Division of Fingal Council investigate the erection of fencing on the heathland of the East Mountain which is protected by the S.A.A.O. Mr. Reid said that because of a High Court Order of Sept. 5th., 2013, seeking a Judicial Review of a Bord Pleanala decision, the Inspectorate Division was seeking legal advice 'to provide legal certainty' on enforcement action. **Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan** has also raised the issue with Fingal management.

NORTHSIDE ENTERPRISE CENTRE

The Community Enterprise Scheme was set up in 1989 to give support to local entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas. The Northside Enterprise Centre, at the Northside Community and Business Centre, Coolock, Dublin 17, is one such example of a local, urban business centre where start-ups can have access to desk and office space, meeting rooms, training and mentoring for the past 25 years.

The funding is under review nationally while Minister Bruton develops a Local Enterprise Office strategy. But Deputy Broughan hopes that the threat to cut funding for Business Development Managers in Community Enterprise Centres has now been lifted.



Tommy speaking in Dáil Éireann on the housing crisis

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Deputy Tommy Broughan highlighted the issue of the **Fair Deal Scheme** in the Dáil one month before the annual **over-crowding** crisis hit. He warned the Government that their failure to adequately resource the Fair Deal Scheme was leading to delayed discharges and huge backlogs in citizens accessing necessary **nursing home care**. Deputy Broughan was the first TD to contact **President Higgins** before Christmas after the **Water Bill** was signed in by both Houses of the Oireachtas where he requested that the President consider his constitutional power to call a referendum. Deputy Broughan continues to strongly oppose the debacle of Irish Water and the attempts by the Government to tax Irish citizens' water.

Deputy Broughan questioned Minister for **Children and Youth Affairs**, James Reilly, on the lack of **social workers** in Ireland and highlighted the fact that the Government is failing in its legal obligation to ensure that 100% of children in care have a social worker. Deputy Broughan has also questioned Minister Reilly on his preparation for Ireland's Review of the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** which will be taking place early in 2016. Deputy Broughan continues to campaign for **Road Safety** priorities and recently raised the issue of speed limit signage on rural roads and the need for 'home zones' with lower speed limits in built-up housing estates. He also later spoke in support of Roseann Brennan's campaign in calling for **Jake's Law** to be introduced.

The **Housing Crisis** with spiralling rents, access to social housing and rent regulation are other important issues which Deputy Broughan brought up in the Dáil. He has also questioned the Taoiseach on his lack of response to a meeting request by the **Stardust Relative's and Victim's Committee** and the Tánaiste on her plans for a **universal pension scheme** and the need to debate the proposed sale of Government shares in **Aer Lingus**. Deputy Broughan spoke on the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill** and on the waiting lists to access clinical services in North Dublin for **children with autism**.



Tommy with Roseann Brennan outside Leinster House supporting her campaign for Jake's Law

USEFUL CONTACTS

Threshold is the National Housing Charity and can help you if you are experiencing difficulties with your tenancy or at risk of losing your home.

www.threshold.ie

Dublin: 1890 334 334

MABS is the Money Advice and Budgeting Service and can give you advice on how to manage your rent or mortgage arrears as well as other budgeting advice.

www.mabs.ie

0761 07 4050

The Community Law and Mediation Centre is based in the Northside Civic Centre and provides free legal advice on issues not covered by the State's free legal aid scheme.

www.communitylawandmediation.ie

01 847 7804

The Irish Patient's Association (IPA) is an information and advocacy group with updates on weekly medical card processing, numbers on trolleys and complaints checklist.

www.irishpatients.ie

01 272 2555



Tommy Broughan T.D. with Phil Kearney and Paul Price, An Taisce at climate briefing



Always There, Always Helpful

Getting in Touch

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

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. Clonsaugh 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., Baldoyle

STARDUST TRAGEDY

Deputy Tommy Broughan comments "This year saw the 34th anniversary of the Stardust Tragedy. I have asked the Taoiseach directly, via email and via Parliamentary Question to reply to the Stardust Victims and Relatives Committee request for a meeting. I have been informed that a Garda investigation is ongoing and that Minister Fitzgerald continues to ask for submissions from anyone with information on the 1981 tragedy. I believe a new Commission of Investigation on the Stardust is the only just resolution for the relatives and victims concerned".

CONTACTS FOR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

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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.

www.tommybroughan.com

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