

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

VOL. 22 NO. 1

BROUGHAN RAISES HUGE DUBLIN BAY WINDFARM CONCERNS IN DÁIL

Over recent months, Deputy Tommy Broughan has raised concerns over huge Dublin Bay offshore windfarm proposals on behalf of the Coastal Concern Alliance and other constituents. In his 2013 submission on the massive Dublin Array proposal Deputy Broughan strongly queried the environmental and landscape impact of 145 giant wind turbines (towering up to 160m) located between 5-10km off the south side of Dublin Bay and North Wicklow. He noted that a 22.5 km coastal buffer zone for offshore wind energy development has been suggested by environmentalists.

The Dublin Array proposal follows permissions given by Fianna Fáil Ministers up to 2006 under the archaic Foreshore Act 1933 for 200 turbines off Bray Head and for 520 megawatts of wind turbines off Arklow. Deputy Broughan has urged Taoiseach Kenny to bring forward the Maritime Area and Foreshore (Amendment) Bill for full public consultation and a Dáil debate before any permissions are considered for Dublin Bay and its environs. "Turning the southside of Dublin Bay and its hinterland into an industrial landscape would be a disaster for Dublin tourism and for all our citizens who enjoy the Bay's majestic landscape", Deputy Broughan has said.

NEW CREDIT UNION STRUCTURES

On 05 March last, at the request of the Board of the Howth/Sutton Credit Union (HSCU) and following proceedings commenced by the Central Bank, the High Court ordered that the HSCU be merged with the Balbriggan, Skerries and Donabate Credit Unions into a larger entity known as 'Progressive Credit Union'. The Central Bank has stated "the transfer has no effect on the day to day operations of HSCU" and "all services, including savings and lending facilities continue to be available to all members".

On behalf of concerned constituent members of HSCU, Deputy Broughan had contacted the Irish League of Credit Unions and the Central Bank some time ago. Coolock Artane Credit Union and Swords Credit Union are continuing discussions on a proposed merger into a new Members First Credit Union.



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION NEEDED FOR STARDUST TRAGEDY

Deputy Broughan has repeatedly urged the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter, to establish a commission of investigation to fully examine all of the outstanding concerns of the families of those who tragically died in the Stardust fire of 1981. The Stardust Victims and Relatives' Committee, at a recent press conference in the Skylon Hotel, outlined aspects of the new evidence that they have presented to Minister Shatter and the Taoiseach. Deputy Broughan has expressed his support for the Committee's continued campaign for justice.



Robin Knox, Antoinette Keegan and Geraldine Foy at the Recent Conference on the Stardust Tragedy



SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION



TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Deputy Broughan spoke on a number of important pieces of legislation including the **Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill** which makes significant changes to the wards of court system and the **Pyrite Resolution Bill**. With other opposition deputies, he walked out during the debate on the **Water Services (No. 2) Bill** because of the very limited time available to debate the important legislation which set up Irish Water. He spoke on the Bill

which provides for the dissolution of **Forfás**. He took part in the debate on the **Roads Bill** which merges the Railway Procurement Agency into the National Roads Authority. The RPA is responsible for projects such as the Luas Cross City Line. He supported the **Down Syndrome (Equality of Access) Bill**. He spoke about **recent flooding** which affected constituents in Dublin Bay North. He addressed the need to strengthen the powers of **GSOC** and suggested that an **Independent Garda Authority** should be established.

Deputy Broughan urged Brendan Howlin to ensure that Irish Water is subject to **Freedom of Information** legislation. He spoke about the need to reform **admissions policies** for schools with Minister Quinn. Deputy Broughan raised continuing concerns about the **Stardust fire** in a Topical Issue debate. He urged Minister Michael Noonan to ensure that **mortgage holders** with the former Irish Nationwide would continue to have consumer protections under Irish law. He called on Minister Joan Burton to reform the **social welfare appeals** process because of continuing long waits for some appeals to be decided. For further information on Deputy Broughan's work in the Dáil, see: www.tommybroughan.com

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Drive-Through Restaurant at Northside Shopping Centre: Planning permission has been sought for a new drive-through restaurant at the corner of the Oscar Traynor Road and the Clonsaugh Road at the Northside Shopping Centre, Coolock, Dublin 17. Permission was granted in 2007 to run for 10 years to develop the proposed multi-million Northside Town Centre. The planners' report to the Council supports the proposed restaurant in the interim before the potential full development of the new shopping centre.

Bus Rapid Transit for Dublin: Deputy Broughan recently completed a submission to the National Transport Authority on the planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for Dublin. It is proposed that BRT will provide a swift bus service on three dedicated routes: Swords/Dublin Airport to City Centre; Clongriffin to Tallaght and Blanchardstown to UCD. The consultation process closed on 18 March and the NTA will review submissions with a view to making an application to An Bord Pleanála to progress the new routes. Deputy Broughan expressed his general support for the project.

Old Community Centre, Balcadden Road, Howth: Nokaq Investments Ltd has applied for the demolition of the old Edros community centre and the construction of 23 dwelling units (including 17 houses and 6 apartments) and a commercial kiosk (most likely to be used as a coffee shop) on a site of just under 1 hectare. It is proposed to have four and three bedroom houses and a block of six apartments.

Former Baldoye Racecourse, Main St/Coast Road, Baldoye: Barford Holdings Ltd has applied for a 150 bed retirement home and a 150 bedroom hotel with leisure and conference centre facilities including a 25m swimming pool on the 5.15 hectare site at the eastern section of the old racecourse lands (adjoining the eastern boundary of Racecourse Park). There are 303 parking spaces (of which 77 will be underground) proposed in the plan.

FUNDING FOR DUBLIN BAY NORTH SCHOOLS

13 schools around the Dublin Bay North constituency will receive funding under the first round of the Summer Works Scheme 2014 from the Department of Education and Skills. The funding is provided for improvements on gas, electrical and mechanical works. The schools include: St. Brigid's Boys N.S. Killester; St. Benedict's and St. Mary's Grange Park, Raheny; Santa Sabina Dominican College, Sutton; Marino College; Coláiste Dhúlaigh, Coolock; Pobalscoil Neasáin, Baldoye; St. Kevin's Senior N.S., Donaghmede; Árdscóil La Salle, Raheny; Gaelcholáiste Reachrann, Donaghmede; St. Patrick's N.S., Drumcondra; St. David's CBS, Artane; Manor House School, Raheny; and The Donahies Community School.



Tommy's Mobile Information Clinic

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH

New County Manager in Fingal: Fingal County Council has had a new Manager since 31 March last. Mr Paul Reid, a senior official in the Department of Expenditure and Reform, was appointed to the position following his successful application in an open competition for the position.

Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council, have joined together to launch the **Green Dog Walkers' Initiative**. It is a community based scheme that volunteers in the community can adopt in their own area and promote. **Green Dog Walkers** wear armbands or carry a bag dispenser provided by their local authority. Dog owners can write to the Environmental Section of their local authority to take part.

Sutton: A council official informed Deputy Broughan that 250m of sea wall at Sutton has been strengthened by the Council since 2010 and a further approximate 200m of sea wall will be strengthened in 2014 and 2015.

Portmarnock: A report was presented at a recent meeting of Fingal County Council on the stabilisation of the Dunes at Velvet Strand in Portmarnock. During the weekend of 3rd to 6th January last, a combination of high tides and storm surges resulted in damage to sections of the timber sleeper wall. The cost of repair is €35,000. Fingal County Council has made an application to fund this repair work to the OPW.

Clontarf: Work is progressing to complete a new Flood Alleviation Project at Clontarf. A joint working group has met on nine occasions to discuss the ways in which flood defences at Clontarf can be improved. It has been agreed that a dual flood defence "comprising the existing sea wall and a secondary defence as close as possible to Clontarf Road" would be the preferred option.

Edenmore/Raheny: Work is ongoing on the new children's playground at Edenmore Park. In late November 2013, Dublin City Manager, Owen Keegan, informed Deputy Broughan that site preparation works would be commencing in January 2014.

Donaghmede: Deputy Broughan recently asked Minister Ruairi Quinn if Gaelcholáiste Reachrann would be included in the 2014 School Building Programme. The Minister informed Deputy Broughan "following satisfactory completion of this report and subject to no issues arising, the project will be authorised to commence the application for statutory approvals".

Howth: A new tourist kiosk will be installed by Fingal County Council at the Fishery Harbour Centre in Howth. **Cllr Cian O'Callaghan** was informed that the site identified for the kiosk would not become available until the necessary sanction was provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Minister Coveney informed Deputy Broughan that his Department "has agreed in principle" with the Council. This news is on top of other good news for Howth. Minister Coveney recently allocated €850,000 for improvements works to the harbour.

Baldoyle: A recent fire around a gas meter in the St. Domhnach's Well estate in Baldoyle was dealt with swiftly by Bord Gáis. A report from Bord Gáis to Deputy Broughan stated that Bord Gáis dispatched a response fitter to the location in the early hours of the morning of Tuesday, 25 February. The Dublin Fire Brigade had already attended the scene and had put the fire out. Two residents were evacuated as a precaution.

Fingal County Council has informed Deputy Broughan that work is ongoing to secure the open space beside **Racecourse Park, Baldoyle**. This was in response to reported incidences of horses roaming on the open space.

Belmayne/Clongriffin: Deputy Broughan has welcomed the proposal by Dublin City Council to change the existing pitch adjacent to the Trinity Leisure Centre in Clongriffin into an all-weather pitch. The Council is proposing to replace the existing top soil at the pitch with a synthetic surface and floodlights and fencing will be erected around the perimeter of the pitch. .

GREAT NEWS FOR DARNDALE/BELCAMP

BUTTERCUP PARK

Deputy Broughan warmly welcomed the news that €7.9 million of funding has been approved by the Minister of State for Housing, Jan O'Sullivan, to build 35 new homes in Buttercup Park, Darndale. The regeneration of Buttercup Park for which funding has now been provided was proposed over 10 years ago. Dublin City Manager, Owen Keegan, had informed Deputy Broughan in December 2013 that the Council was committed to the project and it had demolished old houses at the site. Deputy Broughan had urged Minister O'Sullivan on a number of occasions in Dáil Éireann to give the go ahead for the required funding to be provided to the Council. He also raised the matter with the Taoiseach on the floor of the Dáil. Deputy Broughan said "I am delighted that the regeneration of Buttercup Park, Darndale is finally going ahead. The planned 35 new homes for the area will be a great addition to the community. However, it is unfortunate that it took so long for the necessary funding to become available".

NEW SENIORS CENTRE

The Golden Years Centre in the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre will be providing key services to senior citizens from the end of March. Golden Years will support 20 full day care places per day. It will be open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to

Friday. There will also be an outreach service operating from the centre providing a programme of activities to local residents over the age of 65. The catchment area includes Darndale/Belcamp, Priorswood and Bonnybrook parishes. Deputy Broughan expressed his strong support for the expansion of the Golden Years' service. He said "I commend the fantastic efforts by the staff and volunteers at the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, who have been led so well by CEO Linda Hayden in bringing the new seniors' centre to a successful completion". For further information, **call 01 877 1600**.



Minister Jan O'Sullivan launching regeneration of Buttercup Park, Darndale



Protest by Mortgage Holders of the former Irish Nationwide



Tommy at the Liffey Expressing his Support for a Directly Elected Mayor for Dublin

ARE YOU ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER?

The local and European elections will be held on 23 May next. To find out if you registered to vote, check www.checktheregister.ie. If you are not currently on the register, you must complete a form RFA2 and submit it to the Franchise Section of Dublin City Council or the Corporate Services Section of Fingal County Council before 5pm on 6 May 2014 so that you can be added to the supplemental register. If you are a European citizen, you must submit an EPI form to the same offices and declare that you intend to vote in the Dublin constituency.

NEW SCHEME TO HELP SURVIVORS OF INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE

A new scheme has been set up to help people who experienced institutional abuse in Ireland as children. The scheme, which has a fund of €110 million pledged by Irish religious congregations, is being managed by a new State body called Caranua. To be eligible for funding, you must have received an award from an Irish court or the Residential Institutions Redress Board. Caranua will provide services to eligible people including information on statutory entitlements and funding for additional health, educational and housing services. For further information, call **1800 212 477** or visit the website: www.caranua.ie.

Getting in Touch

Tommy Broughan T.D.

Phone: 618 3557 (Dáil)
618 3798 (Constituency Office)

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 / 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

NEW PROGRAMME FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

A programme for small businesses has been developed by the Department of Finance with Management Works Ltd to help business owners to give better presentations when they are trying to raise finance. It will also provide information on the Credit Review Office and its role in assisting businesses where an application for a loan has been declined. The programme involves two full day workshops with a group of 15-20 business owners. For further information, see: www.managementworks.ie or call **01-2079630**.

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 by phone or email.



SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION