

NORTHSIDER

Parliamentary Report of Deputy Tommy Broughan

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TIME TO END CUTS AND RESTORE HOPE

Deputy Broughan has called on the government to seize the opportunity in Budget 2015 to end austerity and start to repair our society following the disastrous effects of the banking crisis since 2008. Deputy Broughan has said that there cannot be any further cuts to public expenditure, particularly to front-line services such as health, education and social protection. The cumulative impact of the €31 billion in cuts since late 2008 continues to be sharply experienced by the majority of citizens. In a submission to the Department of Finance, Deputy Broughan outlined some of his proposals for an alternative budget. He called especially for an easing of the tax burden on low and middle income families. He proposed that Budget 2015 must urgently address the ongoing social housing crisis. Deputy Broughan pointed to his recent Bill to establish a High Pay and Wealth Commission which would have a remit in addressing persistent problems with gross income and wealth inequality and welcomed the proposals from the government to establish a Low Pay Commission. Deputy Broughan also called for a lifting of the public service recruitment embargo which has led to the erosion of services, particularly in our hospitals. He has also proposed the restoration of the full respite care grant and the bereavement grant and returning jobseekers allowance for under 26s to the full rate. To balance the national budget, Deputy Broughan renewed his proposal for a third rate of income tax at 48% for individual incomes over €100,000 which has been estimated to yield €380 million and for a financial transactions' tax across the European Union.



TOMMY BROUGHAN TD

UNACCEPTABLE LACK OF EWOS IN DUBLIN BAY NORTH

There is a continued absence of any Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs) in Dublin 3, 5 and 17. Deputy Broughan has criticised the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, James Reilly, and the Child and Family Agency for their failures in addressing this issue. He has been informed that the EWO positions cannot be filled due to the moratorium on public service recruitment. Up until April 2014, Dublin 13 also had no assigned EWO. EWOs work as part of the Educational Welfare Service and they have a role in ensuring that every child attends a school or otherwise receives a certain minimum education. They are employed by the new Child and Family Agency (Tusla). Minister Reilly has informed Deputy Broughan that, although the EWO posts in Dublin 3, 5 and 17 are vacant, "arrangements are in place so that schools in these areas continue to have access to support from the Education Welfare Service and that currently this support is being provided, to the extent possible, by the Senior EWO for the area". Deputy Broughan said "in Dublin Bay North, there is only one assigned EWO for an area with over 50,000 households. This is completely unacceptable and could result in some children falling through the gaps".



With the East of Ireland Pipers in Howth, Tommy Broughan TD and Francis Devine

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC VOICE OF DUBLIN BAY NORTH

NEWS FROM AROUND DUBLIN BAY NORTH



Tommy at the Launch of the Doras Buí Community Garden in Coolock

All Hallows College: Deputy Broughan expressed disappointment at the intended closure of All Hallows College in Drumcondra. He raised the issue with the former Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn, and asked if any support could be given by his Department to the College. Deputy Broughan highlighted the important contribution made by the College in providing second chance education to mature students and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dollymount Strand: Dublin City Council recently decided to completely close the beach to vehicles. A report provided to Deputy Broughan from DCC said the decision was made following advice received from An Garda Síochána. A number of senior constituents with limited or no mobility have expressed their dissatisfaction with the decision as they have been gaining access to the beach using their cars for generations. The closure to vehicles is reportedly for health and safety reasons but DCC said it would liaise with “any genuine regular user who is negatively affected by this decision”. Deputy Broughan has asked DCC Chief Executive, Owen Keegan, to urgently consult Councillors in a full review of this decision.

Marino: Deputy Broughan supported a submission made by the Marino Residents' Association to Irish Water and the former Minister for the Environment, Phil Hogan, regarding water charges and the need to take account of the unique characteristics of houses in older estates in Marino where most homes have shared water services. Minister Phil Hogan said a survey by Irish Water of Marino found four out of five households have shared water service connections and the submission was being considered by his Department.

Fairview Park Pavillion: A recent report provided to Councillors from DCC stated that the current occupancy rate in the pavilion during the daytime on weekdays is low. As a result, the Council will be writing to local schools and youth groups to see if they are interested in using the facilities at the pavilion. The report also stated that DCC is considering the development of a café within the pavilion.

Darndale: Deputy Broughan continues to support the Board, management and staff of the **Jigsaw Centre** in their battle to keep their crèche open. A recent report provided to Deputy Broughan from Minister Reilly has said that Jigsaw must work within its existing resources. While the Board has agreed to accept the majority of recommendations made by an external monitor to address its funding difficulties, there is still a shortfall of funding. Deputy Broughan has asked Minister Reilly to visit the Centre and work constructively with the Board, management and staff.

Mount Olive Park: Deputy Broughan received a number of requests from constituents living close to Mount Olive Park to ask the Parks Department of DCC to cleanse the Park regularly

with more grass cutting and rubbish collections. Deputy Broughan contacted DCC and he understands that the Parks Department is carrying out additional and more regular works to keep the park cleansed.

Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock: The North Central Area Committee of DCC has agreed to a request from residents to extinguish the public right of way over the laneway to the rear of 71-91 Ferrycarrig Road and 64-78 Ferrycarrig Park. The matter was publicly advertised but no representations or objections were received by DCC. As a result, the Manager has recommended the extinguishment of the right of way for consideration later by the City Council.

Northside Shopping Centre: NI Property Developments Limited has made a request to DCC to extinguish the right of way over the underpass at Oscar Traynor Road, Northside Shopping Centre. No representations or objections were received by DCC to public advertisements about the request. The Area Manager has recommended the extinguishment of the right of way. However, it has been noted that there are significant drainage works to be completed by the owners of Northside Shopping Centre.

Howth Junction/Donaghmede Dart Station: Deputy Broughan recently received a report about an incident whereby a wheelchair user had to be carried off the Dart at Howth Junction/Donaghmede station. The ramps at the station were locked away on the evening of the incident because the station was unmanned. David Franks, CEO of Irish Rail, apologised for the incident and informed Deputy Broughan that “due to persistent vandalism of ramps at Howth Junction/Donaghmede Station, the ramp is now kept at the booking office” but he said alternative arrangements were being considered.

Church Street and Tramline, Howth: A report provided to **Cllr Cian O'Callaghan** at a meeting of Fingal County Council stated that footpath repairs at Church Street will be completed under the 2015 programme of works. Cllr O'Callaghan expressed concern about the paths being in a poor condition and posing a hazard to pedestrians. **Cllr Paul Mulville** has been informed by Fingal County Council that the owners of lands to the west of the Tramline (especially the wooded area to the west of Evora Park/Evora Crescent/Grace O'Malley Road and Grace O'Malley Drive) were being contacted by the Council in relation to illegal dumping at the location.

Howth Harbour: The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) recently published a report regarding fishery harbour centres. Among other things, the report suggests that parking charges in Howth harbour would raise €250,000 to €400,000 annually. Deputy Broughan has strongly supported the local campaign against the introduction of parking charges. Minister Coveney recently informed Deputy Broughan that no decision had yet been made but the C&AG report would form part of his Department's deliberations. Deputy Broughan said “I will continue to campaign vigorously against the introduction of parking charges at the harbour”.



At the opening of the Howth Tourist Information Office: Tommy Broughan TD, Tony Lambert, Cllr Ní Laoi, Mayor Murray, Senator Power and County Manager, Paul Reid

DUBLIN BAY NORTH PLANNING FILE

Completion of Phase 2 of the Coast, Baldoyle:

Menolly Homes has applied for an extension of duration of the planning permission previously granted to complete Phase 2 of the development at the Coast, Baldoyle. Deputy Broughan has made a submission to Fingal County Council urging the early completion of this phase. The application for extension notes that 273 units in the phase have already been completed and the plan is to have the remaining 205 units completed by August 2019. Deputy Broughan highlighted some of the problems at unfinished parts of the estate including illegal dumping and unsafe hoarding. Deputy Broughan also called upon the Council to ensure that appropriate community facilities are provided by the developers for the Coast.

Remediation of 1.5 hectares of land at Clonsaugh, D. 17:

Deputy Broughan made a strong submission to Fingal County Council calling for urgent remediation works to be carried out at the site of an illegal dump in Clonsaugh on lands owned by the IDA. An application has been made by the IDA to obtain an extension of the duration of planning permission previously granted in 2009 to remediate the site. The remediation works involve moving hazardous material from the site in a phased and controlled manner and replacing it with clean brown soil. Deputy Broughan has urged the Council to impose a condition on the permission that the works would be completed by 31 December 2015 at the latest.

Construction of 166 homes in Belmayne, D. 17:

Balgriffin Park Ltd has applied for permission to develop a 6.13 hectares site at the former Balgriffin Park lands in North Belmayne. The application involves the construction of three and four bedroomed homes of two and three storeys. Deputy Broughan has made a submission to Dublin City Council urging the Council to ensure that adequate community and play facilities are provided in the development, including appropriate amenity open spaces.

Planning Extension Proposals in Belmayne, D. 17:

Belmayne (Irl) Ltd has applied for an extension of the duration of the planning permission for the Belmayne master plan (2,180 dwellings and 10,000 square metres of commercial and community facilities). The same applicant has applied for an increase of density (373 units to 465 units) at cells P21, P22, P23 and P25 (the now derelict site west of Priory Hall) and an increase from 50 to 64 housing units in cells P14 and P15 on vacant lands to the north east of Belmayne Avenue. Deputy Broughan has also urged DCC to strictly invigilate these developments so that previous planning and developmental failures resulting in derelict lands and lack of community gain in Belmayne are addressed.

Alterations to Previous Planning Permission at McDermott Labs (Mylan), Baldoyle D. 13:

An application has been made to alter permissions previously granted to McDermott Laboratories. The alteration works proposed include a rebuild of a new Unit 22 and the development of a new security hut, a new sampler shed and changes to the car park. Deputy Broughan has noted the contents of the application and has advised the Donaghmede Estate Residents' Association of the proposed works.

Priory Hall:

A recent report presented to Dublin City Councillors has suggested that the revised rebuilding programme for Priory Hall will now cost €27 million. It is proposed that all pyrite in the complex will be removed and that it will be fully refurbished. Deputy Broughan has argued on behalf of constituents that the proposed funding should be used so that the whole complex would be completely demolished and a new structure built to a top class standard in its place.



Tommy speaking in Dáil Éireann

TOMMY IN THE DÁIL

Deputy Broughan raised a number of important issues of national and local concern during the Summer session of Dáil Éireann. Deputy Broughan consistently highlighted the severe housing crisis. He spoke on the **Housing Bill** and tabled several amendments which unfortunately were not accepted by the government. In a special Dáil debate, he urged the new Minister for Environment, Alan Kelly, to immediately tackle the housing crisis, particularly the increasing number of **homeless families** due to rising rents. Deputy Broughan also called for the introduction of **rent controls** to tackle the problem in the short term. He raised the ongoing problems in the **Aer Lingus/DAA/SR Technics pension fund** when he spoke in the debate on the Shannon Airport Bill. He spoke in support of the Cemetery Management Bill which proposes the creation of a **Cemeteries Authority**. In a debate on the **Judicial Appointments Bill**, Deputy Broughan spoke about the need to reform the system of judicial appointments to make it more transparent and to remove all elements of political influence from the process. In a special Dáil debate, Deputy Broughan highlighted allegations of potential illegal activity on some sites where construction is taking place under the **School Building Programme**. He asked then Minister Quinn to review the introduction of the **new Junior Cycle** curriculum. Deputy Broughan urged Minister Noonan to address the spiralling costs of **interest on the national debt** which is now over €8 billion per year. He also raised serious concerns about the impact of changes to local government laws in relation to the support provided to **local development companies**. Copies of all of Deputy Broughan's speeches are available on www.tommybroughan.com



Derelict site at Belmayne at which further residential development is proposed



Tommy at a recent public consultation on the Sewage Plant Proposal at Clonsaugh



Tommy with Michelle Earle from the Deaf Advocacy Society opposing cuts to deaf services

CONCERN ABOUT DISABILITY GRANTS SCHEME IN DUBLIN CITY FOR 2014

Deputy Broughan has recently been informed that Dublin City Council's Disability Grants Scheme for 2014 is being restricted due to a high volume of applications and a reduced amount of funding now available. A report from DCC states "funding for the scheme for 2014 has been earmarked to deal with previously approved cases on the waiting list since 2013". In mid-July of 2013, DCC was forced to close the Disability Grants Scheme for the remainder of the year due to cuts in funding from the Department of the Environment of over 40%. At that time, Deputy Broughan called on the Minister for Housing to sanction additional funding to keep the Scheme open. These calls

fell on deaf ears and now it seems the scheme will be closed again before the end of this year. Under the Scheme, grants are provided to senior citizens and people with disabilities to carry out works on their homes, including the installation of downstairs toilet facilities, to make them more accessible. Deputy Broughan has requested the Chief Executive of DCC and Minister Alan Kelly to report on how current restrictions could be reversed in Budget 2015.

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., Baldoye

NEW LAWS FOR LEARNER AND NOVICE DRIVERS

The Road Traffic Act 2014 includes important provisions relevant to learner drivers and newly qualified drivers (now known as novice drivers). Deputy Broughan was heavily involved in the debates on this new legislation as it passed through the Dáil. The Road Safety Authority has provided a useful guide on how the new Act affects learner and novice drivers. From 1 August 2014, any driver who passes his or her driving test after that date and obtains a driving licence will have to display a 'N' plate on their vehicle for two years from the date of the new licence being granted. The non-display of 'N' plates will be an offence with a potential penalty of a €1000 fine. Learner and novice drivers will also be subject to a lower maximum penalty points' limit of seven points (compared to 12 points for other drivers). These new requirements only apply to learner drivers who obtain their first learner permits after 1 August. For further information, see: www.rsa.ie

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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.

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