

# DARRAGH O'BRIEN T.D. MALAHIDE WARD UPDATE

MALAHIDE, PORTMARNOCK & KINSEALY

**FIANNA FAÍL**  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

SPRING 2009



## €7.5M INVESTMENT FOR MALAHIDE CASTLE

I am delighted to announce news of a major investment in Tourism for Malahide. Fáilte Ireland have announced a €3.75M grant for Malahide Castle. This funding will be matched by Fingal County Council meaning a total of €7.5M will be invested to improve and enhance the facilities in Malahide Castle. Plans for the upgrading of the Castle and its grounds will be put on display towards the middle of the year so as to allow the community an insight as to what developments will be taking place. The Council are planning to be actively engaged with the community and local residents in seeing the project through to fruition.

The funding will be used to build a new visitors centre in Malahide Castle, which is something that I and my colleague Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien have been calling for a number of years now.

Furthermore, the Talbot Botanic Gardens will come in for a full refurbishment which will bring them back to their former glory. The Talbot Botanic gardens are one of the most significant in Ireland, originally developed by Lord Talbot in the 19th century. This funding will mean that these gardens will be open to the public and will become a major tourist attraction not just in Ireland but across the world.

Malahide Castle is a very important tourist attraction for Fingal and in particular the Malahide, Portmarnock and Kinsealy area. Currently visitors to the castle peak at approximately 100,000 per annum. I have no doubt that the number of visitors will increase significantly once the development and improvement of the Castle and its' grounds are completed. It brings vital business to the town of Malahide and its surrounds. It has always been my belief that this facility can be improved upon thereby increasing the business spin-off for the surrounding area.

This investment will bring further jobs to Malahide, Portmarnock and Kinsealy and will mean that Malahide Castle will become a major Tourism asset for the area and the country as a whole.

I would like to commend Fingal County Council for



DARRAGH O'BRIEN T.D. PICTURED AT MALAHIDE CASTLE AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE €7.5M INVESTMENT PLAN.

all the work that they have put into these proposals. It is fantastic news for the area, which in my view will no doubt bring new jobs to the town, both directly and indirectly due to increased revenue for local businesses.

Particularly in these difficult economic times it is very important that we continue to invest in viable projects that will bring additional business and tourists to our area. The spin-offs due to this investment will be significant. Detailed plans of this investment and the works that will be undertaken will be made public shortly.

I and my colleague Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien have been, and continue to be committed to improving the facilities in our area for residents and visitors alike. I am delighted that this funding has been secured which will be a major boost for the local economy.

## GAELSCOIL AN DUINNÍGH - ANNOUNCEMENT

I am delighted to announce that the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe T.D. has given the go-ahead for a 16 Classroom new school for Gaelscoil An Duinnígh.

I have been involved with Gaelscoil An Duinnígh since my time in Fingal County Council in 2004 and with my colleague **Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien** we have worked hard to achieve this result. They are a fantastic school who teach students through the medium of the Irish Language. For 20 years now this school has resided in prefabs.

On my election to the Dail I gave a commitment that I would ensure a permanent school building for this school. I brought the Board of the Gaelscoil into the Dáil to meet the Minister before Christmas, where we had a very productive meeting.

I am absolutely delighted that the Minister has given the go-ahead for the new permanent school. I want to commend An Priomhoide, Brid Nic Gearailt and An Coiste Thuismitheoiri (Parents Committee) for all their hard work.

This announcement is not only a commitment to the Kinsealy Drynam area but also to the teaching of students through the Irish Language.

If you have any questions or queries regarding this new school building project or if I can be of assistance on any other matter, please feel free to contact us at the office details shown above.

## HOLYWELL ESTATE

I have, over the past 18 months been in regular contact with the residents in Holywell Estate to assist them in resolving a number of outstanding issues in their area.

I am pleased to say that in a number of areas, such as public transport, there have been marked improvements with the introduction of the 142 bus and the expansion of the 41X to include Holywell.

There are a number of matters which remain to be dealt with within Holywell

before the estate is taken in charge by Fingal County Council.

I am working with the Residents Association and the developer to make sure that these matters are resolved as speedily as possible.

I am pleased to hear that the shops and crèche in Holywell will open shortly, which will further improve the services in this area. If there are any matters within Holywell which I can be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## PROFILE OF DARRAGH O'BRIEN T.D.

First-time elected T.D. for Dublin North to Dáil Éireann in 2007.

- Vice Chairman on the Dáil Committee of Public Accounts
  - Convenor on Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs
  - Member of Select Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights
- REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO DÁIL DEBATES PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF FINANCE AND DISABILITY.

# NEW IN-PATIENT FACILITIES FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS PATIENTS

The provision of a new in-patient and outpatient facilities in Beaumont Hospital is currently underway. I have long campaigned on behalf of CF patients and their families and I am pleased to confirm that representatives from Beaumont Hospital have come back to me regarding my ongoing calls as Vice Chair of the PAC for the provision of CF facilities. Beaumont Hospital operates as a regional centre in providing services to adults with cystic fibrosis. It is vital that we enable Beaumont Hospital to provide out-patient

facilities for cystic fibrosis patients as soon as possible.

The building of the new in-patient facilities which will provide single room accommodation for CF patients is currently being fitted out and will be ready for completion in Spring 2009. The new outpatient CF facility will be completed by the end of 2009. It should be noted that before work on this can commence, a new building has to be provided for the Finance and HR Departments which currently

occupy the space earmarked for the new CF outpatient facility.

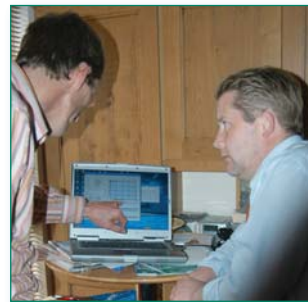
I am in regular contact with Beaumont Hospital and the Department of Health regarding these facilities and in my capacity as Vice Chair of the PAC, I will be putting pressure on the HSE to ensure that the time frame that has been outlined will be adhered to. This facility is badly needed and will go a long way in the ongoing treatment of those suffering from cystic fibrosis.

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IRELAND AND THE B.E.R. PROGRAMME

I recently invited Save Energy Consultants to determine the energy efficiency of my house in Malahide. I am concerned with rising energy costs, and how these will effect the people of north county Dublin, and I also wanted to take a closer look at the B.E.R. (Building Energy Rating) programme that Sustainable Energy Ireland have been developing and get a better understanding of the new building regulations and how future

demands in energy efficiency of dwellings for both new and existing properties will have an effect on us all as a community.

With increasing heating costs it is now become very important for us to understand exactly where our heat is going, and our money. You will find more details on Sustainable Energy Ireland and B.E.R. below in my National Insulation Programme launch update.



DARRAGH IN HIS HOME WITH SAVE ENERGY CONSULTANTS

## O'BRIEN WELCOMES GOVERNMENT DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT RYANAIR OFFER

I am pleased with the Governments recent decision not to accept the Ryanair offer of €1.40 per share for its 25.12% shareholding in Aer Lingus.

The decision was taken on the basis that the Ryanair cash offer greatly undervalues Aer Lingus and that a merger on the basis proposed would be likely to have a significant negative impact on competition in the market

The Government took the view that the Ryanair offer greatly undervalues Aer Lingus. There were a number of other issues considered by Government in coming to this decision. Competition was a major consideration. The cornerstone of Irish aviation policy is and has been for many years, to encourage competition. Because we live on an island Irish consumers depend very heavily on air transport. A monopoly in this area would not be in the best interests of Irish consumers.

The offer by Ryanair did not include any proposed remedies for the virtual monopoly which would result if the offer was accepted.

Other considerations also taken into account by Government were the impact of this merger on airports policy and consequently on regional development policy.

The Government was also mindful of the importance of ensuring maximum connectivity for Irish air travellers and so concluded that this was best ensured in a competitive market.

## O'BRIEN WELCOMES PROGRESS ON INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

Confirmation circulars setting out interim arrangements for substitution in schools for the rest of school year have been published by the Education Department.

I am pleased that an agreement has been reached on this matter. This move follows discussions between the Department and the management of post-primary and primary schools in relation to proposals made by the schools regarding current arrangements for supervision and substitution and in other areas where savings can be made.

The proposals included the identification by post-primary management bodies of annual savings of €16 million on substitution costs and how these savings can be made not only in the current year but on a continuing basis in

future years.

The arrangements indicate that in primary schools there will be substitute cover for teachers on uncertified sick leave other than on the first day of absence.

In a school where more than one teacher is absent on the first day of uncertified sick leave, substitute cover will be provided for the second and subsequent teachers that are absent. In schools with two teachers or less, cover will be provided where any classroom teacher is absent. The interim arrangements for primary schools have an estimated cost of €2m

There will be a full review of substitution and supervision scheme and I am confident that these measures will provide the Department and Management bodies with the time they need to establish a new scheme.

## NATIONAL INSULATION PROGRAMME

### €100 MILLION FOR INSULATION SCHEMES IN 2009

The National Insulation Programme for economic recovery has now been launched. The three-strand insulation programme will cut heating bills for householders, reduce carbon emissions and create thousands of jobs both directly and indirectly over the course of 2009.

In the context of the current economic situation, there is an opportunity to redirect our economy and refocus state and private investment onto a more sustainable path. This Government announcement of €100 million for this year will unlock the huge potential of energy efficiency for our economy.

Energy efficiency/insulation programmes help provide for economic competitiveness, security of energy supply and tackle climate change. These are the three pillars of the Government's energy policy.

This energy efficiency stimulus programme will be divided into three packages, with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources taking a co-ordinating role.

Insulation makes homes warmer and more comfortable. Householders can expect to halve their heating bills with reductions of €700 per annum. This means more money in their pockets. Construction workers will benefit from the thousands of jobs these measures we create. These will be jobs for tradespeople throughout the country.

The programme will consist of a number of grant schemes:

- The Home Energy Saving Scheme (private middle income homes) - €50 million
- Warmer Homes Scheme and Local Authority housing (low income private homes and rented local authority housing) - €50 million

Applicants should see <http://www.sei.ie/> for further details on how to apply or alternatively you can contact my office at the numbers shown below.

## DARRAGH O'BRIEN T.D.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE, 7 MANOR HOUSE, CHURCH ROAD, MALAHIDE, CO. DUBLIN

TEL: (01) 845 7741 FAX: (01) 845 7756 WEB: [www.darraghobrien.ie](http://www.darraghobrien.ie) EMAIL: [darragh.obrien@oireachtas.ie](mailto:darragh.obrien@oireachtas.ie)

CLINIC TIMES AT MALAHIDE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE  
MONDAY to FRIDAY (9AM – 6PM) SATURDAY (10AM – 3PM)  
EVERY FRIDAY AT RUSH COMMUNITY CENTRE (2PM – 5PM)

 **FIANNA FÁIL**  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

# DRAFT TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2009

With my colleagues in Fingal County Council I have identified a number of areas in need of improvement works in Kinsealy, Malahide and Portmarnock. As a result of our representations the following areas have been included in the Draft Transportation Works Programme 2009. Please see below the draft schedule of works for the coming year.

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
<b>MALAHIDE</b>		
Coast Road, Malahide	Footpath Improvements	€18,000
Main Street (Heeleys), Malahide	Footpath Improvements	€10,000
Seamount Road, Malahide	Footpath Improvements	€30,000
The Hill, Malahide	Footpath Improvements	€20,000
Yellow Walls Road, Malahide	Footpath Improvements	€10,000
Yellow Walls Road, Malahide	Road Reconstruction (0.5km)	€80,000
The Hill, Malahide	Road Reconstruction (0.4km)	
	Seamount junction to Secondary School	€62,000
Millview Road, Malahide	Speed Reader	€5,000
Sea Road, Malahide	Additional Traffic calming	€4,000
Back Road, Malahide	Flood relief Works	€20,000
Biscayne Estate, Malahide	Footpath Improvements	€21,000
Seapark/Island View, Malahide	Footpath Improvements	€45,000
St. Margaret's Avenue, Malahide	Upgrade lights (3)	€1,200
St. Andrew's Grove, Malahide	Upgrade lights (6)	€2,400
Church Road/The Hill, Malahide	Upgrade lights on ESB poles (7)	€5,250
<b>Total for Malahide</b>		<b>€333,850</b>
<b>PORTMARNOCK</b>		
The Dunes, Portmarnock	Boundary Wall	€23,000
Limetree/Purley Park, Portmarnock	Footpath Improvements	€15,000
Coast Road, Portmarnock	Carriageway works and earth berm	€48,000
Carrickhill Rd Upr., Portmarnock	Upgrade column to 8m	€1,400
Radlett Grove/Redfern Avenue path	Additional lights (3)	€10,000
<b>Total for Portmarnock</b>		<b>€97,400</b>
<b>KINSEALY</b>		
Baskin Lane	Road Reconstruction (0.5km)	€60,000
Baskin Lane	Footpath Improvements	€30,000
Baskin Lane/Malahide Road	Upgrade lighting on existing ESB poles	€5,250
<b>Total for Kinsealy</b>		<b>€95,250</b>

I will continue to monitor the progress of this work and will keep you updated over the coming months. As and when other queries and concerns may arise in the future please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be delighted to help you in any way I can.

## SPEED READER MILLVIEW ROAD

Following numerous complaints from residents of Millview and the surrounding areas regarding the problem of speeding, I have raised the issue of adding further traffic calming measures a number of times in the past year. As a result F.C.C have agreed to allocate €5,000 in the 2009 Programme of Works for the provision of a "speed reader" on Millview Road. These units have proven very effective in other areas in combating speeding and will surely enhance safety for pedestrians and road users alike.

## BASKIN LANE, KINSEALY

I am delighted that a total of €95,250 has been allocated to the Baskin Lane under the Transportation Works Programme for 2009. These funds have been allocated towards the following works:

- €60,000 towards road reconstruction
- €30,000 towards footpath improvements
- €5,250 for the upgrade of lighting on existing poles in the area.

With the €150,000 allocated under the Transportation Works programme for 2008 this brings to a total for the last two years of €245,950 that Fingal County Council has set aside provide these much needed works and repairs for the Baskin and area leading up to the school. I will continue to work with local residents and if I can be of further assistance regarding this or any other matter please do not hesitate to contact me.



CLLR. EOGHAN O'BRIEN AT THE VILLAGE GREEN, MALAHIDE

## VILLAGE GREEN - MALAHIDE

The Village Green in Malahide has been scheduled for some much needed upgrade work and repair. I have been working with local residents over the last few months and I am delighted that at a recent Area Committee meeting, Fingal County Council have agreed that there will be additional planting, pruning of shrubs and general tidy up of the area. These much needed works are currently being carried out and should be completed in the next few weeks.

## LIMETREE/PURLEY PARK, PORTMARNOCK

I have had a number of complaints from residents in Limetree/Purley Park, Portmarnock regarding the state of footpaths in the area. As a result of my representations Fingal County have allocated €15,000 for footpath improvements in the Draft Transportation Works programme 2009. I will monitor the progress of these works with F.C.C. and if you have any questions regarding them please feel free to get in touch with me.

## EOIN RYAN MEP WORKING FOR DUBLIN BUSINESSES



DARRAGH O'BRIEN T.D., EOIN RYAN M.E.P., CLLR. EOGHAN O'BRIEN

Eoin Ryan MEP has been working on a number of fronts to secure funds and reduce burdens for Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Dublin.

- Eoin Ryan has recently written a report aimed at reducing the administrative burdens facing SMEs.
- He has called on the Irish banks to intensify discussions with the European Investment Bank as a matter of urgency in order to open up a special €30 billion European Investment Bank fund that is available for SMEs across Europe.
- Eoin also led a delegation of

key Irish representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Chambers Ireland and the Small Firms Association to the EIB in Luxembourg to see how best Dublin businesses can avail of the €15 billion loan facility that is available for 2009.

According to Eoin Ryan "We are all acutely aware of the pressure that Dublin companies are under at this very difficult economic time. The importance of drawing down these monies for Dublin companies quickly cannot be understated" Contact Eoin at (01) 6623042 or [eoin.ryan@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:eoin.ryan@europarl.europa.eu)



WORKING WITH  
**CLLR. EOGHAN O'BRIEN**  
**MALAHIDE WARD UPDATE**  
 REPRESENTING MALAHIDE, PORTMARNOCK & KINSEALY

# SEABURY F.A.I. MINI PITCH



F.A.I. PRESIDENT JOHN DELANEY WITH CLLR. EOGHAN O'BRIEN

I am pleased to inform you that the F.A.I. Multi-Use Mini Pitch earmarked for Seabury has moved one step closer to fruition. F.C.C is currently in the process of assessing the tender received for the work and a contractor is likely to be selected in the coming weeks. Work on the project is likely to begin in the next couple of months. I recently met with F.A.I. President John Delaney who spoke very enthusiastically about the positive impact the mini pitch initiative has had on communities across the country. It is great news that the Seabury pitch is back on track and I wish to commend the Seabury Residents Association for all the hard work they have put into securing this project which will be of great benefit to the area.

## UPDATE ON RECENT GREEN BIN COLLECTION DISRUPTIONS

Due to the large number of representations I received following the Christmas/New Year period regarding missed green bin collections in areas of Portmarnock and Malahide, I have raised the issue at both Area Committee and Full County Council Level. The response I received from Fingal County Council's Environment Department is detailed below.

"To ask the Manager to report on the following in relation to the Green Bin service;

- (a) The Manger report on all the areas in Fingal that Greyhound have failed to collect the Green bins on collection dates and the reasons given by Greyhound for each failed collection;
- (b) In relation to the award of a 3 years contract, can the Manager specify whether a probation period was included to monitor the performance of the new provider and if not why not;
- (c) In relation to delays being experienced by customers and Fingal County Council in trying to contact Greyhound when problems arise, the members call for the immediate setting up of a direct line that staff and Councilors would be able to use in the event of problems arising with green bin collection services;
- (d) In relation to the fleet being used by Greyhound and in several instances of truck breakdowns having already occurred can the Manager inform the members of the age of the trucks being used;
- (e) Taking into consideration the fact that on several routes, trucks have filled up extremely quickly, can the manager state the load capacity of the Greyhound fleet and compare this with that of the capacity of the Oxigen trucks;
- (f) In light of the fact that Fingal County Council will soon be billing customers for the 2009 bin collection service can the Manager state what measures will be taken to ensure an excellent standard of service from now on for its customers in order to avoid large numbers of Fingal County Council customers switching to another operator or withholding payment of 2009 fee."

### MANAGER'S REPLY:

- (a) Unfortunately, due to Oxygen's failure to collect all green bins over the Christmas period a huge backlog of green bin collections remained for Greyhound, the new green bin collection contractor, to collect when they commenced their contract on the 2nd of January 2009. This resulted in a number of scheduled collections being delayed. All of the outstanding missed bin collections have now taken place and the normal green bin schedule has resumed.
- (b) There is no probationary period within the new green bin contract which was negotiated regionally by the 4 Local Authorities. The procurement process extended over a period of a year due to the complexity of the service being tendered. It is not clear how a probationary period arrangement could work as it would not be possible to switch to an alternate service

provider. Regular update meetings between Fingal County Council Staff and Greyhound staff have been held, and will continue to be into the future. Dublin City Council as the lead Authority also conducts weekly meetings and there is also a regional monthly meeting of all parties. It is felt that these various fora will provide sufficient opportunities to resolve any service delivery issues.

- (c) The delays experienced by customers in contacting the Greyhound Customer Services Helpline were due in part to the number of missed bin collections by Oxigen over the Christmas period. Greyhound recruited additional staff to cope with the call volume. The numbers of calls has significantly reduced since the backlog of missed collections has been dealt with. Fingal County Council has agreed a dedicated mobile phone contact number for a member of the Greyhound staff to handle queries that reach / escalate to the Council to resolve.
- (d) 90% of the Greyhound fleet is 2009 registered. The oldest collection vehicle is 06'. Greyhound has invested heavily in supplying the best possible vehicles to service routes. Breakdown problems may occur while the equipment is bedding-in but is not seen to be a prolonged problem. Every effort is being made through regular servicing and maintenance of the fleet to ensure that breakdowns do not become problematic.
- (e) The capacity of the Greyhound fleet is equal to that of Oxigen, however due to the missed green bin collections by Oxigen over the Christmas period, Greyhound had additional material to collect on the majority of their routes, hence the trucks did not service as many households on each route as would normally be the case. New trucks also fill to capacity quicker due to the bedding-in of hydraulic pipes and hoses on the compactor.
- (f) Since Greyhound has cleared the backlog of Oxigen collections, and resumed scheduled collections in all areas the service has improved significantly which is reflected in the reduced level of calls being received. Continued improvements in proactive communication between Fingal County Council (F.C.C.) and Greyhound will ensure that an excellent standard of service is met and continued. Greyhound has assured us that 'a new fleet, state of the art technology and a strong team will ensure that an excellent service is delivered to all customers in the F.C.C. area'. The service will be monitored very closely to ensure that this assurance is carried through".

I am pleased to report that following my representations, F.C.C. have arranged for a dedicated phonenumber between the Council and Greyhound so that any future disruption to service can be dealt with in a timely and efficient manner. I will continue to engage with local residents and F.C.C. on this matter in order to ensure.

### HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS. CLOSING DATE IS 15 DAYS PRIOR TO POLLING DAY**

If a person is not included in the register of electors' currently in force but considers that he/she qualifies for registration, the person may apply for entry in a supplement to the register which is published prior to polling day at each election and referendum. In order to qualify, a person must meet the requirements in relation to residence and age. To be eligible for inclusion in the supplement, a person must:

- be at least 18 years on or before polling day;
- be ordinarily resident at the address at which he/she wishes to be registered; and
- not be already registered as an elector at any other address.

You can check online to see if you are on the Electoral Register by going to the following URL address: <http://www.fingalcoco.ie/ereg/>

Supplementary registration forms are available from Fingal County Council, your Local Library and Garda Station. You can also obtain the form from our office in Malahide. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or you require any further information.

### PROFILE OF CLLR. EOGHAN O'BRIEN

I am 27 Years old living in Seabury; I was born, reared and educated in Malahide.

After completing my Secondary Education in Scoil Iosa I studied in DIT Aungier Street and received a degree in Information Systems Development. I work as a Business Development Representative for Johnson Bros Ltd servicing North County Dublin.

I have always enjoyed being involved in activities that serve to maintain the quality of life that we enjoy in our local community. It is with a great sense of responsibility and pride that I serve as your Local

representative on Fingal County Council since June 2007.

As your Local Councillor I have worked alongside individuals, local groups, sporting bodies and residents associations as your voice in Fingal County Council. It has been very satisfying to see my representations made on your behalf on many and varied issues come to successful conclusion.

It is my hope to continue to represent the residents of Fingal over the coming years and so I am asking for your continued support .