

DARRAGH O'BRIEN T.D. DUBLIN NORTH UPDATE

FIANNA FAIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
SUMMER 2010



GOVERNMENT BAN WILL CLOSE HEADSHOPS

I welcome the Government's immediate ban on a number of 'legal highs' and the decision to draft new legislation tackling Headshops.

The substances covered by the Government Order are extremely dangerous and I'm pleased to see that the unlawful supply of these substances could result in a maximum sentence of life in prison while possession can carry a prison sentence of up to 7 years and/or a fine.

We have 3 Headshops in our constituency, in Balbriggan, Malahide and Swords. The products on sale have been causing great anxiety in the community. Over the past months people have been out on the streets demanding that these shops be shut down.

It is reckless and irresponsible for anyone to sell these products. Now it is also illegal. The Government has also approved the drafting of

new criminal justice legislation, the Criminal Law (Psychoactive Substances) Bill 2010, by the Minister for Justice Dermot Ahern T.D. I have spoken to the Minister about this issue on a number of occasions and I know he is proposing to give Gardaí the power to seek orders in the courts preventing Headshops from selling these products. It's expected this Bill will be passed in this Dáil session.

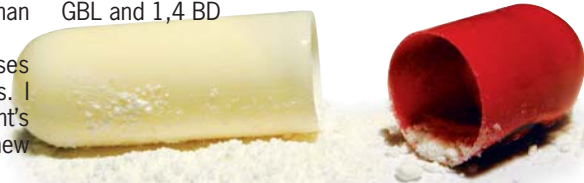
The Bill will be drafted in a way that ensures the sale or supply of substances which may not be covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act, but that do have psychoactive effects, for human consumption will be a criminal offence.

People have suffered very serious illnesses due to taking products sold in Headshops. I am confident that in light of the Government's decision that the Gardaí will enforce this new law vigorously.

The full list of substances now banned is available on the Department of Health and Children's website www.dohc.ie

THE LIST OF SUBSTANCES BANNED BY COMMON NAME IS:

Synthetic cannabinoids (contained in SPICE products)
Benzylpiperazine (BZP) and piperazine derivatives
Mephedrone, methylone methedrone, butylone, flephedrone, and MDPV
GBL and 1,4 BD



DARRAGH PICTURED WITH JACK CHARLTON AND CLLR. EOGHAN O'BRIEN (A.K.A. FREDDY THE FOX) AT THE MICK TOFTTE PERPETUAL TROPHY HELD SWORDS CELTIC RECENTLY. SPORTING FINGAL PLAYED A CHALLENGE GAME AGAINST SWORDS CELTIC ON THE DAY.

EU'S METRO NORTH COMMITMENT A MAJOR BOOST FOR DUBLIN

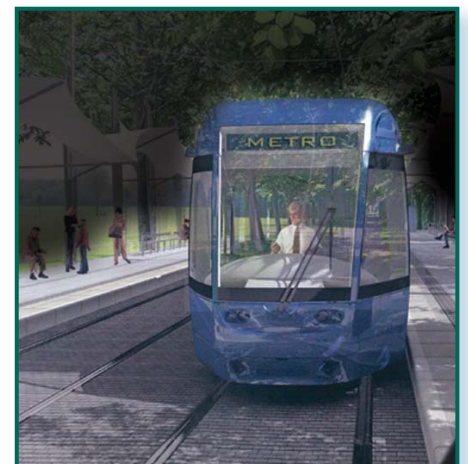
I welcome the €500 million loan commitment to Metro North from the European Investment Bank Board.

This is a ringing endorsement of Metro North and the Government's policy of building an integrated transport network that is sustainable and economically viable.

An Bord Pleanála's oral hearing on the railway order application for the project finished in March and it's expected a decision will be made this summer. There is a firm commitment to Metro North in the budget and the project is well on track now for delivery in 2016.

Metro North will create thousands of jobs during construction and there will be major economic benefits and job creation along the route once it's complete. There will be major benefits for commuters and businesses in Swords, around the Airport and in the surrounding areas of North Dublin.

I find the words of the Vice President of the European Investment Bank particularly encouraging. Plutarchos Sakellaris said Metro North represents a 'significant contribution to sustainable urban transport in the greater Dublin area and will be the backbone for a future integrated public transport network'.



It's this kind of confidence our international partners have in Ireland and the investment we are making in our future that we need to have in ourselves.

I have been committed to Metro North since before my election as a TD in 2007 and it remains a priority for me. I have been monitoring its progress closely as I firmly believe it will contribute greatly to our economic development.



ECONOMY ON ROAD TO RECOVERY WITH SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN 2011

I am pleased with the positive commentary on the Irish economy from the European Commission which has forecast that the economy will grow by 3% in 2011.

The collective efforts of all people in our society are paying off for the country. The Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn made his position on Ireland clear, when he said the country has taken 'bold, credible efforts and fiscal consolidation is paying off now'. He went on to state categorically that the Irish economy is recovering and the Commissioner has agreed with Finance Minister Brian Lenihan that the worst is over.

Based on the European Commissions report unemployment will peak this year, our exports will continue to grow and NAMA will clean-up the balance-sheets of the banks to get them in a position to support economic growth.

We are acutely aware of the fragility of recovery across Europe but our businesses and our citizens have reason to be hopeful going forward. We are recovering and we must believe in ourselves and the capacity of our country to chart a future of growth and renewed prosperity.

I've highlighted some of the key points from the European Economic Forecast (Ireland) spring 2010 report. I think its important people take time to recognise that we are starting to see the tough measures paying off:

- European Commission Spring forecast predicts Irish economy would contract by 0.9% this year, revising previous forecast upward from -1.4%.
- Predicted 2011 growth of 3%, one of the fastest growth rates in Europe in 2011
- Unemployment will peak in 2010 (13.8%) and begin to fall next year (13.4% unemployment rate)
- Driven by the good performance of the – relatively acyclical – chemical and pharmaceutical sector, Ireland's exports only recorded a fairly moderate decline in 2009 compared to most euro-area peers. Exports are set to expand again in 2010 and gather strength in 2011.

The focus is now on getting people back to work. With the economy recovering this can now be achieved.

OPENING OF BALBRIGGAN SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE

I can confirm that a new social welfare office will open in Balbriggan in a matter of weeks to serve the North Dublin town and surrounding areas.

The Secretary-General of the Department of Social and Family Affairs, Bernadette Lacey, recently appeared before the Public Accounts Committee. I took the opportunity to raise the important matter of a social welfare office in Balbriggan which is needed to serve the town and the wider community. I'm pleased to say that Ms. Lacey confirmed to me that the office in Mill Street will be operational in 10 weeks. The fit-out of the office will commence shortly

and will be completed for opening in July.

At the moment people who have lost their job have to travel long distances to Coolock or into the city centre to sign on. I'm very pleased that this will soon come to an end. The opening of a social welfare office in Balbriggan is major priority for me and I am monitoring progress on this matter daily.

I'm very pleased that the office in Balbriggan will be opening in the coming weeks. It is essential that services for jobseekers are provided locally and this will be of benefit to the town and to the surrounding areas.

GOVERNMENT NOW SUPPORTING 100,000 PEOPLE TO REMAIN IN WORK

The latest figures released by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Batt O'Keeffe TD, show the Government is now supporting 100,000 people to remain in their jobs.

A further 1,213 companies are receiving support under the Employment Subsidy Scheme as part of the Second Call of the scheme. This is a very important development and shows the Government is serious about helping people to stay in work and support employment.

Almost €65 million is being provided to

support these companies. This money will either directly or indirectly support 66,567 jobs through this year. Almost 1700 companies, eligible for support, are now benefiting from the Employment Subsidy Scheme which is being funded to the tune of €133 million.

I have now proposed to Government that a further round of the Employment Subsidy Scheme be introduced, to allow more companies to participate in this successful initiative.

€6 BILLION CREDIT FOR SMALL & MEDIUM BUSINESSES IN BANK PLAN

Small and medium sized businesses will benefit from a minimum of €6 billion in credit facilities as a result of specific lending targets being imposed on AIB and Bank of Ireland arising from the increased State support for the banking system.

Small businesses have been telling me that they are continuing to experience difficulties in accessing credit. Last Month the Government moved decisively to deal with this matter. Minister Brian Lenihan is imposing specific lending targets on both AIB and Bank of Ireland. Each bank will be required to submit SME lending plans both by geography and sector for 2010 and 2011 to the Department of Finance within six weeks. The two banks will make available not less than €3 billion each for new or increased credit facilities. This will maintain and create jobs in SMEs, which are the engine of our economy.

The losses incurred in the banking system are horrific but it is essential that we deal with this issue now. I believe the steps announced will lead to increased credit availability for businesses and position the economy for a return to growth this year.

Minister Lenihan is also insisting that Bank of Ireland and AIB must make available €20 million each for Seed Capital to be provided to Enterprise Ireland supported ventures. This will build on the very successful programme launched last year. The Government is repositioning the banking system, moving away from property-related lending to focus on new forms of business activity. This will



DARRAGH PICTURED WITH KEN O'GORMAN QFA, DIRECTOR OF ONEQUOTE.IE AT THEIR NEW PREMISES IN MALAHIDE.

sow the seeds of economic growth for the future.

The aggressive valuations by NAMA greatly increase the chances of securing a reasonable financial return for the taxpayer. We're now moving to the final phase in stabilising the banking system. We now know the extent of our bank's losses and the scale of the damage that has been done by the excessive lending and bad practices of recent years.

The Government has announced a comprehensive plan to restore the banks to order. These are painful measures and place a significant burden on the taxpayer but they are unfortunately necessary to ensure we have a strong viable banking system. This is essential if we are to return our economy to growth this year.

WORLD CLASS AVIATION TRAINING IN DUBLIN NORTH

For the first time in Ireland Simtech are supporting pilot training for Aer lingus, City Jet, Aer Arann and Air Contractors all Irish Carriers helping to reduce their operational costs while bringing important business back to Ireland and securing employment for support services in those airlines. This will save approximately 200 jobs that would normally transfer to the UK and Europe.

Their other key investment is in direct training of student pilots having completed their PPL (Private Pilots Licence) they prepare them for the important step into commercial jet aircraft. Simtech are continuing expansion of this business and attract several hundred students from all parts of Europe and further a field on an annual basis to complete their training in Ireland. They also afford the opportunity for Irish students having completed their initial training with PTC in Waterford to finalise their move to employment with International Airlines. They currently enjoy over 95% record in placing first officer students from out MCC and JOC training courses.

Simtech are currently embarking upon a Joint Venture with Mechtronix Corp, one of the



DARRAGH PICTURED WITH FERGAL KEOGH OF SIMTECH AVIATION BESIDE THEIR NEW SIMULATOR AT THEIR PREMISES IN KESTREL HOUSE, DUBLIN AIRPORT LOGISTICS PARK, ST MARGARET'S ROAD, CO. DUBLIN

three largest Flight Simulation manufacturers in the world and are based in Canada. Mechtronix have selected Simtech as a partner to advance a study and research to implement a program for MPL under the International Standards of ICAO, International Certification for Aviation. This program will result in the use of flight simulators to complete the Multi Pilot Licence

rather than high cost flight time on the Aircraft. This will increase safety and reduce cost for Airlines something that is much needed in the current climate and for future cost provisions. This initiative will put Ireland to the forefront in Aviation Training and create employment through establishing an ICAO operation in Ireland.

HOME CARE IN THE COMMUNITY



DARRAGH PICTURED WITH KEN O'BRIEN OF HOME INSTEAD AT THEIR OFFICES IN SWORDS

Home Instead Senior Care, Ireland's trusted source of home care for seniors, is committed to helping families care for ageing loved ones, while remaining at home for longer. I recently visited Home Instead in Swords and met with Ken O'Brien, Director to talk about home care and how it can help local families support and care for their loved ones.

Home Instead Senior Care provides flexible home care services. Whether companionship, help with day to day activities such as meal preparation, laundry or shopping or more specialist Alzheimer's and Dementia care services Home Instead can tailor a service that suits your needs. From a few hours a day up to 24/7 live in care Home Instead can provide what you need.

The benefits of home care, to both the community in general and the individual receiving care are substantial. The care we provide can help individuals win back levels of confidence, independence and security while valuable acute care resources are freed up for those that need them.

The well-being and care of individuals with disabilities, chronic health conditions or new mothers needing help in their first few months of motherhood are also other areas in which Home Instead can be of assistance as they can provide home care to all members of the community.

If you feel their services may be of benefit to you or your family or you would like to learn more about our services please contact their office in Swords on (01) 8950010. For further information please visit their website at www.homeinstead.ie

MINISTER OF STATE JOHN MOLONEY T.D. VISITS DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

I invited the Minister out recently to visit a number of Mental and Disability Services in Dublin North including Proper Fingal in Swords, The ARCH Club in Portmarnock and CASA Breakhouse in Malahide

The visit gave the Minister the opportunity to tour each venue and to listen to the needs and requirements of the disability sector.

I am very much aware of the challenges Mental and Disability Services are facing. I felt this was a great opportunity for the Minister to meet with the care providers so he could get a first hand account of their

challenges and needs.

An in-depth review of Disability Services will assess how well current services for people with disabilities meet their objectives and support the future planning and development of their services. The evaluation will focus on the current provision of disability services and explore the way forward for the development of services within a value for money and policy framework. The consultation exercise seeks to obtain the views of all those with an interest in disability services to inform the review.

CARING AND SHARING ASSOCIATION (C.A.S.A.)



DARRAGH PICTURED WITH MINISTER OF STATE JOHN MOLONEY T.D., VOLUNTEERS OF CASA AND PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR BREAKHOUSE IN MALAHIDE

I am very pleased to have helped C.A.S.A. in securing a new home. As part of the Broomfield Local Area Plan, CASA have been designated approximately 1 acre of land to allow them build a respite home.

DUBLIN NORTH SCHOOLS UPDATE



DARRAGH WITH PRESIDENT MARY MCALEESE AT GAELSCOIL BHRIAN BOROIMHE'S FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

SCHOOLS GONE TO TENDER AND CONSTRUCTION

Summary of schools gone to tender and construction:

NAME OF SCHOOL	PROJECT UNDERTAKEN
Gaelscoil Bhrian Bóroimhe	New School
Swords Educate Together	New School
Donabate College	New School
Loreto Balbriggan	Extension & PE Hall
Gael Scoil an Dhuinninigh	New School

This is fantastic news for the people in these areas and those involved in these schools particularly the pupils, teachers and staff.

I want to commend each Principal, Board of Management and Parent Associations of these schools, for all their hard work in securing these announcements. I was pleased to have been of some assistance to these schools.

The delivery of these projects, were commitments that I gave to the people of Dublin North, before, and since my election as your T.D. I am delighted that these projects will be going to construction this year.



DARRAGH AT THE RECENT OPENING OF TLC CHILDARE, AT ROBSWALL PARK, COAST ROAD, MALAHIDE

O'BRIEN CONFIRMS 15 SCHOOLS IN DUBLIN NORTH WILL BENEFIT FROM SUMMER WORKS SCHEME

I can confirm that 15 schools across Dublin North will benefit from the Summer Works Scheme announced by the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills Mary Coughlan TD.

€122 million is being invested in the Summer Works Scheme across the country and I'm delighted to see that 15 schools in Dublin North are included in the programme this year. This is important work that is needed to upgrade the school network for a growing community and school population.

The work on schools in Dublin

North, that is now being put out to tender, includes the upgrading and replacement of windows, roofs and toilets. Important work on the external environment is also going to be carried out on two schools.

The Summer Works Scheme is not just an important programme for the education system and the environment in which our children spend a large amount of time; it has the potential to generate work for trades-people during the summer period.

A list of the school in Dublin North benefiting from the scheme is below:

SCHOOL NAME	CATEGORY
S N MUIRE AN SEAN BAILE, OLD TOWN	External Environment
SAN NIOCLAS MYRA KINSEALY	Windows
SN N SAILBHEASTAR NFA MALAHIDE	Mechanical
S N C NAOMH PADRAIG DONABATE	External Environment
S N CHOLMILLE B SWORDS	Roofs
S N CHOLMILLE C SWORDS	Mechanical
ST CRONAN BRACKENSTOWN	Toilets
ST HELENS JUNIOR NS PORTMARNOCK	Toilets
ST HELENS SENIOR NS MARTELLO	Roofs
HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR NS SWORDS	Mechanical
HOLY FAMILY SENIOR NS SWORDS	Mechanical
BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PINE RIDGE	Mechanical
GEALCHOLAISTE REACHRANN BÓTHAR MHAINISTIR NA GRÁINSÍ	Roofs
PORTMARNOCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL CARRICKHILL ROAD	Curricular Requirements
MALAHIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL BROOMFIELD	Mechanical

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT THE NUMBERS SHOWN BELOW IF THERE IS ANY ISSUE AFFECTING YOU OR YOUR AREA

DARRAGH O'BRIEN T.D.

WORKING WITH

CLLR. EOGHAN O'BRIEN

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CLINIC TIMES AT MALAHIDE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

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



www.darraghobrien.ie

