

Cllr. Deirdre Heney

30 Collins Avenue East, Killester, D5. e.mail heneydm@gmail.com Phone 8512031 / 6183793 Spring 2014

Dear Constituent,

In terms of local politics, 2014 is an important year with the Local and European Elections on May 23rd.

At our selection Convention for the Clontarf Ward last October, I was pleased to be selected by the Party members to be their candidate. Since then, Fianna Fáil Headquarters, to my great surprise, added a second candidate who had not even indicated his interest at selection convention time. Party strategists feel there is a good chance of FF winning two seats in the Ward and while this will be very difficult on our current standing in opinion polls I and my running mate Seán Haughey will be campaigning strongly towards this end. In any event, I hope that my hard work and commitment to the people of this area over the last 14 years will be recognised and I ask for and hope that you will give me your support on May 23rd next.

Election campaign

I need help in the election campaign. Please contact me if you can help me with canvassing or delivery of leaflets etc at heneydm@gmail.com or 8512031.

Grants; Home Heating: See www.seai.ie phone 1850376666 for Better Energy Homes Scheme. Grants for energy efficiency improvements e.g. roof & wall insulation, solar panels, high efficiency boilers etc. Warmer homes scheme is for persons on fuel allowance and helps with draught proofing, attic insulation, lagging jackets and sometimes cavity wall insulation.

Household Junk Collection: This service is provided to households on a 3 year cycle which means that households that received the collection in 2011 can expect to have their area covered this year.



Age Action runs a Care & Repair Programme in many locations to carry out “odd jobs” for older people with a team of handypersons; phone 1890369369 or email info@ageaction.ie

Housing grants for older people and those with disabilities who need their homes adapted e.g. showers, downstairs toilet, stairlifts and ramps etc; This scheme is run by Dublin City Council.

Sports Capital Programme

Applications from sports clubs closed on 28 Feb. Let me know if your club submitted one.

Home Renovation Scheme: Income tax credit of 13.5% on home renovations up to end of 2015; cost of jobs €5,000 - €30,000; see www.revenue.ie

Military Service (1916 - 1923) Pensions Collection

The Military Service Pensions Archive project is a cornerstone project of the Government Decade of Centenaries 2012 - 2022 Commemorative programme and the collection numbers almost 300,000 application files for pensions, allowances and medals. This first online release of material is primarily focused on the participants of the 1916 Rising. The material is available at www.militaryarchives.ie The files cover applications for

- service pensions from veterans involved in the Easter Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War
- allowances from dependants of those killed on active service or from those wounded or incapacitated while on duty during the period and
- the award of the 1916 Medal and The Service (1917-1921) Medal.

A phased release of material into the public domain is planned. This first release comprises in excess of 10,000 files relating to 3,200 individuals who were members of the Irish Volunteers, the Citizen Army, the Hibernian Rifles, the Irish Republican Army, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann or the National Army during the period 1916 to 1923 and who were awarded service pensions or allowances, 2,400 of which are 1916 veterans. Also included in the release is a range of files which feature the membership rolls of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizens Army, Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann as on 11th July 1921 and 1st July 1922.

Clontarf flood defence

A Joint Working Group, (JWG) set up in Feb 2013, of Dublin City Council, Clontarf Residents Assoc and Clontarf Business Assoc has been working to agree a flood defence along the promenade. The JWG has agreed that the proposal most likely to minimise the visual impact and leave as much of the prom as possible for current usage would be a dual flood defence of the existing sea wall and a secondary defence as close as possible to Clontarf Road. See my website at www.deirdreheney.ie for further details.

Online records of Ireland's World War One casualties

This recently launched new archive "Ireland's Memorial Records" lists 49,000 soldiers from the island of Ireland who died during the First World War or as a result of wounds sustained during battle.

Google, the In Flanders Museum in Belgium and our Dept. of Foreign Affairs co-operated to bring this project to fruition. The digitization and online access to their record will be a very valuable resource for genealogy, but most of all, it will facilitate remembering Irish men and women and keep alive the history and stories of those who did not return from the War.

Some 200,000 Irish people took part in the War and this being the centenary of the outbreak of the 1914 – 1918 War, we can expect renewed interest with TV historical programmes etc. It's important that we share these online records so that the memory of those who fought and died in the War will live on. See website as follows; www.imr.inflandersfields.be/search/html

The City of Ypres holds an original copy of Ireland's memorial records. Field Marshall Sir John French Lord Lieutenant of Irl (1919 –22) ordered the records to be made up and published. He was commander of the BEF during the two Battles of Ypres in 1914 and 1915 and donated a copy of the records to the city.

Ireland's memorial records, published in 1923, in eight leather bound volumes and illustrated by Irish artist Harry Clarke, is on permanent display in the In Flanders Fields Museum there.

Clanmoyle Road Flood Alleviation

60% of the new 1.5m – 2.1 m diameter surface water sewer has been installed; clearance for new retaining wall next to railway line and excavation for foundations is completed as is 40% of new 4m high wall. Works to the rear of houses on Clanmoyle Road and Collins Ave East (subject to residents agreement) and works on footpath, road and green in Clanmoyle to begin 2nd quarter of 2014.

Planning Matters

Below are some local planning applications which may be viewed in the Planning Dept., Civic Offices during office hours or at www.dublincity.ie

3657/13 Application for 69 (2 & 3 storey) residential units on site at Sion Hill Rd/Carberry Rd for Sherborough Enterprises now passed.

2401/13 Site bounded by Vernon Ave/Belgrove Rd/Kincora Rd/ St. Joseph's Sq/Vernon Wood. 17 houses with entrance from Vernon Ave. now appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

2325/09 Bettyglen House Raheny; application for 6 extra residential units which together with 11 already approved equals 17.

3796/13 Stella Maris FC have applied for a 3 storey clubhouse on their Richmond road site.

2526/13 Extn. for Howth Rd NS beside Presbyterian Church now approved by An Bord Pleanála.

3629/13 Demolition of warehouse and build 4 two storey terrace dwellings with balcony, 4 parking spaces etc at 1A Clonturk Park, Drumcondra.

2653/13 permission granted for demolition of 18 Seafield Road West and build of 3 houses here and at rear of 20, 22 & 24; (site already has approval for 7 dwellings under previous application).

2191/14 Proposal for a synthetic all-weather football pitch in St Anne's Park, Raheny (beside old tennis courts) gone for part 8 planning application.

Roads maintenance 2014

Carriageway

- Clontarf Road /James Larkin Road
- Collins Ave East – the church to Clanree Rd
- Alfie Byrne Rd – localised patch repairs
- Gracepark Avenue – resurfacing

Footpaths

- Malahide Road – Fairview to Donnycarney Rd
- James Larkin Rd – Kilbarrack Road
- Vernon Grove/Gardens
- Haddon Park/Road
- Kincora Ave/Court/Drive/Grove/Park
- Stiles Road – one traffic calming ramp

Irish Water

Water charges will apply to households from next October. The installation of water meters is continuing and you will be billed every 3 months for water used. Irish Water is a new State agency or Quango that has taken over responsibility for water provision from local authorities. The big concern now is the charging system. It was supposed to be a generous level of free water for each family based on size and a charge for water usage over a certain level. Recent comments concern me and I worry about the charge. It now appears the decision is being held back until after the elections. I wonder why?

News Snippets

- Minister for Justice publishes General Scheme of Children & Family Relationship Bill aimed at catering for the needs of diverse family types – on adoption, surrogacy etc
- Satellite centres for the new children's hospital for Tallaght and Blanchardstown. What will happen to Temple Street?
- The Junior Cert is being reformed and renamed the JCSA or Junior Cycle Student Awards. To be done in stages from Sept 2014.
- Spend on FIS (Family Income Supplement) increases to €280m. Over 44,000 working families qualify at present.
- 630,000 passports issued in 2013. If travelling abroad this year, make sure to update your passport on time. Many countries require passports to be valid for at least 6 months.
- Contract for new postcode system signed. We will start using postcodes mid 2015
- €1.8m shared between 136 organisations involved in animal care and welfare services. Dublin DSPCA and the Irish Blue Cross were the Dublin based groups receiving the largest amounts.

Budget News

The Government wanted to reduce the overspend between spending and income by €2.5 billion in the Budget by way of a mix of expenditure cuts and extra taxes. The question is did they get it right. Did they impose the cuts and taxes in a fair manner. I think it's now generally agreed that the changes made were not done in a fair manner and that some groups in society, particularly our senior citizens and the young unemployed, were harshly treated.

Senior citizens

Phone allowance of €9.50 per month is abolished.

The €850 bereavement grant is abolished. This was based on PRSI contributions and paid on the death of an insured person and the husband/wife of an insured person.

Increase of €1 in prescription charge to €2.50 per item - monthly cap of €25 per person or family.

A reduction of the thresholds on over 70s medical cards from €600 to €500 per week and from €1200 to €900 for couples. Some 35,000 people to be effected should get a GP visit card instead of a full medical card.

A major "probity" check on all medical cards.

A cap on tax relief on health insurance will seriously affect pensioners with decent but necessary cover. Tax relief will be restricted to the first €1000 per adult spent on a policy.

DIRT on savings is increased to 41% from 33%. It was 20% in 2008.

Other Budget Features

€100 Jobseekers rate now to apply to under 25s.

€144 rate at age 25; full rate €188 at age 26.

Extra tax on beer/spirits 10 cent, wine 50 cent a bottle, cigarettes 10 cent.

Other Budget features continued

- Maternity Benefit to be standardised at €230 per week. Most mothers will be reduced by up to €32 a week. A minority on the minimum rate of €217.80 will move up to €230.
- An increase from 3 to 6 in the waiting days for an illness claim, meaning a person will not be entitled to Illness or Injury Benefit for the first 6 days of a claim.
- Free GP care for children up to 5 years.
- Home Property Tax that began last July is doubled for 2014
- €602m for overseas development aid, that means a fall to 0.43% of GNP, even further away from the UN target of 0.7%
- Funding to Irish Sports Council down again to €40m from €57.3m in 2008. Glad to see a new round of sports capital funding.
- €3 air travel tax to be dropped from April. Cost €36m in a full year. In return airlines are expected to run new routes into Ireland and boost tourism.
- The 9% reduced VAT rate introduced in 2011 for the hospitality sector remains.

Parks improvements

- St. Anne's Park – footpaths/Follies
- Brian Boru Street – works on shrubbery
- Bull Island – improvements to picnic tables at interpretative centre
- additional shower facilities on the beach

Battle of Clontarf

A Heritage Trail is proposed for Clontarf Prom from Alfie Byrne Rd to the Wooden Bridge with a series of 6 signs telling the story of Brian Boru, the Vikings and the Battle of Clontarf. There is huge effort being put into the commemorative celebrations by local groups and historical societies etc, bringing together a hugely positive celebration in our area. Dublin City Council's main event is a battle re-enactment and Viking Village in St. Anne's park over Easter. See www.brianborumillennium.ie for list of events.

See my website at www.deirdreheney.ie to keep up to date on my comments on local and national issues.

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