

Now, Let's Build A Real Alternative: COUNCILLOR DERMOT LOONEY

I would like to say a sincere thank you to the hundreds of local people who placed their trust in me in the local elections on June 5th. With 2,329 first preference votes I was elected to South Dublin County Council for the fourth of six seats in the 'Tallaght Central' electoral area.

The Labour Party achieved three seats out of six in this area, a victory made all the more spectacular by the fact that all three candidates were running for the first time.

As the youngest candidate in the field, election seemed an unlikely prospect when I started my campaign over a year before polling day. But we set out from the start to engage the community in our campaign. We knocked on more doors, dropped more information leaflets, talked to more local residents and got more local people involved than any other campaign.

However, this is just the end of the beginning.

Too many of our political representatives seem to disappear between elections. For me, though, this is where the real work starts. My election is a mandate for change on the Council and in our community.

I have already been involved in a number of initiatives at Council level and in making representations on behalf of local communities and residents; you can read more about some



of these issues inside.

I want you to get involved in ensuring a community-led response in the tough times ahead. Please contact me at the details on the top right of this page with your ideas, questions and comments. Better yet, why not join the local Labour team to build the real alternative for our community?

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. Throughout my campaign I was uncompromising in standing up for working people, the elderly and the excluded. Now I'm carrying those politics to the County Council.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh,

Dermot

Inside

Victory on St. Peter's School Site

The dangerous 'lake' at the rear of St Peter's School on Limekiln Road has been drained and remedial works have been made to the site on foot of pressure from Cllr Dermot Looney. More on Pg 2.

Hotel Scam Slammed

Cllr Dermot Looney has called for the closure of two Tallaght hotels posing as apartment blocks. The hotels, built by troubled developer Liam Carroll, are in breach of planning law. More on Pg 3.

Ashleaf Plans Thrown Out

Plans for a 5-story redevelopment of the Ashleaf Shopping Centre have been rejected by An Bord Pleanála, to the relief of local residents. More on Pg 3.

Dermot Looney is working with Pat Rabbitte TD and the local Labour team to ensure a real alternative for...

GREENHILLS - TALLAGHT - TEMPLEOGUE - PERRYSTOWN - WALKINSTOWN

Local News for Our Area

DUBLIN 12

St Peter's Site Victory

Cllr Dermot Looney has welcomed news that the building site at the rear of St Peter's School on Limekiln Road has been cleaned up, with the vast "lake" of rain-water gathered in the basement and foundations being drained and covered in.

"Ensuring the clean up of this dangerous site was one of my highest priorities during the recent election campaign. After months of pushing on the issue and working with local residents, the developer - Promster Developments - finally took

action based on the Council's warnings our campaign secured," noted Cllr Looney.

"It is worth noting that the school itself was not connected to these problems and did all it could to ensure remedial works were carried out. Vigilant residents on Limekiln Rd and Temple Manor who pushed the issue are to be congratulated on their victory, but we now need to ensure the appropriate development of this site in the coming months and years."

Lane Cleaning

Cllr Dermot Looney has made several representations to ensure the clean up of laneways in Greenpark, Greenhills, Limekiln, Perrystown, Cherryfield



Cllr Dermot Looney celebrating with supporters at the election count in the NBA, Tallaght

/Beechfield and other parts of the county. One of the most significant walkways in Dublin 12 is Keadeen Walkway in Greenpark, which acts as a pedestrian route for hundreds of people each day. "I am pushing for an adequate cleaning regime for Keadeen Walkway and the removal of weeds," noted Cllr Looney. "I encourage all local residents who spot litter, dumping or other problems in their laneways to report it to me immediately so I can raise the matter as a priority."

DUBLIN 6w

Looney Supports Spawell Workers

Cllr Dermot Looney joined picketing workers from the bar and nightclub at the Spawell on August 18th and 26th to offer his full support and solidarity - and that of the Labour Party.

"The conduct of CB Taverns, who took over the bar lease only a year ago, has been truly appalling in this matter," Cllr Looney said. "When the bar was closed, workers were owed two full weeks wages, wages for another 3 day week and holiday pay. They are also owed answers as to how the company dealt with its final few weeks and what the future has in store."

"I've written to the company to demand the immediate payment of outstanding wages to the workers - some of whom have been there for more than 25 years - and am in contact with the MANDATE trade union who are representing the 32 affected workers."



The derelict site of the former McHugh's Shopping Centre, which has remained vacant since 2003

McHugh's Site Update

6 years on, and the derelict former site of the McHugh's Shopping Centre on St James' Road continues to be the major issue for residents of Greenhills and Limekiln. After a campaign launched by Dermot Looney last year, the site was eventually entered onto the Derelict Sites Register by the Council and the developer, Sean McHugh, was fined for breaches of planning enforcement regulations. The Council are now pursuing the developer through the courts following his refusal to pay a levy issued for the dereliction.

"I have embarked on a number of meas-

ures in recent weeks to attempt to recover this site for the Greenhills community," said Cllr Looney.

"In the short term, I have made an enforcement complaint as to the use of the site for storing building material and vehicles. I have also sought to have the appropriate development of the site included as a 'Specific Local Objective' of the County's Development Plan and have asked Council officials to prepare a report on a Compulsory Purchase Order or other mechanisms to take over the site. Winning won't come easy in this campaign - but with the togetherness of local residents, we will succeed," noted Cllr Looney.



Cllr Dermot Looney joined with picketing workers outside the Spawell complex, Templeogue

Wilderwood Pathway

Cllr Dermot Looney has raised the need to repair the path in the green area beside Wilderwood Grove. "Recent construction meant that the path was put out of use. It has still not been resurfaced and the area is more rubble than pathway. We must ensure its immediate repair for residents in Kennington and Wilderwood and students in St McDara's who use it on a daily basis."

DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE - CLLR DERMOT LOONEY: We are now entering a critical stage in the County's Development Plan process in South Dublin until 2016. Councillors have submitted various amendments to the draft plan. I have submitted 13 motions, including s (Greenhills), the Burmah Garage site (Wellington Lane), a neighbourhood park for Citywest, a community centre for Cherryfield/Beec 12. The Councillors will meet a number of times in September to amend the plan before it goes back out for public consultation. Plea

St James' Rd Upgrade

Roadworks on St James' Rd in recent weeks have caused disruption to motorists and pedestrians in Greenhills Estate. The roadworks include the repair of parking bays, the replacement of ramps and traffic roundabouts and work on some footpaths.

"I don't believe residents have been sufficiently informed as to the disruption caused or the timescale of the works," said Cllr Dermot Looney. "However, I'm glad to see a number of ramps being replaced and footpaths being repaired given my frequent representations on these over the past 18 months. I will continue to monitor to ensure appropriate clean up works are carried out."

Ashleaf Plans Rejected

Plans to develop a 5-storey complex at the site of the Ashleaf Shopping Centre were rejected by An Bord Pleanála in June. The plans, which included the development of apartments and an 'apart-hotel' at the site, were steadfastly opposed by local residents on Whitehall Rd West, Dangan, Cromwellsfort Rd and Cherryfield/Beechfield as well as Cllr Dermot Looney, who submitted a detailed objection to the original plans. "We now need to ensure only appropriate development at the site and ensure issues such as traffic, sewage and water and the scale of development are met in any future plans."

Perrystown & Fernhill Traffic Calming

Council officials have confirmed to Cllr Dermot Looney that 74 submissions were received for the two traffic calming schemes in Fernhill and Dangan, Shelton, Muckcross and Hillsbrook by the closing date of June 5th. The submissions are now being considered by the Council's Roads Dept before a final decision is made.



Cllr Dermot Looney pictured during the recent local election campaign canvassing early-morning commuters at the Belgard Luas stop.

ess which lays the legal basis for all planning specific local objectives for the McHugh's Site hfield and a childrens' playground for Dublin se contact me for further information.

DUBLIN 24

Hotel Scam Slammed

Developer Liam Carroll has been in the news for much of the summer, but little has been mentioned of his most desperate plan yet - the illegal use of two hotels at Tallaght Town Centre for permanent dwellings. Rooms at the Glashaus and Tallaght Cross Hotels, which closed due to lack of business, are now being rented out as bedsits. "While some may find the idea of a luxury hotel room as their permanent accommodation appealing, the fact remains that this is a serious planning breach," Cllr Dermot Looney said.

"These rooms are not suitable for permanent accommodation; they are without any cooking facilities bar a microwave, and have no kitchen sinks or washing or drying facilities. Developers like Carroll have got away with too much too often. They can't be allowed to circumvent planning regulations which are made to protect residents and communities from inappropriate developments and unsustainable residential communities. These illegal dwellings should be closed with adequate notice provided to those currently living there, many of whom, I imagine, are not familiar with the illegality of their dwellings."

K'managh Bus Shelter

Cllr Dermot Looney has welcomed the re-installation of a bus shelter for Kilnamanagh residents opposite the Cuckoo's Nest pub. "I campaigned to ensure Dublin Bus provided this shelter for the hundreds of local people who catch the 77, 77a and 50 from this stop each day. We must always ensure that appropriate protection is given to commuters across our community to ensure more accessible public transport."

Cup Final for Tallaght

Cllr Dermot Looney has welcomed news that this year's FAI Cup Final will be held at Tallaght Stadium. "The opening of the Stadium has been a huge boost for the Council and the area as well as for Shamrock Rovers," Looney said.

"With the continuing development of the ground and its now-increased capacity I believe it is an ideal home for the Cup Final while works at Lansdowne Rd continue. Holding the blue ribband event of Irish football in Tallaght will be a boost to the profile of the stadium and to Tallaght in general. My only hope now is that my own team - St Patrick's Athletic - make it through to this historic final and break our 48-year dry spell!"



Cllr Dermot Looney pictured with canvassers in Limekiln Green

No to Water Tax Plans

Cllr Dermot Looney has said that the Labour Party will lead a campaign against the introduction of domestic water charges at all levels. Cllr Looney was speaking on foot of the "An Bord Snip Nua" report and Commission on Taxation, both commissioned by the government, which advocate a water tax. This commitment has been previously indicated by Minister John Gormley who said that the re-introduction of water charges was 'inevitable.'

"I oppose the reintroduction of water charges," Looney said. "So does the Labour Party. Resource struggles for water, particularly in the context of climate change, are hitting headlines across the world. But this latest proposal highlights the difference between Labour's philosophy and that of this conservative government; they look at water as a commodity to be rationed, while Labour views it within the rights framework."

"We believe that everybody has the right to free, clean and safe water provided, not through private companies, but accountable public utilities. Water should be paid for through general taxation, not in the form of a regressive stealth tax."

"After the recent election, I know that working people are very concerned with the possibility of another stealth tax. As well as Labour, others on the left are on record as opposing the water tax. Now it's up to all other councillors on South Dublin County Council - particularly those in Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael - to come clean and state, as a matter of public record, whether they will vote with us to oppose water charges."



Cllr Dermot Looney with Pat Rabbitte TD and Labour Youth's Sean Glennon in Manor Estate

Nationalise, not NAMA-ise: Gilmore

The Labour Party have said that the government's plans for NAMA are a dangerous gamble that will aid developers and banks and do little to ease the economic crisis. Labour leader, Eamon Gilmore TD, has said the banks should instead be brought under public control, at least temporarily, as the quickest, most effective and least costly means of dealing with the crisis.

"With public opposition to NAMA growing by the day, with many economists continuing to express serious concerns about the plan and with the Greens at sixes and sevens on the issue, the government should look again at the case proposed by the Labour Party for temporary nationalisation of the banks," said Gilmore.

"The nationalisation approach proposed by Labour avoids the requirement to value the bad loans in this highly uncertain environment. The State would take ownership of the loans and the banks. The process of writing down the bad loans would be vigorously pursued, and the normal lending would be resumed."

"The key requirement is to ensure the restoration of credit to the Irish economy, which is vital to ensuring the survival of jobs and businesses. It is now almost twelve months since the full extent of the banking crisis emerged. The government has dithered and stumbled from crisis to crisis, but many small-medium sized enterprises are still unable to get credit. Jobs are being lost as a result."

"Temporary nationalisation will be the most effective way to sort out the banks, get credit flowing again and ensure the protection of jobs, while at the same time minimising the risk to the taxpayer."

No(t) Junk Mail!

Residents across our community are rightly concerned with the plethora of junk mail coming in from companies on a near-daily basis. Indeed, many residents have erected "No Junk Mail" signs at their letterboxes.

However, we do not believe this newsletter fits the category of 'junk mail.' We are not selling a product or service, but providing significant local news updates as well as filling an important democratic role. Hearing nothing from politicians between elections is a similarly frequent and more worrying complaint.

Please contact us if you prefer to receive this newsletter by email, or not at all.

'Left Alliance' on SDCC

Thanks to a strong campaign and huge dissatisfaction with the Government, Labour won 9 of the 26 seats on South Dublin County Council in June's local elections - including 3 out of 6 in the new Tallaght Central Ward. Labour have gone on to form the first ever "Alliance of the Left" on the Council with 3 Sinn Fein Councillors and non-party Cllr Guss

O'Connell.

The alliance, based on a strong policy platform, decided to divert all funding from external Conferences into building South Dublin's first ever homeless shelter. Cllr Mick Duff (Labour) was elected Mayor at the first Council meeting, with Cllr Paddy Cosgrave (Labour) elected Deputy Mayor. For more Council news check out sdcc.ie or dermotlooney.com - or get in touch using the contact details below.

Keep in Touch with your local Labour Team

**CLLR
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**A Proud Socialist
Voice for Dublin
6w, 12 and 24**



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Your other local Labour Councillors are Cllr Pamela Kearns and Cllr Mick Duff (the current Mayor of South Dublin County). Mary Upton TD represents Dublin South Central.



Just some of the local Labour team from the 2009 local election pictured at Greenhills Park

Build the Real Alternative - Join Labour

The Labour Party offers the real alternative to the failed policies and practices of Fianna Fail. Across our local area, young and old are joining forces to reshape our community with values of equality, democracy, freedom and solidarity. Bring your talents, experience and ideas and join us in our campaign for a truly fair society.



You can join the Labour Party or find our more information by filling the following form and returning it to 80 St Columba's Road, Greenhills, Dublin 12. Alternatively, email or call using the contact details above.

Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Home Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ / Mobile Phone: _____
Email: _____
Join: Y / N More Info: Y / N (Please circle)