

Labour

Voice

**DUBLIN 12 & 6W
EDITION**

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Incorporating Greenhills Labour & Dublin 12 News

CLLR DERMOT LOONEY

THE STRONGEST VOICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY ON THE COUNCIL

A principled, hard-working representative working on your behalf on South Dublin County Council. With Cllr Dermot Looney and the Labour Party, what you see is what you get. The work speaks for itself.

Since being elected last June, Dermot Looney has been an unrelenting voice for ordinary working people and their families, the unemployed, the elderly and those most vulnerable. An unapologetic socialist, he has earned a reputation on the Council and in local politics generally as an articulate and forceful critic of the right-wing cuts agenda of cuts promoted by Fianna Fail and their fellow-travellers.

Although restricted by huge cutbacks and the limitations of local democracy, Looney and his Labour colleagues on the Council have secured victories on issues ranging from homelessness and repairs for Council

houses, to tree pruning & footpath repairs.

Locally, Looney has stood firm against developer greed and neglect, while promoting the interests of local communities in the Council & beyond. Looney has stood up for workers in dispute with public and private employers, as well as the unemployed, fighting to defend employment standards, wages and social welfare rates from the 'race to the bottom.' Nationally, the Labour Party has stood up for ordinary people against the 'toxic triangle' of Fianna Fail, bankers and developers, focussing on the need to get Ireland back to work.

In these times, no victory, no matter how big or small, will come easy for our community. But with Looney and Labour, you are guaranteed a truly hard worker for hard-working people.



Derelict site owner to face High Court

The developer of the derelict site of the McHugh's Shopping Arcade on St James' Road in Greenhills has been issued with a High Court summons following his refusal to clean up the graffiti-strewn eyesore.

Local Labour Councillor Dermot Looney has led the campaign for appropriate development at the site. In a motion to February's local area committee meeting of the County Council, Looney secured a motion to ringfence money from the derelict levy on the site for immediate re-investment in the Greenhills area.

Looney's motion "abhors the lack of progress made by the developer concerned in addressing his neglect of the site" and calls on the Council "to pursue those responsible for the neglectful and damaging

lack of upkeep of the site through the full vigours of the law." Council officials confirmed that they were ramping up legal proceedings following the sustained pressure from Looney and the local community.

"I understand that more than €100,000 is due from McHugh because of the ongoing dereliction. That money should now go to appropriate facilities in our community," said Cllr Looney. "McHugh has been intransigent in refusing to sell the site to those who have made serious offers. He has also given the two-fingers to the local community by continuing to dump there. Now he should be punished by the courts for his neglect."



Your Local Cllr

Cllr Dermot Looney is a 27 year old Labour Party representative on South Dublin County Council. He was elected in June's elections for the new 'Tallaght Central' ward, which includes Greenhills, Perrystown, Templeogue and other parts of Dublin 6w and 12 as well as Tallaght.

Dermot is one of the youngest Labour Councillors in the country - combining the energy and passionate politics of youth with more than a decade's experience in a range of local, national and international movements, from anti-war activism to local development issues and workers' rights campaigns.

Having lived in Greenhills all his life, Dermot works as a primary school teacher in St Dominic's National School in Tallaght. He holds a degree in Social Policy and Politics from UCD and a Higher Diploma in Primary Education from Hibernia College.

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

GREENHILLS - MANOR ESTATE - TEMPLEOGUE - PERRYSTOWN - WALKINSTOWN

Council News

As you will know, the weather in January and February and other events during those months caused havoc with a number of Council services.

ROADS

I was in daily contact with Council officials and staff in the Roads Dept during the 'big freeze' to ensure important local routes were gritted as best as possible. Dangerous 'black spots' such as the Dip in Greenpark were my immediate priority. While the Council workers went above and beyond the call of duty in terms of the work put in during this time, the response from the Fianna Fail/Green Govt was not up to scratch.

On my representations, repairs to potholes were made in locations such as **Orwell Park, Limekiln Avenue** and on the **Walkinstown Roundabout**. The measly funding provided for road repairs means that damage to some local roads (and traffic ramps) may lead to further problems down the line. Please contact me if you notice a particular road problem in your area so we can push for it to be repaired.

WATER

Water supplies in Dublin 6w and 12 were affected from the beginning of January until the end of February. The initial cause was the extra demand created by the freezing of pipes and the leaving on of taps based on bad advice given by insurance companies and media outlets. However, the balancing of supply and demand took a long time to be corrected, with residents severely affected for up to 8 weeks.

I worked with residents and staff to ensure the swift repair of burst pipes in a variety of locations, such as **Cherryfield Estate, St Peter's Drive** and **St James' Road**. I also kept hundreds of local residents up to date with changes via my Twitter updates on Council matters.

It is crucial that these problems are not

used as a stalking horse to introduce a water tax, which will penalise poorer people hardest. This is a hobby horse of the Greens, who have no basis in working class communities. I have led the campaign on the County Council against water charges & privatisation - and will continue to do so.

BINS

The collection of grey and green bins was also affected by the bad weather. The lack of information provided by the company who run the green bin service in South Dublin, Greyhound Waste, was a severe problem for local people during January in particular. You can contact this company on 1890 342 342 or at greenbin.ie - be sure to contact me if you are continuing to experience problems.

Since February 1st I have been inundated with queries and complaints from residents regarding the new waste credit systems for the grey bins. The Council offices were unable to handle the volume of calls which resulted in further avoidable confusion for local people. While many of the initial problems with the system have been ironed out, there remain some difficulties for customers with waivers, and those who top up in shops. Please contact me if such difficulties remain. The local newspapers have covered my efforts to expose shops who are seeking to profiteer from the sale of bin credit by adding 25c or more onto each €8 purchase. **No outlet should charge more than €8.**

You may hear from other political parties on the cost of bin credits rising, partly because of new plans to charge VAT on the rates. Myself and my Labour colleagues are opposed to any attempts to increase the cost per lift and our colleagues in the Dail are seek a derogation on the VAT clause. Unfortunately, the final decision lies in the hands of unelected officials.

Brown bins to deal with organic waste will be rolled out in the coming weeks - you will be contacted about this by the Council directly. Please contact me for more info.



Cllr Dermot Looney is working with the Greenpark Estate to rectify the drainage issues. Close. On foot of this pressure, the Council is forcing the developer to clear the drains.

LABOUR - WINNING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

In late December, after huge pressure from myself and my Labour colleagues, the Council agreed to an amended budget. The final budget sees an historic 2.34% reduction in rates for local businesses - the first time ever that rates have been cut.

I am most proud that a further €170,000 will be awarded to the first ever Emergency Homeless Accommodation for South Dublin, set to open this summer. Myself and my eight Labour colleagues, along with six other Cllrs, have refused to claim Conference expenses and instead diverted the money to the homeless project. Unfortunately, your local FF and FG Cllrs continue to claim these expenses.

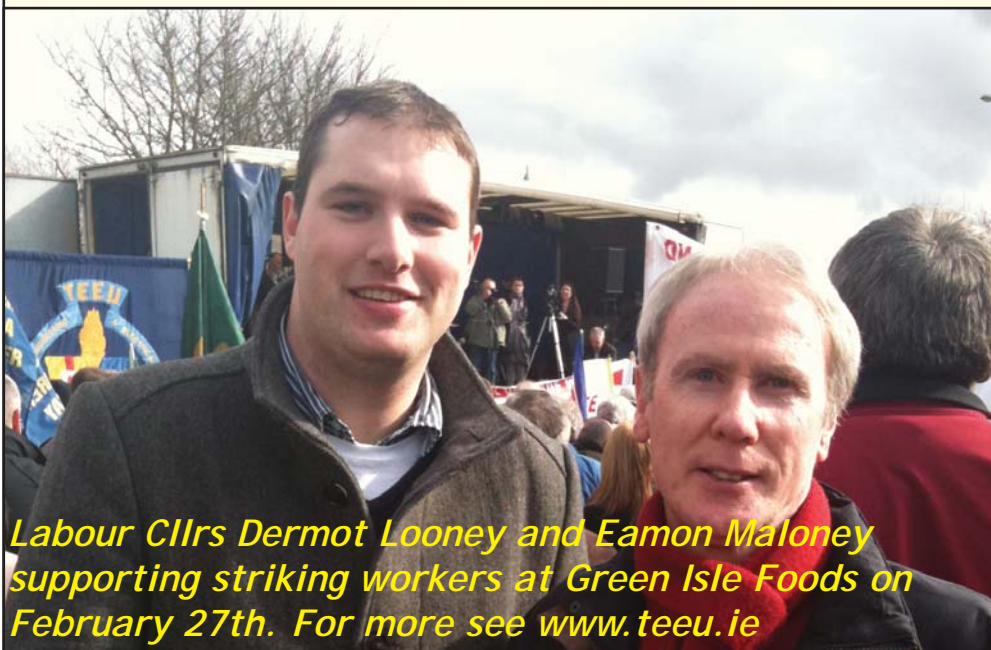
The budget includes a new €1 million project to fund emergency maintenance (windows, doors, etc) in Council houses, and a €1m Footpath Repair Programme (up from the €250k spent in 2009). I will fight tooth and nail to ensure our fair share of the repair scheme. Please get in touch if you believe a particular path should be added.

SNIPPETS

I have slammed delays in student maintenance grants and urged the Govt to bring forward the stalled Student Support Bill which is due to simplify the grants system - students suffering delays from the VEC or County Council should get in touch immediately.

Council officials have confirmed to me that 373 litter fines and 9 direct prosecutions for littering took place in the Tallaght Central and South areas during 2009, including six fines on the **Greenhills Rd** and one prosecution in **Ballymount**.

The 26 Councillors are now considering the final stage of public consultation for the County Development plan - more at sdcc.ie



Labour Cllrs Dermot Looney and Eamon Maloney supporting striking workers at Green Isle Foods on February 27th. For more see www.teeu.ie

LOCAL NEWS FOR YOUR ESTATE



Working with local residents in this derelict site on Corrigre, the Council are now pushing up his act.

W.O.R.K. Area

I have met with the WORK Residents' Association on a number of occasions and continue to press their concerns at Council level. On foot of my representations and those of my Labour colleagues, the Council issued a "Section 11 Notice" in September 2009 to those responsible for the **Burmah Garage** site, demanding the removal of rubbish and graffiti and the securing of the site.

While the Council claim that these works were completed to their satisfaction, I share residents' concerns about the dereliction at the site and will continue to pursue the appropriate development of this site at Council level.

As a new representative on **St MacDara's** College Board of Management I was delighted to see the removal of trees which caused havoc for residents on **Kennington Close**, which I had been pushing for some time. I have expressed my concerns with the proposed redevelopment of the **Spawell** site, and see no need whatsoever for a hotel on the site in the current climate.

Manor Estate & Perrystown

On foot of my representations a high number of dying or dangerous trees are currently being removed in the area under the Council's Arboricultural Programme. New trees will not be planted in most of these locations for 6-12 months, however some limited planting will occur this Spring on **Hillsbrook Ave, Kimmage Rd West, Priory Wk, Rockfield Ave & Whitehall Rd.**

The County Council approved the traffic calming scheme for **Fernhill, Shelton, Dangan, Hillsbrook** and **Muckcross** at our January meeting. 74 submissions were received, which were broadly supportive of the scheme. I pointed out in my local election campaign (during which I encouraged submissions) that I would be guided by local opinion on the schemes, so I gave them my full backing at planning, Area Committee and Council meetings. However, although the scheme is approved, no funding is currently available. The scheme is second in line after a previously-approved programme in Aylesbury in Tallaght. I will continue to push for the funding for this scheme given the strong support locally for the measures.

Walkinstown & Cherryfield

I was contacted in the latter months of 2009 regarding serious anti-social behaviour in the **St Peter's Road/Drive/Crescent** and **Walkinstown Roundabout** area. Local Gardai have confirmed that there was an increase in such behaviour, that the youths are being dealt with through the Juvenile Diversion Programme and so-called ASBO's, and that the guards have increased patrols in the area.

I have continued to raise the need for a community centre for residents in **Cherryfield/Beechfield** at Council level, as well as promoting the upgrade of **Beechfield Park**. The Council have told me that they will repair the park's boundary, clear the moss from the tennis courts, repair footpaths and fix the surface at the gate over the coming weeks. They are also seeking to make use of the old basketball court and to paint some interactive games for children on the surface near the pavilion. The Council are also to draw up, for the first time, a Master Plan for the future of the park and pavilion in consultation with the local community.

Greenhills & Greenpark

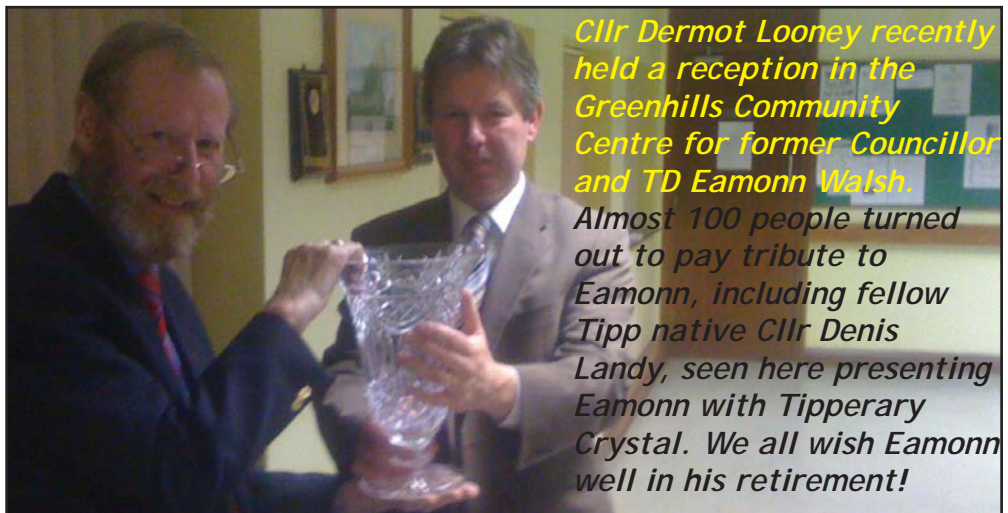
I have recently been appointed as Chairperson of the Board of Management of **Greenhills College**, eight years after attending the school.

The damaged grass verges at the bottom of **St Brendan's Crescent** will now be repaired as per my representations. I have ensured the clean-up of fly-tipping on **St James' Road, St Finbarr's Close** and **St Mel's Avenue** in recent weeks - please contact me if there is dumping in the laneways in your area. Residents on **St Joseph's Road** will have yellow lines repainted and I have asked the Council to ensure the parking situation on that road does not get further out of hand. I have asked Dublin Bus to consider the extension of a 123A line to the Greenhills area to provide a link to the Luas or to St James' Hospital, and continue to seek a bus shelter for the top of the Dip at **Greenpark**, where I continue to push for the upgrade and cleansing of the **Keadeen Walkway**.

Limekiln

I have spoken to local Gardai and Council officials on a number of occasions regarding anti-social behaviour near **Limekiln Green**. I encourage residents to contact Crumlin Gardai on 01-6666200 and to let me know about such incidents. Residents have also contacted me regarding illegal parking here and I am working with Council officials to ensure a safe estate.

I have confirmed that the **Limekiln Rounders** pitch in Tymon Park will continue to be provided despite worries to the contrary, and continue to push for the provision of the TASC pavilion in the Park. Finally, I have again asked Dublin Bus to repair damage to the terminus on **Limekiln Avenue**, and to take on board my suggestions for a smaller roundabout.



Cllr Dermot Looney recently held a reception in the Greenhills Community Centre for former Councillor and TD Eamonn Walsh. Almost 100 people turned out to pay tribute to Eamonn, including fellow Tipp native Cllr Denis Landy, seen here presenting Eamonn with Tipperary Crystal. We all wish Eamonn well in his retirement!



Cllr Dermot Looney and Pat Rabbitte TD campaigning in Fernhill, Manor Estate

Dail Report with Pat Rabbitte T.D.

BANKING INQUIRY

I recently published a Private Members Bill to permit an inquiry by Dail Eireann into the Banking Crisis. After the Supreme Court Judgement in the Abbeylara Case it has been necessary to correct a defect in the law. Government has refused since 2002 to amend the law and has opposed an inquiry into the collapse of the Banking System.

The economic crisis in Ireland has been made much worse by the conduct of the banks and the failure of the regulatory authorities. Inquiry by Dail Eireann is the fastest and cheapest method of inquiry. The DIRT Inquiry of which I was a member cost one million punts and recouped just short of One Billion Euro for the Exchequer in taxes evaded and in penalties and interest.

Sadly, the Govt opposed my Bill to restore inquiry by Parliamentary Committee into matters of public interest. The point blank refusal to restore to parliament the power to inquire into matters of public concern shows a government more concerned about its own vulnerabilities and self-preservation than the wider public interest.

RENT REVIEWS

It is now clear that many commercial landlords are living in a NAMA fantasy world. By insisting on upward-only rent reviews and driving rents ever higher, they are pushing many retail outlets and small businesses to the brink of collapse. Many have closed already. By keeping rents high, even at the price of leaving a property vacant, landlords are trying to artificially support commercial property yields and the boom-time fairytale of astronomical property prices.

If NAMA's effect is to provide an artificial floor for commercial rents, the burden of restoring competitiveness will be pushed onto ordinary workers through wage cuts and tax hikes. The Govt must now act to end upwards-only rent reviews to give the market a dose of reality, keep more businesses open and stem the tide of job losses.

Pat Rabbitte TD represents Dublin South-West. Mary Upton is Labour's TD in Dublin South-Central. You can keep up to date with Mary at labour.ie/maryupton

Keep in Touch with your local Labour Team

**CLLR
DERMOT
LOONEY**

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



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clinics: Greenhills Community Centre - resuming April 2010 - contact for details.

**PAT
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**Honest & Effective
Representation in
Dublin South-West**



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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.

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.



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)