

LABOUR NEWS

Addressing the Jobs Crisis

Summer 2009



**Joanna
Tuffy
TD**



Labour's policies for helping the unemployed

For every person made unemployed, the Exchequer loses at least €20,000 a year in social welfare payments and tax forgone. Over half of the Government's €2 billion worth of cuts and levies in January was immediately absorbed by the €1.2 billion cost of 63,000 additional people on the live register in January and February alone.

As long as people are losing their jobs, the Government will have to keep cutting expenditure to pay for them, which in turn depresses the economy.

This is why getting people back to work is the cornerstone of Labour's strategy for economic recovery.

Labour's plan for jobs includes:

- 6 month work placements for unemployed graduates and apprentices
- Prioritise the building of schools
- Allow more people to participate in Community Employment
- An "Earn and Learn" scheme.

Some useful contact details for jobseekers:

FAS Ballyfermot Training Centre phone 4275400
LIFE Centre, Lucan phone 6283910
Local Employment Service (LES) Clondalkin phone 4577308

Note: Clondalkin Local Employment Service provides a part-time service in the Lucan Youth Services Centre at the Griffioen Centre, Lucan: Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 1pm, and Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4.30pm. Clondalkin Employment and Education Development Services (CEEDS), Aras Rualach, Clondalkin provides advice, training and other assistance for jobseekers.

Useful websites:

www.redundancy.ie a website of the Irish Organisation of the unemployed

www.citizensinformation.ie the Citizens Information Boards website about rights and entitlements.

www.ceeds.ie the website of the Clondalkin Education Development Services.

New FÁS work placement scheme

Two new schemes are being offered by FÁS that may be of interest to you if you are unemployed.

The Work Placement Scheme will initially have 2000 places nationally. 1000 of the places are for graduates who before

this year have attained a full award at level 7 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications and who have been receiving Job Seeker's Allowance for the last six months. The second stream will be open to all other individuals who have been receiving Job Seeker's Allowance for the last six months and are under 25 years of age. Participants will keep their social welfare entitlements for the duration of the programme. If you are interested contact your local FAS office and register your interest. Information about this and other FAS programmes are available on the FAS website www.fas.ie.

Joanna Tuffy raises plight of local unemployed



Your local Labour T.D. has in her speeches in the Dáil raised the plight of local people in Clondalkin and Lucan who have lost their jobs. She has called on the Government to provide more community employment scheme places, and to allow unemployed people take up free college places. She has argued for the building of badly needed local schools both as an investment in our children's education and as a way to create local jobs for unemployed construction workers.

Labour largest group on New Council

Priorities of Labour, Sinn Fein and Independent Alliance include local job creation



Cllr. Eamon Tuffy, Joanna Tuffy TD, Cllr. Mick Duff and Cllr. Caitriona Jones

Workers rights as important as ever

Some commentators are pushing hard in this time of recession to undermine workers rights.

Labour rejects the scapegoating of workers for our economic crisis. We must all pull together to rebuild our economy but in doing so we must build a fairer society that is based on mutual respect and decent values including solidarity with our fellow men and women, whether they are employed or unemployed.

Good working conditions must be maintained and workers at risk of being made redundant or facing threats to their pay or conditions deserve the right to representation. Speaking at this year's Irish Congress of Trade Union, Eamon Gilmore, Leader of the Labour Party, spoke of the need to make it illegal to discriminate against an employee because they are a member of a trade union, and the need to legislate for collective bargaining.



Good News – Pet Farm opens in Corkagh Park

Welcome news that a Pet Farm has opened in Corkagh Park thanks to the initiative of the parks staff and donations of animals by the DSPCA. Hopefully important services such as the care and maintenance of our local parks won't face misguided cutbacks by the Government in the autumn.

9 Labour councillors were elected to South Dublin County Council in the local elections in June 2009. This was an increase on the 7 Labour councillors who were elected to the Council in the 2004 elections.

In Dublin Mid West Cllr. Robert Dowds was elected for the Clondalkin Electoral Area, and Cllr. Caitriona Jones and Cllr. Eamon Tuffy were elected for the Lucan Electoral Area. In addition, Labour candidate Margaret McCarthy had a very strong result in the Clondalkin Electoral Area. Labour has the largest number of councillors on South Dublin County Council. Labour has formed an alliance on the Council with the 3 Sinn Fein councillors and independent Cllr. Gus O'Connell and agreed a programme of priorities on housing, planning and job creation. The priorities in relation to job creation include:

- The County Development Board will act as an Employment Task Force
- Develop and implement an improved Council Strategy to attract new industry and business to the County
- Ensure that the Council is supportive of entrepreneurs establishing new enterprises
- Review the Integrated Economic Development Strategy to have regard to the economic crisis and begin the implementation of agreed actions
- Initiate a Local Economic Trading System (LETS)
- Pilot a Council Scheme to provide (part time) employment, through placement in SMEs or on Council projects, for residents seeking employment

Cllr. Dowds to Chair local committee

Labour Cllr. Robert Dowds is the current chair of the Lucan Clondalkin Area Committee.

This committee is made up of 11 councillors from the two electoral areas of Clondalkin and Lucan that includes the areas of Brittas, Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Newcastle, and Saggart. Cllr. Caitriona Jones and Cllr. Eamon Tuffy are also members of this committee.



Cllr. Robert Dowds

Your local Representatives are:

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Cllr. Robert Dowds	t: 087 6520360	e: rdowds@sdblincoco.ie
Cllr. Caitriona Jones	t: 087 2034427	e: cjones@sdblincoco.ie
Cllr. Eamon Tuffy	t: 086 3863173	e: etuffy@sdblincoco.ie

You can call into Joanna Tuffy's constituency office Monday and Tuesday from 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 at Unit B, 4 Tower Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. For details of Joanna's advice centres please contact her office.

Information on your local Labour representatives is available on the Labour website www.labour.ie.

