I was delighted to be able to secure Community Employment Schemes for Tramore and I’m pleased to say that 15 people will be working locally on community projects around the town.

There are CE places in organisations including TCRfm, Tramore Tidy Towns, the Meeting House, Klub Muzik, Tramore Surf Club, Foroige, and Tramore Tourism. The Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton was very helpful when we made the case for Community Employment places in Tramore and we hope to welcome her to Tramore soon so she can see the good work that’s being done first-hand.

I’d also like to thank the local groups and individuals who put a lot of work into co-ordinating the applications to get the CE Schemes up and running, particularly Garrett Wyse at TCR FM, Joe Stokes of the Waterford Area Partnership, and John Buggy and Liam Daly in Social Protection.

If you’re interested in taking up a place on the scheme, go to jobsireland.ie

Pictured recently discussing CE Schemes for Waterford and Tramore with Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton. L-R Dave Murray (Klub Muzik), Anne Cheasty (Tidy Towns), Joe Stokes (chair of TCR CEO, WAP), Liz Murray (Klub Muzik), Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton TD, Michael Kelly (Tramore Surf Club), Ciara Conway T.D., Liam Daly, Divisional Officer, Social Protection and Garrett Wyse (TCR fm).
Photo: Ciaran Conneely

BOUNDARY CHANGE
The re-organisation of local government means that electoral areas are changing. Tramore is now linked with the city to form Tramore-Waterford City West. Six councillors will represent this area on the new merged Waterford authority after the Local and European Elections

Tramore - Waterford City West: Where’s included?
Ballybricken, Bilberry, Centre A, Centre B, Cleaboy, Custom House B, Ferrybank, Gracedieu, Islandikane, Killoteran, Military Road, Morrisson’s Avenue East, Morrisson’s Avenue West, Morrisson’s Road, Newport’s Square, Pembrokestown, Shortcourse, The Glen and Tramore.
FOCUS ON

MINISTER ALEX WHITE OPENS SUMMERHILL PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Minister Alex White was in Tramore recently having been invited by Ciara Conway T.D. to officially open the state-of-the-art Primary Care Centre in the Summerhill Centre.

“We were very pleased that Minister Alex White accepted the invitation to come perform the official opening,” said Ciara Conway.

“Tramore’s Summerhill Primary Care Centre is a great set-up with a wide range of experts under one roof. The Primary Care Team - or the ‘PCT’ - provides a holistic approach to the health, social, welfare and education needs of the community in Tramore in a ‘one stop shop’ type of setting.”

“The Tramore centre is unique in the sense that the PCT members had their say into how the centre was laid out. It’s a simple enough measure, but makes an enormous difference to the building both as a place that delivers healthcare, but also a workplace. The PCT has already been running a number of initiatives, including an expert diabetes programme which focuses on the value of healthy lifestyles, as well as a programme on Stress Control which is delivered to a group of about 70 people.

GRIDLINK PROJECT – EXPERT PANEL SET UP

A move to set up an expert panel to investigate underground route options for Grid Link project shows that the government is listening to the public’s concern - and acting on it. You can find my 13-page submission on the proposed project on my section of the Labour website - go to www.labour/ciaramconway for more.

HOME RENOVATION INCENTIVE SCHEME

A new tax relief for home renovation and maintenance work offers a win-win for both homeowners and construction workers.

Homeowners will be offered tax relief of 13.5% when they spend up to €30,000 on renovation and maintenance work in their home provided they use a tax-compliant contractor.

Homeowners can also aggregate small jobs together in order to reach the threshold.

The works must cost a minimum of €4,405 (before VAT), which will attract a credit of €595.

Jobs with planning permission granted before the end of 2015, which take place up until March 31st 2016 will now also benefit from the tax break. Contact Ciara Conway’s office on 058 24514 if you need more information.

Officially opening the Primary Care Centre at Springhill in Tramore L-R Cllr Paddy O’Callaghan, TJ Dunford, General Manager Primary Community and Continuing Care, Anna-Marie Lanigan, Area Manager, South East Primary Community & Continuing Care Services, Minister for Primary Care Alex White, Ciara Conway TD, Susan Murphy, Primary Care Lead Waterford.
WORLD CLASS LIFEGUARDS WILL BE TRAINED IN TRAMORE

€200,000 CASH SPLASH FOR NATIONAL LIFEGUARD TRAINING CENTRE

Down by the prom work is well underway on the National Lifeguard Training Centre. This means that we will soon have World Class lifeguards being trained right here in Tramore. Funding of €200,000 from Waterford Leader was recently awarded to the Tramore Lifesaving Club to help with the cost of building the Lifeguard Training Centre, and upgrading the prom in Tramore.

The total cost of this project will be just shy of €500,000 but it will see the sunny south east lead the standards in Water Safety - as well as being a huge boost to tourism and indeed employment locally.

Local Labour TD Ciara Conway said: “I’m a former lifeguard myself and I’m positive that this cash splash will help to ensure that Tramore continues to make waves in terms of water safety, and we’ll have a ripple effect in terms of local tourism.”

LABOUR IN GOVERNMENT: DELIVERING FOR FAMILIES IN TRAMORE

The Labour Party is helping families by giving parents free GP care for their children aged 5 and under as the first phase in the plan for universal primary care. With infants attending their doctors surgery up to five times every year this will save families hundreds of euro and will be of particular help to the parents of any child with asthma or any condition that needs frequent visits to the GP.

LABOUR IN GOVERNMENT: HELPING YOU WITH BACK TO SCHOOL COSTS

We’re helping young families with the cost of their children’s education by bringing in a school-book rental scheme for schools that don’t have one already. This should mean that on average the cost of primary schools books should go from around €80 per year to around €20.

FOCUS ON

FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT (FIS)

FIS is a weekly tax-free payment available to employees with children. It gives extra financial support to people on low pay.

How do I qualify?

You must be an employee and have at least one child who normally lives with you or is financially supported by you.

Your average weekly family income must be below a certain amount for your family size. The FIS you receive is 60% of the difference between your average weekly family income and the income limit which applies to your family. Government spending on Family Income Supplement has increased by 25% since 2012. To find out if you qualify, contact my Constituency office on 058 24514.
LOCAL ISSUES:

FOOTPATH NEEDED
I’ve been working with Cllr Dee Jacques to highlight the need for a proper footpath at the back of the VEC - from Beech Park and Riverstown along the back of the commercial units. People are using this track to get to Youthreach and residents are also using it as a short cut. We’re seeking support locally to make the case for funding an upgrade.

STORM DAMAGE
Work is planned to repair damage caused by the Winter storms. Here you can see the damage to sand dunes. We hope to have this repaired.

LAFCADIO HEARN MEMORIAL GARDEN PROJECT AT TRAMORE HOUSE

Did you know that one of the most famous writers in Japan has a connection with Tramore?

Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) spent his childhood summers in Tramore and the beauty of the place and the people he met had a huge influence on his creative work.

Schoolchildren in Japan learn of his writings, but little is known about him in Ireland. A new project in Tramore could change all that. A team lead by Agnes Aylward is working on a proposal to turn the gardens at Tramore House into the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial garden.

We’ve been keeping the Taoiseach up-to-date on all the progress to date, and as you can see from the letter opposite, the information was very helpful to him on recent trip to Japan. There’s still a long way to go, but our work is continuing on this project, which could be a great boost to Tourism locally, as well as being a great educational resource and a wonderful space in its own right.