CCTV LAUNCHED
This week Mayor Mick Duff launched the West Tallaght CCTV scheme.

Mayor Mick Duff said, “The new system will compliment and strengthen efforts in the community to tackle anti-social behaviour. The CCTV system includes a zoom feature that has the capacity to freeze a suspect’s face and text the picture to Gardaí on the beat. Law abiding citizens should not be concerned about loss of privacy. The only people who have anything to fear from the new system are people engaged in Anti-social behaviour”.

The CCTV system went live on Friday.

HEAD SHOPS
I have again criticised the Minister for Justice for the delay in tackling the Head Shops that have sprung up all over the country. The Government voted down a Labour Bill that would require Head Shops to apply for planning permission for change of use. Harmful substances on sale in these shops help convince young people that these products are ok because they are for sale on the high street. These harmful products should be outlawed under the Misuse of Drugs Act. The tragedy is that a new generation of young people will become hooked on drugs unless the Government acts.

BANKING INQUIRY
I recently published a Private Members Bill* in the name of the Labour Party to permit an inquiry by Dáil Éireann 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 Dáil Éireann 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.

In the interests of democracy, our economy and our taxpayers we need to learn the lessons of the Banking Crisis.

If you would like a copy of the Bill it is available on www.labour.ie or please contact my office.

*Committees of the Houses of the Oireachtas (Powers of Inquiry) Bill 2010
Cllr Mick Duff
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KILMARTIN OPEN SPACE
Since I was elected I have been campaigning to clean up and resolve the serious anti social behaviour on the open space to the rear of Kilmartin Avenue. Last Thursday I took the County Manager on a site inspection of the land to the rear of Kilmartin Avenue.

The Manager has given an undertaking to clean up the site. However the problem remains about what should be done with the corridor of land in the long run and I want the Council to work with the community in Kilmartin to plan what should happen with the site.

LOCAL POLICE FORUM
In addition to the launch of the new CCTV scheme a pilot policing forum is to be launched to cover the Fettercairn and Brookfield area. The forum brings together members of the community with the Gardaí and Council Management to improve safety in the neighbourhood, tackle alcohol and drugs misuse and have an input into Garda strategy.

There will at a later date be a public meeting to allow members of the public make their views known on policing in Fettercairn.

WATER PROBLEMS
Although the water supply has resumed after the severe disruption and hardship caused to residents during the cold snap in January and February the Council urges everyone to conserve water. There is ongoing need to reduce water consumption by 10% throughout the Dublin region. A 10% reduction in water usage might well be too difficult for families with young children, but please try to conserve water and use it sparingly.

Please report any mains leaks to the Council at 4149000 (4574907 outside office hours). Daily updates are given on the Council's website at www.sdcc.ie, which also includes a handy list of tips for water conservation, dealing with airlocks and other general information.

DIAL TO STOP DRUG DEALING  1800 220 220
This week the Minister for Gaeltacht and Community Affairs responded to the Tallaght Drugs Task Force concerns that the Dial to Stop Drug Dealing would be ended due to lack of funds. The Tallaght Dial to Stop Drug Dealing Campaign provides a safe, confidential and completely anonymous way for individuals to pass on information on drug dealing in their community.

This week the Minister confirmed that funding will be given for the campaign to continue for the remainder of 2010. The Dial to Stop Drug Dealing campaign is a community initiative. The caller is never asked for their name or any other information that could identify them. The information gathered is passed on directly to the Gardaí.

The Gardaí and customs have had significant success in the seizing of drugs in recent years but it is also important that communities themselves are proactive in tackling the drug problem in their areas. Your phone call may save a life it could be Your Child or Grandchild’s life. If you need to make that call please phone 1800 220 220.

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CLINICS Saturday 2.00 – 3.00 pm TWS, 1 Main Street, Tallaght Village