

JAN O'SULLIVAN TD

RAHEEN DOORADOYLE MUNGRET

BALLYKEEFFE AREA NEWS

DELIVERING FOR THE COMMUNITY



MUNGRET SITE

The long-promised public park and much needed new schools are now a reality. As Labour Party public representatives for your area, we are proud to have played our part. After Limerick City & County Council acquired Mungret College and the surrounding 200 acres from Nama in 2014, then Labour councillor, Tomás Hannon submitted an amendment to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan to facilitate zoning for education and community use.

This allowed for the development of the new playground and cycleways which opened in 2016. Joe Leddin, as your current Labour representative on the Council has worked tirelessly to ensure delivery of this facility which has proved hugely popular amongst local communities.

NEW SCHOOLS

The 200 acre site is also now home to 2 new Primary Schools. As Minister for Education, I was able to allocate funding for both GAELSCOIL AN RAITHÍN and EDUCATE TOGETHER to build new primary schools which will open their doors to their school communities in September.

And when the Mungret Secondary School Campaign Committee submitted an application for a new Post Primary school, I was able to move quickly to ensure that a new secondary school was prioritised for Mungret with an opening date of September 2017.

Once again Labour listened to the voices of parents in the Raheen Dooradoyle, Ballykeeffe & Mungret areas who had no choice but to send their children to schools located miles from their home.

I would like to thank the Mungret Secondary School Campaign Group for their campaign and wish the Principal Liam O'Mahony, Vice Principal Helen Ryan, staff and incoming first year students the very best for the new school year.

ST. PAUL'S AND ST. GABRIEL'S

Work is due to start soon on an extensive building programme for St. Paul's National School; students and staff have been working in cramped conditions for a long time and, while they have to move temporarily to the Scoil Carmel campus and parents have concerns about the logistics of getting their children to and from there, it will be a positive development for the school in the long run.

2 new classrooms have been completed to support the excellent work done in St. Gabriel's school and centre.

APPRENTICESHIP 2017



I set up the Apprenticeship Council of Ireland while Minister for Education & Skills to transform the range and variety of apprenticeships now available to school leavers as a real alternative to the CAO route.

New 'Earn as you Learn' programmes have come on stream in sectors such as Financial Services, ICT, Hospitality and Manufacturing, on top of the traditional construction trades, all of which deliver accredited awards from levels 6-10 on the National Framework Qualification.

From 2016 all new apprentices must be employed by their employer and can start earning immediately while also spending a minimum of 50% of their time off site and on campus as part of their blended training. Further details of the new and expanded range of apprenticeship programmes can be found at apprenticeshipcouncil.ie or solas.ie

LABOUR



JIGSAW LIMERICK

Last month, I visited the new JIGSAW youth mental health hub at Arthurs Quay in Limerick. The hub is one of 13 rolled out nationwide by the Labour Party in government as part of our commitment to youth mental health. My Labour colleague Kathleen Lynch allocated €700,000 for the centre as Disabilities Minister in the last government. JIGSAW Limerick can be contacted on 061-974510, or via limerick@jigsaw.ie.

BACK TO SCHOOL ALLOWANCE

With the new school year not too far away you should be aware that you may qualify for the Back to School Allowance. This allowance may be available to families in receipt of social welfare or HSE payments, taking part in an approved employment scheme, recognised education or training course, Area Partnership Scheme or Attending an FET, Fáilte Ireland or LES training scheme. Receipt of payments through the scheme is income dependant with savings and investments (excluding your home) taken into consideration.

The allowance is €125 for children aged between 4 & 11, and €250 for children aged 12 years and over. Parents with school age children who may be eligible to apply should do so before the deadline of September 30th. Application forms are available from the INTREO centre on Dominic St or at welfare.ie/backtoschool



IRISH CEMENT PROPOSALS

As public representatives for the area both Cllr. Joe Leddin and I sent individual formal submissions to the EPA raising the concerns of residents in relation to the proposed plans for the Irish Cement site which are causing huge worry. Even before a decision is made, the EPA have stepped up their action against the plant's current operations.

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JAN O'SULLIVAN TD working with

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