



BRENDAN RYAN TD

FOCUS ON SWORDS

Summer 2016

Working with Cllr Duncan Smith



Labour Spokesperson for Transport, Tourism, Sport and Defence

LETTER FROM BRENDAN

New Politics? More like old ways and bad Government.

The new politics which has apparently been ushered in by this new Government is nothing of the sort. After the recent election we are left with a minority Government of right wing politicians backed up by Fianna Fáil.

The Programme for Government does not include any solid commitments in the area of workers rights, it does not give any confidence that we will see further progress on the social agenda, there is no commitment to the Living Wage and the commitment to universal free GP care has been scrapped. Instead we have cosy deals with Independents and the whole arrangement underpinned by Fianna Fáil, the Party which ruined our economy.

The Labour Party is committed to re-establishing ourselves in opposition as a progressive Party of the Left committed to finding solutions and not just making noise. This is the politics we practice locally too and I am working hard with Cllr Duncan Smith who has been working hard to deliver extra funding for housing, a public bike scheme for Swords and providing weekly advice clinics every Saturday. Please do not hesitate to contact us on any issue of local or national concern and we will do our best to assist you in any way we can.

Labour

NORTH RUNWAY UPDATE

The DAA is pushing forward with its plans for a North Runway in Dublin Airport investing in the region of €320 million in the project. The runway was given planning permission in 2007 but it is only now that the DAA is in a position to push ahead with the project which it hopes will be completed by 2020.

Whilst a new runway will increase the capacity of Dublin Airport and bring economic benefits, there are also concerns for local residents. Brendan Ryan and Cllr Duncan Smith have been meeting local community groups to discuss these concerns including issues such as increased noise pollution and the allowable times for use of the new runway. We are interested in meeting any residents on this matter and please do not hesitate to contact us.

LOCAL NOTES

Cllr Smith has ensured that the Council will fix the potholes and other damage on Swords Main Street over the course of the Summer.

SWORDS CASTLE

The progress on Swords Castle has been fantastic and in the past couple of years we have seen it opened up and central to many local festivals such as St Patrick's Day and the Swords Summer Festival. The demolition of the derelict buildings demonstrates further progress towards the ultimate objective of a Swords Cultural Quarter with the Castle at its very heart.

None of this progress would be possible without committed Cllrs such as the Labour team agreeing an annual Budget for Fingal County Council. The dedicated funding for Swords Castle in the last two Budgets is a direct result of Labour Cllrs such as Duncan Smith and other solutions-driven local representatives driving this forward in County Hall.



Brendan and Duncan welcoming the demolition of the vacant buildings in front of the Castle.

COUNCIL UPDATE

PUBLIC BIKE SCHEME IN DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllr Duncan Smith has succeeded in getting an objective to deliver a Public Bike Scheme in the draft County Development Plan 2017 – 2022. Cllr Smith campaigned on this and is committed to improving our local environment and transport options in Swords. If you are interested in this issue please get in contact with Duncan and express your interest in a public bike scheme for Swords.

DOG LITTER PILOT SCHEME

Following a Motion by Cllr Duncan Smith, a Dog Litter Scheme is being piloted in Swords later this year. Modelled on schemes used in the UK, the scheme works with local residents groups to declare an area a "brown zone" and for a period of a few weeks, to concentrate their enforcement activity on that one area. It is a scheme designed to shift the mentality of the minority of pet owners who do not pick up after their own pets.

MEETINGS ON HOUSING

The Swords Branch of the Labour Party are organising a series of information meetings on the housing crisis over the next few weeks, each one focusing on different areas of the crisis. Cllr Duncan Smith has been vocal in the Council on housing and as part of the Labour group advocated for more funding through the LPT to assist in tackling the crisis. If you would like to know more about these meetings please do not hesitate to contact Duncan today.

RISE IN INSURANCE COSTS RAISED IN THE DÁIL

The rapid rise in insurance premiums this year, particularly motor insurance has left many household budgets under further pressure. The rate of increase over the past 12 months is unsustainable. In the Dáil Brendan called on the Government to examine and tackle all factors leading to these increases, including factors such as the rising legal costs associated with making insurance claims.

LOCAL NOTES

Abandoned Vehicles: there is a big problem with abandoned vehicles in Swords. If you have an issue with an abandoned car or van please do not hesitate to contact us and we will assist you in dealing with the Council and Gardaí.

LOCAL NOTES

Tree Policy: there is a major issue with trees damaging paths in Swords and causing trip hazards. If you have an issue with this please get in touch and we will raise this with Fingal County Council.

LABOUR PRIORITISE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF WORKERS RIGHTS

The Labour Party are continuing the work they delivered in Government in strengthening workers rights, tackling the casualization of work and seeking to deliver a Living Wage of €11.50 per hour. In the last Government Labour introduced the right to collective bargaining, increased the minimum wage twice and began to tackle the proliferation of zero hour contracts.

In the Party's first Private Member's Business of the new Dáil, Labour introduced a wide ranging motion calling for an end to the abusive 'if and when' contracts, combatting bogus self employment, protections for the catering and security services, protecting workers in insolvencies, promoting a Living Wage and preventing unilateral reductions in pay.

RYAN SPEAKS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Brendan Ryan spoke on the recent Dáil statements on Mental Health. Deputy Ryan called on the reduction in funding by previous Minister Leo Varadkar to be reversed. Previously, Labour Minister Kathleen Lynch had ring-fenced €35 million per annum specifically for Mental Health services. The reduction in the budget to plug budget deficits in other parts of the HSE is unacceptable.

Three Weekly Labour Advice Clinics: Your hardest working team in Swords

Brendan: 5:30pm Every Friday, Swords Senior Citizens Centre, Chapel Lane

Duncan: 10am Every Saturday, Rivervalley Community Centre,
11am Every Saturday, BASE, Brackenstown Road



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