



SERVICES RESTORED

As a member of the Blanchardstown Drug Tasks Force, I will continue to lobby for an increase in addiction and drug treatment services. I was pleased with the recent announcement by Minister Varadkar following a visit to the Coolmine Therapeutic Community (above) that the residential treatment centre will receive an additional €100,000 in annual funding. This is another example which demonstrates that economic recovery is what reverses cutbacks.

ADOPT A PATCH

Adopt A Patch is an initiative by Fingal Co Council which allows volunteer groups to maintain an area if the council are short on resources. The council will provide the equipment and volunteer groups can participate in clean ups. I have been involved in organising several of these events in recent months. If there is an area that people think could benefit from such an initiative, please contact me and I will organise it, if viable.



Cleaning Graffiti in College Grove.



MARRIAGE EQUALITY REFERENDUM

It was an honour to represent Fingal Co Council at last summer's Gay Pride parade. I will be campaigning for a YES vote in the upcoming marriage equality referendum.

Graveyard for D15

One of my main campaign pledges was to work toward getting a new graveyard for the Dublin 15 area. I am pleased to say that significant progress has been made in this regard in recent weeks. Planning permission for a new graveyard will be submitted in early Spring. This will not be a council-run graveyard but it will significantly alleviate the problem in Dublin 15. If anyone wishes to know more, please feel free to get in touch.

DEAR RESIDENT

Last May, I was elected as one of your representatives to Fingal Co Council. It was a tremendous honour to be elected to represent the people of the Castleknock Local Electoral Area on the Council and I would like to thank you for your support on the day and the many good wishes I have received in the months since then.

Following the first meeting of Fingal Co Council I was elected as Deputy Mayor of Fingal Co Council by my colleagues on the Council. I have also been appointed to the following boards: Transportation Strategic Policy Committee, Liffey Valley Advisory Group, Fingal Culture and Heritage Board, Blanchardstown Drugs Task Force and the Traveller Accommodation Board. If you wish to discuss any issue relating to these positions, feel free to get in touch.

Furthermore, if you wish to be kept informed of latest council developments, you can view my website www.tedleddy.ie. This website is regularly updated with reports on council activities including road and footpath maintenance, tree pruning and grass cutting.

There is also information on the website about the various campaigns and council initiatives that I am involved in, as well as details of all the questions and motions I have submitted in advance of Co. Council meetings.

In addition, every Friday I will be running a clinic from the Blanchardstown Civic offices in Grove Road. If anyone wishes to meet with me to discuss any issue, please contact me by phone or email to arrange a suitable time.



CRIME

The Dublin 15 area has unfortunately seen a recent rise in crime particularly burglaries. At a recent public meeting that I organised in response to this development, it was clear that this issue is causing considerable anxiety within the community. The meeting was very well attended by the public and it resulted in a frank and robust exchange between Senior Gardai, politicians and the public. I am pleased to announce the news we have received since that Blanchardstown Garda station will be getting 17 new vehicles in 2015 as well as a number of new Garda recruits from Templemore. I would like to thank Minister Varadkar for his efforts in lobbying the Department of Justice on this matter.

There are, however, more things that can be done at a community level on the ground to combat crime. New methods of communications between Resident Associations and the Gardai have in some cases proven very effective at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. If any resident association would like to know more, please get in touch.

Inside Guide

- Housing
- Property Tax
- Village Developments
- Irish Water
- Economy
- Management Fees
- Marriage Equality Referendum

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VILLAGE DEVELOPMENTS

I am pleased that the recent appeal to An Bord Pleanála for a supermarket in Castleknock village was rejected. It was the view of many residents that the proposal was neither necessary nor provided adequate parking. I would like to congratulate all who lobbied and sent in objections. I am not opposed to development and will support future developments as long as they are appropriate and in character with the village. Planning permission is also being sought for a supermarket in Clonsilla Village. There are many similar concerns with this development and my colleagues and I will be monitoring the situation closely.

MANAGEMENT FEES

I have also introduced a motion to Fingal Co Council calling for a reduction in the Property Tax for people paying management fees. 80% of the Property Tax goes to Local Authorities to maintain local services. Residents paying management fees do not have their estates maintained by the council and are in my view entitled to a discount. Negotiations are underway with the Department of the Environment on this issue. For updates on these issues please view my website www.tedleddy.ie

Local Enterprise office

The Local Enterprise Office in Fingal is one of the best performing LEO's in the country. Financial support, training and development are all possible for Small and Medium size businesses, particularly for those in the growth phase that intend on creating jobs. If anyone would like to know more about how their business could benefit from the Local Enterprise Office, please feel free to get in touch and I will gladly discuss this further.

PROPERTY TAX

An initiative is currently underway in Fingal Co Council, led by Fine Gael, to reform the Property Tax. Last September Fingal Councillors, including Fine Gael, passed a binding motion to reduce the Property Tax by the maximum 15%. We would like to see this reformed further. We have proposed that fiscal powers are further devolved to Councillors which would enable us to have a greater than 15% control over the tax. The objective of this would be twofold. Firstly, it would enable us to reduce the tax further in response to rising property prices. Secondly, it would reform local government further by empowering Councillors to set the rate of the Local Property Tax based on local need.



RESIDENTIAL SPEEDING

Speeding is a concern for many people in built up areas and housing estates. It is a particular worry for families with young children. Fingal Co Council is proposing to reduce the speed limit in some built up areas to 30 km per hour on a pilot basis. As a member of the Transportation SPC, I would be interested to hear from residents who believe that their area would be suitable for such a measure.

TREE PRUNING

To find out which areas of Dublin 15 will be having their trees pruned, you can view the weekly schedule on my website. A leaflet that was recently circulated by another Councillor carried incorrect information on the tree pruning schedule and how the council should be contacted. Trees will be pruned according to prearranged routes throughout Dublin 15. However, if there is a concern that property may be damaged by overgrown shrubbery or high winds, you can contact me immediately and it may be dealt with sooner.

HOUSING

Housing Crisis: During a recent meeting with Minister for Housing Paudie Coffey, we discussed efforts to deal with the housing crisis including plans for new social housing units, the new tenant purchase scheme and the Housing Assistant Payment (HAPs). I am pleased to confirm that people who avail of the new HAP will not lose their place on the housing list as was previously claimed by some local representatives.



PARKING/PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT

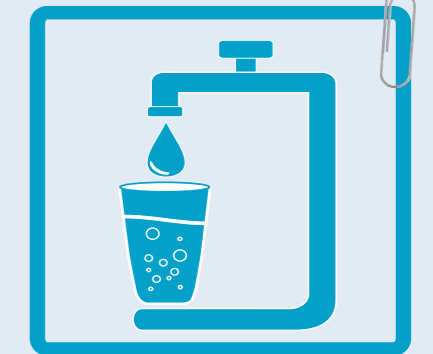
During the boom years many houses were built throughout Dublin 15 with insufficient regard for planning and local infrastructure. With building starting to return it is essential that local authorities not repeat the mistakes of the Celtic Tiger era. A renewed emphasis on a more rigorous planning enforcement process is necessary if we are to succeed in doing this. Similarly, if we are to avoid an increase in traffic and parking problems that accompany an improving economy, we must come up with new and imaginative solutions. I intend to use my influence on the Transportation SPC to ensure that Public Transport and traffic flow adjustments, alleviates this problem locally.

ECONOMY

Budget 2015 saw the first tax decreases since the recession began. This was only possible because the state's finances have been stabilised. Likewise, stable finances is the only thing that reverses cuts. It is not a question of other political parties promising to be more generous with government finances if they are elected.

This government is promoting a stable economic model that will produce the revenue to provide for services in a sustainable way. This is very necessary if we are to break the cycle of boom and bust. This is a policy I fully support.

Cuts to services in our community have stopped and are beginning to be reversed. However we are doing this in a responsible way. I would caution the public to be sceptical of politicians in any party that claim to be capable of reversing all cuts and every tax.



IRISH WATER

The establishment of Irish Water remains one of the most controversial decisions that the current government have taken since entering office. While mistakes have clearly been made, I remain convinced that the establishment of a water utility company that can invest in our broken infrastructure is in the national interest. I will not be doing what some of the local Fianna Fáil Councillors have done and begin attending anti-water demonstrations. I believe it is important that when it comes to certain aspects of public expenditure, there needs to be a connection between the cost of that service and the quality of it, which is why I support the concept of water charges. I do not feel this way about other charges such as the USC and will continue to lobby for its reduction and ultimate abolition.