

Clondalkin **John Curran TD** MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRUGS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS **COMMUNITY VOICE**



YOUR LOCAL FIANNA FAÍL TEAM, WORKING FOR YOU: EOIN RYAN MEP, TREVOR GILLIGAN, THYES KAVANAGH, JIM DALY, AND MINISTER OF STATE JOHN CURRAN TD.

CURRAN WELCOMES €25M FACILITY THAT WILL EMPLOY 185

The new Ballymount Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) which will process up to 100,000 tonnes of Dublin waste a year and separate the contents of the green bin before they are ready for shipment abroad.

A total of 85 people will be employed at the €25m recycling centre and a further 100 collecting green bins throughout the county. The facility will be operated by Greyhound Recycling and Recovery, which recently started collecting green waste from householders for the four Dublin local authorities.

The facility has received €25 million and I am delighted that the Department of the Environment

is committed to investing a further €13 million over the next 5 years.

This modern facility is labour intensive so produces jobs as well as protecting our environment. With the facilities close proximity to Clondalkin, many local people may find employment here.

The MRF will have the capacity of processing 100,000 tones of dry recyclable material per year and is one of the largest in the EU. It will process waste from 360,000 homes in the Dublin region over the next 20 years from the four local authorities in Dublin City, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin County Council.

LISCARNE DAY CENTRE GETS GO AHEAD TO PURCHASE NEW MINI BUS

– CURRAN

Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, John Curran T.D. announces funding for Liscarne Day Centre, locally called 'The Oasis', to purchase a new mini bus for their day centre for senior citizens.

Announcing this essential funding, Minister Curran said:

"I am delighted to be in a position to announce the go ahead for the purchase of a mini bus for Liscarne Day Centre. A mini bus will not only allow the centre to avail of more services and take part in more activities, but it will also provide better access to those with disabilities or little mobility in the area who wish to avail of the services provided by the centre.

"My Department has provided a total of €100,000 to Liscarne Day Centre. €34,000 went to the development of a sensory garden in the area and €66,000 was for the purchase of the mini bus. This continued Government support is essential for the provision of such beneficial services.

"The Oasis' is a wonderful day centre that offers services such as: breakfast, lunch, bingo, arts and crafts, chiropodist, hairdressing and days out to the cinema, swimming and bowling. The centre also acts as a drop in centre for senior citizens in the area.

"I am looking forward to meeting with members from the group when they visit Dáil Éireann next month on one of their many day trips," concluded Minister Curran.

500 JOBS AT IKEA

There was some good news on the employment front this month after furniture giant, IKEA, announced its plans to open its M50 superstore on Monday, July 27.

The new store at Ballymun will create a total of 500 direct new jobs and 50 additional indirect jobs in outsourced services such as home delivery, kitchen installation and crèche facilities.

A total of 55 senior positions have already been filled and recruitment for the remaining 445 people will take place in two phases.





MINISTER ATTENDS CLONDALKIN DRUG TASK FORCE ART EXPO.

CURRAN ANNOUNCES COMMITMENT FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF DUAL-USE COMMUNITY/SCHOOL FACILITIES IN DUBLIN

John Curran T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs announced that his Department has reached an agreement with the Department of Education and Science, South Dublin Vocational Education Committee and South Dublin County Council on securing the communities' use of school facilities at Firhouse, Killinarden, Collinstown and Palmerstown. The commitment to fund the use of these school facilities is being made under the Department's Community Services Programme. This will allow for the continued use of the four centres at reasonable cost by community groups and the people of the wider community. It will also ensure that existing services continue without interruption, and that employment opportunities are maintained and new ones created.

South Dublin VEC will continue to operate the communities' use of the four sports and leisure facilities under the arrangement. Both the VEC and South Dublin County Council will provide additional funding as well as other supports.

The facilities are state of the art and provide high quality sports and leisure opportunities for students of the school where they are located, schools in the immediate neighbourhood and to the wider public when not in school use. Each centre

is professionally managed and staffed.

Announcing the agreement Minister Curran said:

"I want to ensure that these excellent facilities are open and at the disposal of the communities at a reasonable cost. It was never the intention of my Department to close these excellent community facilities. By providing support under the Community Services Programme, my aim is to secure the long-term use of these facilities on a sustainable basis. I am pleased that South Dublin VEC and County Council are sharing the burden of providing funding and other supports to these four centres, particularly in this challenging economic climate. This new arrangement will be long-term, it will provide employment, continue to support the revitalisation of the local communities and ensure that facilities that have received substantial State investment are used to the fullest extent possible."

Over the last two years I have seen the enormous use and benefit that these four communities have received from the dual-use facilities. The viability of the facilities will be maintained through the financial support from my Department, South Dublin VEC, South Dublin County Council. This partnership of all the key stakeholders will ensure the long-term sustainability of these facilities for the future.

GREENFORT AND SHANCASTLE ESTATES IN CLONDALKIN SET FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS – CURRAN

Works valued at €17million have been approved by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for essential works to improve energy efficiency, quality of housing and environment of five disadvantaged estates around the country.

Greenfort and Shancastle have been included in this list and are set to see improvements and upgrading works carried out on their homes and estates.

I am particularly pleased that the communities in Greenfort and Shancastle estates will benefit from this scheme – The Remedial Works Scheme.

We are in difficult times but this is not a time to lose focus on our objective of building sustainable communities where people will like to live, work and play in. Despite the challenges the Government will continue to ensure that individuals and families in need of social housing supports will be given the opportunities to have these needs met in a way that is appropriate for them.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST FOR BOOT ROAD CLINIC – CURRAN

The HSE have given the go ahead for the resumption of a new Speech and Language Therapist in the Boot Road Clinic.

It is extremely good news that the HSE has sanctioned the recruitment of a new Speech and Language Therapist for the Boot Road Clinic as there has been none for a considerable length of time.

It became apparent to me

that there was an urgent need for a Speech and Language Therapist in the Boot Road Area, after many constituents came to me about this issue. I have been in contact with the HSE in relation to this matter for some time now.

The resumption of a new Speech and Language Therapist will benefit many children and adults in the area who are struggling with speech and language

difficulties. More often than not early intervention in speech therapy can be the very best for a child in order for them to achieve full communication and academic potential.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank local parents who came to my office to notify me of this issue. Clondalkin will now have a Speech and Language therapy facility as a result.

NEW CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME

On 1 January 2009 a new government scheme to encourage people to cycle to work came into force. Cycling keeps you fit, it's fast, cheap and reliable – and it's good for the environment.

The new bike scheme covers bicycles and accessories up to a maximum cost of €1,000. The bicycle must be purchased by your employer but the scheme can then operate either with your employer bearing the full cost of the bicycle, or by way of a salary sacrifice agreement (like the existing travel card scheme). Cycling to work is a win-win-win situation – get involved! Go to www.bikesscheme.ie to find out more and order your information pack.

MINISTER OF STATE JOHN CURRAN T.D. ANNOUNCES FUNDING OF ALMOST €21 MILLION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ORGANISATIONS

CLONDALKIN TO GET €900,000

John Curran T.D., Minister of State (with special responsibility for Community Affairs and the National Drugs Strategy) at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs announced core funding of **€20,802 million** for 2009 for 177 Community Development Projects and organisations.

I am delighted to be in a position to allocate such significant funding to my local area of Clondalkin. A total of €900,000 has been allocated to 8 Community Development Projects and Organisations in the area.

Local projects and organisations to benefit include: Bawnogue Women's Development Group, Clondalkin Travellers Development Group, Clondalkin Women's Network, Dolcain Project, North Clondalkin CDP, Quarryvale Community House Project, Ronanstown Women's CDP Ltd

and Rowlagh Women's Group.

The funding is granted under the Community Development Programme and covers the costs of staff and overhead costs for local resource centres in disadvantaged areas countrywide.

This funding to projects and organisations is made possible due to the commitment made by the Government to provide support for the Community Sector contained in *Towards 2016*, and also meets commitments made under the National Development Plan.

"This funding demonstrates the Government's on-going commitment to the targeting of resources to areas of greatest need. We will continue to support those in our communities who are less well off and work with them in building a fair and inclusive society for all.



MINISTER CURRAN LAUNCHES THE NEW CLONDALKIN PALMERSTOWN LUCAN AND NEWCASTLE AREA PARTNERSHIP



CURRAN URGES CLONDALKIN PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN ONLINE CANAL SURVEY

I am urging Clondalkin people to take a few minutes to take part in an online survey about the Dublin City Canals.

The survey is being undertaken by Waterways Ireland in conjunction with Dublin City Council, Fáilte Ireland and the Dublin Dockland's Development Authority and aims to identify the recreational, tourism and commercial potential of the Dublin City Canals (the Royal Canal and the Grand Canal) and associated docks within the Dublin City Council boundary. The project seeks to examine existing activities on the canals, identify achievable projects and look at a potential investment and maintenance framework for the Dublin City Canals.

The canals are a significant resource and have much to offer in terms of recreation, which is particularly valuable in such an urban setting as Clondalkin. In order to make the best overall use of them, it is important to find out, first of all, how locals and visitors currently view the canals, and how we could draw on the full range of opportunities that these amenities offer.

It is my hope that many people who do not currently use the Royal or Grand Canals also get involved with this fact-finding exercise, as their views will offer fresh perspectives and help us to look at the canals in a broader context.

For years I have been calling for upgrades to Grand Canal Park in Clondalkin so that the people of Clondalkin could enjoy the canal as a walk way or for water sports like canoeing and rowing. Now there is a chance for the people of Clondalkin to have their say about their canal and its surrounds.

To access the online survey, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/canalsurvey>

Alternatively, hard copies of the questionnaire are available from Waterways Ireland on +353 71 9650787.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL TO CONFER THE HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY ON KEN EGAN, BOXING SUPERSTAR

Mayor Marie Corr on behalf of the Members of South Dublin County Council hosted a Civic Reception in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Tallaght on Monday 12th January 2009 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the County on South Dublin born boxer KEN EGAN.

This event honours Kennys high profile achievements as an amateur boxer, including 8 National Senior Championships and winning a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008. It also acknowledges his status as an exemplary role model for the

young people of the County in pursuit of their own dreams.

The Honorary Freedom of the County of South Dublin County is the highest honour the County can award to a person. It is awarded to those who achieve great levels in a particular discipline.

This award follows the passing of a resolution to confer this prestigious honour on Ken Egan by the Members of the Council at a meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 13th October 2008.



MAJOR STEPS FORWARD FOR QUALITY OF RENTED ACCOMMODATION

Government approval has been secured for a package of measure that will radically improve standards in rental accommodation.

Some of the key elements of this package include:

- A phasing-out of the traditional bed-sit by insisting that each rental unit shall have its own sanitary facilities
- An end to open fireplaces as the sole means of room heating
- Explicit standards regulating the external appearance of rental accommodation
- Strong sanctioning powers to Local Authorities to ensure compliance with the new standards, including a new power to prohibit a dwelling from being let out until it is in compliance with the standards

A clearer and stronger definition of 'proper state of structural repair' will also be introduced making it easier for Local Authorities to prosecute in cases of substandard accommodation.

NEW GREEN BIN COLLECTION

From 1 January, 2009 Greyhound Recycling & Recovery are operating the green bin collection contract for South Dublin County Council and the other Dublin local authorities.

Existing calendar and collection times will remain unchanged but Greyhound will now collect the green bins and a new customer service number is operational for customer queries about missed collections, lost/stolen bins etc.

More information on the service can be found by ringing **Greyhound's Customer Service Centre** at **1890 342 342** emailing customercare@greenbin.ie or logging on to www.greenbin.ie

FUNDING BOOST FOR CLONDALKIN ANIMAL AID

Clondalkin Animal Aid has received €8,000 extra in ex-gratia payments that will assist Clondalkin Animal Aid directly with their work on the ground with neglected animals.

A total of €1.25m is being allocated to Animal Welfare Organisations nationwide from the Department of Agriculture and I am delighted that Clondalkin Animal Aid will benefit from these much needed funds.

Taking ownership of a pet comes with a responsibility and a duty of care to the animal. The number of animals that are abandoned every year as soon as the Christmas novelty has worn off does indicate that people are not giving due consideration to the commitment that is required in owning an animal.

This announcement of funding for animal welfare in Clondalkin in the current economic climate is evidence of the Government's commitment in the area of animal welfare.

Clondalkin Animal Aid does marvellous work in rescuing, rehabilitating and providing new homes for neglected animals. It is important to recognise that government funds do not cover the full costs incurred in meeting all the demands placed upon them. Clondalkin Animal Aid still require the ongoing financial support from the general public to enable them to fulfil their work to promote animal welfare and relieve animal suffering in Ireland.

WWW.CITIZENSINFORMATION.IE

For free and confidential information on your rights and entitlements please contact:

- The web-based information source www.citizensinformation.ie
- The Citizens Information Phone Service, Lo-Call 1890777121, Monday-Friday 9am – 9pm
- The nationwide network of Drop In Citizens Information Centres offering information and advocacy services to the public. Contact information for the network of offices is available at www.citizensinformation.ie

John Curran TD

WEEKLY ADVICE CLINICS

Monday 11.00am
Monday 12.00pm
Monday 7.00pm
Tuesday 10.00am
Thursday 6pm

Neilstown Community Centre, Neilstown
Bawnogue Community Centre, Bawnogue
Lucan Sports and Leisure Centre
Constituency Office 2a Main Street, Clondalkin
Constituency Office 2a Main Street, Clondalkin

MONTHLY ADVICE CLINICS

First Monday 8pm
Last Monday 8pm
Last Monday 9pm

Silver Granite, Palmerstown.
Rathcoole Community Centre,
The Gondola, Newcastle

All Clinics by Appointment Only
No Clinics on Bank Holiday Weekends.

2a Main Street, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. TEL:4579913
FAX:4579805 EMAIL:john.curran@oir.ie WEB:johncurrantd.com

FIANNA FAIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY