



# Eoghan Murphy TD

REPRESENTING **YOU** IN GOVERNMENT

**FINE GAEIL** 

## LOCAL SCHOOLS UPDATE

Since my election to Dáil Éireann I have been dedicated to a number of national and local education issues. You may recall the important public meeting that we held last November on the proposed new admission system for schools. I continue to work to reform the process so that it is more open, transparent and fair. As of September 2014 I am happy to report the following:

### ENROLMENT CHANGES

The new school admissions regulations will allow for sibling preference and preference for a percentage of children of past pupils. The extent to which families living in the catchment area of a school will have priority has still to be determined but I am fighting to have this at the top of the criteria. The legislation should be debated fully before the end of the year.

### FEE-PAYING SCHOOLS

As was the case in 2014, in the coming budget for 2015 there will be no further discrimination against children in fee-paying schools by unfairly targeting the pupil-teacher ratio.



*Why not join our weekly email list so you can stay up to date on the latest schools developments in our area? Email me at [eoghan.murphy@oir.ie](mailto:eoghan.murphy@oir.ie) asking to be added to the group.*

### NEW SCHOOL

We have secured the site of the old Garda station on Harcourt Terrace for a new co-ed primary school, with 24 classrooms and a special needs unit. The design competition for the school will be launched in September.

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# PRIORITIES FOR 2014 TO 2016

In July Fine Gael re-invigorated its ministerial ranks bringing a new energy and purpose to the government. As part of this process, a number of areas need to be addressed in the coming two years. These include:

- **Making Work Pay:** Reducing the 52% tax rate on low and middle income earners, beginning in Budget 2015.
- Introducing new measures to assist low income (net) families and where parents are moving back in to work.
- Tackling the housing shortage as well as the spike in housing prices and the rental market in Dublin.
- Increasing access to subsidised childcare and after school places by extending eligibility and rebalancing parental contributions.



## RATHGAR VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A plan to improve Rathgar Village is currently in the works; public consultations took place in May and a public workshop was held in June. **Local businesses, residents and members of the community are all taking part to help inform the plan.** Short, medium and long term goals for Rathgar will be developed under the following themes: moving through the village; animating the village; and the image of the village. Find out more on [www.eoghanmurphy.ie](http://www.eoghanmurphy.ie).



## BANKING INQUIRY

In May I was asked by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny to sit on a special committee to conduct the awaited Banking Inquiry. An important commitment was given by Fine Gael not to impose the whip on its committee members. **This is something I had argued for in the Dáil when debating legislation to establish the inquiry and is an incredibly important precedent with ramifications beyond the inquiry itself.** The committee has begun its work, assembling an advisory group and mapping out the scope of the inquiry.



## GOOD-LUCK RUAIRI, CONGRATS KEVIN!

In July, Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn announced his retirement from ministerial office and from public duty at the next election. **Ruairi was an outstanding representative for our constituency over many years and it was an honour to have worked with him on your behalf.** As part of the changes in government, Kevin Humphreys has been promoted to the position of Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection. Congratulations to Kevin!





## FUNDING FOR SPORTS CLUBS IN OUR AREA

In June the government announced **40 million euro in funding for sporting organisations** and facilities around the country. This is the second sports capital grant programme from the government since 2011 and more than two thousand applications were received in this round.

Congratulations to the following applications in Dublin Bay South which were successful for different levels of funding:

- Ashbrook Lawn Tennis Club, Rathgar
- CYM Sports & Social Club, Terenure
- Lansdowne Lawn Tennis Club, Sandymount
- Terenure College RFC, Terenure
- YMCA Cricket Club, Sandymount
- Old Wesley RFC, Donnybrook
- Old Belvedere RFC, Ballsbridge
- Pembroke Fencing Club, Ranelagh
- Whitefriar Aikido Club, City centre
- Whitefriar Archery Club, City centre
- Donnybrook Lawn Tennis Club, Donnybrook
- Dartry Park (through DCC), Rathgar
- Herzog Park (through DCC), Rathgar
- Herbert Park tennis courts (through DCC), Donnybrook/Ballsbridge



## REFERENDUM ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR SPRING 2015

Fine Gael in government will put a referendum to the people on marriage equality in 2015, and this important decision is likely to be held in April. **Fine Gael is a progressive party when it comes to marriage rights** and at this year's Pride Parade in June a number of government ministers, TDs and Councillors (including myself and local Cllr Kieran Binchy) joined together with the FG LGBT group to march and to celebrate the day.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- **Outdoor gym equipment** has been installed on the promenade by Sandymount Strand. Now you can work those guns in the sun!
- €35,000 in **funding has been granted for improvements** to Sandymount Green, Ranelagh Gardens and Dartmouth Square.
- The **Rugby World Cup** bid committee is due to complete its initial report in September with a decision from government expected in the autumn.
- In other rugby related news, the **pitches at Donnybrook are to be upgraded** and the RDS is to get a new stand. Could Donnybrook be hosting New Zealand in 2023?
- Is the plan for a **Directly Elected Mayor** of Dublin dead? Perhaps not – Fingal Councillors will now support a plebiscite.
- The Council's **gully and drainage division** has gone on to Twitter. Follow them on @GullyManager and make sure the gullies on your road are cleaned.
- **NAMA were recently before the PAC** to discuss the first triennial report from the C&AG's office. Important meetings like this one are available to watch through my website [www.eoghanmurphy.ie](http://www.eoghanmurphy.ie).
- New regulations for **car clubs and electric vehicles** were finally signed by myself and Leo Varadkar in May, bringing my Smarter Transport Bill in to law and completing five years of hard work. Phew!
- Dublin City Council has voted to protect the **Poolbeg chimneys** from demolition.

## ALL THINGS BICYCLING...

**Dublinbikes** got a new partner in Coca Cola Zero to help further expansion of the scheme in a deal worth two million euro. **The number of bikes will increase to 1500 with the number of docking stations increasing to 100.** A number of the new stations are already in operation. Plans to progress the scheme south of the canal have been drafted but funding is not yet in place.



**Bike Theft** in Dublin is down and continuing to decrease. Between 2009 and the beginning of this year, reported bike thefts went from 211 to 84 in the Donnybrook division, and from 249 to 48 in the Terenure Division (these figures include my old Peugeot racer which was stolen in 2010!). **Too many bikes are still being stolen and I am currently progressing the idea of 'bike baiting' which has been implemented in San Francisco.** For more log on to [www.eoghanmurphy.ie](http://www.eoghanmurphy.ie).

**S2S update** – During National Bike Week supporters of the Sutton 2 Sandycove continuous cycle-way came together in Booterstown to promote the project. **At 22km, this will be the longest cycle-way in Europe when completed.** Fine Gael fully supports the project and the National Transport Authority has a special team working with the local authorities to see how the route can be completed.



### FINE GAEL DUBLIN BAY SOUTH EOGHAN IS WORKING WITH:

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## WEEKLY EMAIL



Every Friday I produce a weekly email that provides information on what's happening in our area (e.g. water disruptions, park improvements), as well as developments regarding national issues (PAC investigations, Budget 2015, Tax Transparency etc.). **Email me at [eoghan.murphy@oir.ie](mailto:eoghan.murphy@oir.ie) and we will add you to the list.**



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