

CLLR. NEASA HOURIGAN



UPDATE ON THE PHOENIX PARK REVIEW

In May the OPW issued a review of visitors experiences in the park with proposals to significantly increase car parking and build retail units. Thank you so much to everyone who engaged with my submission. Over 4,500 people joined together to use my template. Updated plans, published in response in December show a renewed commitment to biodiversity in the park along with a review of walking and cycling safety.

Appointment Green Party Finance Spokesperson

How do we move towards a sustainable economy?

In the autumn I was appointed the Green Party's spokesperson on Finance and we submitted our prebudget recommendation to the government which suggested the following:

- €1.1bn package to address the climate and biodiversity crisis, including: €475m for sustainable transport, €100m for afforestation and €75m for organic farming
- €300m fund for the provision of cost rental housing and invest €200m for a major retrofit programme
- €300m investment in education and a further €275m for parents through a raise in the Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC)

Disability Issues...

Accessibility, Transport and the City

In the last few months I have continued to focus on how we can improve services for people with disabilities. Myself, my daughter (a cane user) and fellow green councillors Caroline Conroy and Sophie Nicollaud took part in a National Council for the Blind walk from Landsdown Road to Drumcondra to experience what walking with a cane is really like. I spoke at the Fighting Blindness Retina conference and have a motion coming up at council on providing access to sign language at all council meetings. I was also delighted to speak at the launch of the Irish Pedestrian Network in both Limerick and Cork. Hopefully these groups will bring more focus on improving the quality of walking infrastructure for everybody.



Housing..

Vacant Homes Despite the deepening housing crisis there are still a significant number of vacant or derelict homes in Dublin. I am continuing my work on this issue and you can help: if you are aware of a long term vacant home you can register it at info@vacanthomes.ie and help get buildings back into the housing stock.

Energy Efficiency Though the current grants are not what they should be it was great to take part in the Buzzfest event in Phibsborough and call on my professional background to give advice on energy upgrades.

Clean air for us all...

Air pollution is increasingly an issue in Dublin

As a group of 10 councillors on DCC the Greens have focused on the growing issue of air pollution in Dublin. During the summer we made air monitors to gauge the problem in our own districts. We are also pushing for more pedestrian areas in the city and safe zones around schools. In September the council unanimously agreed to pedestrianise part of Liffey Street and we had cycle lane maintenance and improvement included in the revenue budget for the first time.

It was incredible to witness the energy and knowledge (and very clever posters) on climate action displayed by children in Glasnevin during the recent climate strike.



Council Update..

Cllr. Janet Horner Co-opted

Following Ciaran Cuffe's election to the European Parliament Janet Horner was co-opted to his seat in the North Inner City. Janet is a human rights and trade union activist and has been very involved in campaigns to get more women and young people cycling. Get in touch at janet.horner@greenpart.ie.

I have been organising constituency clinics on a regular basis all around the Dublin Central area. Look out for notifications of these on social media and into your door and do feel free to come along for coffee, a chat and to let me know any issues you need help with.

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