

Concerns about Footbridge

The new footbridge across the N11 from Herbert Road to the Enniskerry junction is now complete. It is undoubtedly a very fine piece of engineering. There is however a problem on the Bray side of the N11 that, as yet, no proper footpath from the nearby housing estates has been provided. As the picture shows the Herbert Road is very busy at this point and the lack of a proper footpath and public lighting poses self-evident dangers. Dick has asked the Council resolve these problems without delay.



A Viking Ship with a Wicklow Connection

As Minister for Europe, Dick Roche was invited to 'launch' the Sea Stallion of Glendalough, a reconstruction of the largest Viking Ship ever discovered, from her home in Roskilde, Denmark for her voyage to Dublin. Minister Roche, Cllr. Eleanor Roche and Dr. Pat Wallace, the Director of the National Museum saw the ship off on 1 July 2007. She arrived in Dublin on schedule on 14 August and is on public display at the National Museum, Collins Barracks, Dublin.



CERTIFICATES FOR THE NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK IN BRAY
Dick joined the families and friends of sixty students who recently completed their studies at the National Learning Network and presented the students with their Certificates of achievement at Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Bray.

Commitment on Newtown's Footpath Welcomed

Dick has given a warm welcome to the confirmation from Wicklow County that the Council intends to provide a footpath between the Ballyronan Interchange off the N11 and Newtownmountkennedy.

Over the past number of years the residents in the Garden Village in Kilpedder have been pressing for the provision of proper footpaths from their area to the village of Newtownmountkennedy. It has always been difficult and indeed dangerous for pedestrians to walk to the village. The news that Wicklow County Council will provide this much needed infrastructure for the community in Garden Village and Newtownmountkennedy is very welcome.

Now that the Council has given a commitment, Dick has asked that work get underway as quickly as possible.

Bray Fire Service

Following the recent dreadful fire tragedy in Bray the question of a full time fire service is understandably under discussion again.

As far back as 1997, Dick suggested to the County Council that if it could not provide funding for a full time service it should seek agreement with Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown on the possibility of joint full time cover on a sub regional basis. That idea was not supported by the Council. The Council was approached again in 2001 and 2003. Again the idea was rebuffed.

Minister Roche said, "It seems to me that this idea was never really fully examined. I have never seen figures that demonstrate this is not a viable solution. If money is the problem that restrains the Council from acting then it should examine every possibility of sharing the financial burden.

The recent tragedy in Bray brings this whole issue back into focus. Rather than seek reasons for ruling out any system that would provide a full time service in Bray, the time has now come for all concerned to sit down and come up with viable solutions for the challenges which Bray faces.

Dick has written to the County Manager again requesting that the Council enter into discussions with the County Dublin Fire Authorities on the possibility of creating a sub regional fire service which would provide Bray with a fulltime fire service for at least part of each day and be augmented by a retained fire service. Such an arrangement would mean that costs would be shared and would have no impact on the Greystones retained service.

The provision of a full time service is the responsibility for the local authorities. With the estimates for 2008 being finalised in the County Council the time is right for the Council members to make a substantial provision to allow the Council either jointly with the adjoining fire services or separately, to move forward to the point where full time cover is a reality for at least a part of every day in Bray and the surrounding area. "This is a matter for Wicklow County Council to decide. The time for talking is over, the Council must now make the right decision", said Dick.

Bray LUAS Line

Government support for the extension of the LUAS system to Bray was confirmed during the summer following a meeting between the Minister for Transport, a delegation from the Bray Chamber of Commerce and Minister Dick Roche.

"Minister Dempsey's confirmation of the Government's commitment to the Bray LUAS project is very welcome. It ended grossly inaccurate speculation on the project. The extension of the system to Cherrywood is already well underway. The extension to Bray will provide the town with an unrivalled public transport system" concluded Minister Roche.



Greystones New Schools

The new Schools Advisory Committee has now opened its public consultation on proposed new primary schools for September 2008.

Two schools for Greystones are mentioned in the initial advertisement. One school will provide education in a multi-denominational setting under the patronage of Educate Together.

The second school, a new all-Irish interdenominational school is being promoted under the patronage of An Foras Patrúnachta Na Scoileanna Lan Ghaelige. The public consultation period to run until mid December.

DICK ROACHE

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BACK TO BUSINESS

Dear Constituent,

I should start this, the first Newsletter of the new Dail term, by once again thanking each of the thousands of constituents who supported me in the recent General Election. I was both honoured and humbled to again head the poll in Co. Wicklow and to be your first representative elected to the 30th Dail. Míle buíochas díbhe.

In spite of the fact that I have moved to a new Ministerial portfolio, as Minister for European Affairs, a position, which requires a very significant amount of travel, I have decided to increase the number of constituency clinics. As always my first priority is to be "always at your service, not just at election time."

If you or any member of your family have an issue which you would like to raise with me, you can contact me as always at 2 Herbert Terrace, Herbert Road, Bray, 01 2863211, Department of Foreign Affairs, Iveagh House, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, 01 4082605 and Department of An Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Dublin 2, 01 6194399, or email me at dick.roche@taoiseach.gov.ie

Le gach dea ghúí

Dick Roche, TD

Minister for European Affairs

You can also contact Dick by phone, fax or e-mail at any of the following addresses:

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FIANNA FAÍL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Nuclear Safety

European nations who do not see the nuclear power as 'the way ahead' and who share common concerns about nuclear security and safety are coming together. The move is being promoted by Minister Roche.



In March, Dick hosted a conference in Dublin Castle with Ministers representing Austria, Iceland, Germany and Norway. This meeting provided a forum for a wide-ranging discussion on marine discharges, safety matters and the broader nuclear energy issue. A further meeting was held in October.

"These meetings ensure that the voice of non-nuclear nations is heard", Minister Roche said recently.

Litter in Wicklow Town

Dick has asked Wicklow Town Council to address, "as a matter of absolute urgency, the litter problems in a number of key areas in the town".

"Wicklow Town is beautifully sited. In any other county real pride would be taken in the preservation of glorious sea views such as those at the seafront and in the preservation of the historic remains such as the Black Castle. It is simply shameful that this wonderful amenity should be destroyed as it is by litter. It is time that the Council took a much more proactive approach to dealing with litter in Wicklow Town", Dick said.



CELEBRATING
BLESSINGTON'S
NEW KARE
FACILITY

Minister Roche
with Padraig and
Agnes Reilly
celebrating the
foundation
ceremony of the
new Kare Facility

Remediation Works in Blessington

Dick, who led the campaign at national level against illegal dumping, has welcomed progress on the remediation of the illegal dump at Woodleigh, Blessington.

Dick keeps in constant contact with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the terms of the waste licence are complied with and that the works are carried out in full. Dick has welcomed the confirmation, which he has been given that remediation is progressing well and that is estimated that works will be fully completed by spring 2008.

More Constituency Clinics than ever

Dick Roche has been running "Constituency Clinics" since he was first elected to the Council in 1985. He is the only public representative in the county who has been running constituency clinics continuously for almost 23 years, in spite of Ministerial responsibilities that require extensive travel Dick has increased his clinics. A full list of Dick's clinics is posted on the website, www.dickroche.com

New Council Audit Committees

New Council Audit arrangements introduced by Minister Roche came into operation recently.

The Audit Committees will review the financial and budgetary practices and procedures of Councils, foster the development of best practice for internal audit and promote efficiency and value for money.

The Audit Committees are made up of 5 members. Three must be from outside the Council. No Council staff member may be appointed. The Committee will be chaired by one of the external members.

"Councils in Ireland control funds of up to €9,000 million per year. It is in everybody's interest that these massive amounts of funds are dealt with efficiently and that value for money is achieved", Dick said.

Avoca Station

Recent contacts between Minister Roche and the Chairman of the CIE Group, Dr. John Lynch has provided "the first tangible evidence that Córas Iompair Éireann is willing to actively reconsider its position on Avoca station". The Chairman of the CIE Group has pointed out that in other parts of the country Iarnród Éireann is now cooperating with Councils and developers on the reopening of former stations and has suggested that the County Council and CIE agree similar arrangements for Avoca.

Welcoming the news Dick said, "I believe that the County Council should, as the local planning authority bring together development interests and the CIE Group to press the reopening of Avoca station forward".

Bus Eireann to Upgrade Services

Bus Eireann responding to representations from Minister Roche has announced that it intends to introduce upgraded services on the Arklow/Wicklow/Bray/Dublin routes for bus commuters from outside the Dublin Bus area.

The company has applied for additional operational licences to extend services from Wicklow to Dublin Airport via the Port Tunnel and to allow the company make what it describes as "important changes" which will include an hourly service and shorter running times between Wicklow and Dublin City Centre.

Dick said, "I very much welcome any improvements in the public transport service to and from Co. Wicklow, particularly to the areas which are not covered by the scheduled Dublin Bus services."

Wicklow Town's Taxi Rank

Dick has been in contact with Wicklow Town Council supporting local calls for a taxi rank. "There is no reason why Wicklow Town should not have a taxi rank for the convenience of shoppers. The absence of a taxi rank is a major disincentive for taxi plate holders operating from Wicklow. Local taxi operators have put forward some very sensible suggestions to the Town Council. I believe the Council should respond positively to these

Neglect at Hacketstown

Minister Roche was in contact in recent weeks with Carlow County Council regarding problems in Hacketstown. "I was disappointed that the Council, normally one of the most responsive Councils, had failed to respond to very reasonable requests made by residents in Hacketstown for proper street lighting, for a working pedestrian crossing and for repairs to street furnishings which were damaged by commercial traffic. Thankfully Carlow County Council has responded positively and works are underway."

Progress at Kilpedder

Work on the Kilpedder Overpass, footbridge and new road layout, a €43 million plus scheme funded by the Government is now nearing completion. Work on the new interchange is now well ahead of schedule. The overpass is complete. Work is underway on the connecting roads, a new footbridge and new long-awaited footpaths at Kilpedder.



In addition to the major scheme, Kilpedder and Willow Grove residents will also benefit from footpath improvements in their area, which are being carried out as part of the overall project.

Bray & Greystones Pools



Dick Roche who has championed the building of the Bray and Greystones pools at Government level and whose efforts were rewarded with Government funding for the two pools, has welcomed the rapid progress being made on both projects and called on the Councils and contractors to "make every effort to ensure that both pools are 'open for business' by the 2008 school summer holidays".

Arklow Bridgewater Centre

The opening of the new €130 million Bridgewater Centre and the creation of 750 jobs were welcomed by Minister Roche as an outstanding example of "the spirit of enterprise that exists in Arklow".

The development of a first class retail centre, with a large number of national retailers, a major multiplex cinema, riverside restaurants, children's activity centre and the relocation of Arklow's Maritime Museum is the largest project in Arklow and South Wicklow in a generation.

The development of the Bridgewater Centre is a flagship project, which can help to drive future expansion of Arklow in a sustainable manner and make it a distinctive and desirable place in which to live and work.



For a full list of Dick Roche's Constituency Clinics please telephone 01 286 3211.