

# CLLR EOIN HAYES

Social  
Democrats

YOUR  
DUBLIN  
BAY SOUTH

SOCIAL  
DEMOCRAT



A chairde - It was the honour of my life to be elected as one of your newest Dublin City Councillors at the local elections in June 2024. As a member of the local community, it is a true privilege to serve you all.

My role is to represent your interests to the Chief Executive of Dublin City Council and council staff through various committees. I am also the Social Democrats representative on the Finance committee, which oversees the €1.3bn city council budget. Having spent most of my career to date in the business of managing finances, I have the skills needed to ensure proper scrutiny of our city's finances.

It is also my job to present your concerns to other public bodies like An Post, Waterways Ireland, Dublin Bus, and Uisce Éireann. I have already received thousands of emails and other correspondence from members of our community, and the responsibility of raising key issues on your behalf is one I take very seriously.

My main aim as your councillor is to secure strong investment in our public spaces and local services, and to support thriving communities locally and across Dublin. It is truly my pleasure to be working with you and my fellow councillors to deliver a European standard of living for all the residents of this fine city.

Please reach out if there's anything I can help with.

Go raibh maith agat,  
Eoin



# LOCAL UPDATES

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR HAROLD'S CROSS & TERENCE

### Rosary Hall, Harold's Cross Renovations

- Works commenced on the refurbishment of the Hall on Jan 29th 2024.
- A supervisory committee, comprising two members of the local football club and two members of the Harold's Cross Village Community Council (HXVCC), and the City Council's Area Manager, was established to optimise the use of the facility for the benefit of the Community.
- Completion of the works on the Community facility is now expected to be complete at the end of October 2024.

### Terenure Library Upgrade

- Terenure will get a new library. It will be located on the site of the existing library on Templeogue Road and will be around 1,000 square metres in size.
- Planning permission will be submitted this year.



## PORTOBELLO PLAZA AND GRAND CANAL

Redevelopment of Portobello Plaza has been approved by Dublin City Council and it is hoped construction will start next year. The new plaza will be named Portobello Harbour Park. Green spaces are badly needed in this area and I am happy to see this project moving forward. The Park will have a shared-use element and therefore the segregated cycle lanes currently in place will be removed and the Dublin Bikes stand will be relocated nearby. Councillors have received a commitment from staff that this could be reversed if unsuccessful.

I am delighted to see some of the fencing on the Grand Canal removed and will continue to lobby Waterways Ireland to remove the rest asap.

## CATHAL BRUGHA BARRACKS

- The plans to utilise space in Cathal Brugha Barracks for housing and community facilities have been abandoned by the current government, depriving nearby communities of badly needed space for housing, sports facilities, and community amenities.
- In September, I brought forward a motion to council, which was passed, calling on the Minister for Defence and Government to redevelop Cathal Brugha Barracks - one of the largest state-owned land banks within Dublin City Council's boundaries - for urgently needed housing development and community amenities.
- I will keep pushing on this issue with my party colleagues in City Hall and in Leinster House.



## BETTER LOCAL FACILITIES IN RATHMINES AND RATHGAR

Bins for Rathgar Village: Rathgar Village has undergone an audit focused on litter generation, location, demand, and servicing of bins. Following this, the Rathgar Area has received:

- Doubled capacity for 2 existing bins
- One Pizza Box Belly Bin, the city's first, and one big belly bin

### Rathmines Post Office update:

- In July of this year, I raised a motion at Council to request that the Minister for Communications cancel the planned sale of the Rathmines Post Office, which was passed. The Council has now written to the Minister and I am working with my fellow councillors to come up with other solutions to the issue.
- It is vitally important that we maintain all existing post office services in Rathmines and keep this building in public ownership either for use as a post office, or for provision of other public or community services.



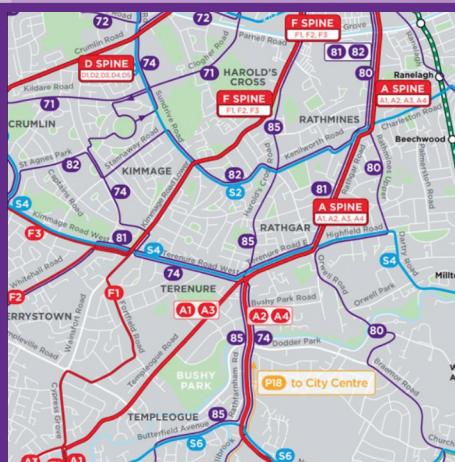


# CITY UPDATES

## IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT IN DUBLIN CITY

Dirt and rubbish have increased across our city in recent years. Dublin City Council are launching a new strategy to tackle this. Below are a few key measures announced as part of this strategy:

- Phased recruitment of 100+ staff across all operational depots.
- Procurement of new fleet, with an investment of c.€8.5M over 4 years.
- Expansion of the city centre commercial area that receives a 24-hour cleaning service.
- Double the litter enforcement staff in the city centre and new litter enforcement staff to be employed for our night-time economy.
- Removal of derogation allowing waste to be presented in plastic bags on the footpaths for collection.



## BUSCONNECTS UPDATE

- An Bord Pleanála has approved 2 new Bus Connects routes in our area: The Templeogue/Rathfarnham-City-Centre route and the Kimmage-City-Centre route.
- Close monitoring of the impact on traffic will be required, as will quick remediation where necessary. I will work closely with the National Transport Authority (NTA) on the rollout of the routes so that residents are not unduly negatively impacted.
- **15B route:** The loss of a bus route along the current 15B route will have a detrimental impact on ~1000 local residents, including many elderly people who will need to walk a significant distance to access a bus. I have been pushing the NTA to consider re-routing either the A2 or A3 to go along Bushy Park Road, a small diversion which will not remove bus access to other areas.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY

### Oscar Traynor Road development:

- Dublin City Council (DCC) has redeveloped a site at Oscar Traynor Woods in Coolock, with units provided under the Affordable Housing Scheme.
- When greenlit in 2021 councillors were told that a three-bed unit would cost between €250,000 to €306,000, but when launched this year councillors were informed that prices would be €399,731 and €475,000 based on the current government's scheme.
- At the Council, I highlighted that these "Affordable" housing prices would be out of reach for 80% of households, according to income figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- Several parties organised a special meeting of DCC to explore the matter further. After significant pressure, DCC responded by lowering the prices to €360,931, for a three-bed home.
- We in the Social Democrats have an alternative housing plan to lower prices by basing the affordability on costs, not on market prices.



## THE NEW DUBLIN TRANSPORT PLAN

The new Dublin City Transport Plan 2023 came into effect on August 25th 2024 after delays and some changes.

- The aim of the plan is to reduce the volume of through-traffic that travels through the city centre en route elsewhere, freeing up space for residents, commuters, and visitors in the city centre.
- Only a few weeks into the changes, the NTA reported that the journey times on the quays were down 20%. This is a positive result in just the first phase of the overall plan.
- A working group has been put together to monitor the impact of the changes. I am particularly conscious of effects for the elderly and those with mobility issues, which I will be monitoring closely.



# NATIONAL ISSUES



## DELIVER HOMES FOR PEOPLE, NOT FUNDS

Home ownership is now at an all-time low. As I go door-to-door, I meet countless young people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s living at home or pushed away from their families and friends due to the lack of affordable housing. We face shortages of teachers, healthcare workers, and gardaí. Even big companies in Dublin are struggling to recruit highly-paid staff.

I believe a change in our approach to housing is required to tackle this crisis, and we in the Social Democrats have a plan to:

- Deliver double the number of affordable and social housing units to 22,000 annually
- Ban the bulk-buying of homes by vulture funds, and end their generous tax breaks
- End the domination of 'luxury-only' build-to-rent construction in Dublin city
- Bring tens of thousands of empty homes back into use by increasing the vacant homes tax

## MAKING CHILDCARE VIABLE

Despite some improvements, Irish parents pay some of the highest costs in the world for childcare, often the cost of a second mortgage or monthly rent.

We must:

- Increase paid parental leave to 12 months for each child.
- Cap childcare fees at €250 per month.
- Directly build additional childcare settings, beginning in areas of most demand, including on the grounds of local schools.
- Establish a public model of childcare over the medium-to-long term, with a highly-skilled, regulated, and fairly paid childcare and early years workforce.

## 21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE

We had tram lines to Harold's Cross, Rathgar, and Terenure 100 years ago, and we can do it again. But we have to be more ambitious for our city and country for the 21st century. If my party is in the next government, I'm committing to:

- A Metrolink South West to Terenure as part of an expanded Dublin rail network with connectivity to the airport
- Doubling the rate of progress on water system leaks and improving drainage schemes across the city
- Making Ireland a net exporter of renewable energy by 2030, surpassing current government targets

## A BEAUTIFUL, SAFE, CLEAN DUBLIN

Crime, anti-social behaviour, and a lack of visible policing in Dublin city all contribute to our collective sense of the city's decline. I want to make the city centre a safe, vibrant, beautiful, and welcoming place for people of all ages and backgrounds:

- Increase community policing by instituting a new civilian staff core to free up front line Gardaí
- Invest in community, sports, and youth facilities for at-risk youths and social services for mental health and addiction
- Invest in Dublin's core to remove dereliction, create European-style pedestrian squares, and ensure a thriving, clean, and beautiful city centre
- Set up a fully-funded anti-racism task force for Dublin City



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