

# Senator MARIE SHERLOCK

## *Fighting for a Fairer Dublin*

Dublin Central General Election Candidate



### *Stoneybatter & Smithfield Summer Newsletter 2024*

A chara,

I'm your local Senator in Stoneybatter and Smithfield, representing the interests of our communities at a national level in the Oireachtas.

I know there are very significant issues facing our communities: the **need for affordable, decent housing**, the **shortage of visible policing on our streets**, the **scourge of illegal dumping** and the **absolute crisis in childcare availability**.

I'm working to ensure our city is a fairer, more inclusive and healthier place to live, work, raise a family and go to school.

If there are ever any issues that I can be of assistance with, local or national, please do get in touch.

Le chéile, is féidir linn pobail níos laidre agus níos cothroime a chruthú.

Le meas,

*Marie*

**Senator Marie Sherlock**

Labour Party Spokesperson on Employment, Arts, Culture, Media and the Gaeltacht

## HELP US HIGHLIGHT THE MAJOR CHILDCARE SHORTAGE IN D7

**Tell us your experience!  
Please take our 2-minute survey**



Locally we have a perfect storm; a real shortage of places, early years workers struggling to afford to stay in the job they love, and small local providers struggling to keep their doors open. Last year, we had the **massive loss of 105 pre-school places in our area** when two pre-schools were forced to close.

In our childcare survey last year, **one in every three surveyed parents told us they were waiting 12 months or more to find a childcare space** for their child. This is shocking. Far too many parents have been forced to put their careers on hold or reduce hours, particularly working mothers.

## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

Despite the excellent efforts of local Gardaí, there is a serious lack of visible policing. Unfortunately, we have too few community Gardaí and they are stretched too far. We have 23% fewer community Gardaí in the Dublin North Central area compared with a decade ago.

Re-opening the Phoenix Park Garda training college and prioritising community policing are crucial to turning this around. I'm fighting for this as your local Senator.

Across communities, if there are repeated incidents we are happy to organise meetings between Gardaí and local residents.

If you have particular concerns, please do contact me.

### CONTACT ME

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**Labour** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



# SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN DUBLIN

WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO SAVE AND GROW ARTISTS' SPACES?

## PUBLIC MEETING

**When:** Wed July 10th, 7pm

**Where:** The Gallery @ The Complex, 21-25 Arran St E, D07 YY97



SENATOR MARIE SHERLOCK

Over 50 artist spaces have closed in Dublin over the last decade and many of those remaining are under enormous financial pressure. **When competing against commercial interests, artists' spaces don't stand a chance.** That needs to change.

All are welcome at the meeting.

# CHANGE THE LAW TO MAKE MORE HOMES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Within 2km of where you live now, there are 220 houses lying vacant long-term.\*

Every single one of these could be a home, if the political will was there. **The State's current hands-off approach to abandoned buildings is a disgrace.**

We need:

- A **higher and more effective tax on vacant** and derelict properties.
- Stronger compulsory purchase laws to allow the **Council to take over long term vacant homes**
- Reformed planning and stamp duty laws to **ensure apartments are sold to individuals and families**, not just asset funds. Two years ago, Government moved to protect the sale of houses only, not apartments. Apartments are the future of living in Dublin!

Social housing is coming to the area, but we need a lot more.

- **O'Devaney Gardens:** 379 units due Nov 2026, 410 due July 2027. 233 units will be for affordable purchase.
- **Stanley Street development** (old Stoneybatter fire depot): planning sought for 168 units.

\*Source: Geodirectory

# WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM – TIME FOR CHANGE

**Our communities face the ongoing scourge of illegal dumping, massive frustrations about street cleaning and a patchy waste collection service.**

**I believe we need to change who collects and processes waste in our city.**

We need these changes so that **investment can be made** in

- **Shared collection points**- available widely across communities
- **More recycling and composting facilities**- easily accessible and open for extended periods.

To do this, we need to start with a **single, reliable bin collector for the whole city – one that can be held to account.**

Private bin companies are creaming profits from household collection while Dublin City Council is left to clean up the mess and is expected to provide recycling and composting facilities. Such is the dysfunction that new laws about mandatory brown bin collection cannot be rolled out in the inner city as many streets are bag only.



Motion on Waste Management

**In May, we got cross-party support in the Seanad for our plan to reform waste collection.**

**SENATOR MARIE SHERLOCK**  
*Fighting for a Fairer Dublin*

**Labour** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★