



Senator Marie Sherlock



Spring 2024

CHAMPIONING A SAFER, LIVEABLE CITY FOR ALL

Last November the shameful rioting and damage to our city endangered lives and livelihoods. We now know how fast small numbers of far-right agitators can exploit frustrations in the city. **We must never let that take hold again. We have a wonderful diversity here in Dublin and we must protect it.**

However, the Dublin we know and love is under enormous strain.

There's a chronic shortage of childcare places, of health and disability workers and of teachers in our schools. **Even well paid workers earning over €100,000 can't afford to buy in two thirds of Dublin's post codes.** And here on the Northside, despite the brilliant efforts of many Gardaí, the reality is that there are **over 100 fewer community Gardaí on the ground compared with a decade ago.**

So much needs to be done; turning over 3,000 long term vacant houses in our area into homes, building on available public land, state support to build/repurpose buildings for childcare facilities, lifting the health recruitment embargo, measures to train and recruit more health professionals, extra payment to teachers in Deis schools agus Gaelscoileanna.

On Policing and Public safety we need to see the **Garda training college in Phoenix Park re-opened and greater early intervention for youths.** There are only 5 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers across the whole of the Northside. Our youth clubs need more support. More boots on the ground are vital to making the city feel safer, but it's not enough. There are serious issues with planning in the city and services for those who are most vulnerable.

Stop the slaughter of Palestinians



The world must not stand by and watch the indiscriminate slaughter of children and innocent civilians. We in the Labour Party have been steadfast in our calls for an immediate ceasefire, the need for economic sanctions against an Israeli Government intent on genocide and the need for a permanent settlement for Palestine and Israel.



*A chara,
I'm your local Senator.*

If there are ever any issues in your area or assistance that you need, I want to be able to help.

Deán teagmháil liom,

Marie

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LOCAL NEWS

Good news for Corpus Christi Parish Hall



Marie with Angela Boyle Shafer and campaigners Chris, Anne, Daphne and Colette who were part of the local campaign group that worked tirelessly to have the hall re-open for the community.

Corpus Christi Girls' National School has been entrusted with the hall and has made a commitment that it will re-open for the benefit of the local community after school hours.

This is a great breakthrough for the local community. As part of the school taking it over, two new special classes are being developed in the school which will be a much needed addition to the area. Works to clear out the hall are currently underway and we look forward to seeing the hall re-open for the school and the community.

Update on derelict Ferguson Road houses

DCC has refurbished no. 12 and hopes to have residents in there soon. They have told us that number 8 and 10 will require part or total demolition and reconstruction. Work is being undertaken to plan a full schedule of works for both derelict houses and they hope the reconstruction will be completed next year.

Transport Update

BusConnects:

We expect a decision on the planning application over future weeks. If approved as expected works will commence at the end of 2024.

Royal Canal Greenway Phase 3:

Overall completion date is Q2 2025 but the section between Cross Guns Bridge and Binns Bridge is due to open by this Summer.

New system needed to help match children with special schools/classes



Marie with Embrace Autism D9, the fantastic parent support group which meets in Gracepark Educate Together National School.

Every year parents of children with significant additional needs face a **horrendous process in trying to find a school place when they leave primary school**. With no system to match children to schools, parents often end up applying to 20 or more schools. Many families find themselves with no place very close to the return to school date. I have appealed to the Minister for Education for a matching system to be established.

These issues come on top of a system already struggling with massive waiting lists and serious delays in accessing vital resources, like assistive technology.

Leave when it matters most

In November our **reproductive health leave bill** passed all stages in the Seanad. It would provide **up to 20 days' paid time off** for anyone experiencing the loss of an early miscarriage and **10 days' paid leave** for those undergoing fertility **treatments** like IVF.

Unfortunately, the Government voted to bury the bill for 12 months. The fight goes on.



Supporting Grassroots Football



My colleague Aodhán Ó Ríordáin brought a **historic motion to the Dáil calling for financial support for grassroots football** across Ireland. Far too many clubs in the inner city face **massive funding challenges with no permanent access to training and match facilities**. We need to see serious Government investment to ensure that kids and adults of all ages can get involved and play.

Marie with Stephen and Leo of Sheriff YC. Both Sheriff YC and East Wall Bessboro FC have very exciting plans for their respective parts of the Alfie Byrne Road pitches. However, they have endured regular and heartbreaking vandalism to their pitches in recent months. Sadly we need greater security for these pitches.

Metrolink Update

As part of the planning permission process, an oral hearing at An Bord Pleanála is currently being held. When Metrolink is finally built in 10 years' time, it will be transformative for our area.

At the oral hearing I sought assurances on specific issues relating to the construction phase;



Construction traffic management: The scale of construction traffic for the Griffith Park station means that a footpath, a pedestrian crossing, cycle path and bus lane on Mobhi road will be temporarily put out of use. Glasnevin station near Harts corner is the biggest and most complicated station project. I asked TII to reconsider their traffic management plans as currently set out.



Impact of tunnelling works

For those living close by, there are understandable concerns about the structural impact on homes and the relocation plans for those living next to Glasnevin station. The estimated relocation period for residents worst affected is 4 weeks. We have received a number of specific assurances on structural damage- see below.



Property owners protection scheme (POPS): In response to my questions at the oral hearing, TII have committed to dealing with homeowners incurring damage above the €45,000 limit under POPS. They have also committed to dealing with those located beyond the 30m range (of tunnelling works) and the 50m range (of station construction) if damage occurs that is directly attributable to Metrolink works.



Design of the Glasnevin station: I urged TII to be imaginative in the design and to consider installing a solar thermal initiative, a green wall, community facilities and apartments. Furthermore, I asked if it were possible to physically save and incorporate part of the historic Hedigan's Brian Boru pub into the new design.

We need to protect local childcare services

A growing number of local services are telling us of their **frustration in trying to stay open**.

Already we have a **huge shortage in the area** - 105 places lost in Stoneybatter over the last twelve months. **One third of parents** told us in our survey across the constituency last summer they spent **more than 12 months waiting for a creche place**.

As a start, we need to **protect existing quality childcare services** within our communities and better support providers, staff and parents. The Budget was due to deliver a 25% cut to costs for parents from this October, but for many families the cuts will be less than that. Of course these changes only makes a difference if you can find a place! Without decent pay for early years workers, the sector will not be able to retain many of its highly educated workers.



Marie with Sandra and Amanda of Silverspoon Montessori, Charleville Road.

Standing up for Workers

Four years on from the pandemic, there is still **no legal framework in force for remote and flexible work in Ireland. We have persistently called for a right to flexible work** for all workers in this country.

Increased use of artificial intelligence in workplaces presents great opportunities but also poses a huge threat in how workers are monitored, managed and paid. We have produced **legislation to provide protections for workers and have called for an AI supervisory agency in Ireland**.

We need more artist spaces



Marie with Kate Farnon of the Dean Arts Studio & Laura and Maeve from THISISPOPBABY.

Sadly for our city, there is **massive competition for the very few artists' places that exist**.

Dublin City Council's Space to Create project will deliver 60 additional places across Artane, Bridgefoot Street, Merchant's Quay and Temple Bar. While welcome, it will take time and will be a drop in the ocean when compared to the **estimated artist space of 1,125 places needed** in the city, according to research conducted for DCC in 2021.

School News

Clonturk Community College and Scoil Áine

The development of the new campus on the Swords road has been delayed. It is due to accommodate the two schools plus Ellenfield Community College and Plunkett College of Further Education.

The Minister confirmed to us that the design team to set out the campus masterplan will be appointed early this year.



To mark the start of the tree planting season in Griffith Park, Marie joined members of the DTRA, All Hallows Residents Association and Glasnevin Hill Residents Association on Lá Fheile Bhríde.

Retrofitting and Housing Adaptation Grants

Retrofitting is vital to reducing energy bills and important for reducing carbon emissions.

SEAI Grants:



Fully funded energy upgrades are available for homeowners in receipt of certain welfare supports but they face a scandalously long 24 month waiting list to get works done.



Part funded energy upgrades are available for some homeowners, and include support for attic and wall insulation, heat pumps, heating controls, and solar energy. Solar panels are now **exempt from VAT**.

Local Authority Housing Adaptation Grants:



Grants are available for older persons, disabled persons and those with mobility difficulties to adapt their homes and make them more suited to their needs. This can include ramps, stair lifts, windows, doors and more.

Please contact my office for more information about any of the options above and for support with application forms.

LOCAL AIR QUALITY EXCEEDS SAFE LIMITS

Air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA in Autumn 2023 has shown that nitrogen dioxide levels on the Botanic Road and Drumcondra road area are almost **four times** the acceptable **World Health Organisation levels** and that they also exceed **EU levels**.

This has a very **real impact**, particularly on those suffering from **respiratory conditions** and **asthma**.

We live in communities, not just highways to the city centre.



FOR HEALTHIER AIR QUALITY WE NEED

- ★ **More segregated continuous cycle paths**
- ★ **Safer footpaths & greater pedestrianisation of some streets.**
- ★ **24 hour bus services, cheaper public transport fares**

Crucially, these changes will mean that those **who must use a car or van** because of **mobility impairment**, to **carry work equipment** or to **deliver** to local businesses can more **easily** get around our city.



Marie with Declan Meenagh and Disability campaigners outside Leinster house, protesting the Government's plans for disabled people of working age.

Ireland has the highest number of jobless disabled persons across all EU member states.

Government need to put supports in place, not instil fear of cuts to existing benefits.

Please get in touch

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Senator Marie Sherlock

Páirtí an **Lucht Oibre**

Working for a Fairer City