

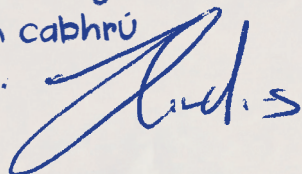
AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN TD

FIANNA FÁIL URLABHRAÍ GAELTACHTA
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AGUS ACMHAINNÍ NÁDÚRTHA

YOUR CORK NORTH WEST TD WORKING
AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL FOR YOU

A Chara,

Hoping 2018 is a year that brings
you and your family good health
and happiness. Cuir glaoch orm
más féidir liom cabhrú
leat in aon slí.



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HOUSING PRESSURE IN BALLINCOLLIG

The challenge of the housing crisis nationally is enormous, and is causing distress to all ages. While there have been numerous plans published, there's real action needed in key areas to tackle homelessness and help provide more homes across the country.

I recently questioned the Minister in the Dáil about **Affordable houses**. Builders providing new houses into the market, must price them in a range, which is affordable for prospective purchasers. There are thousands of people saving for a deposit but with such a large amount of

their income going on rent, it is so difficult to afford a deposit.

The Rent Control Zones must work for tenants, and expand them as necessary. These zones use the Council Electoral Areas as their basis and unfortunately as a result a section of Classes Lake and areas just west of Ballincollig are still outside. The Rent Control Zones are a blunt instrument and must be monitored and extended where necessary, to ensure success. Renters should be able to see the rate the previous tenant paid.

We must **keep people in their homes**, by protecting people whose mortgages have been sold to vulture funds.

There must be more **social houses**. I am well aware of the slow pace of delivery of social houses in Ballincollig and the resulting frustration. This was very evident in the failure to deliver the 34 social houses on the Old Fort Road. I will continue to pursue this important issue in the Dáil. Everyone deserves to know the emotional comfort of home, but children deserve it most of all. Everyone should know home is the cornerstone of family and community. I will continue to support the efforts to provide more homes, because "níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán fein."



Recent Work

Matters I have worked on
in recent months include:

**Access to health
services... Passports...
House Insurance...
Education facilities for
a growing Ballincollig...
Cost of living.**



Ballincollig Office

Fáilte Romhat Isteach!

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Inniscarra Bridge

In order to make it easier for traffic crossing the narrow Inniscarra Bridge, the Council approved plans in January to install traffic lights at the bridge. The next step now is for the Council to put in place funding, then appoint contractors to do the work and get the traffic flowing. I have stressed to the Council that they do the work in such a way that local access at the Wood road or Regional Park would not be obstructed. As we all know this is a very popular amenity, adds greatly to the area, and people come from far and wide, to use it.



OUR DECADE OF CENTENARIES

This is a fantastic opportunity for all communities to remember the sacrifice, actions and ideals of our greatest generation, and to learn from their sacrifices. Many local communities have engaged and embraced these opportunities in a range of ways and in 2018 we have the centenary of the first action of the War of independence at the Mouth of the Glen in July 1918 as well as recognition of women in the General Election where their right to vote was achieved. Cork County Council held an event acknowledging Communities and 2016 Centenaries on a local basis and these events have been wonderfully captured forever in time for our prosperity and future generations to look back on with a Book published by the Council.



NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BALLINCOLLIG

Additional school places were provided locally with the opening of the new school near the rugby club in September. Leis an scoil nua, Gaelscoil an Caisleán, á oscailt, tá breis spás do phaistí Ballincollig agus is dea sceal é seo.

POULOVONE ROUNDABOUT

The road surface at Poulovone has troubled locals for a long time and I have been continuously calling on authorities for action. I'm pleased to note that Transport Infrastructure Ireland have responded with funding for resurfacing the roundabout and

its approaches. The contractor Arkil has been appointed and plan to carry out the works in the spring. As this is a key access road to Ballincollig I've impressed on TII the need to get the work done as quickly as possible and minimise disruption locally.



Athchorú ar Acht na dteangacha

Táthar ag súil go gcuirfear na leasuithe ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla faoi bhráid Choiste Oireachtais na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus na nOileán go gairid. Sé seo an chéad chéim eile den

dréachtreachtaíocht don bille nua. Beidh an coiste ag pleí na habhair eagsula sa bille agus na leasaithe ata móla. Má tá tuairim agat faoi aon abhar go mbaineann leis dein teangabhail liom le do thoil.

CITY /COUNTY BOUNDARY

It is essential for both sides in the ongoing city v county boundary dispute to sit down and find a consensus position, which works for everyone, especially local people in Ballincollig who feel that their concerns are being ignored. There is agreement across the city and county that the city needs a boundary extension. However, people disagree with the lack of consultation and the apparent decision to move them into the city administrative area. Recently, for example when the cabinet held a meeting in Cork, the Fine Gael Minister did not meet representatives of the areas in question. I have raised this in the Dáil and asked the Minister, to meet with locals and to take on board local views, but he refuses. I've met with the City Council CEO and Lord Mayor, but am not convinced by their argument for including Ballincollig in an enlarged Cork City. Ballincollig is a thriving town, built on a rich community spirit which has been fostered, within Cork County. It's hard to see the benefit for Ballincollig in being taken into the city. The appearance of the final form of the extension is unclear, as the Councils continue this dispute. However, we must remember, this

dispute arises from a desire on all sides to develop and market Cork to the best of its potential. I believe engagement between all stakeholders is needed, and if this happens, a solution can be found.



In February, I sought a review of the 220/220X bus service that links Ballincollig to Cork City with a view to increasing capacity and frequency.

I was delighted to hear that following the review, Bus Éireann intend to run a service every 15 minutes, from 7 am to 7 pm on the 220/220X route. An improved service will also run on the weekend. However there is no specific timeframe for this upgrade of service

"This is a positive development as I know that many Ballincollig residents are very frustrated with the current service linking them to the city for work and education.

"Traffic congestion in the city and further afield is nothing new. However, there has been a significant

deterioration in the service over the past number of months.

"Bus Éireann management should complete the route upgrade as quickly as possible to improve the service for the people of Ballincollig who need it to go about their daily lives.

"While of course Ballincollig commuters are thankful that the cost of their commute has dropped in recent months, increased services are crucially important.

"I will continue to press the case to Bus Éireann management to introduce the increased capacity and improved frequency on this route as soon as possible. It's a core commuting route for thousands of people in Ballincollig and the improved service is needed immediately.

Tracker Mortgage Scandal

When you read about the scale of this scandal where thousands of people were denied their rights to a tracker mortgage it is frightening. But it is far worse when you go deeper to see the real human cost. We have seen: Homes repossessed unjustifiably, the health of mortgage holders affected, people delaying having families, and the hopes and dreams of a better life destroyed. I spoke in the Dáil recently on this issue, calling for actions, which I feel can address some of this human cost immediately. We need the banks to quickly identify everyone hit, correcting the overcharging as a matter of urgency, pay compensation, to all affected customers without delay and formally apologise to customers concerned. We need government to use all power available, to ensure the banks address the problem as quickly as possible, and to introduce legislation to grant whatever powers are necessary to allow the Central Bank to complete the investigation and pursue those who caused it. I have and will continue to lobby for the people affected by this scandal to begin the process of rebuilding their homes, their health, their hopes and dreams.

The cost of Motor Insurance

People contact my office regularly after having received their insurance renewal, worried about how they'll pay the increased costs and trying to work out their next move. In some cases, the premiums are rising so much, people are afraid of having to giving up their car or driving without insurance. In particular, four main groups of drivers are being hampered by increased premiums; younger and older drivers, returning emigrants and drivers of older vehicles. In response to Fianna Fáil pressure, the

Government established a Working Group on Insurance in 2016, to address this problem. Unfortunately, the implementation of the recommendations has been painfully slow. Many of the action points have been pushed out until the middle of 2018 pending new legislation. I have spoken on this issue in Dáil debates, and I will continue to press for the implementation of the working group recommendations in order to get reduced prices.



PENSION EQUALITY

Regularly I meet people who find their pension entitlements greatly reduced, resulting from the 2012 Fine Gael/ Lab changes. These changes were unfair, particularly those who were outside the PRSI net as they raised families, or were forced to leave jobs by the marriage bar. Having hounded the Government on this over a number of years I welcome the recent Government U-turn as it acknowledges the wrong and gives a chance to increase pensions. Its progress though not a complete solution when its not a full restoration and payments are delayed until sometime in 2019. Further work remains to be done on this injustice and I will be holding the Minister to account. If your pension was reduced or if you need information on the new proposal, contact my local office.

BENEFIT IN KIND ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES

A 0% benefit-in-kind (BIK) rate is being introduced for electric vehicles for a period of 1 year.

This will allow for a comprehensive review of benefit in kind on vehicles which will inform decisions for the next Budget.

Electricity used in the workplace for charging vehicles will also be exempt from benefit in kind.



GET INVOLVED If you'd like to get involved in politics at a local level I'd love to hear from you. Please call my office for further details.

Aindrias Moynihan TD

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Working locally with your County Council team

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Cllr Daithi O'Donnabháin.....BALLINCOLLIG

Cllr Bob Ryan.....BLARNEY/ MACROOM

