

*A Chara,
Hoping you are keeping well, if I
can be of any help to you
call into my office*

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



Other issues I have raised on your behalf include:

- Beef farming crisis,
- ASD unit locally,
- Hospital waiting times,
- Funding for community groups,
- Luathoidéachas as Gaeilge,
- Climate change,
- Driving test delays,
- Cork area transport plan,
- Anti-social behaviour.

GARDA STATION

Having a visible and accessible Garda presence is an issue locals raised with me again and again. In response I have highlighted the needs of Ballincollig directly with the Justice Minister as well as with the Joint Policing Committee.

Works are finishing on changing the station on the Main Street so as to accommodate the Garda Traffic Corps. It is expected that this works will be completed in October clearing the way for the Traffic Core to move in. Garda authorities have also advised me that 4 additional Gardaí started in Ballincollig from earlier this summer as well as an extra Sargent and Garda for community policing. When 160 new Gardaí were sworn in at the start of June it was very



frustrating that no new Garda was assigned to Cork. I have highlighted this with senior authorities and pointed out that when the next group of new recruits are sworn in later this Autumn, that Cork and the south should be assigned additional Gardaí.

MAKING CHILDCARE SAFER

Like so many parents around the country, I was horrified by the RTÉ Investigates programme 'Crèches – Behind Closed Doors' in July. From the appalling attitude to fire safety to distressed children being restrained and forced to sleep on command, the footage painted a very shocking picture of crèches which were able to remain open.

It's clear that Tusla doesn't have the adequate powers to deal with crèches that are in breach of regulations. There's no sense of openness or



transparency in the current inspection system. Parents are left in the dark if a crèche isn't adhering to regulations

because Tusla doesn't have any legal powers to tell parents or force crèches to tell them either. This needs to change and I have been following up with our Children and Youth affairs spokesperson about bringing forward legislative proposals shortly to address this issue and give real enforcement powers to Tusla.

I have also highlighted with the Minister the length of time parents wait for a childcare place and the way some travel further and further for a place. There must always be an adequate number of childcare places available in an area.



Affordability of Housing

The housing crisis is still with us even as it appears less often on the front pages now that Brexit preparations begin to figure ever more prominently. House rental and purchase prices continue to climb making it more and more difficult for people locally and nationally to afford a home.

The Government just don't get it and so we hear out of touch comments from them on shared living being boutique hotels and so on. Fianna Fáil are continuing to press for improvements and a €300 million affordable housing scheme was a key concession extracted from previous budget. This must be expanded and speeded up so that output could be 10,000 affordable homes available each year and that more families could buy an affordable home.

Saving for a deposit while paying rent must be one of the biggest blockages for many people looking to get a place of their own. The Government Rebuilding Ireland homeloan must be reviewed to take this into consideration.

The Help to Buy incentive is a tax refund scheme allowing first time buyers to reclaim up to 5% of a house price or up to €20,000. This tax back scheme is due to expire later this year. Because it can be helpful to people buying their first home it's important that it would be extended to allow people access it.

Gaeilge ins na meain cummarasáid

Tá sé soileir go bhfuil staid na Gaolinn sa chraolóireacht thar a bheith lag agus go bhfuil gearchéim ann don teanga ó thaobh seirbhísí craolacháin. Dar ndóigh tá an Comisinéir Teanga tar éis tabhairt faoi RTE ina thurascáil bliantúil 2018 agus is beag Gaolinn a bhíon le clos ar go leor des na stasiún trachtala. Caoimhnig go bhfuil 40.9% do mhuintir cathair Corcaí is na bruachbhailte abalta Gaolinn a labhairt de réir figuirí an Daonaireamh 2016!

Caithfidh an Rialtas aird a thabhairt ar an abhar seo agus gníomhú gan mhoill chun a chintíú go bhfuil freastail á dheanamh ar muintir na Gaolinne. Tá an Comhchoiste Gaolinn agus, Gaeltacht tar éis an dúshlán a scrudú ag diriú ar an sli go bhfuil na meain eagsula ag freastail (nó nach bhfuilid ag freastail) ar muintir na Gaolinn. Tá 18 moltaí dearafach seolta go dtí an Rialtas ag eileamh feabhas. Tá gá réimse níos leithne claracha Gaolinn, treisiú ar an acht craolacháin agus go mbeadh taighde ar riachtnaisí lucht eisteacht/feachaint. Tá gá na moltaí eagsula a chuir i bfeidhim chun gur feidir feabhas a dheanamh.



Contributory Pension.

As you will know, overturning the changes to the contributory State pension which were introduced in 2012 has been a focus of mine since the 2016 election. The Governments u turn on the pension has been a big step forward and several people have contacted me regarding the progress of the individual reviews.

Over 90,000 people are to have their pension entitlement reviewed. Over 50,000 people have been reviewed so far with almost half of these seeing an increase on their pension while the remainder see their pension unchanged.

Having pursued this issue for some time, I am very aware of the frustration that people are feeling at the pace of the reviews. It is both Fianna Fáil policy and my own personal attention to pursue this matter to its completion as quickly as possible. If your contributory pension has not yet been reviewed or you feel the outcome of a review wasn't satisfactory, do not hesitate to contact my local office.

Inniscarra Bridge traffic lights



By installing traffic lights on the Inniscarra Bridge it was made much easier for traffic to cross over. This was one of the last jobs the County Council did before handing over the area to City Hall. I'm pleased to have been able to work with the Council to bring about this much need improvement and from talking to locals it has removed a huge anxiety and made access much easier.

Social Housing

Did you know.....

The income limits to be eligible for Social Housing have increased for people in Ballincollig from this summer?

Single person	Was €30,000	Now €35,000
1 Adult + 1 Child	Was €30,750	Now €35,875
2 Adults + 2 Children	Was €33,000	Now €38,500

Road Resurfacing locally

In response to my representations the Council have confirmed that they have appointed Lagan as the contractor to resurface roads locally. There are a number of roads to be resurfaced from September on including part of Aylesbury Est, the Inniscarra road at Coolroe, part of Parknamore and Parknamore Heights, St Marys Tec at Leevue Carrigrohane as well as part of the Brambles/The Willows at Classis Lake, At the end of October Arkel are to resurface the Kilumney to Ovens Church road.. These works should make the roads safer and better for use for locals when they are finished.



Drinking water fountain for Regional Park

This will allow park users top up water bottles and sends a clear message on reducing single use plastics. The Council responded positively to my recent requests and agreed the Regional Park will be included in a pilot plan for 4 Cork parks. Great news to quench your thirst!



Electric Car Charging points Ballincollig

Conscious of the environment, increasing numbers of people have been asking about public electric car charging points for Ballincollig. In response I have been raising the matter with the authorities pointing out the need and the benefits. There is no public charging point locally and with the population of Ballincollig and the proximity to the busy roads at N22, N40 and the N71 from West Cork, Ballincollig would be ideally situated for a busy charging point. Charging points would ease range anxiety for drivers and to offer an alternative to locals who would consider changing. The charger could also bring people into the area and increase footfall for shops or cafes or allow tourists discover our wonderful Regional park.





MEETING BALLINCOLLIG LADIES FOOTBALL AT THE RECENT ENTERPRISE TOWN EXHIBITION



THE GUIDE DOG TRAINING CENTRE ON THE MODEL FARM ROAD DOES AMAZING WORK BRINGING MOBILITY TO PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY



BALLINCOLLIG OFFICE

Fáilte Romhat Isteach!

Call in to my office if you feel I can be of assistance to you.

We can help with a wide range of topics, including:

- Social Welfare payments.
- Medical Cards
- Hospital Waiting lists
- New Legislation and much much more.



SOME OF THE HUGE WORK DONE BY BALLINCOLLIG TIDY TOWNS LOCALLY



OFFICIALLY OPENING ÉIRE ÓG GAA NEW STAND AND PITCH IMPROVEMENTS

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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