NEW GARDAI FOR BLANCHARDSTOWN STATION

The most recent numbers show that crime in most categories fell in D15 in 2014 including firearms, drugs, assault and public order offences. The number of murders at 2 was the lowest for many years. However, there was an increase in theft and burglary.

This is causing great concern locally, as has a serious attempted assault in Fairview Park. In response to this, community policing has been stepped up in the area. 17 additional Garda cars have been provided to Blanchardstown Garda Station and the station will be one of only eight to gain from the new intake of 100 Gardaí. A further 200 extra Gardaí will be recruited in 2015.

MORE JOBS FOR D15 & 7

There are 80,000 more people at work today than when the Government came to office in 2011 and the number signing on is now at its lowest for five years.

I am working to make sure that our area gets its fair share of new jobs and that’s happening. In Blanchardstown, the numbers signing on fell by almost 1,000 in 2014 from 7,869 to 6,895. This means unemployment is falling at a faster rate than in the rest of Dublin. The Navan Road office has recorded a similar fall with numbers signing down almost 12% from 5,939 in November 2013 to 5,361 in November 2014.

NEW GRAVEYARD

Work continues on efforts to provide a new graveyard in the Castletown and Clonee area. Proposals are being considered to provide about 200 new plots near St Mary’s Church in Clonsilla village and a planning submission has been made to Fingal County Council for the expansion of an existing graveyard beside St Thomas Church in Hollytown. Proposals have also been made for a new graveyard in the Portarlington area with future capacity for several decades.

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FUTURE FOR CONNOLLY HOSPITAL HAS NEVER BEEN BRIGHTER

This year, Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown celebrates its 60th birthday. The hospital started life as a TB hospital under the 1964-57 Fine Gael-led Interparty Government, under Fine Gael Health Minister Tom O’Higgins. It has since developed into an acute and teaching hospital serving 300,000 people in West Dublin, East Meath and North Kildare.

From time to time, the future of the hospital was put in doubt and previous governments even considered downgrading it. However, under this Government and with the Minister for Health in the constituency, the future for Connolly Hospital has never been brighter.

The hospital now forms part of the RCSI Hospital Group alongside Beaumont, the Rotunda and others. Over the next few years, its management will transfer from the HSE to this new hospital group with its own board and budget.

Major new facilities opened last year by Minister Varadkar include the new MRI scanning unit and the Acute Medical Admissions Unit which allows patients to be assessed quickly without having to remain in the Emergency Department.

Minister Varadkar said: “I was delighted to formally open the MRI suite and Acute Medical Admissions Unit in Blanchardstown as my first engagement as Minister for Health. More exciting developments are planned in 2015 with the first phase of an upgrade of the Radiology Department and an extended Urology Department.

“A planning application will be lodged for a new 100 bed community nursing unit with individual bedrooms to replace the existing, outdated long term care units, and also to provide much-needed additional long-term care beds for our ageing community. Most exciting, will be the planning application for the new satellite unit for the new Children’s Hospital. Construction will commence in 2016 and it should be open in 2017 meaning that sick children from Dublin 15 and 7 will be seen in state-of-the-art facilities in Blanchardstown, rather than having to go to Temple Street or Crumlin.

“Given easy access to the M50, an extensive land bank and partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons, I believe even more new facilities can be provided on the Blanchardstown Campus including research and development and biotechnology facilities helping to create more jobs and attract top specialists to the hospital.”

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT CONNOLLY HOSPITAL

MRI Scanner (completed)
Acute Medical Admissions Unit (open)
Radiology Department upgrade (phase one in 2015)
Extended Urology Department (2015)
Children’s Unit (planning 2015, construction 2016)
100 bed Community Nursing Unit (planning 2015, construction 2016)
For 14 years, from 1997 to 2011, Fianna Fáil was in Government. At first it was with the PDs, then with the Greens and supported by Independents. During that period, Ireland experienced a period of boom (before bust), and the Government was awash with cash for a decade. However, in Dublin West, they just built more and more houses and apartments. They did not invest adequately in economic and social infrastructure like transport, schools, health care and amenities.

Even though the current Fine Gael-led government has had to lead the country through much tougher times, we have used the limited resources we have had to provide that much-needed infrastructure, helping our part of Dublin to catch up.

### HERE ARE 15 LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. Connolly Hospital - MRI scanner, Acute Medical Assessment Unit
2. St Francis Hospice - fully open
3. Train Stations - Hansfield opened, Clonsilla and Coolmine upgraded, Pelletstown through planning
4. National Sports Campus - Sports HQ, Indoor Arena, national training facilities, community pitches
5. IT Blanchardstown - to join new Dublin Technological University
7. Primary Care Centres - Blanchardstown (open), Navan Road/Ashtown (to open in 2015), Corduff (under construction)
8. Sports Grants - €1.5m for 30 separate projects for clubs and community centres ranging from all-weather pitches to buildings and equipment
9. Real time passenger information at trains and bus stops
10. Amenities - Royal Canal towpath, Ongar/Castahenny cycling network and Shackleton’s Gardens
11. Roads & Bridges - new Mulhuddart Interchange, N2-N3 link road and Reilly’s Crossing
12. Swimming Pool - De Paul pool to re-open
13. Jobs - unemployment at 5 year low
14. Gardai - new Garda cars and new recruits
15. Children - funding for playgrounds and youth cafés

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**MINISTER LEO VARADKAR**
Department of Health, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2.
Phone: 01 6354255
Constituency Office: 37A Main Street, Ongar, Dublin 15.
Phone: 01 6403133
Email: leoconstituency@health.gov.ie
Web: www.leovaradkar.ie

**BRIAN HAYES MEP**
European Parliament
ASP 08F359
60 rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: 0032 2 2845275
Email: brian.hayes@europarl.europa.eu

**DEPUTY MAYOR TED LEDDY**
CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA
42 Kavanagh Hall, College Wood, Castleknock.
Phone: 087 3276630
Email: Tedleddy2014@gmail.com

**CLLR EITHNE LOFTUS**
CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA
Deerpark Avenue, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
Phone: 087 622 3419
Email: loftuseithne@gmail.com

**CLLR KIERAN DENNISON**
MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA
37A, Main Street, Ongar, Dublin 15.
Phone: 087 259 5949
Email: kierandennison@gmail.com
Web: www.kierandennison.com

**SENIOR CATHERINE NOONE**
Leinster House, Dublin 2.
Phone: 01 6183127
Email: catherine.noone@oir.ie
Web: catherinenoone.ie

**SENIOR EAMONN COGHLAN**
Seanad Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Phone: 01 6183027
Email:eamonn.coghlan@oir.ie
Web: www.finegael.ie/our-people/senators/eamonn-coghlan

**RESEARCH NIGHT**
Minister Varadkar at the European Researchers’ Night at Trinity College in Dublin.