

MATTIE McGRATH TD

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2010

HANDS OFF OUR HOSPITAL

Mattie takes a clear message – 70,000 signatures - to government buildings. Mattie is unequivocal in his support for South Tipperary General Hospital – No Downgrading!



WELCOME BOOST FOR CAR SALES

Last year I was very involved in the development of the Car Scrappage Scheme, introduced by the Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan in December's budget. I am delighted that there has been a major boost in car sales in the past year, spurred on by this scheme.

The number of vehicles sold has increased by 30% since this time last year.

This is a great success in sustaining jobs in the motor industry. We expect this trend to continue with more 10 year-old cars eligible for the scheme as the year progresses.

€220,000 FOR RENOVATION WORKS AT SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC HEADQUARTERS



SEAN HAUGHEY TD, MINISTER FOR LIFE LONG LEARNING ON A RECENT VISIT TO SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC ADULT EDUCATION HEADQUARTERS

As a former VEC member and former Chair of the Adult Education Board, I am delighted that the Tánaiste has supported renovation of the former Employment Exchange in Clonmel.

This premises is very well located for VEC staff, tutors and students. I have been working and lobbying on this issue for the last number of years and I am pleased that funding has now been allocated to allow

the necessary works be carried out on this new Adult Education Headquarters.

I would like to compliment South Tipperary VEC and the Adult Education Board and staff for their excellent work throughout the County and I know that this funding will be welcome to allow them to complete the necessary renovation works, with a view of having this new centre ready for September.

GOOD NEWS FOR GAS NETWORK IN CO. TIPPERARY

Natural gas was brought to Cashel last year and new natural gas pipelines are planned to Cahir and Tipperary Town. This will involve Bord Gáis Networks investing almost €10m in new infrastructure in South Tipperary.

This is a very welcome development for the area. Access to the gas grid will enhance the region's ability to attract new industry.

Over the coming months keep an eye out for yellow colour gas pipe as it goes in the ground.

MATTIE McGRATH TD

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THE LEMASS GROUP

The Fianna Fáil **Lemass Group** of which I am a founder member was established in March.

The group allows for open discussion which will inform the development of policy. It has enjoyed active participation by TDs and Senators.

We meet groups or organisations that are affected in some way by the economic downturn or that have a contribution to make in relation to policy.

Meetings have included:

- Credit Unions
- SIPTU
- RISE (Rural Ireland Says Enough)
- Gardaí and Army representative bodies
- Advocates for older people
- The hotel industry
- Small Medium Enterprise

If you have any suggestions for future meetings, feel free to contact me.



IN MAY, I MET WITH MINISTER MARY HANAFIN IN BRÚ BORU, AT THE ROCK OF CASHEL TO LOBBY FOR THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE SPORTS CAPITAL GRANT AND DISCUSS TOURISM CONCERNS AND ISSUES. I ALSO LED A DEPUTATION FROM RISE (RURAL IRELAND SAYS ENOUGH).

APPLY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL & EDUCATION GRANTS

I am urging eligible families to apply in plenty of time for the **Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance** which will help with back-to-school costs. Families' budgets may be stretched this year and it can take six to eight weeks to process applications and issue payments. Application forms are available from my office. It is also very important that **students** apply early for their grants and that they are aware of a number of changes to the grant scheme, including:

- a **new student grant application** form which will

be downloadable.

- a new payment process to include advance payments to awarding authorities.

Given that students can now apply earlier I would encourage students from Tipperary to get their applications in soon. Getting an education is so important, particularly in these difficult times in the jobs market. I hope these grants will support students to keep up their studies and complete their qualifications.

Details of the schemes and application forms are available on www.studentfinance.ie



MATTIE McGRATH & CON O'BRIEN, CEO IRISH CREDIT UNIONS

NEW CREDIT REVIEW PROCESS MOST WELCOME

The Credit Review Office was established by the Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan in March 2010.

It will examine bank lending policies and practices.

Applications for credit reviews are invited from borrowers who have already undertaken an unsuccessful appeal to the bank and who feel that the bank's decision is unjustified.

The Review Process covers all small and medium-sized enterprises, sole traders and farm enterprises.

Information can be found on www.creditreview.ie or by contacting 1850 211 789 or emailing: info@creditreview.ie



MATTIE CONGRATULATES THE IRISH CANCER SOCIETY IN TIPPERARY ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DAFFODIL DAY.



IN SOUTH TIPPERRARY OVER 150 GROUPS TOOK PART IN THE NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN CAMPAIGN. WITH THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SOUTH TIPP COUNTY COUNCIL. IT'S GREAT TO SEE THE COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER. WELL DONE TO EVERYONE THAT TOOK PART.

TIMELY NEW LENDING REQUIREMENTS ON BANKS

As of March 30, Brian Lenihan, Minister for Finance, has imposed new lending targets on Allied Irish Banks and Bank of Ireland of €3 billion each for the years 2010 and 2011. This will mean €6 billion this year and €6 billion next year. I am working to ensure that

the banks will honour their commitments and lend to viable small and medium sized enterprises. The Irish taxpayers have made massive sacrifices to support our economic recovery and the banks must play their part.

ENJOY OUR SUMMER FESTIVALS IN SOUTH TIPP

The first annual Cahir Go Leir festival is taking place on the weekend of the 9th of July. This festival is being run in conjunction with the Tri - 3 series which is a national triathlon, the first of its kind to be held in the town. The event promises family fun as well as traditional Irish music and dancing.

This year marks the 10th year of the Clonmel Junction Festival which will run for nine days from the 3rd of July. The festival brings real excitement around the town and includes everything from theatre performances to live music, street entertainment, comedy and family events.

STATE PENSIONS MUST BE PROTECTED

I welcome the recent announcement made by the Minister for Social Protection Eamon Ó Cuív that the Government has no plans to means test the State contributory pension in the upcoming budget. Mr Ó Cuív met various groups in his department and afterwards his spokeswoman

said he clarified he was not considering proposing means testing the pension in December. Current Government policy in relation to pensions is laid out in the National Pension Framework and means testing of the national contributory pension is not a feature of the framework.

MATTIE SUPPORTS HOLIDAY AT HOME CAMPAIGN

Ógra Fianna Fáil has launched their new campaign to encourage members of the public to holiday at home this year.

More than 200,000 people work in tourism in this country and this campaign will help secure employment, keep much needed funds in the economy and also allow Irish tourists to experience what Ireland has to offer.



MATTIE TAKING PART IN THE TRACTOR RUN IN AID OF THE SOUTH TIPP HOSPICE



MATTIE McGRATH TD WITH TÁINISTE AND MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, MARY COUGHLAN TD.

INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION MUST CONTINUE

I recently met with Táiniste and Minister for Education Mary Coughlan to raise the major education issues in South Tipperary, including the:

- Site for Gael Scoil Cluain Meala.
 - Amalgamation of Cahir Boys and Girls National Schools.
 - Integration of the Tipperary Institute with LIT.
 - P.E. hall for Scoil Ruain, Killenaule.
- I am delighted that the past year has seen a number of significant developments for education in the county.
- **Over €882,000 committed to Ard Scoil na mBraithre** (Christian Brothers High School) for the **development of a new double ASD** (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Unit and 3 permanent Classrooms and a further €24,500 secured for transition accommodation during the construction phase. This is great

news and I have no doubt that it will be of major benefit to the educational needs of Clonmel and the surrounding areas. **I am delighted that the building works have commenced and that steady progress has been made to date. I would like to wish the school well on their development and to thank the Principal, Board of Management and Staff for their patience during the construction phase.**

- **Development of a new classroom at Scoil Aoghusa Special School in Cashel.**
- **New extensions to Newcastle National School and to the Presentation Convent, Clonmel.**

LOCAL SCHOOLS' SUMMER WORKS SCHEME

The Summer Works Scheme will see a number of local schools benefit from upgrading including repairs and refurbishment of roofs and toilets, electrical and mechanical work and improvements to the external environment of the school.

It is vital, despite the constraints on the public finances that we continue to invest in schools. Tipperary South schools to benefit are:

MONARD N S	Mechanical
TIPPERARY JNR BN S	Windows
DUALLA N S	Roofs
CULLEN N S	External Environment
UPPER NEWTOWN N S	Windows
S N MHUIRE NA TROCAIRE CAHIR	Windows
CLOCHAR NA TOIRBHIRTE PRESENTATION CONVENT	Roofs
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL CLONMEL	Electrical
S N MUIRE NA NAINGEAL CLOCHAR NA CARTHANACHTA	Roofs
S N BHRIDE DUN NA SCIATH	Windows
KNOCKAVILLA N S DUNDRUM	Toilets
SHRONELL N S LATTIN	Windows
ARDFINNAN N S CLONMEL	Roofs
S N MHUIRE NA MBRAITHRE CARRICK ON SUIR	Mechanical
ST MARYS N S IRISHTOWN	Roofs
S N AN GHABHAILIN CASHEL	Roofs
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE TIPPERARY	Mechanical
S N CLEIREACHAIN CLONMEL	External Environment
S N RATH CHAOMHGHIN CLONMEL	External Environment
POWERSTOWN N S CLONMEL	Roofs
S N NAOMH PADRAIG CILL CHAIS	Roofs
SCOIL MHUIRE CILL MHEANMAN	Windows
GRANGEMOCKLER NS CARRICK ON SUIR	Windows
BALLYLOOBY N S CAHIR	Electrical
KILLENAULE N S KILLENAULE	External Environment
SCOIL AONGHUSA CASHEL	Toilets
CLONOULTY CENTRAL N S GOOLDS CROSS	External Environment
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST OLD ROAD	Roofs
CASHEL DEANERY CASHEL	Roofs
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST BOYS SCHOOL CASHEL	Roofs
ROCKWELL COLLEGE CASHEL	Roofs
ÁRDSKOIL NA MBRAITHRE CLONMEL	Electrical
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL COLEVILLE RD.	Structural Improvements
PATRICIAN PRESENTATION ROCKLOW RD.	External Environment
ST. ANNE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL CONVENT OF MERCY	Structural Improvements
COMERAGH COLLEGE GREENSIDE	Windows
SCOIL RUAIN KILLENAULE	Electrical
ST. ALIBE'S SCHOOL ROSANNA ROAD	Windows
COLAISTE DUN IASCAIGH CASHEL ROAD	Electrical