

Heydon's HEADLINES

KILDARE TOWN

FINE GAEL 

Spring 2015



MARTIN HEYDON TD

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Dear Resident,

I am writing to update you on some issues I have been working on for Kildare town in recent months. It has been a busy time with both local and national issues to the forefront.

While the economy is slowly improving, I am all too aware of the many challenges that face the people of Kildare town. One of the most critical of these is getting people back to work and this has been one of my main focuses since being elected. I am continuing to work on many projects, some included here, which I hope will bring real benefits to the residents, communities and businesses of the Kildare town area.

As always, if I can assist you or your family with any matter, or if you have any feedback or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or my office.

Best Wishes,

Martin

MAGEE BARRACKS TO BE SOLD

Department of Defence officials have confirmed to me that plans are underway to put the site of the old Magee Barracks on the market. This prominent site, on the Dublin Road is an important one for the town and the upcoming sale could be an opportunity for further industry and development to be brought into the town.

This site has had a chequered past since the Barracks closed in 1998. The derelict site has been a blight on the town in the intervening years. It's sale would allow for future development that is crucial. Eight acres of the site were sold to the Department of Education and construction is currently underway on a new school campus for the Kildare Town Educate Together and Gaelscoil Mhic Aodha primary schools. The Department of Defence hope to commence the process to auction the remaining site by mid-2015.



FUNDING FOR THE HIVE - KILDARE YOUTH HUB

Work is now commencing to renovate the old Post Office to a Youth Hub which is due to open in Autumn 2015. The Hive will be a dedicated fun, safe space and will provide a much needed social outlet and activity centre for young people from the area. The project secured €121,000 in funding including €50,000 in

youth café funding from the Department of Children. While work is now progressing, further funds are required to complete the renovations. I am liaising with The Hive Board, the Department of Children and KWETB to try to secure the outstanding funding to bring this worthwhile project to completion.

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Ruanbeg Manor and Curraghbeg Meadows to be Taken in Charge

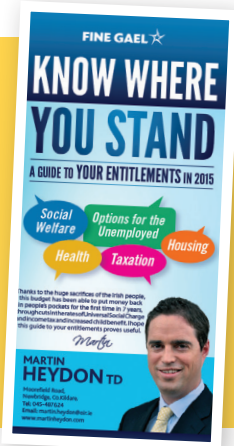
Kildare County Council have confirmed that they are commencing the taking in charge process for a number of Kildare estates. Included in this current list are **Ruanbeg Manor** and **Curraghbeg Meadows, Kildare Town**. Under this process the roads, paths, public lights and water supply systems will come under the responsibility of the

Council which should help to get issues resolved.

I am working with a number of residents associations in Kildare Town to help to resolve difficulties in their estates. If there are issues in your estate that you would like to raise with me, please let me know.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

My "Know Where you Stand" leaflet is a guide to your entitlements for 2015. You may already have received a copy, but if not, or if you would like an extra copy for friends or family, please contact my office on 045-487624.



I am happy to organise tours to Dail Eireann for individuals, groups or schools. Feel free to contact my office on 045-487624 for further details.

Kildare Village Expansion

I am delighted to see work progressing on the extension to Kildare Village. I have been happy to work with management at the retail outlet to assist them as they progressed

through planning permission to construction and I look forward to the extended outlet centre continuing to bring new jobs and visitors to Kildare.



Investment in Childcare

Childcare costs in Kildare are some of the highest in the Country, which will not be a surprise for many of you. I have highlighted the need for additional measures and investment to assist parents with Minister for Children James Reilly. As a new father myself, I am acutely aware of the difficulties and pressures that come with the joy of parenthood.

The Minister has established a working group to look at the best structures for any future investment. If you have a view on the best way to structure additional childcare supports, I would be pleased to hear from you.



Extension for many Soldiers as Decision made on 21 year rule

I welcome the news that many soldiers will benefit from a four year extension to their service, thanks to a recommendation in the report of a third party adjudicator in relation to a mandatory rule forcing the retirement of hundreds of soldiers after 21 years of service.

The 21 year rule was due to take effect this year and I have had many representations on this issue from serving members based in Kildare South. I have raised this matter on numerous occasions with the Minister for Defence, Simon Coveney, and impressed upon him the need to relax this rule which applies to all affected privates and corporals who joined the army since 1994.

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Have Your Say On The Curragh

Complete my Short Survey

The Curragh Plains are an amazing resource for South Kildare, from the home of our Defence Forces to a location synonymous with excellence in horse racing. This 5,000 acre stretch of common land has an illustrious heritage which could be better understood and utilised by locals and visitors alike with some changes and improvements.

I believe the Curragh Plains have an untapped potential in terms of increased economic activity from the equine industry, from a tourism perspective, from a recreational and leisure perspective along with its rich and diverse heritage.

My Work to Date

I have highlighted this potential in Dáil Éireann and discussed it on a number of occasions with Minister Simon Coveney since his appointment as Minister for Defence in July 2014. Now I want the feedback of those familiar with the plains, from those who work there with horses, sheep or

the military to the many South Kildare residents who use it for running, walking or just flying a kite with the family.

What is your perspective on the Curragh at present?

What are the challenges that you see. How can we, in tapping into the resources of the different state departments, improve the

management and operation of the plains for everyone's benefit?

Please take time to complete my short survey available on my website www.martinheydon.com to give me a better understanding of what the Curragh means to you and how we can grow it's potential.



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Solas Bhríde Centre & Hermitages

I was delighted to attend the official opening of Solas Bhríde Centre and Hermitages on the Tully Road on 30th January to mark the great achievement by the Brigidine Community and all involved in the development of Solas Bhríde. It is a fitting tribute to the legacy of St. Brigid and her association with Kildare that this centre will now bring more visitors to the area to learn of the rich heritage of the town.



I am pictured at the opening with local Fine Gael Cllr Mark Stafford.

**I HOLD
REGULAR
CLINICS
AROUND THE
CONSTITUENCY.**

Please
call my office on
045-487624
for details
and appointments

St Brigid's Boxing Club Success

Congratulations to Dervla Duffy of St. Brigid's Boxing Club, Kildare Town on her successful crowning as Irish Featherweight Champion. A first All-Ireland title is a worthy success for the Kildare Town Boxing Club, its coaches and members who provide such a great service to the young people of the area. I am pictured with Dervla and Paddy Phelan of St. Brigid's Boxing Club after her recent success.



Advice Centre Open Daily

Need Advice, Assistance with Forms, or Help Dealing with any State Departments?

My Office and Advice Centre on Moorefield Rd, Newbridge is open daily Mon-Fri from 9-1 and 2-5 to assist you with any queries you may have. Mary is there everyday and would be delighted to meet you.



YOUR LOCAL FINE GAE TEAM

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