

Heydon's HEADLINES

KILDARE AREA

FINE GAEL 
WINTER 2015



**MARTIN
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SALE OF MAGEE BARRACKS PROGRESSING MINISTER AGREES TO SAVE HISTORIC GATES

The Department of Defence have confirmed to me that the process for the sale of Magee Barracks is progressing. An auctioneer has been appointed to manage the sales process and I understand that expressions of interest have already been received from potential purchasers. A date for an auction is due to be announced shortly. This prominent site covers a large section of the town and this sale is an opportunity to bring further industry or development to the town.

Due to progress on the sale, I recently organised a meeting with Minister Coveney to discuss the historic gates of Magee

Barracks. Local Historian Mario Corrigan explained the historic significance of the gates to the Minister as did Tom McCutcheon of Kildare Heritage Centre and Brian Flanagan of Kildare Chamber of Commerce. Minister Coveney agreed, in light of local interest and significance, to remove the gates from the sale and preserve them in the military museum while securing a suitable new location for them.

I am continuing to liaise with Council officials to ensure that the Local Area Plan zoning is sufficiently robust to ensure significant community space as part of any future planning application.



Pictured at recent meeting with Minister Simon Coveney, Deputy Martin Heydon, Tom McCutcheon, Mario Corrigan and Brian Flanagan.



€65M REDEVELOPMENT OF CURRAGH RACECOURSE

Confirmation of a €65m redevelopment of the Curragh Racecourse is a huge boost for the entire Kildare region as well as being a vote of confidence for the critically important racing and bloodstock industry. The development plans for the racecourse include a new grandstand, weigh-room and parade ring, while the arrivals and reception area of the racecourse will incorporate a museum of Irish Racing. A period of consultation will now take place in advance of the submission of the planning application and it is hoped that the new Racecourse will open in 2018.

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GOOD NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE CURRAGH

MINISTER CONFIRMS CONSULTATIVE FORUM FOR CURRAGH PLAINS

I am delighted that at the recent launch of the Curragh redevelopment, Minister Coveney also confirmed that my proposal to establish a forum for stakeholders of the Curragh Plains is to be taken on board and will be established in the coming months. The Forum proposal was the main recommendation from my survey of users of the Curragh plains which I presented to Minister Coveney in July.

Thank you to all who completed my online survey and who took the time to express their views to me. I include below a summary of some of the main points noted from the survey. The main recommendation was the need for more proactive management of the Curragh Plains and I am very hopeful that the new Forum under the chairmanship of the Department of Defence and bringing together various stakeholders with an interest in the Plains will help to achieve that.

The Racecourse and the Curragh Plains are a fantastic resource for Co. Kildare bringing jobs, tourists, economic activity and a great recreational amenity. I want to see the history and heritage of the area enhanced and protected for future generations while also being used and enjoyed by Kildare residents. These recent announcements ensure that will happen and I look forward to seeing the projects progress in the coming months.



OVERALL POINTS NOTED FROM SURVEY

- There was a huge sense of pride from Kildare Residents in the natural resource of the Curragh Plains that is synonymous with Kildare;
- Conflicting views exist that while more needs to be done on the Curragh, the natural beauty and qualities that make it what it is, need to be retained and protected;
- More work is required in monitoring the Curragh Plains to protect against the main negative elements of litter, dumping, driving on the plains and illegal encampments;
- There appears to be a lack of detailed knowledge of the rich heritage and history of the Curragh even among local residents. I found a desire for more information;
- Many respondents noted the potential of the Curragh as a tourist destination if walking trails information boards or historic information could be incorporated into the area without disturbing the natural surroundings;
- There appeared to be a lack of detailed knowledge of who has responsibility for management of the Curragh Plains.

FUTURE CURRAGH DEVELOPMENTS

- The recently announced capital spending plan includes confirmation of funding **for the development of an international facility to expand the UN training school in the Curragh** – to facilitate training in peace support and conflict resolution. The proposed international **Institute for Peace Support and Leadership Training** will position Ireland as a global leader in peacekeeping and conflict resolution building on our experience in this area. This is another major boost for the Curragh and its already high class reputation in this area.
- The development of an **audio tour and app of the Curragh by Kildare County Council** is a really exciting venture that will compliment the efforts to increase tourist visits while also helping to educate Kildare people about the rich history of the Plains.

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HEYDON FIGHTS FOR STABLE STAFF REPRESENTATION

The recently published Horse Racing Ireland Bill 2015 sets out the proposed make up of a revised Board for Horse Racing Ireland (HRI). As a member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture which reviewed the draft outline of the Bill, I fought for the specific inclusion of a representative from stable staff on the Board to recognize the vital contribution that the thousands of stable staff all over the Country make to the industry that is worth so much to our economy. I am delighted therefore that on the recommendation of our Committee a specific representative of the Stable Staff Association has been included on the HRI board in addition to the Chair of the Industry Services Committee which increases to 2 the members representing the thousands of people employed in the industry in Kildare and around the Country.



Deputy Heydon and Cllr Mark Stafford pictured at the recent opening of the extension to Kildare Village.

KILDARE VILLAGE EXTENSION OPENED

I recently attended the official opening of the newly extended **Kildare Village**. Kildare Village is a retail icon which brings jobs and visitors at an ever increasing rate to Co. Kildare and Kildare Town in particular. The new €50m extension will increase employment at the shopping centre by 400 bringing to almost 100 the number of designer stores available on our doorstep. As well as the important employment and economic activity, the village provides excellent marketing for our County and the town of Kildare.

KILDARE PRIMARY CARE CENTRE DUE TO OPEN SHORTLY

I am delighted to see work at an advanced stage on the new primary care centre for Kildare Town which is due to open on the Dublin Road in the near future. The new centre covering three floors will hold GP clinics, HSE primary care, mental health and disability services. This is part of a project to deliver more health services in the community and will be a boost to Kildare town.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ON GP VISITS OR MEDICAL CARDS, PLEASE CONTACT MARY IN MY OFFICE ON 045-487624.

FREE GP CARE FOR 70'S PLUS

From the 1st August everyone aged 70 and over will be eligible for a GP Visit Card, regardless of income.

This means you can visit your GP and not have to pay for the visit.

Over 36,000 people aged 70 or older currently pay to attend a GP as they are not covered by a medical card or a GP Visit Card.

To get a **GP Visit Card** aged 70 or over, fill in the

application form at your GP, Pharmacy, or download it from www.gpvisitcard.ie

The GP Visit Card is funded by the Government and administered by the HSE.

For more see www.gpvisitcard.ie or call 1850 252 919 for more information

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KILDARE BUSINESSES AT THE CURRAGH



I was delighted to introduce Minister for Agriculture and Defence Simon Coveney to Paul Lenahan of Hartes of Kildare and sisters Judith and Susan Boyle who brew Brigids Ale in Kildare at the Foodscape area at the recent Curragh Racecourse champions weekend. They are both great examples of the many local food businesses that help make Kildare town what it is.

OPENING OF KILDARE EDUCATE TOGETHER NS



I am pictured above with Principal Gerry Breslin at the recent official opening of the new Educate Together NS on the Melitta Road. To take account of the additional traffic in the area road improvement works have been carried out in the vicinity. I have met with residents of Campion Crescent and Assumpta Villas recently to discuss the changes proposed for the entrances to their estates.

RECENT TRIP TO LOURDES WITH CURRAGH MILITARY



I was delighted to have the opportunity recently to travel to Lourdes with the Curragh group as part of the annual military pilgrimage. It was humbling to spend time with and look after such wonderful positive

individuals in an amazing setting. Our military personnel do us proud on all their missions around the world but in Lourdes I saw at first hand the esteem in which they are held by their international colleagues.

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 Mon-Fri from 9-1 and 2-5. Mary is there everyday and would be delighted to meet you. Feel free to drop in or call the office on 045-487624 for assistance or for a clinic appointment.



I am now on snapchat as well as facebook and twitter.

Follow me at username martinheydon to keep up to date with my activities.

YOUR LOCAL FINE GAEIL TEAM

CLLR MARK STAFFORD - P: 086-8648558 E: markstaffordfg@gmail.com
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Chairperson, Fine Gael Committee on Agriculture

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