

# Heydon's HEADLINES

FINE GAE   
SPRING 2016



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HEYDON TD

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## END OF TERM REPORT

### *Message from Martin Heydon TD*

*I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of my work over my first term in Leinster House. The projects listed here are a sample of the many issues I have worked on, on your behalf, as a TD for Kildare South.*

*As always if you have any queries, please contact my office on 045-487624 or email martin.heydon@oir.ie.*



#### ROAD PROJECTS

Funding secured for the Athy Ring Road means work is now progressing on the planning application for An Bord Pleanála. The inclusion of the M7 Road Widening in the 2015 Capital Plan means funding is set aside for this project which already has planning permission.



#### GARDA RECRUITMENT

Garda recruitment to Templemore recommenced in 2014 with recruitment of 550 new Gardai up to 2015 and an additional 600 going into training in 2016. I have lobbied Minister Frances Fitzgerald for additional resources for Kildare and was pleased to see that 5 new gardai from the first new recruits to Templemore were assigned to the Newbridge/Kildare division. I continue to fight for more resources for Co. Kildare.



#### Topical Issue 4

The need to accelerate the roll-out of broadband to rural areas of County Kildare

Houses of the Oireachtas Dail Éireann

24 November 2015

#### Heydon conducting survey on broadband

FINE Gael TD for Kildare South Martin Heydon is conducting a survey of homes in parts of Kildare South to gather evidence of the extent of the problem with broadband services in parts of Kildare South.

I am aware that there are serious concerns about the quality of broadband services in parts of Kildare South, particularly in several occasions and am aware that his department are working on investment plans. I want to ensure that when investment comes, it is directed to those areas where it is most needed. The purpose of this survey is to assess the level, quality and demand for broadband services in the area. We are calling to homes in the most affected areas and the survey will

calling my office on 045-487624. Through this survey I want to ensure that I am fully armed with local evidence to fight for the areas where the services are most needed. The National Broadband Scheme which was introduced for this purpose a number of years ago is not fit for purpose at present and is not

needed to carry out everyday tasks. We are now at a stage where children have access to high speed broadband in schools and parents work in environments where quality broadband is the norm. To come home in the evening, then and not even be able to download emails is hugely frustrating and will stifle development

#### FIGHTING FOR RURAL BROADBAND

This fight goes on and is a very real issue for many who live outside the main towns. I have raised awareness in the Dail to try to speed up delivery of State funded broadband and interacted with commercial operators to try and get timelines on their plans for local areas.

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### **JOBS JOBS JOBS**

From Kildare village to Kerry Group and many small and local businesses in between jobs are being created. From March 2011 to November 2015 the unemployment rate for Kildare has reduced by almost 24%.



### **CREDIT UNION SERVICES TO RETURN TO NEWBRIDGE**

The loss of Newbridge Credit Union was a blow to the town, its residents and businesses. I fought to ensure member's savings were secured and since then I have worked hard to get credit union services back to the town. Progress has been made as Naas Credit Union recently purchased a building on Edward St which is due to open in 2016.



### **NEW SCHOOL AT CROOKSTOWN**

I was very proud as a past pupil to attend the official opening of St Laurences NS Crookstown in October 2015 which had been approved and built during my time as a TD. Since that time I have been working with Fr McEvoy to secure an alternative use for the old school building which is now being planned as a community education facility with provision for a graveyard extension also.



### **TEACH NA NDAOINE, KILCULLEN**

I am delighted to be a member of the committee working on this exciting project for Kilcullen, assisting to secure the lease from the HSE and with fundraising efforts.

### **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

Investment of over €7.8m has strengthened our water systems in Kildare with the completion of the Ballymore Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Barrow Abstraction Scheme and Wastewater Treatment Plant at Athy. Additional contracts worth €2.7m to upgrade the Kildare Town Sewage Scheme were signed in December.



### **SPORTS CAPITAL FUNDING TO KILDARE CLUBS**

From 2011 - 2015 over €4.8m has been allocated to sports clubs all across Co. Kildare through the Sports Capital Programme which was re-opened by this Government.

### **NEW BUS ROUTE SERVING CASTLEDERMOT, KILCULLEN AND VILLAGES**

Following the decision by JJ Kavanagh to cut routes through Castledermot and other south Kildare villages I fought to get a state funded public service route in place. The new bus route commenced in August 2015 and is being kept under review for passenger numbers.

### **Heydon fights to bring old N9 bus service back up to speed**

By Noel O'Driscoll  
THE National Transport Authority (NTA) is in discussions with private bus operators with a view to reviving a bus service along the old N9 route. Kildare South TD, Deputy Martin Heydon, said the route operators have committed to coming back to the NTA in the next two to three weeks. In the meantime, Heydon says that the



issue where alternative solutions were discussed. "Mr Graham explained that the NTA are in discussions with operators who are reviewing the situation and have committed to coming back to the NTA in three weeks. This meeting was a specific follow-up to the meeting held between the N9 bus services group and Pascal Donohoe in Dail Eire weeks ago where the main concerns of the local and undertook to arrange meeting."



### **PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES**

Confirmation of extensions for Patrician Boys Newbridge, Cross & Passion Kilcullen and Athy Community as well as the continuing extension work at St Conleths Newbridge will provide for much needed additional places at Secondary level in Kildare South. I am continuing to work with the Minister, my Oireachtas colleagues and local groups to review demand levels to ensure there are places for everyone.

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### STAKEHOLDERS FORUM FOR THE CURRAGH

The Curragh Plains is one of the greatest resources we have in Co. Kildare. Following my survey of users of the Curragh Plains which was presented to Minister for Defence Simon Coveney, he took on board my suggestion of establishing a Forum to bring relevant stakeholders of the Plains together.



### WORKS AT CARAGH BRIDGE

The recent closure and works at Caragh Bridge caused huge inconvenience and frustration for residents and businesses alike. I spoke to Minister for Heritage Heather Humphries to ensure Departmental approval for the works were received sooner than expected and I liaised with local Councillors, residents and officials to manage the re-opening process as efficiently as possible.



### STABLE STAFF PLACE ON HRI BOARD

As a member of the Joint Oireachtas committee on Agriculture we carried out pre-legislative scrutiny on the Horse Racing Ireland Amendment Bill. As a result of that process stable staff received an additional seat on the board of HRI which is very much deserved for the many thousand Kildare men and women who are the back bone of this successful industry.



### ARMY RECRUITMENT

It has always been this Governments commitment to maintain the defence forces at its level of 9,500. Numbers had fallen during the recession so following representations recruitment re-opened to see some 750 new recruits under this Government.

### MAGEE BARRACKS SALE TO PROGRESS

The long awaited sale of Magee Barracks which I have called for will take place in February, leading to potential new development and industry for Kildare town. Following a meeting I organised with Minister Simon Coveney the historic Gates at Magee Barracks have been removed and will be placed in the Military Museum.



### LEADER FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES AT SUNCROFT, RATHANGAN AND CASTLEDERMOT

I was delighted to be able to assist community groups in Suncroft, Rathangan and Castledermot to draw down funding from Leader for their community centres. All 3 are now up and running and providing a focal point for activities in their communities and are a credit to all local volunteers who worked so hard.



### AGRICULTURE AND AGRI FOOD DEVELOPMENT

As Chairman of Fine Gael's Agriculture & Rural Affairs committee I have worked closely with Minister Simon Coveney and dealt with many individual and industry wide queries from the farming sector. I am very proud of the contribution that Agriculture has played in our recovery and see it as an area of further growth and potential.



### SOLUTION FOUND ON PYLON ISSUE

Proposals to erect high voltage power lines through areas of South Kildare caused fear among residents. I lobbied Ministers and Eirgrid to highlight those concerns and worked with local groups by attending public meetings and getting answers to questions. Following the establishment by the Minister of an independent expert group to review Eirgrid proposals an alternative solution was found which will allow additional power to be routed through existing power lines meaning no new lines are needed.

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### IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST TOURIST POTENTIAL

The launch of Ireland's Ancient East is an opportunity for us on the East of the Country to promote the historical and cultural elements of Co. Kildare. I am working with a number of local groups to access funding for local projects.



### EXCITING PLANS FOR ATHY REGENERATION

As chairman of the Friends of Athy Heritage Centre Museum I am very supportive of their continued development and exciting expansion plans which will help to put Athy on the map as a heritage town. I am also working with the Athy regeneration business sub committee on regeneration plans for the town. These exciting plans together with the purchase of the Dominicans site and the inclusion of Athy on the IDA's regional aid map should help to boost activity in the town, which is a priority of mine.



### EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE GOODS VEHICLES FROM HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The introduction of height restrictions on heavy goods vehicles in 2014 had an unintended consequence for carriers of agriculture fodder. I worked with farming groups and then Minister for Transport Leo Varadkar to secure a derogation from the exemption for the carriers of agriculture fodder.



### MILEMILL TRAFFIC LAYOUT

This busy junction between Kilcullen and Ballymore has been a danger for years. I worked with Council officials to find a solution and am pleased to see the new four way stop junction now in place and working well.



### REDEVELOPMENT OF CURRAGH AND PUNCHESTOWN RACECOURSES

The local economy and horse racing industry received a huge boost in November with confirmation of a €65m redevelopment of the Curragh Racecourse jointly funded by the state and private investment. A 6.2m redevelopment of Punchestown Racecourse was also recently confirmed. Both these projects will generate economic activity in the County and cement Kildare's position as the thoroughbred County.



### NEWBRIDGE CEMETERY

I am pleased that the work to ensure an extension for Newbridge cemetery is almost complete. The extension will cater for the needs of the town for the next 20 years.



## MARTIN HEYDON TD

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Working with Cllr Fiona McLoughlin Healy, Cllr Mark Stafford, Cllr Ivan Keatley, Cllr Billy Hillis, Cllr Fintan Brett, Cllr Darren Scully.

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