

Motions on Notice Dublin City Council Meeting 3rd April 2023

1) Councillor Tom Brabazon

Submitted: 11th January 2021

Replaced: 28th February 2023

That Dublin City Council calls on the Minister for Housing to grant all local authorities with the statutory power to phase construction of Developments.

2) Councillor Damien O' Farrell

Submitted: 17th February 2021

Replaced: 16th August 2022

Replaced: 22nd March 2023

That this Council calls upon the leadership of the Christian Brothers European Province, to ensure all victims of child sexual abuse perpetrated by members of their religious order are treated in a just and Christian manner.

The present litigation strategy of the Order and highlighted by RTE Primetime and former Chief Justice Frank Clarke is a form of 'double and secondary abuse' which requires victims of sexual abuse (incl child rape / child oral rape / whipping etc.) who are seeking civil court reparations to potentially have to deal with over 160 different defendants / law firms (some outside the state) and to serve summons on all elderly Order members (over 160 members / average age 80yrs) again many outside the state and most of whom are innocent of any wrongdoing.

This Council further calls on the Christian Brother leadership to appoint one single legal representative for all order member defendants which will have no negative effect on their right to defend themselves in court.

3) Councillor Janice Boylan

Submitted: 23rd February 2021

Replaced: 29th April 2021

This Council calls on the Government to:

- Work with family carers to deliver the services and supports that their loved ones need and immediately end the practice of compiling and storing secret dossiers on children using information gathered by health, education and social care professionals shared without the express consent of their parents;
- Relax the Carer's Allowance means-test by raising the income disregard thresholds in order to increase eligibility and payments;
- Further increase the annual Carer's Support Grant;
- Increase Carer's Allowance & Carer's Benefit in every budget over 5 years;
- Establish a discretionary fund for Covid-19 utility debt to aid carers and people living with a disability struggling with heating and electricity costs;
- Extend eligibility for Carers Benefit to the self-employed;
- Extend an automatic GP Visit Card to all recipients of the Carer's Support Grant; Create an Emergency Talk Therapy Fund to provide sessions with an accredited counsellor or therapist in the private system for carers on referral from a GP;
- Ensure that Family Carers get the respite they need by building up respite capacity, including delivery of hours and overnights through a doubling of public expenditure; Prioritise the full resumption of respite Day Services in the re-opening and implement the standardisation of the provision of free transport to and from these vital services; Update and publish the National Carers' Strategy in 2021, with a dedicated budget and timeframe to ensure the implementation of all actions.

4) Councillor Larry O'Toole

Submitted: 18th May 2021

That Dublin City Council supports the call for the release of Julian Assange and for all charges against him to be dropped and that we fully support the National Union of Journalists campaign to oppose Mr Assange's extradition, which states:

'We condemn the detention of Julian Assange pending his extradition proceedings. We further condemn the attempted use of the US Espionage Act to prosecute Assange for his work exposing the war crimes committed by US service personnel in the Iraq and Afghan war logs. It is our view that the use of these judicial measures by the US constitutes a grave threat to free speech and a free press. It further notes that this attempted prosecution is without precedent in US law.'

5) Councillor Noeleen Reilly

Submitted: 22nd May 2021

Replaced 23rd September 2021

That this Council accepts that Dublin City Council is failing in its Responsibility to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour within our tenancies putting the safety and wellbeing of our other tenants and those in Private homes at Risk. Dublin City Council must have a Zero Tolerance Policy to Anti-Social behaviour and Criminal Activity within our properties.

6) Councillor Sophie Nicoulaud

Submitted: 2nd June 2021

Replaced: 26th October 2022

That all the 578 residential units planned for the Emmet Road Housing Project be 100% publicly owned. That all the 578 residential units be built with the exact same construction standard, design and material, be built in a 100 % unified manner. That the community facilities be financed with new funding mechanisms. This Cost Rental scheme is a flagship and a precedent for such housing model where long term vision is the key element to success and long term affordability.

7) Councillor Dermot Lacey

Submitted: 23rd March 2022

Replaced: 20th March 2023

Recognizing the importance of good planning for the future of the City

Acknowledging Irelands commitments under the terms of the Aarhus Convention,

and thanking the many community, voluntary and civic minded bodies for their work in trying to ensure a better and more inclusive City.

Dublin City Council rejects the terms of the Planning and Development Bill currently before the Oireachtas, which seriously threatens good planning, ignores the Aarhus Convention and significantly reduces the opportunities for Citizens and Councillors to actively engage in the planning process.

The Council further calls on TDs and Senators to use their influence to reject the Bill as it currently stands and to defend the rights of Citizens and Councillors to proactively engage in good planning and to ensure that there is certainty for all – Communities and Developers - in agreed Development Plans.

As the largest Local Authority in the Country the Council further requests an opportunity to present a case to the Oireachtas Committee dealing with the Bill and requests the Planning SPC to prepare a submission for same.

8) Councillor Deirdre Heney

Submitted: 23rd March 2022

That this City Council consider introducing a pilot scheme whereby motorists wishing to reverse into his or her driveway be given a right of way to do so as this is the safest way to park a vehicle in a driveway.

9) Councillor Mannix Flynn

Submitted: 27th April 2022

That this meeting of DCC call on the management of the Artane Band and the Artane School of Music and the GAA to change the uniform and change the name of the Artane Band.

The symbol of the Artane Band, its uniform, its name, its insignia and its history are deeply traumatising and hurtful to the many thousands of us who were incarcerated in industrial and reform schools run by the Christian Brothers and other religious organisations. Indeed, many children from the mother and baby homes were incarcerated in Artane. Many more were press ganged into the band where children suffered horrendous abuse, sexual and otherwise, in the band room. Today, many of us still carry these scars and we find it wholly unacceptable in this day and age having gone through all of the various inquiries including the Ryan Report, and the many horrors of child sexual abuse that the Artane Band still marches under that banner and in the uniform of the residential industrial School, Artane, St Joseph's where it was formed over 150 years ago. It is no excuse in this day and age to say that the children in the present band are well looked after or that the children in the band at present are going to be in anyway hurt by a change of uniform and change of name. In a world of political correctness, in a world where symbols of this nature are being frowned upon, one only has to site the symbols of slavery and the decommissioning of public monuments etc. to realise that the time has come, and long overdue, that the oppressive symbols of the Artane Band, its uniform and its name, be consigned to history.

It is absolutely outrageous that the National sports field, that the likes of the GAA and indeed RTE would blatantly display these symbols and this band without having any regard whatsoever for the ongoing dreadful suffering many thousands of children had to endure in residential institutions.

Indeed, Justice Ryan in his report regarded the Artane band, "The band was the public face of Artane and was used as propaganda to reassure the public that those in residential institutions such as Artane and Letterfrack were receiving good care and education" But as we all know now, the reality was very different. Indeed many of those that were in this band have since committed suicide. And many more who are alive today can't even look at a GAA match or go to Croke Park where the band is playing. This is our present day suffering and it needs to stop. It is time now for change. Stop this re-traumatising and let us begin a proper process of recovery and healing.

10) Councillor Naoise O'Muirí

Submitted: 27th April 2022

That Dublin City Council becomes a JAM Card friendly local authority.

11) Councillor Daniel Céitinn

Submitted: 16th May 2022

That Dublin City Council:

- supports the campaign for Irish language rights across the island;
- acknowledges that the delivery of Irish language legislation in the North is overdue, and that past commitments in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the 2007 St Andrews' Agreement have gone unfulfilled;
- recognises and commends Irish language activists who will travel to the North on 21 May 2022 to support the Dream Dearg campaign for language rights; and
- as an act of solidarity and support from the Council, will, on 21 May 2022 and each year thereafter, illuminate City Hall in red, symbolising the campaign for Irish language rights.

12) Councillor Danny Byrne

Submitted: 1st June 2022

That this Council agrees to reduce commercial rates on premises which allow the public to use their toilet facilities.

13) Councillor Alison Gilliland

Submitted: 20th June 2022

Dublin City Council recognises that a clean, well maintained and litter free public realm across our city not only supports pride in and respect for our City but also supports outdoor enjoyment of our city. This is particularly relevant for the core city centre area where the City also welcomes a significant number of workers and visitors. However, Dublin City Council agrees that the current presentation and collection of commercial waste in the core city centre area is not supportive of a clean, well maintained and litter free public realm - too often bags of food rubbish ends up torn apart by seagulls and strewn across our footpaths while recycling materials in particular take up significant space on our footpaths and add to the sense of clutter. Therefore

a) to better manage the presentation and collection of commercial waste in the core city centre area, Dublin City Council agrees that a new system be put in place that drastically reduces the time commercial waste is allowed on our footpaths awaiting collection and that requires businesses to regularly sweep the public space directly in front of their premises so as to keep it free of litter and

b) to enhance the cleanliness of the core city centre area, Dublin City Council agrees that a the power washing rota be greatly enhanced to allow for more frequent and responsive power washing with particular attention being paid to areas with high daily and high night economy footfall.

14) Councillor Donna Cooney

Submitted: 22th June 2022

That Dublin City Council as part of the major emergency management and flood emergency plan agrees to engage communities at risk of mayor flooding in a flood drill after a simulated flood emergency, involving DCC emergency services, the coastguard, residents in the flood risk areas and provide a training exercise for emergency services and community volunteers.

15) Councillor Nial Ring

Submitted: 6th September 2022

“That this council agree that as part of any and all current and future cycle path developments, additional signage and instructions be provided to encourage cyclists to comply with all relevant road usage laws, in particular the obligation to stop at red traffic signals”

16) Councillor Karl Stanley

Submitted: 21st September 2022

That this council will work with TUSLA, Focus Ireland, the HSE and any other relevant stakeholders to design and implement a specific Housing First for Youth programme aimed at care leavers and other youth vulnerable to homelessness on the model of the youth housing first scheme which has been piloted by Focus Ireland in conjunction with the local authority and other stakeholders in Wexford and Waterford.

17) Councillor Racheal Batten

Submitted: 6th October 2022

This council agrees that as if this day all Dublin City Council residential leases will include first right of refusal on sale of the said property. This clause will be inserted into all new lease agreements with an independent assessment of fair market value to take place. The landlord shall not commence placing the property on the market without such 60 days' notice been given to the council.

18) Councillor Declan Meenagh

Submitted: 3rd October 2022

That Dublin City Council should investigate joining the Assembly of European Regions.

19) Councillor Cieran Perry

Submitted: 26th October 2022

This council supports the Fair Employment Bill 2022 drafted by the Trade Union Left Forum as a replacement for the 1990 Industrial Relations Act.

The 1990 Industrial Relations Act was introduced as a control mechanism on trade unions. The act introduced many changes to the accepted norms of industrial relations up to that time. It banned support strikes, solidarity action, political strikes, sit-ins and immediate action. It isolated individual workers and introduced 7 day notice. It puts many conditions and restrictions around balloting for industrial action it ended Union autonomy and transferred what were always Union decisions to the judiciary.

At the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) biennial delegate conference last year the following motion proposed by the Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) was unanimously passed and is now ICTU policy:

"Conference recognises that the restrictions on trade union action in the 1990 Industrial Relations Act need to be opposed, and that the act should be reformed to restore rights which trade unions had before 1990. Conference mandates the executive to seek an alternative legislative regime which would allow trade union and industrial action for workers, for issues that concern workers across society and, across employers, and for effective solidarity to workers in dispute".

20) Councillor Michael Pidgeon

Submitted: 12th December 2022

That Dublin City Council will include footpaths and cyclelanes in its gritting and de-icing programme during cold weather.

21) Councillor Joe Costello

Submitted: 15th December 2022

That this City Council instructs the CE to write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications requesting that he instruct energy utilities to ensure that all bills to consumers include a breakdown of the source of the energy, e.g. Fossil fuel, wind, solar, nuclear and the proportion of each energy source as is standard practice in several EU countries.

22) Councillor Daithí Doolan

Submitted: 19th December 2022

Dublin City Council;

Notes that:

- over the last 25 years drug related deaths in Ireland have increased by 225% with the total number of deaths exceeding 10,500;
- Ireland has the joint highest rate of drug induced deaths in the European Union;
- the number of people prosecuted for possession for personal use has increased over the last 25 years by 484 per cent, with more than 250,000 convictions recorded for that offence;
- In the same period there has been substantial overall increase in drug use, with use of cocaine rising by 10,376 per cent, benzodiazepines by 1,824 per cent and cannabis by 263 per cent;
- the Drug crisis and it's harmful effects, including drug related intimidation, extortion and violence aimed at drug addicts and their families has also risen;
- despite legislation being introduced in 2017, followed by HSE procurement and the selection of a preferred operator to run the State's first medically supervised injecting facility in Dublin city centre, this urgent facility remains unopened;
- despite evidence and research highlighting the need for a holistic approach to dual diagnosis, our mental health services and treatment services are still not organised to holistically treat people with both mental health and addiction issues; and
- the Programme for Government committed the Government parties to convening a citizens' assemble on drugs but, despite the Taoiseach stated intention there is so far no indication as to whether or when it will be held;

Agrees that:

- there has been a lack of joined up thinking between Ministers, Departments and State agencies, and a lack of focus, energy and urgency in tackling the causes and consequences of the drug crisis;
 - the policy of criminalisation of the drug user has failed, nationally and internationally, the resources of the State are wasted on inappropriately processing addiction cases through the courts and prisons, and a health-led and patient –focused alternative is needed;
 - the previous international consensus on the ‘war on drugs’ approach is now collapsing with over 30 countries decriminalising drug possession for personal use in some form;
 - the worst harms of a criminalisation policy are experiences by people and communities who are already disadvantaged and marginalised, and a reform approach must operate in the context of strategies to combat poverty and marginalisation;
 - a community based health led alternative response would target the adverse health, social and economic consequences of drug use and provide harm reduction services to address transmission and overdoses; and
 - the 2001 Portuguese initiative of decriminalising possession of drugs and introducing a health diversion scheme, with a resulting significant decline in drug deaths in Portugal while they continue to rise across the EU, merits particular study; and
- Calls on the Government to:
- set a firm date for convening the citizens’ assembly on drugs;
 - reinstate funding for Drug and Alcohol Task Forces to 2008 levels;
 - to introduce emergency amending legislation to facilitate mobile supervised injection facilities for both urban and regional sites;
 - regulate oversight of all addiction services, with a firm commitment to client centred and evidence based recovery programmes;
 - to expand the work of the Criminal Assets Bureau to target and seize smaller assets in local communities with full resources of An Garda Síochána at organised crime gangs, traffickers and dealers.