

Tallaght Newsheet



Incorporating the Rathcoole/Saggart area

June 1991

FIGHTING THE DRUGS MENACE

A community response needed...

DUBLIN has a drugs problem and the politicians seeking re-election have (probably from canvassing areas that they haven't been in since the last election) awakened to this epidemic that is destroying many communities.

Sinn Féin members have in the past played an active part in the Concerned Parents Against Drugs in many cases taking a leadership role in communities affected by this menace. Some people said they were involved for votes or somehow clearing the way for others involved in drug pushing (the *Irish Independent* recently made similar allegations). Well you have to make a decision on that yourself but most people would accept that Sinn Féin members put their lives, their families' safety and their homes on the line when confronting drug pushers.

Politicians and the authorities were more concerned in the past about the small number of Sinn Féin members active on this issue than on the problem itself. In the early '80s it was the Concerned Parents' Movement that prevented the spread of heroin abuse to many communities. Tallaght was one of those lucky areas. Most members of CPAD would accept that mistakes were made over the years but the



fundamental concept of communities defending their children against this onslaught

remains to this day a valid one. Today many are predicting that the drugs menace will exceed that experienced in the early '80s. The Concerned Parents' Movement, except for a couple of isolated pockets, no longer exists. The problem facing many areas in the coming months will be how to tackle this growing problem. The establishment parties have come up with no new ideas. Criticism and howls of indignation were common in the past but ask any politician that knocks at your door what they have done or more importantly what they propose to do about this issue. Will they initiate anything? Do they ever initiate anything? Surely that is the role of someone who puts themselves forward to represent an area not only on this issue but on anything that threatens the social fabric of an area. Another factor will be the growth of drug-related crime and the spread of the HIV virus and AIDS.

Sinn Féin believes that communities have a right to take action when politicians

stand idly by and furthermore should have the backing of the state's resources (gardai, Courts etc) in their actions to defend their communities. A move in the right direction has been the corporation's decision to evict and not rehouse drug pushers. If communities want to democratically move on pushers, Sinn Féin will stand by them.

PLACES DRUGS ARE OPENLY SOLD:
Outside St Dominick's Health Centre;
Donomore Park Evening time
(children used as look outs);
A number of houses in Cushlawn;
Unemployment Exchange Rathfarnham.

Call for Tallaght screening service

BREAST and cervical cancer between them kill over 800 women a year in this state.

Tallaght with a population of 75,000 would expect to experience approximately 18 deaths each year from breast and cervical cancer. In spite of this there is no cervical cancer or breast cancer screening service run by the Eastern Health Board for Tallaght.

In fact, in Dublin as a whole there is no routine screening service for breast cancer for women under 55 which is probably why breast cancer now kills more women per year than cervical cancer. Manual examinations are better than nothing. But the only sure method of early detection is a mammogram. This is only available to women under 55 who are referred to the hospital by their GP with a specific breast problem.

If you have a medical card your GP may carry out a cervical smear test and a manual breast examination. Not all GPs provide this service and many women feel embarrassed about having such an examination carried out by their family doctor. The Rotunda Hospital has a free cervical smear test clinic but there is a three months waiting list for an appointment. The Family Planning Clinic in Cathal Brugha Street will charge £8 for a cervical smear test and breast examination if you have a medical card. Their is no appointment needed.

To get to the Rotunda or the Family Planning Clinic involves a lot of travelling for women from Tallaght. Sinn Féin is calling on the Health Board to set up a cancer screening clinic for women in Tallaght Town Centre.



THE REALITY FOR WOMEN

ONE THIRD of Ireland's workforce are women, but they only earn two thirds of average male income: 53% of all women over the age of 15 are working in the home; nearly 700,000 women therefore spend long hours caring for their families and elderly, or ill, relatives for little or no pay, the majority living below the poverty line. This is the reality for women in Ireland.

Sinn Féin demands the extension of current employment legislation to include part-time workers and called for the introduction of a legal minimum wage. Childcare must be shared as an equal responsibility of both parents and also of society.

Sinn Féin believe funding should be provided for crèche and pre-school facilities and have actively worked for progressive social legislation covering divorce, contraception, health, childcare and the extension of full state funding for centres of the victims of domestic violence and rape. Despite efforts in recent years

discrimination still continues. Aside from publicised areas like Golf clubs, state bureaucracy itself still continues to discriminate. In the area of tax, for instance, a working, married woman claiming the marriage allowance (husband unemployed) must (a) get a letter from her husband authorising transfer of his allowance (if the situation is reversed — wife unemployed — no letter of permission required) and (b) Woman's PAYE number is changed to husband's number, all inquiries regarding allowance cannot be answered by wife's unit number and

must be directed to husband's section, even though he's unemployed! (and again if situation is reversed and husband claims wife's allowance he keeps his number).

In the area of women's health, if a woman has to get her womb removed the doctor seeks permission off the husband but doesn't need the husband's permission if it's to amputate her arm or leg or any other part of her anatomy. In the case of childbirth we still have a situation where, if the mother's life is in danger and a decision needs to be made regarding the life of the mother, doctors choose the infant because of archaic laws. Well sisters, is it not time we started to change things around here? We have a long road to go yet.

(Anyone wishing to submit a story on this important issue send to *Tallaght Newsletter* c/o 5 Blessington Street, Dublin 7).

DEVELOPMENT OF SAGGART AND WEST TALLAGHT

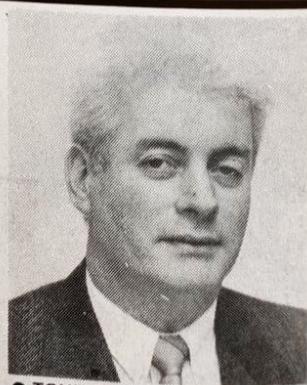
ON Wednesday, June 5th, the Saggart and District Residents' Association called a public meeting to discuss development proposals being put forward by Davy Stockbrokers and the Bank of Ireland.

The proposals concerned building houses and factory units in Brownsbarn and taking in parts of the green belt area around Kiltal-

lawn, De Selby, Brookview, Suncroft, Rathminton and up to Saggart itself. The plans proposed a road which included closing of Church Road Saggart which would have meant an increase in the volume of traffic through the main street of Saggart (an area which is totally unsuitable for today's through traffic). Sinn Féin's candidate for the area, Tony Flannery, hit out at the plans describing them as another top down deci-

sion with residents not even been consulted about these proposals. He condemned the councillors who participated in this closed shop arrangement which was proposed by the Workers' Party and Fianna Fáil.

Sinn Féin's policy on planning would mean, in situations like this, that people have a real say in the development of their areas. Planning that involves locals would go a long way in preventing fraud and deceit. He went on to call for support for the Saggart Residents' Association who oppose the proposals, pointing out that there is no shortage of empty factory units in estates nearby.

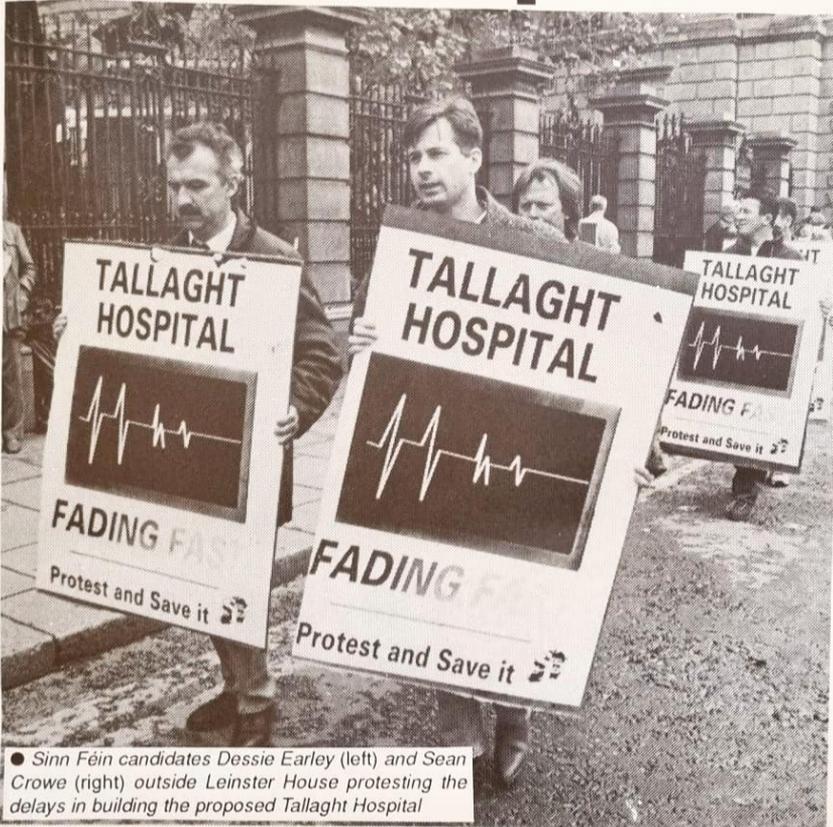


● TONY FLANNERY

Hospital? What hospital?

Local link called for

Tony Flannery has called on Bus Atha Cliath to extend the local link service to Rathcoole, Saggart and De Selby to the Square in Tallaght. I believe that this service would provide immense assistance to people living in these areas who presently work in industrial estates like Cookstown Airon Road etc. It would facilitate anyone attending FAS courses and particularly the youth from these areas giving them access to cinemas, bowling and the facilities of the Tallaght Square.



● Sinn Féin candidates Dessie Earley (left) and Sean Crowe (right) outside Leinster House protesting the delays in building the proposed Tallaght Hospital

ONE ISSUE which will cause headaches for both Fianna Fáil and the Progressive Democrats in Tallaght in the forthcoming local elections is the postponement of the start of construction work on Tallaght Regional Hospital.

On Thursday, June 6th, residents from

Tallaght descended on Leinster House to protest at the delay. Some pundits had predicted that the government would pull something out of the hat to rescue their candidates in time for the local elections but this is now starting to look unlikely.

The hospital project is a £118 million development and would be a major boost for an area of high unemployment in terms of both short and long-term jobs as well as providing long overdue health cover for the

huge suburb of some 80,000 people. In February, the government dealt a blow to hopes that the Tallaght project was finally on the rails when work on the construction of the hospital was again postponed for this year at least, the excuse being a lack of funds. Soon after, local Fianna Fáil TD Chris Flood was promoted to junior minister at the Department of Health, a move which has done little to appease local community groups. In June 1990, when Flood was appointed by Health Minister O'Hanlon to membership of the Tallaght Hospital Board, he wrote to residents saying: "I intend to give a very full commitment to my membership of the Board and I know my constituents will want me to use my contact with the Minister for Health, Dr Rory O'Hanlon, TD, and the Tallaght Hospital Board to ensure that the hospital is built and open as quickly as possible."

Responding angrily to the postponement, Sinn Féin local representative Seán Crowe says: "The people of Tallaght have long had to put up with having their needs and wishes ignored by the powers-that-be, but with the local elections looming the opportunity is there to challenge all candidates on the building of Tallaght Regional Hospital. Tallaght had to wait 20 years for a town centre. Now it looks like our hospital is on a similar timetable."

Vote **Sinn Féin No. 1**

Seán

Dessie

Tony

CROWE

EARLEY

FLANNERY

TALLAGHT/OLDBAWN

TALLAGHT/GREENHILLS

TALLAGHT/RATHCOOLE



EDUCATION A RIGHT FOR ALL

CANVASSING can be a great education for many politicians and we would argue that if they came into our areas more often they might even learn something. But more seriously, the theme of education or more importantly the lack of education opportunities needs to be addressed. Most parents are again facing the unenviable task in the Tallaght area of trying to find a place for their children. This situation is a disgrace, particularly when one hears of the number of teachers on the dole.

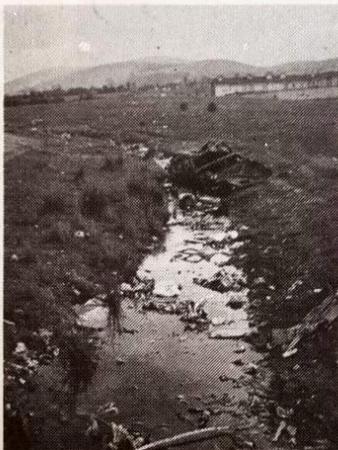
Minister O'Rourke maintains that the schools are not filling their quotas but as usual reality on the ground suggests otherwise. Children going to Tallaght's Irish Primary Schools face an uphill battle to find places next year as Clondalkin's Second Level School is full. Firhouse College, parents have been told, has no room and the role of Adult Education as well as the number of places in the long-awaited RTC is being reviewed.

The concept of free education is

being rapidly eroded. This is shown by acts like the increasing of registration fees for the inter and leaving-certificate examinations. The doubling of fees for repeat leaving is an outrage. The inequalities of the education system highlighted in Patrick Pearse's *Murder Machine* are as true today as they were when he wrote it 80 years ago. There is still discrimination today, particularly at second and third level. The powers that rule today certainly does not "cherish the children of the nation equally".

Cushlawn Park Street names

Once again, the local authorities discriminatory policy towards Killinarden, and in particular Cushlawn Park, has been exposed by the people in this area. A county council spokesperson has admitted after years that the street numbering system in Cushlawn Park is most unsatisfactory and that they are having talks with Dublin Corporation to revert to the traditional street naming system.

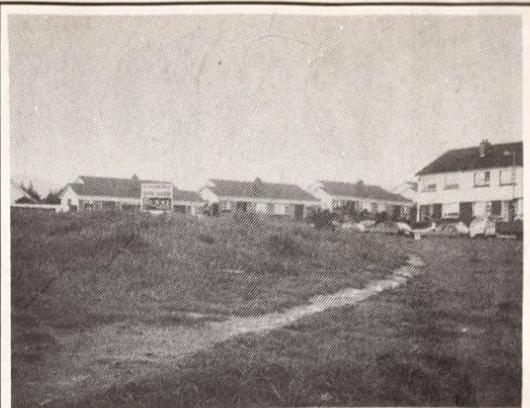


● The stream at Cushlawn/Heatherview eas started to clean the river out themselves.

"Sinn Féin will continue to take direct action on such issues and would urge the people of these areas to step up the pressure until the measures already conceded are implemented without delay." Congratulations to the residents and Sinn Féin members who took part in the clean up. Direct action is something the TD's and councillors should investigate instead of spending their time writing letters.

Seán Crowe, Sinn Féin's candidate for Tallaght/Oldbawn, has stated: "Let no one be in any doubt about why this change of attitude came about. It was through the same pressure which resulted in Dublin County Council's Roads Safety Department appointing three school traffic wardens for the area, which have to date not been able to take up duty due to the Garda Authority not signing the requested statutory authorisations for these crossings.

"It was the same pressure which resulted in the county council sending in a JCB digger in the early hours of the morning to clear out the stream between Cushlawn and Heatherview estates. This action from the council took place only after the people of these ar-



Kiltipper Playground

The site reserved for a playground in Kiltipper has long been a source of frustration to residents in the estate. As the photograph shows nothing has been done to the site by the builders although the playground was clearly marked when people were purchasing their houses. Seán Crowe, commenting on the situation, said: "unfinished estates and broken promises are scattered all over Tallaght. Everyone can see that the present system is not working. It's not enough for elected representatives to send letters off complaining when issues like this arise. The people of this area want action and if that means the laws need to be changed, well change them. Builders who leave unfinished estates should be pursued with the full rigour of the law and should be prevented from building on new sites."

Ballycragh Danger Highlighted

Seán Crowe has contacted the councils Road Safety Department asking them to erect "Go Slow" signs along the main road bordering the estate. He also called on the council's "Mondello Drivers" (on the way to the tip) to be in mind that they are putting children's lives at stake with their antics. The volume of traffic clearly necessitates a pedestrian crossing but as usual people will have to fight to achieve this basic demand.



● SEAN CROWE

Old Bawn Bridge

The narrow bridge and narrower footpath on Old Bawn Bridge was highlighted in our last newssheet. Sinn Féin believes its unlikely that anything will happen on this issue in the immediate future and are calling for the erection of a pedestrian walkway outside the wall of the bridge (this system is in operation in a number of councils around the country. The structure is bolted to the outside wall giving pedestrians extra protection).