

CLLR. DEAN MULLIGAN

COVID-19: A NEW NORMAL?

While the Covid Pandemic is an unprecedented challenge, and protecting public health has to be the starting point of our response, the newly formed government is failing not just on that score, but their dithering and inconsistency is making a bad situation worse, compounding the pressure on citizens and small and medium-sized enterprises.

This is a global virus, yet Ireland's response has been chaotic and contradictory. In the week that the EU talked about co-ordinating a travel list and categorisation of risk countries, Ireland went ahead and announced a new list for itself. This is crazy! Much of Europe is operating normally, with precautions, such as social distancing, mask wearing, and rapid testing. Why not Ireland?

How can the Minister get a test result in less than 24 hours and ordinary people cannot? Why does the Cabinet shut down when a Minister has symptoms, but teachers have to keep working? Why can't you watch sport spread out in a stadium, but you can in a pub that sells food? The chaotic response is really damaging and seriously undermining the great efforts made by people to be responsible. It will be the death knell for many small businesses and jobs. This has gone on long enough.

We deserve so much more than what we are getting from the newly formed government. Clarity and consistency in relation to Covid advice is long overdue.



ESSENTIAL WORKERS NEED RIGHTS NOT PRAISE

Frontline workers in hospitals and the caring sector have rightly earned our gratitude for their selfless sacrifice in combating Covid. Retail workers have shown how essential their work is in keeping all of us stocked with the items we need to survive. We cannot live without them, so isn't it time to follow up the welcome recognition with real change?

Successive governments have axed the pay & conditions of medical staff to the extent that thousands leave the country every year, simply to make a living. Are they now going to reverse

these cuts? Retail workers in Debenhams were left without their collectively agreed redundancy of four weeks per year of service despite Irish stock of €25 million and an online facility worth €30 million which was transferred out of Ireland. Why didn't the government support the fast tracking of legislative change that had been agreed years ago to stop these tactical insolvencies! Praise doesn't put food on the table. If we respect frontline workers, it's time we get our priorities right and give them the wages and conditions they deserve.



LORD MAYORS PLANS AXED!

It may have been against the odds, but Swords residents have defeated the proposed development on the Lord Mayor's site. Multiple seven-storey blocks were a clear overdevelopment!

Of course we are in the midst a housing crisis, but this is not a reason to ignore sustainable development. This is a great victory for residents. I would sincerely like to thank everyone who came to my public meeting on the issue, and those who submitted the hundreds of objections.

Despite the challenges of campaigning in the midst of COVID-19 lockdown, the residents did not falter. We should all be proud and continue to push for appropriate developments in Swords.

SWORDS TRANSPORT PROPOSAL

Hundreds of young families have set up lives in Swords and the greater Fingal area on the promise of state-of-the-art public transport infrastructure! Successive governments have been promising without delivering for years. The latest idea is a light rail tram route to the airport and Swords by extending the Luas from its terminal at the back of the Three Arena via the Port Tunnel.

While this is a proposal that complements the Metro link rather than contradicts it and would be a low-carbon, green proposal that uses much of the infrastructure we currently have, the truth is we need the plans that are there developed without further delay or are we going to be talking about this issue for another 20 years? A bit of action would be welcome for a change!

AIRLINE WORKERS BETRAYED

For months, Aer Lingus workers have been pauperised on 30% of their pay. Some have gone through weeks of getting no wages, despite being in work. Meanwhile the government has allowed the Company, Revenue and Social Protection blame each other for the failure to allow workers access their social welfare entitlements. The mental torture and financial pressure is acute.

Airlines like Ryanair and Aer Lingus have used the crisis to impose changes in working conditions that they had long sought. Yet those at the top of the company continued to receive their massive bonuses and golden handshakes. Across Europe, billions were invested in airlines to save jobs, but in Ireland? Nothing! We are an island economy, we need aviation, airport jobs must be protected for the benefit of the whole community.

@cllr_dean_mulligan

Dublin Fingal

ZOOM MEETINGS

Email for appointment

dean.mulligan@cllr.fingal.ie

DOUBLE WHAMMY - CARBON TAX & LPT

So in the midst of a crisis we are being told we have to tighten our belts. Gone the false rhetoric that "we are all in this together". Clearly low and middle income earners are about to be walloped again, squeezed from the fallout of Covid 19, householders are now being targeted with no relaxation of Local Property Tax while we lose earnings and jobs, and struggle to pay rents and mortgages.

And if that wasn't bad enough, the government proposes to add insult to injury with talk of the carbon tax being increased in the budget from €6 a tonne to €36 a tonne! This will make it much more expensive for people already suffering to heat their homes and get around in their cars, public transport costs will rise. This is not an environmental measure, it will make people colder or poorer. It is a crazy response in an economy on its knees at a time when ECB lending rates have never been cheaper. We need investment not punitive taxation.