

swept on a regular and consistent basis. An internal reorganisation has also been recently implemented to ensure greater productivity in relation to the regular emptying of bins.

Blackrock Town Centre

Council architects in consultation with local councillors are currently working on ways of improving the aesthetic appearance of Blackrock town centre and creating an attractive civic space. This would involve improved paving, widening pavements, attractive street furniture, planting etc. Planning is at an early stage and I will update residents as the plans are developed.

Planning – Same day Validation

The Council now provides a 'same day' validation procedure for certain planning applications. The service is available on Thursday mornings at County Hall and covers domestic extensions, residential developments of less than 10 units and non-residential developments of less than 1000 square metres. This service is a welcome move towards a speedier and more efficient planning service.

Road Safety

Recently published data reveal that the number of persons injured on the County's roads in the ten year period ended 2006 has fallen by 50.8%. I greatly welcome this decline. Much credit is due to the activities of the local authority including the school warden service, traffic awareness initiatives, additional pedestrian facilities etc.

National Insulation Scheme

The Government has recently announced a €100 million national insulation grants programme. The scheme will cut home heating bills, reduce carbon emissions and generate employment in these difficult economic times. The programme consists of a home



Cllr Barry Conway with Minister Mary Hanafin at a recent public meeting

energy saving scheme and a warmer homes scheme and local authority housing scheme. The scheme will be administered by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI). For further information SEI can be contacted at www.sei.ie/hes or by calling the dedicated phone line 1850 927 000.

Improvements for Dun Laoghaire

Plans have recently been approved for enhancements to the seafront at Dun Laoghaire. The proposal involves the provision of decking over the Dart line in front of the pavilion complex. The completed project will create a new pedestrian area, café terrace and landscaped public space for Dun Laoghaire. The plan also involves pedestrian enhancements to Marine Road. The overall emphasis of the plan is to link the town with the seafront.

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**CLLR. BARRY
CONWAY**

NEWSLETTER NO. 8

SPRING 2009

Dear Resident,

I am writing to update you in relation to developments in the County since my last newsletter.

Recycling

According to the National Waste Report for 2007 recently published by the Environmental Protection Agency, 36% of municipal waste was recycled in 2007. This exceeds the 2013 recycling target of 35%. According to the Report the recycling of packaging waste exceeded the EU target of 60% in 2007, four years ahead of schedule. While the report reflects the high level of public commitment to recycling much still needs to be done particularly in diverting waste from landfill.

Rental Accommodation

I welcome the recent enactment by the Government of regulations to improve the quality of private rented accommodation. These regulations which stipulate minimum standards for those living in rented accommodation is an important intervention in the market for private rental accommodation. It is imperative that tenants receive adequate protection under law particularly in the current climate.

Litter Byelaws

The council is currently considering new bye-laws to enhance the power of local Government to deal with litter blackspots. Of particular relevance are new provisions in relation to the responsibility of the owners and operators of commercial premises to ensure that the area in the immediate vicinity of their premises is kept clear of litter. This is a problem particularly associated with fast food outlets. I fully support the measures and will be advocating their strict enforcement.



Cllr Barry Conway highlighting the litter problem in the County (Courtesy Gazette Group Newspapers)

Newpark Comprehensive School

The Government has given the go ahead for the construction of a new school at Newpark Comprehensive. This follows a vigorous campaign by staff and parents and also follows representations by local representatives including myself. The Government's decision reflects the outstanding contribution the school makes to the wider community. All going to plan the school should go to tender and construction this year.

QBC's

The Council intend to open the QBC on Mount Merrion Avenue in March. However I have called on the QBC not to be opened until Dublin Bus have given a commitment to provide an adequate bus service on the bus lane. Residents and motorists should not be asked to make the sacrifices associated with QBC's unless the QBC actually delivers a material improvement in public transport. The recent decision by Dublin Bus to reduce services by 10% further

undermines the argument for opening the QBC in the current environment.

Pedestrian Lights

Additional pedestrian lights have been installed throughout the county in recent years where warranted on the basis of road safety and the number of pedestrians crossing the road etc. I have made a submission for the inclusion of pedestrian lights along the stretch on Carysfort Avenue between the traffic lights at the Convent Road junction and at Fleurville. The road engineers have indicated that they will consider the application this year.

Carysfort/Maretime Stream Improvement Scheme

Preparatory work is ongoing in relation to the Carysfort/Maretime stream improvement works. At present the council are engaged in discussions with landowners to finalise rights of way and access etc to ensure that the work can go ahead. The tendering process has also commenced. It is hoped that implementation of the scheme will commence in the last quarter of 2009 with completion towards the end of 2010.

Economic Difficulties

The country is currently experiencing severe economic difficulties and Blackrock is not immune to these problems. I have written to the County Manager asking him to consider ways in which Local Government can help stimulate the local economy, for example moving expenditure from non-labour intensive to labour intensive areas, maximising input into the local economy; bringing forward spending etc.

Road Sweeping

The Council have recently adopted a schedule of road sweeping to ensure that all roads in the County are