



Catherine Martin T.D.

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Deputy Leader of the Green Party / Comhaontas Glas Dublin Rathdown Summer 2021

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A chara,

I hope you are keeping well and are having a safe and enjoyable summer.

As the Covid-19 vaccination rollout ramps up and restrictions ease, we are cautiously bringing our society back together after spending so long apart.

As Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, it has been my priority to ensure that the jobs, livelihoods, and businesses of those who work in these industries are supported as best as they can be through this challenging period.

I have been engaging with organisations and representative groups across each sector, providing funding and other supports to alleviate the financial pressures faced by those who work in these areas.

As your local Green T.D., I will continue to do my utmost to represent the people and communities of Dublin Rathdown, placing climate and social justice at the heart of everything I do.

Throughout this pandemic, I have moved my fortnightly constituency clinics online or by phone. Whilst I do miss meeting you in person, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any issues you would like to discuss with me and/or would like to book an appointment.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh as bhur dtacaíocht leanúnach.

Le gach dea-ghuí



Your Green Voice in Government for Dublin Rathdown

Inside:

- Update on Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme for Artists
- Summer Pilot Events for Arts, Culture and Sport
- €34 million for DLR walking and cycling infrastructure
- Constituency Clinics

On your side - ag seasamh leat

Update on Meadowbrook Swimming Pool



After an extensive programme of works over the last year, including a tiling refurbishment and pool plant equipment recalibration, Meadowbrook Swimming Pool reopened on the 4th of July.

Following the protocols currently in place in both Monkstown and Loughlinstown pools, all swim sessions at Meadowbrook will be available to book from 72 hours in advance on their online system via the website, or by phoning or calling into the centre reception.

Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability

The Government and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will fund €2,673,071 in Home Adaptation Grants for people with a disability and older people.

- Up to €30,000 is available for people with a disability
- Up to €6,000 is available for mobility aids
- Up to €8,000 is available for older people

More information including eligibility criteria and application forms can be found at dlrcoco.ie. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you require any assistance with your application.

Visiting Rosemount Mulvey Football Club



It was brilliant to visit Rosemount Mulvey Football Club to see their underage academy in action and the incredible work being done by volunteers to build up the club.

The club is growing at a fast rate and have also recently started up a new Women's Senior team!

Dundrum Central Project

Over the last few months I have been engaging with both the LDA and the local community regarding the Dundrum Central Project.

I have received a lot of correspondence from residents in the surrounding communities and have relayed their feedback to the LDA.

I will continue to monitor and engage on this project as it progresses. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to further discuss the proposed development.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown allocated €34 million for sustainable transport projects

€34,145,000 was allocated by the National Transport Authority across 43 projects including 27 new projects to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council for the development of high-quality sustainable transport infrastructure.

This funding will see the county move towards becoming a more accessible and safer place for everyone to enjoy. Among the projects funded were

- €3.9m for the Sandyford to City Centre Cycle Scheme (M50 to Drummartin Link Road)
- €3m to the Blackglan Road Walking and Cycling Scheme
- €2.5m Safe Cycling and Walking Routes across the county
- €2m for Protected Cycle Facilities across the county
- €1m for Support Infrastructure for the Safe to Schools Programme
- €800k for the Sandyford Business District Cycle Routes
- €400k for Roebuck Road Cycle Lane Improvements
- €200k for the Taney Road to Stillorgan Road Cycle Route



Southside Traveller Action Group Mincéir Friend Badge Launch

As a friend and ally of the Southside Traveller Community, I was delighted to speak at the launch of their Mincéir Friend Badge. Well done to Chelsey O'Brien who designed the badge and created a physical symbol of unity, friendship and support between our communities, especially in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. It is a great privilege to be considered a Mincéir friend and I will continue to wear this badge with honour!

Festival in a Van comes to Ballinteer Community School



I enjoyed my visit to Ballinteer Community School recently where Festival in a Van performed key scenes from King Lear for the Sixth Year students.

The performance took place outside on the school grounds with all Covid-19 precautions in place and was a fantastic way for students to see their studied Shakespeare play come to life ahead of their Leaving Cert examinations.

Ministerial Update

Pilot Live Events

One of my key priorities as Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sport is to ensure the safe return of live music, culture and sport to Irish audiences. It has been a challenging 16 months for so many musicians, artists, athletes, venue operators, crew and fans.

I was delighted to recently get agreement at Cabinet for a range of exciting pilot events for arts and sports across the country that will take place throughout the summer. These events will not only support artists and those working in large events to get back to work, but they will also inform how these types of events are run in the future.

Pride Month

There were some brilliant exhibitions across the country to celebrate Pride Month.



In June I launched the National Library of Ireland's 'Living with Pride' photographic archive in Temple Bar. It was a joy to experience the life and work of LGBTQ+ activist Christopher Robson.



Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme for Artists

I have recently secured a commitment for Government to prioritise a basic income guarantee pilot scheme for artists in the Government's National Economic Recovery Plan.

This was the number 1 recommendation from artists and the sector through the Arts and Culture Recovery Taskforce Report - *Life Worth Living*.

This is unprecedented and the pilot scheme will involve a significant number of artists. I recognise bold steps are necessary for our invaluable and much treasured arts community to come back stronger than ever before.

Next step, I will bring forward a proposal for the basic income guarantee pilot scheme, working with my Cabinet colleague Minister Heather Humphreys in the Department of Social Protection.

Supporting the tourism and hospitality sector as it reopens this summer

The tourism and hospitality industries have been among the hardest hit during the pandemic. Record levels of funding have been allocated to allow for additional supports.

These include:

- €55 million business continuity scheme introduced recently through Fáilte Ireland to help strategic tourism businesses survive the pandemic and drive recovery.
- A €26m adaptation fund for the tourism sector to adapt their premises to meet COVID-19 safety requirements.
- Extension of the 9% VAT rate to September 2022. This will continue to act as a stimulus for the sector as it moves towards recovery.
- Two separate funds of €10 million each were introduced for Coach Tourism Operators and Ireland Based Inbound Agents Business Continuity Scheme
- Funding of €5 million has been provided for upskilling training and to improve digital presence.



I recently announced with Fáilte Ireland €17 million in grants for tourism and hospitality businesses to transform outdoor dining, support jobs and help us enjoy a safe summer outdoors.

Up until the 30th September 2021, individual businesses can apply for up to €4k from their local authorities to help develop and increase their outdoor dining capacity.

€50m Live Entertainment Supports

- €25m Live Performance Support Scheme
- €14m Music Entertainment Business Assistance Scheme
- €5m Local Authorities for outdoor live performances
- €5m Capital supports for live entertainment sector
- €1m St Patrick's Festival

Additional updates I've been working on across Sport, Media and the Gaeltacht

- A key goal of mine as a member of government is to further gender equity within every sector under my remit. As part of this aim, I announced that female Gaelic games players will receive equity in funding to their male counterparts, tripling their funding allocation from last year.
- I established the Future of Media Commission to examine and chart the path for public service broadcasting and independent

media in Ireland that supports public discourse and provides platforms for our language, culture, creative arts and sport.

- Ós cionn €1.6m ceadaíthe do Thuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta thar 3 bliana chun tacú le teaghlaigh atá ag tógáil a bpáistí le Gaeilge.
- Tháinig an Bille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla trí chéim an choiste I nDáil Éireann freisin.

Greens in Government

Major investment to develop state of the art facilities for outdoor water-based activities



Fáilte Ireland and my department recently announced an investment of €19 million in funding to develop state of the art facilities for outdoor water-based activities in 22 locations across the country.

Killiney beach is one of the locations set to receive this funding.

Each centre will provide hot showers, changing and toilet facilities, secure storage, induction spaces, equipment washdown and orientation points.

They will be fully wheelchair accessible and built using best practices in sustainability such as solar heating panels to meet 'Nearly Zero Energy Building Standards.'



Constituency Clinics

I am also delighted to announce that my Constituency Clinics have returned in virtual format and take place online every second Friday morning. If you are interested in attending or would like further information, please get in touch with me at:

Catherine.Martin@Oireachtas.ie

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021



The Climate Bill has been approved by Government and is currently passing through the Houses of the Oireachtas. This landmark Bill aims to:

- Help us meet a 51% emissions reduction target by 2030
- Strengthen the Climate Change Advisory Council
- Support our transition to Net Zero by 2050
- Embed carbon budgeting into law

Social Housing Retrofitting Programme

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has received funding of €1,114,467 from the Department of Housing Retrofitting Programme for Social Housing.

Retrofitting a home means that multiple energy updates will be carried out, i.e. proper wall and roof insulation, window updates and an upgraded heating system. This will transform older houses with poor ratings into a BER A-rating. Housing is one of Ireland's largest energy efficiency challenges and this programme will not only upgrade 41 social houses in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, but it will also lead to a reduction in Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions and result in warmer, more comfortable homes which will benefit the health of all those living in them.

White paper on Ending Direct Provision Published

My Green Party colleague Minister Roderic O'Gorman published a White Paper on Ending Direct Provision. This delivered on a commitment set out in the Programme for Government and it is anticipated that Direct Provision will end by the end of 2024.



Catherine Martin T.D.

Your local Green team in Dublin Rathdown



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Introducing our new Green Councillor for Glencullen-Sandyford

Cllr. Oisín O'Connor

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Oisín has lived in Dublin Rathdown with his family for the last number of years. He has been involved in advocating for safer roads and more active travel infrastructure, previously sitting on the DLR Transport Policy Committee.

Since becoming a Councillor, Oisín has joined the Joint Policing Committee, the Housing Committee, the Community Committee and is a board member of DLR Leisure Services.

We are delighted to have him joining the Green team in Dublin Rathdown!