

# Newsletter

Spring 2023



Labour

## Ivana Bacik TD

Dublin Bay South

Dear Friend,

Welcome to my Spring/Summer 2023 newsletter. I do appreciate the immense support I have received across our great constituency of Dublin Bay South since my election in July 2021. I was honoured to have become Leader of the Labour Party last year and am proud to lead Labour in offering constructive opposition to the current government, and in working to build a fair and equal Ireland.

*Ivana*



Meeting US President Joe Biden in Dublin, April 2023.

## As your local TD, I have been working hard on your behalf in the Dáil on a range of issues, including:

- **HOUSING:** I have proposed measures to protect renters, including a Bill to provide the right to rent unfurnished homes; along with 8 emergency measures to stem the immediate effects of the renting crisis, and begin the process of addressing the chronic shortage of affordable homes.
- **EQUALITY:** As Chairperson of the Oireachtas Gender Equality Committee, I published the 'Unfinished Democracy' report in December which presented wording for an equality referendum to be held in November, to: remove sexist language from the constitution; extend constitutional protections to nonmarital families; and recognise carers in an inclusive way.
- **ENVIRONMENT:** In December, my Dublin Bay Bill passed its first stage in the Dáil. I will push for its enactment, as it would create a new statutory body, tasked with the preservation and development of our wonderful Bay area, and would ensure better protection for marine biodiversity and coastal amenities for all.
- **TRANSPORT:** I have been campaigning for the introduction of a climate ticket, which would provide access to unlimited public transport journeys for just €9 per month – good for the climate and for our pockets.

## SCHOOLS IN DUBLIN BAY SOUTH



*Ag tacú le léirsitheoirí ag éileamh Gaelcholáiste nua a bhunú le freastal ar cheantar Baile Átha Cliath 2,4,6,8W agus 8.*

Dublin Bay South has a vibrant and growing community, and we need more school places including greater provision for children with special needs.

Recently we learned that building had been paused on four urgent school construction projects here – in Sandymount on the ShellyBanks Educate Together National School and Sandymount

Park Educate Together secondary school, and in Harold's Cross on the Educate Together primary and secondary schools.

I have been a strong supporter of these new schools, and have pressed the Government to ensure the urgent resumption of construction. I have also strongly supported the campaign for a new Gaelcholáiste to serve the needs of children from Dublin 2, 4, 6 and 8 who are attending gaelscoileanna in our local community.

### Please get in touch

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# Local News

Since my election as your TD, I have met with a range of local community organisations and residents' associations. Please do contact me if you would like me to meet with your own local group or take up any issues on your behalf.

Here are just some of the local issues on which I am working:

Following the closure of the **Rathmines Citizens' Information Centre**, I hosted a Public Meeting at Rathmines Town Hall in 2022, along with my Labour party colleagues, Cllr Mary Freehill and Cllr Dermot Lacey. We have launched a Campaign to **'Save our Services'** – to ensure the continuation of face-to-face public services in our community.

Cllr Mary Freehill and I have been pushing to see **Rathmines Town Hall** refurbished, to repair the 'Four-Faced Liar' clock and to see the wonderful concert hall restored to usage, for the benefit of all in our community.

I have been working with great local groups to secure Autism friendly status for the communities in **Irishtown, Ringsend and Pearse Street**.

I have been engaging with gardai and local residents to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the **South Inner City**.

Work has commenced on the **Dodder Greenway** between Herbert Park and Donnybrook Bridge.



With our local team, Cllrs Mary Freehill and Dermot Lacey along with Fiona Connelly.

Work has also commenced on the **Ranelagh Active Cycle Scheme** which will run from Clonskeagh to the City Centre – public consultation is underway on this.

Under their new 'adaptive reuse scheme', Dublin City Council is assessing the potential to convert the old **Baggot Street Hospital** into social and affordable units.

I have engaged with SAMRA (Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association) to spread the word about the public consultation being undertaken by EirGrid on improving access to renewable energy supplies.

In **Portobello, Harold's Cross, Terenure** and across Dublin Bay South, I have been working with local residents to improve amenities in our parks and to secure enhanced sporting and recreational facilities for children.

I am working with the Council, the ESB and other stakeholders to increase the number of EV charge points across the city, particularly in areas with no access to off street parking – I will continue to work on this, and to campaign on other environmental issues locally and nationally.



Joining with Neurodiversity Irishtown, Ringsend and Pearse Street for World Autism Day.

## HOUSING

Housing is the biggest domestic issue facing the current government. With over 11,700 people homeless, they have presided over a catastrophic failure to address the chronic shortage of affordable homes; a failure exacerbated by the lifting of the temporary no-fault eviction ban on 1 April.

Although the government won the vote on Labour's no confidence Dáil motion, they have still not provided any clarity on the measures in place to keep families out of homelessness, nor on how they are going to deliver the houses that our communities badly need. At our recent Labour Conference, I set out a ten-year plan to deliver

1,000,000 homes; to build 50,000 new houses and to refurbish 50,000 derelict, vacant, unaffordable, or unliveable dwellings. This ambitious target is based on the government's own projections as to what is necessary if we are to resolve the housing crisis. We will keep striving constructively to address the housing crisis.

*If you or your household are affected by the lifting of the eviction ban or if you require assistance with your housing needs, please do not hesitate to contact my office, or Threshold ([www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)) or the Free Legal Advice Centres ([www.flac.ie](http://www.flac.ie)).*

## WORKING LOCALLY WITH



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**For more information on Labour**

