MARIE SHERLOCK T.D.

Fighting for a Fairer Dublin



Dublin Central

Autumn Newsletter 2026

WE DEMAND PERMANENT CUTS TO HEATING COSTS AND COMMUTING PRICES

Higher energy prices are here to stay. Temporary reliefs are important but they don't fix the underlying problem. It is possible to make the cost of living permanently cheaper- but only with real State investment.

We want the State to start funding street-by-street retrofitting starting with solar panel installation. Too few households can afford to take up the grants. The SEAI underspent by 20% last year. This is about taking real climate action and permanently cutting the cost of living for the many, not the few.

We need investment into more buses, lower fares, safe cycling and to get Dart+ South West off the ground for Cabra and Glasnevin now, not in 2030.

Almost €3bn has already been spent on much needed temporary energy supports between 2022-2025. Temporary excise tax cuts introduced earlier this year are now running at €100m per month. Yet commuters are facing a 15% hike from October - it is disgraceful. A different way is possible.



*I am proud to support Dublin Bus' **More Mná** campaign to recruit more women into Dublin Bus.*

Just 8% of drivers are women and driving a bus looks much more daunting than it actually is.

If you are looking for decently paid work, part time or full time, then check out www.dublinbus.ie/careers



Dublin needs a better waste collection system

There has been uproar at DCC's plan to end the use of bin bags in certain areas.

The prospect of lots of wheelie bins left on our streets and a dramatic increase in costs brought hundreds from across Dublin 7 to our public meeting in Stoneybatter and to our rally at City Hall.

The Council responded to our protest with a consultation. We need to see a real response to the depth of frustration in our communities.

The reality is that we have a dysfunctional system of waste collection. We have a chronic issue of illegal dumping and a serious under-investment in recycling and composting and civic amenity sites, yet some companies make serious profit.

In July, I brought forward my Waste Management Bill in the Dáil to provide for a single waste operator and for landlord responsibility. The Government is opposed to our legislation, but we will continue the fight.

To get regular updates.

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Labour

Reimagining the GPO- it should become a creative, cultural hub



Marie with OPW Chair John Conlon and State Architect Conor Sreenan in the GPO's Telegraph Room which will become a performance space.

The OPW will soon open a year long consultation on the long-term future of the GPO.

At over 25,000 sq. metres, I believe there is enormous potential to retain the post office, open up the courtyards and turn most of the office space into a creative hub of artists' studios and performance spaces.

I have been very concerned that the GPO, which is at the heart of our national story, will become just another OPW office block. A building of its status deserves so much more.

For the next three years, 5000 sq. m will be used for meanwhile use - just under a third to offices and two thirds to cultural use.

Council's new dereliction strategy -sell off rather than renovate derelict properties



After spending €700,000 to compulsorily purchase 19 & 21 Connaught Street, DCC have decided not to rebuild but to try sell the houses on. The same will apply for 8 & 10 Ferguson Road in Drumcondra.

This is DCC's last-ditch attempt to have these houses redeveloped. It is deeply frustrating that it has come to this. It's an appalling indictment of how dereliction has been dealt with in the city.

According to An Post Geodirectory, there are 1,494 long term vacant properties within Dublin Central. Yet only 40 are on DCC's derelict site register. With the right political will, these houses could be homes.

BusConnects & Metrolink works edging closer to a start

Ballymun to City Centre BusConnects: Works are due to commence on the Phibsborough Road. Finglas Road, Mobhi Road and down to Church St. in Q4 2026 and will last for two years to end 2028.

Metrolink: This could well come in at an eyewatering price of well beyond €17.5bn. But deferring it is not an option. Our communities and our city need an underground Metro. I'm working with a number of residents most affected to get the best deal for them.

Blanchardstown to City Centre BusConnects: This is still being held up because of the judicial review. However, even if approval is given, I understand from DCC that works are not likely to start for many years due to the scale of works happening close by in Phibsborough.

Lots of cranes in the sky but very few homes for purchase

In 2025, some **1936 homes** were completed across the North Inner city and Cabra-Glasnevin areas.* Aside from two very small developments in Glasnevin and Drumcondra, our research suggests no other home came onto the open market for purchase. Montpelier (the old O Devaney Gardens) was the only source of affordable purchase with the remainder going to the private rented sector or social housing. With over 3000 people on the housing waiting list, we desperately need more social housing.

But with average rents rocketing to almost €2,500, we also desperately need more homes for affordable purchase. In May this year, plans to develop homes for affordable purchase on Bannow Road in Cabra had to be abandoned because of the way the State funds it. We have to ensure people can buy affordable homes.

*source: CSO commencements data



Campaign for Special School in Dublin 1

We had a really positive meeting between Minister for Special Education Michael Moynihan and the Principals of 11 school in the North Inner City. This comes after our petition with Dublin Central Equality in Education got huge support and parents and teachers joined our public meeting earlier this year. We will keep up the fight for a special school in Dublin 1.

Health prevention must be better funded. The shingles vaccine must be made free for older people.

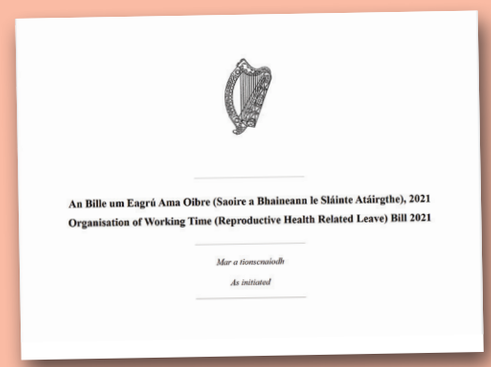
Many people simply cannot afford the average cost of €480 for the vaccine. Crucially we are becoming aware of the really positive impact of the vaccine. The evidence is become increasingly clearer of the links between shingles, stroke and dementia.

The cost of providing it free to over 65s would be €44m per year*. That is a tiny fraction of the health budget for something that can reduce hospitalisation, long term rehab needs and poor health outcomes.

Our older population will grow by a third over the next ten years. We need to protect them and invest to contain enormous increases in health costs. The State must start investing much more in preventative healthcare.

*Over a five-year period.





An Bille um Eagrú Ama Oibre (Saoire a Bhaineann le Sláinte Atáirgthe), 2021
Organisation of Working Time (Reproductive Health Related Leave) Bill 2021

Mar a tionscnaíodh
As initiated

Some progress on our miscarriage & fertility treatment leave legislation

It is five long years since we launched our bill, and it passed all stages in the Seanad and second stage in the Dáil. In September, our bill was before the Joint Oireachtas committee on Enterprise, Tourism and Employment and we hope to see it progress to the next stage.

E-Scooter injuries in children: this is a public health crisis

One to two children are hospitalised with e-scooter injuries, every single day. The number of traumatic brain injuries from an e-scooter crash are up 50% in a single year.

This is literally a life-or-death public health issue and requiring high viz clothing simply won't cut it.

We want ***a system of registration of all escooters***, much greater ***targeting of importers in terms of speed controls, education in our classrooms*** about the dangers and a significant ***step up in the policing of dangerous ebike and scrambler use*** with the deployment of drone detection and pursuit training.

Serious inequality in accessing healthcare in our communities

Winter is coming, our hospitals are already having to deal with a serious increase in demand throughout the year and the lack of timely access to a GP in many communities means people end up turning up to A&E's. Government needs to seriously invest in GP and primary care to treat more people in the community.

In Dublin Central, we have a shocking disparity in access to GP care.

In the North Inner City in Dublin there is only one GP to every 3,525 people and in the wider Cabra area, there is one GP to every 3060, well over the national average of 1 to 1759 people.

People should not have to wait days or weeks to get an appointment. We know that people go to the Mater because they can't access nor afford a GP visit. We will continue to fight this inequality facing the people of Dublin Central.



In June, perfusionists in the Mater hospital and across the country had to go on strike to force the HSE to make good on a labour court recommendation.

We stand with all public sector workers who are now being forced into industrial action because of Government failure to start public sector pay talks.

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Páirtí an Lucht Oibre



Big thanks to the coaches and kids in Corinthians boxing club for showing me the ropes!

HELP US HIGHLIGHT THE MAJOR CHILDCARE SHORTAGE IN DUBLIN CENTRAL

Locally we have a perfect storm; a real shortage of places, early years workers struggling to afford to stay in the job they love, and small local providers struggling to keep their doors open.

An estimated 46,000 children under three are on waiting lists for a childcare place across Ireland - some 13,500 of those are in Dublin.

Please fill in the survey through the QR code to tell us your experience. Two years ago, one in every three surveyed parents told us they were waiting 12 months or more to find a childcare space for their child. We believe this is getting worse, not better.

Click on link to complete survey

If you have an issue please get in touch.

In the community:

Every Friday, we will be knocking on doors in different parts of the constituency so keep an eye out for us!

Walk in Clinics:

Last Monday of every month

Ballybough: Community Centre, 12 midday.
East Wall: Sean O' Casey Community Centre, 1.15p.m.
Stoneybatter: Holy Family Parish Centre, Prussia Street, 3 p.m.
Cabra: Deaf Village, Ratoath Road, 4.15p.m.

Contact us!

The fastest way is to ring my office **01 6184564**

or email **marie@mariesherlock.ie**

To get regular updates on what is happening across our communities or to join my newsletter, click on the QR code.



Huge credit to all those involved in running the Barbara Ward Clonliffe & Croke Park Community Centre in Distillery Road, Dublin 3. From mother and baby groups to gatherings for senior citizens, there are classes and activities for all ages there. Ruth and I were delighted to join Nora, Anna and Bernie for a women's event there.



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