

MARIE SHERLOCK T.D.

Fighting for a Fairer Dublin



Dublin Central
Spring Newsletter 2026

Critical care urgently needed



On International Women's Day, we were proud to stand with the staff and families at a Rally for the Rotunda and call for improved maternity facilities. It is 20 years since we have seen serious investment into any maternity service across the country.

Staff at the Rotunda achieve incredible outcomes for the sickest of babies but we are all clear - a new critical care wing is long overdue.

Crazily, the Dept. of Health's own actions contributed to that delay. Last year, it failed to confirm an old plan to relocate the Rotunda to Blanchardstown was now defunct. An Coimisiún Pleanála then rejected planning. Now after intense pressure, Government has belatedly made clear the Rotunda's future is in Dublin 1. We hope to see a new planning application soon.

Read inside for local news on schools, housing, public transport & water quality

A chara,

Our country has **never been wealthier and yet feels so vulnerable** - in the cost of living and in the defence of our seas and skies.

Almost 4,000 children are growing up homeless in this city. Energy and grocery bills are soaring again and almost half a million households were in arrears on their gas and electricity bills at the end of December.

Day to day Government spending has risen dramatically in recent years but far too few are benefiting from it.

For us, *it's not what you spend, but how you spend it.* **There is another way** - street by street retrofitting of homes, building housing on state land, and making buildings available for childcare, for GPs, for the arts.

Le meas,

Marie

Marie Sherlock T.D.

Labour party spokesperson on Health

No homes to buy, extortionate rents & soaring evictions. We have to change course.

Last year the State bought up €2.7bn in privately built homes originally intended to be sold or rented on the private market.

The State built only 340 homes at a fraction for what they had to pay for turnkey homes.

Here in Dublin Central, 33 acres intended for public housing by the Land Development Agency remains idle. That must change.

In recent weeks, we have seen a harrowing number of notices to quit - most people have nowhere to go. The recent rent law changes have unleashed havoc.

And the bitter irony is that people will be condemned to even higher rents in the future.



To get regular updates.

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Labour

BusConnects, Metrolink, Dart West, Eirgrid's "Powering up Dublin" - it's all happening over the next two years

Investment into public transport is long overdue in our city. There are lots of concern about the traffic disruption and I am pushing for coordination between all the projects.

Metrolink Enabling works for the overall scheme are due to commence Q2 2027. **Glasnevin station** at Cross Guns Bridge is the largest of all the stations.

A voluntary purchase scheme will be published soon by Metrolink for homes seriously impacted by the construction. It is crucial that residents get a decent deal similar to those south of the city.

Dart+ West Works to start at end 2026 on the electrification of the Maynooth and M3 Parkway line. Noise & vibration barriers will be erected at certain locations in **North Strand and Drumcondra**. Completion due 2029.

Dart+ South West It's disgraceful that this is being delayed to after 2030. The railway order is already in place, the compulsory purchase order of residents' properties will go ahead soon but no funding has been committed to the rail link which will connect **Connolly, Heuston, Hazelhatch and the Limerick/Cork line**.

Cabra Train Station will go to planning soon but there is no funding in place to build it until after 2030.

Bus Connects - Ballymun/Finglas works to commence end of 2026 with general traffic restrictions on **Mobhi Road, Old Ballymun Road and a new underpass in Phibsborough**.

To see the detail and timeline of the changes check out www.mariesherlock.ie or ballymunscheme.ie

Eirgrid's "Powering Up Dublin"

High voltage underground cables will soon be replaced under Finglas Road, Whitworth Road, North Strand and North Wall. A new 220 kV/110 kV Gas Insulated Substation is expected to start construction in 2028.

Support for our Youth Services



Thank you to those who run Ballybough Youth Service and Ballybough Afterschool Service. Every week day, fantastic work is being done on the ground with children and young people by these services and many other services across our communities. But we know that youth services need so much more investment to deal with the level of need and demand that is out there.



High lead levels and water quality concerns

Last year, local water studies found high levels of lead in the water supply to homes in parts of Phibsborough. There is no safe lead level and it is particularly dangerous for young children. Most of Dublin's water mains were laid in the 1860's and are cast iron pipes. Uisce Éireann has been replacing the service connections - the pipes that connect the mains to a home, but the pace of progress has been way behind their 2026 deadline for completion.

Uisce Éireann commenced a pilot at the start of 2026, testing the water quality in homes in Phibsborough, Drumcondra and North Wall.

We need to see a serious stepping up of Uisce Éireann's lead pipe replacement programme across the city and it is vital that there is an overhaul of the city council grant to help people replace the pipes in their own home.

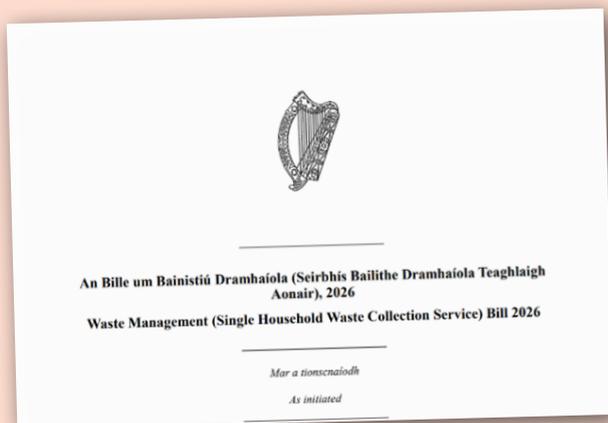


To see advice on how to test the water in your own home and the measures you can take to reduce it, please use the QR code.

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Páirtí an
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My Waste Management Bill



I was proud to introduce my Waste Management Bill to the Dáil which would overhaul waste collection services for a more liveable city.

The legislation would change who collects waste, how it is collected and who holds the bin contract.

- 1 Make landlords responsible for ensuring their tenants have a waste collection contract in place.
- 2 Provide for a single provider to deal with all waste collection, illegal dumping and recycling in the city.



A disastrous tale of dereliction

19 and 21 Connaught Street

- 2009: Went on the derelict site register
- 2012: Taken off after some minor works
- 2018: Went back on the register
- 2019: Council CPO'd the houses
- 2023: Planning permission granted to renovate
- 2026: Council abandons plans due to cost.

This photo was taken 4 years ago and still no progress.

Government stopped funding for these renovations last year leaving these houses, 8 & 10 Ferguson Road, Drumcondra and others in the lurch. Sale to private developers looks most likely now. We need a major overhaul of how dereliction is dealt with in the city.



Loss of The Complex is a big blow to the city

I am devastated that The Complex has closed and send my solidarity to all artists impacted. It is truly galling that this important arts multidisciplinary centre could have been saved if the political will had been there from Government.

I am currently trying to push for the promised Arts campus in Dublin Port. There was great momentum on this up to 2024 but that appears now to be gone.

Special Class & School Building Update

Six new primary AS classes & two new secondary AS classes for the area. There must be no repeat of last year's awful experience where children were forced to stay at home and languish for months waiting for the rooms to be ready.

Congratulations on the new School Building Plans:

- St. Laurence O'Toole Specialist School, D1 – new school building.
- St. Paul's CBS – The Brunner: new extension for SEN classrooms.

We are very disappointed that Scoil Chaitríona, Clonturk, and Gaelscoil Áine did not get approval; we will keep fighting. There is no progress on Gaelscoil Choláiste Mhuire.

East Wall's Charlie O'Leary



It was such a privilege to meet Charlie O' Leary (102) at the premiere of the film about him at the Dublin International Film Festival. He's best known as the kitman to the legendary Irish football team under Jack Charlton, but Charlie has the rare position of contributing hugely to grassroots football and assisting on the international stage.

He established the East Wall street leagues in 1945 and went onto referee nationally and internationally.

Huge credit to Fergus Dowd and Joe Lee for this gorgeous film.

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We have the most diverse community in the country and our city is all the better for it. One in four of our health workers in our hospitals and in the community are migrant workers and in so many sectors, migrant workers make a huge contribution alongside Irish born workers, day in, day out.

Our city has enormous challenges but the Government is left off the hook when workers turn on each other. Racism and intimidation have no place in our communities - if we are to have any hope of overcoming the problems in our city, we have to work together.

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.

Housing + Amenities = Community

Every day we deal with the soul destroying reality of our housing crisis and we desperately need more homes. But it's not acceptable to simply bulldoze an existing, vital playing space like the Strand Pitch off Portland row and not have a credible alternative in place. Meanwhile we have an empty field around the corner on Dunne Street, oftentimes with a horse grazing on it and the Council has no plan for it.



Pictured with Kellie Harrington, David O'Halloran and MEP Aodhán Ó Ríordáin at the Strand pitch.

Solidarity with SNAs



Great to meet the SNAs and teachers of D7ET at the recent SNA protest and huge credit to the organisers of the campaign. For most schools in the area, we have a very real need for more SNAs and more special education teachers. Too many schools locally have been left short- this goes against everything we believe in, in ensuring all children can access the school system.



The world's eyes seem to have moved from Gaza – but we must keep our focus. Gaza is still being bombed and the people there are still without adequate food, medical supplies and treatment.

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