



The **Independent Team**



Damian O'Farrell Cllr

Finian McGrath T.D.

FAIRVIEW PARK 'PLAYGROUND' UPDATE

Dear Resident,

I am writing to give you an update on the restoration works to Fairview Park as a result of the Tunnel Works.

As a local resident it was always my understanding that the park and the playground would be restored immediately after the tunnel opened. However due to lack of funding for an immediate full restoration of the park as promised, it appears that during the period of the last Dublin City Council (Jun '04 to Jun '09) it was decided that the building of a pavilion (dressing rooms) would be the priority in Fairview Park. Work has just begun on the pavilion project (costing 1.7mil) with an expected completion date of summer / autumn 2010. (I am currently awaiting answers to financial questions regarding National Roads Authority funding received and spent).

The explanation given as to why a pavilion (mainly for soccer clubs outside our area) was given priority over a playground (for residents of Fairview, Marino and surrounding areas) is that Dublin City Council (DCC) received stronger representation at the time for a pavilion rather than a playground. I understand the representation they received for a pavilion came mainly from Councillors and soccer clubs in East Wall, Sheriff St and North Strand. Those Councillors like the soccer clubs are outside the area of DCC that has responsibility for the park. It is the Councillors in our area (elected Jun '04 to Jun '09) that would have had the final say as to the prioritisation of the Pavilion.

Since being elected as a representative myself in June'09, I have strongly argued that the restoration of the playground should come before the building of a pavilion and that the current temporary playground is totally unacceptable. I have asked questions, tabled motions and included the subject of the playground restoration in every single DCC Area meeting. I have bitterly complained to DCC and put it on public record that it was the people of Fairview / Marino who were most affected by the building of the tunnel and that we have been let down. Our area has received virtually nothing in terms of DCC capital for leisure projects as a result of the Celtic Tiger years compared to surrounding areas.

I have been assured that its DCC's intention to begin the building of a state of the art 'showpiece' playground in our park sometime during 2010. Please be assured that I will continue to fight on our behalf to ensure that this actually happens.

Kind Regards,

Damian O'Farrell
Independent Councillor

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