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ISSUE NO. 121

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Educate Together targets second Kellystown school

The refusal of the Minister for Education, Batt O'Keeffe TD to facilitate the establishment of the proposed Carpenters-

town Educate Together school has been criticised by local Labour Party TD, Joan Burton.

In July Deputy Burton

wrote to the Minister asking him "to give consideration to the sanction of Carpenters-town Educate Together for September 2009 in temporary accommodation at this [Kellystown] site, jointly with Scoil Choilm for a time if necessary, or at other suitable temporary accommodation until such time as permanent accommodation can be secured."

Last week the Minister replied that following an appeal by an appeals committee in his department, "the proposed new Carpenters-town Educate Together School will not be granted provisional recognition in 2008." However he does hold out a glimmer of hope, pointing out that this decision "does not preclude a future application being approved."

However one of the stumbling blocks to the Educate Together proposals was the lack of accommodation and the school's start up committee had proposed ini-

tially sharing accommodation with the new Scoil Choilm community national school on the Kellystown site.

This was reiterated by Deputy Burton but has been ruled out by the Minister who says "the Department cannot guarantee that further accommodation can be provided on this site from September 2009, therefore it would not be prudent to compromise the ability of Scoil Choilm to continue its enrolment expansion by establishing a second school in the building."

Deputy Burton has slammed the Minister's "intransigence" saying he and his predecessors have been frustrating this application by "throwing up road-block after road-block. The idea that there are not enough children in the area to support both schools is ridiculous given the level of pre-enrolment at Carpenterstown Educate Together," she said.

However despite the set-

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Hazelbury mothers show their skills in the sack race. See story on page 5

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