

DELIVERED FREE TO 31,000 HOMES IN DUBLIN 15

COMMUNITY VOICE

EVERY FORTNIGHT

18TH SEPT - 1ST OCT 2009

ISSUE NO. 143

DUBLIN 15'S ONLY FREE! NEWSPAPER

€26m for six school sites

The unbelievable extent of the property bubble of the past few years has been revealed in a Freedom of Information reply given to local Labour Party TD Joan Burton.

Earlier this year, Deputy Burton sought specific information on the cost of the sites

purchased by or on behalf of the Department of Education for the provision of school sites in the area. The response of the department indicates that, since 2002, school sites totalling 20.4 acres have been acquired for a total of nearly €26m or almost €1.27m per acre.

The sites were purchased for the building of five national schools - St. Patrick's, Diswellstown, Castaheany Educate Together; St. Benedict's, Ongar; Scoil Ghráinne, Phibblestown and Mary Mother of Hope junior and senior schools in Littlepace. The lands acquired also included the site for the new community college, Coláiste Pobail Setanta in Phibblestown.

The figures do not include the cost of the Kellystown lands for Scoil Choilm and the new Luttrellstown Community College.

The most expensive of the school sites was the six acres of land in Ongar which cost almost €11m.

Commenting on the revelation of this expenditure, Deputy Burton said she was "bowled over at the mountain of money that property tycoons have been able to extract from the Government for Dublin 15 school sites in recent years. Property developers have been facilitated with gratuitous rezoning decisions which boosted the value of their land banks overnight without any social return for local communities," she claimed.

Originally these lands were zoned for agricultural use but following decisions of county councillors they were rezoned for residential use. This massively increased the value of the land and it was based on these inflated prices that the school sites were then sold by the developers.

According to Deputy Burton "some of these same property tycoons often drive such a hard bargain that schools are both delayed and far more expensive than would otherwise have been the case. In my view, re-zoning decisions should be conditional on the transfer of suitable sites for schools and other local amenities to the Council or the relevant government authority at its original agricultural value, if not for free.

"There seems to have been a total lack of joined up thinking when it comes to planning. It's obvious that if you give planning permission for several thousand new homes you are going to need new primary schools a few years later and then a secondary school a few years later," she said.

aptACCOUNTING

ACCOUNTING - PAYROLL - TAXATION

main street, blanchardstown, dublin 15

INCOME TAX RETURNS

DEADLINE OCTOBER 31ST

FREE CONSULTATION

Sole Traders • SMEs • Subcontractors • Professionals

Tel: 801 3806 email: info@aptaccounting.net



Winners of the recent fancy dress at the Saddlers Estate Family Day where children had to dress as flowers or trees are (L-R): Hayley Casey-Comi (7) and Hannab Redmond (8) (See story on page 8)



Joan Burton TD

- ★ Keep Ireland at the heart of Europe
- ★ Support economic recovery
- ★ A more democratic Europe

Yes to Lisbon

joanburton.ie



SEPTEMBER SPECIAL
2 course dinner for two
 (with tea/coffee)
 + Bottle of Wine
 Mon - Sun
ONLY €45
la terrazza
 Superquinn Shopping Centre
 Blanchardstown Village
 Tel. 826 26 69

Declan Waters
Total Autocare Centre



- Spray painting
- Panel beating
- Servicing

DISCOUNT WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD

Unit 5, Birch House
 Rosemount Business Park, Dublin 15
 Tel. 01 885 3392
 Email: dwjobs@hotmail.com
 www.crashrepairsdublin.com