

# Cllr. MARIE BAKER

## WINTER 2009 Newsletter

FINE GAEL 

## Thank you

As this is my first newsletter since my re-election to the Council I firstly want to say a very heartfelt "thank you" to those who voted for me. I was delighted to be re-elected on the first count and I will do my best to represent all the people of this area in the Council for the next five years.

Politics can be a cruel business and sometimes swings against a party at national level can cause good people to lose their seats locally. I worked closely with Barry Conway of FF on the Council for the last five years and he was an able colleague who always put this area before party politics. I wish him well for the future.

Fine Gael remains the largest party on the Council with 11 seats out of 28. The Labour Party has 8 seats, while Fianna Fail has 4 seats. All 4 Green party councillors lost their seats.



Marie with George Lee T.D. on her re-election

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## CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNCIL



Marie as Cathaoirleach of the Council

In June it was a great honour for me to be elected unanimously as Cathaoirleach (Mayor) of the Council for a year. This has meant a lot of hard work attending various events in the Council area that stretches from Booterstown to Shankill and Dundrum to Glencullen. However I am delighted for the opportunity to do what I can to support the various groups of people that are doing great work to strengthen their local communities. These groups often get little recognition but without them our society would be poorer.

The coming years will be economically very challenging for us all at a personal level. It will also be challenging for the Council. Last year the Government cut central funding by 6% and I expect 2010 will be worse. This inevitably has an effect on the services the Council provides.

On my election as Cathaoirleach I stressed to my colleagues the importance of all Councillors, regardless of political persuasion, working together for the betterment of the County in these difficult times.

In particular it will be interesting to see how our two new Council members from the Socialist Workers Party (Cllrs. Boyd-Barrett and Lewis) reconcile their "revolutionary socialist views" with our new economic challenges.

**YOUR LOCAL FINE GAEL TEAM CLLR. MARIE BAKER, SEAN BARRETT TD, SEN. EUGENE REGAN AND CLLR. BARRY WARD**

**FINE GAEL** 



Marie opening the playground at Booterstown.



Marie opening the playground at Carysfort.

## NEW PLAYGROUNDS

It was a great honour for me recently to officially open three new playgrounds in this area at Blackrock Park, Carysfort Park and Springhill/Mount Albany. These new facilities are part of the Council's ongoing playground construction programme which has seen the development of 15 new play facilities since 2003. This is in addition to the refurbishment of six existing playgrounds. These were funded by development levies which the Council has set aside specifically to provide children with play opportunities close to their own neighbourhood. A major new playground will open in Marlay Park before Christmas.

## BLACKROCK

The **Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee** (which I chair) made some good progress during the year in the National Tidy Towns Competition and this was acknowledged by the adjudicators. There is still lots more work to do and help is always welcome. As part of the Dublin Regional Awards we won an "endeavour" award.

I believe that a major rejuvenation of the paving in **Main St. in Blackrock** is required and I have been working to achieve this at Council level. I will keep up the pressure until this is achieved.

In previous newsletters I had detailed the delays in refurbishing the **Town Hall** due to Government reneging on a previous commitment to house the VEC at this location. However I am now happy to report that the V.E.C. has been given permission to go ahead and seek tenders for the works. Action is badly needed to save this beautiful building which could be a great asset to the streetscape of Blackrock.

Progress on the **Carysfort/Maretimo stream project** has been too slow. Part of the delay has been due to a Government direction to change the format of tenders for jobs like this. I continue to make sure momentum is kept up on this for the sake of local residents, who yet again this year were affected by flooding.

## DUN LAOGHAIRE

The covering in of the **railway line at the Pavilion** in Dun Laoghaire is very welcome and was driven forward by the County Manager. It is now intended to extend this area as far as the Christ the King Statue.



Marie opening the playground at Springhill.

The Council sponsored work to restore the bandstand on the **pier** in addition to the work by the Harbour Board on the paving and the opening up of the Battery at the end of the pier have enhanced this area.

The public consultation period has ended in connection with the proposed new **Central Library and Cultural Centre at Moran Park**. The intention is to include a children's library, a teenager's library, a reference area, modern IT facilities, art gallery, cultural centre and meeting rooms.

Rather than sending Christmas cards to my constituents I will be making a charitable contribution to the Blackrock Hospice. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

