



The Local Elections June 2004

Your Candidate Vote No. 1

Wendy Hederman

Putting Dublin 1st

Pembroke Constituency

Ballsbridge • Donnybrook • Merrion • Milltown • Sandymount

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For more information on any issue in this newsletter or any other concerns you may have please contact the local Constituency Office:

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Who is holding the telescope?

In 1812, the King of England sent a man with his telescope down to the cliffs of Dover and a bell to ring if he saw Napoleon sailing across the Channel to invade England. Napoleon never came, the bell was never rung, but the job continued until abolished in 1947.

Dublin City Council has 6,000 employees and a budget of €650 million. Public authorities across Ireland have a total expenditure in excess of 6 BILLION euro. That is big business by any standards.

Who ensures that it delivers value for money, to its customers – that's YOU and ME, and to its financiers – that's YOU and ME.

The Service Indicators announced by the Minister for the Environment earlier this year will report on how and what services are being provided – but they don't tell us if the services are being provided efficiently or cost effectively.

The changeover by local authorities to modern financial management systems most but not all completed by end 2003, will allow local authorities better manage and report on their budgets and maybe even eventually know how much they are owed on their housing loan accounts

But none of the above requires the local authority to report on, or even to assess:

- Value for money
- Productivity levels
- Expenditure per head of population (in the local authority area)
- Staff numbers Vs the services provided

The Progressive Democrats have consistently exposed wasteful public expenditure.

The Progressive Democrats believe local authorities should serve the public, not the local authority.

The Progressive Democrats will, once elected to Dublin City Council, find out which of the 6,000 staff is still holding the telescope.

Clean up the mess!

Dog dirt on footpaths and in public areas such as parks and Sandymount strand is both annoying and a health hazard. Our children cannot play safely where dogs are left to 'do their business'.

I see this as an issue of personal and civic responsibility by dog owners, supported by the Council providing 'disposal' facilities i.e. bins and sandpits, and law enforcement.

Allowing your dog to foul the footpath is an offence under the litter laws, but the laws are not being enforced. The figures supplied by Dublin City Council show that 20 fulltime litter wardens have issued only 33 fines for dog fouling since 2000. Of these only 20 fines have been paid and only 3 prosecutions have been brought.

Year	Fines issued	Fines paid	Prosecutions
2000	3	3	0
2001	9	5	0
2002	11	7	0
2003	10	5	3

Do these figures reflect the level of the problem? No, they reflect almost total lack of attention by Dublin City Council, given the amount of dog dirt found on all our pathways.

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997 requires that, where a dog fouls a public place i.e. a street, road, path, etc. the person in charge of the dog shall immediately remove the dog dirt and dispose of it in a hygienic manner.

Failure to clean up your dog's waste can lead to a €125 "on-the-spot" fine. Failure to pay this fine can lead to prosecution with a maximum fine of €1,900 if convicted.

Forms for reporting offenders can be downloaded from www.dublincity.ie or by calling 01-6723141.

We can all make a difference to this issue.

I will be looking for a more serious effort by Dublin City Council to tackle the problem by providing the facilities needed and enforcing the law.

Using our Laneways for the Community

Laneways of mews houses are a feature of the Ballsbridge and Donnybrook areas, where elegant terraces of red-brick houses were built with coach-houses to the rear. These laneways are now home to many families and older residents.

However, the laneways are suffering from the amount of motor vehicles driving along them each day, and from the speed at which the cars travel despite the narrowness of the lane. I believe the lanes are unsuitable for this traffic as they were neither designed nor built for this purpose.

Residents have expressed serious safety concerns, given that houses open directly on to the lanes and in most cases there are no footpaths where children or buggies can take refuge. I myself lived for some time off Waterloo Lane and regularly walk down that lane with my children and buggy. It is frightening to experience

the speed of the cars driving up the narrow lane, especially at evening rush-hour when the drivers are determined to beat the traffic by rat-running on the lanes.

One solution is ramps, but I think they are unsightly and create their own dangers. In recent weeks, residents have expressed to me their support for:

- making laneways as "Local access only for cars" and part of the city's cycleways
- setting a speed limited of 20 kms per hour on the lanes.

I am strongly in favour of more cycleways in the Pembroke area, away from the busy main routes full of cars, buses and trucks, where children and adults can make their way safely to school and work. Using the network of laneways for cyclists instead of commuter cars would greatly increase the number of cycleways in the area, in addition to and in preference to the cycleways shared with buses.

It is an excellent and opportune time to consider reducing the speed limit, as Minister Brennan has committed to changing all speed limits from miles/hours to kilometres/hour by the end of 2004. Dublin City Council and other local authorities will be required to review the speed limits in its area. The application of particular speed limits at specific locations are matters for the elected members of the major local authorities.

I can find no evidence of any work on reviewing speed limits having been done to date. If elected to represent the Pembroke area, I would seek changes to speed limits as favoured by a majority of residents in the area. Please let me know if you are in favour of a reduction of the speed limits to 20 km/hour (or other limit), and of priority being given on the lanes to pedestrians, cyclists and local traffic.

Are you in favour or against the proposed QBC on the Merrion Road? The plans can be viewed in Pembroke Library, Ballsbridge or on Dublin City Council's website www.dublincity.ie. Please email me you view at info@wendyhederman.ie.

The PDs are making a real difference nationally...

Keeping income tax low

In government, the PDs have reduced income tax rates from 26% to 20% and from 48% to 42%. Tax rate cuts when others were in power were minuscule and unremembered.

Fostering job creation

Since the PDs entered government in 1997, over 400,000 jobs have been created. Even during the recent downturn, unemployment didn't exceed 5%.

Reducing late-night public order offences

Since the passing of the Intoxicating Liquor Act, there has been a drop in the late night public order offences. The most recent figures show a drop of 26% in the number of assaults.

Reducing insurance costs

Reducing insurance costs - the Personal Injuries Assessment Board is already reducing insurance costs. The Civil Liability & Courts Bill will - by penalising false claims - put further pressure on costs.

Attacking high taxes and the causes of high taxes

High taxes result from high spending. Justice Minister Michael McDowell is fighting spending by reforming our prisons and our system of Tribunals.

Confronting IRA crime

When we voted for the Good Friday Agreement we also voted for an end to IRA crime and gun-running. This hasn't happened. The PDs have consistently confronted the IRA and Sinn Féin on this.



Michael McDowell, T.D. Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

The Role of Local Government

Just what is the role of Dublin City Council and of the other local authorities around Ireland? Local authorities are charged with providing an extensive range of services which break down into eight broad categories:

- **Road transport** – local authorities should maintain and upkeep roads and public lighting.
- **Water supply and sewerage** – local authorities operate the public water supply and sewerage schemes.
- **Development and controls** – local authorities prepare local development plans. They decide on applications for planning permission.
- **Environmental protection** – local authorities prepare air and water quality and waste management plans. They collect and dispose of our waste. They clean our streets.
- **Recreation** – local authorities operate and maintain parks, libraries, swimming pools etc.
- **Education, health and welfare** – local authorities arrange for the payment of higher education grants and make contribution to Vocational Educational Committees.
- **Housing** – local authorities should provide housing for those who cannot provide housing for themselves. Local authorities also enforce housing standards and arrange for the registration of the private rented sector.

- **Miscellaneous** – local authorities arrange for rate collection, the holding of elections, dog control etc.

The Role of Councillors and Management. The functions of local authorities are divided into:

- **Functions reserved to Councillors** – these functions are reserved to the elected councillors. They include decisions on important matters of policy and finance such as the adoption of the annual budget and of the local area development plan.
- **Executive (management) functions** – managers and officials discharge day to day running of local authorities.
- **Representational functions** – councillors represent their electorate over a wide range of issues which can go beyond local government.
- **New functions** – Michael McDowell has aimed to reverse the trend of taking powers from local authorities. Under the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2003, he gave local authorities the power to set policy on closing time for places of entertainment. Under the Garda Síochána Bill (currently before the Oireachtas), it is proposed that local authorities and their members will be given a formal role in the preparation of local policing plans.

Did you know?

There are **52** councillors in Dublin City Council and **not one** Progressive Democrat!

Something smells!

We all remember the new Dublin Bay waste treatment plant being opened in May 2003. When this plant was officially opened last May, we were told it was the most modern in the world. Our then Lord Mayor, Dermot Lacey, went for a swim in the new cleaner Dublin Bay. Did he know that the plant wasn't yet commissioned? Well it wasn't, and it still isn't!

Throughout last summer it gave off a foul smell which disappeared over the winter. Not only is the smell back, but the plant is also discharging treated sewage into Dublin Bay!

I contacted Dublin City Council management last week to find out what is being done about it. I was told that the plant is not yet commissioned (10 months after its official opening!) so the Council claims it has no responsibility for it. I have been told to contact the operator, Celtic Anglian, who is upgrading the plant to stop these smells being released. If you want to report

offensive smells or make other representations regarding the plant, you can get in touch with Celtic Anglian as follows:

Tel: (01) 6185800

**Email: info@caw.ie
(and copy to info@wendyhederman.ie)**

Last summer the Council denied there was a problem with the plant and dismissed residents' concerns. Our local representatives were just as ineffective. John Gormley said last May, "The Green Party played an important role on Dublin City Council in shaping policy regarding the Dublin City Bay Project". Today he's asking "Who exactly is taking responsibility for this fiasco?" One thing is clear, whoever is taking responsibility for this, it's not the Greens.

If elected to Dublin City Council, I will work to change the attitude to Dublin's citizens from one of indifference to one of customer centred service.

The PDs are making a real difference locally...

Protecting Lansdowne Road

The Progressive Democrats were instrumental in preserving Lansdowne Road as a major national sports centre here in Dublin City. But for the PDs, international soccer and rugby matches would have been moved out of the City and out of Dublin South-East.

Giving local authorities a role in policing

Under the Garda Síochána Bill, Dublin City Council will be given a formal role in the preparation of local area policing plans so that the Gardai will become even more responsive to people's needs.

Deregulating taxis

The Progressive Democrats were critical in securing the deregulation of Dublin's taxi market. As a result, Dublin City now has more taxi-drivers, more taxis and better service.

Giving local authorities a role in setting closing time

Under the Intoxicating Liquor Act, 2003 Dublin City Council can now set policy on closing time for places of entertainment after consulting with local interests (residents, publicans, Gardai, night-club owners etc.)

Fixing Dublin's smog problem

When she was Junior Minister at the Department of the Environment, Mary Harney T.D. drafted and pushed through the legislation which fixed Dublin's smog problem by requiring smoke-free coal to be used in the city centre area.



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Your Candidate **Vote No. 1**

Wendy Hederman

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I am the Progressive Democrat candidate for this area in the local elections next June. I will be seeking your No.1 vote in the election to Dublin City Council as a representative of the Pembroke area.

My connection with this area is life-long: I was born and raised in Upper Leeson Street, and I now live with my husband, Brendan, and our three young children off Appian Way. I am a law graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and I work as a solicitor, practising commercial and EU law.

I am extremely familiar with the demands and objectives of being a public representative, as my mother, Carmencita Hederman, served on Dublin City Council from 1974 to 1999. She was Lord Mayor during the City's Millennium celebrations in 1988. For 25 years, my mother dedicated herself to ensuring the proper development of the area and protecting its amenities and village character. Now that I am bringing up my own children I want to see Pembroke continue to be a good place to live and to raise a family.

I am worried that the area will be changed for the worse by threatened developments such as the largest incinerator in Europe at Poolbeg or the tallest building in Ireland (the proposed 26 storey apartment block in Donnybrook). Already, Dublin has been allowed to develop big city sprawl but is stuck with small city infrastructure and management. I believe that the pragmatic, straight talking approach that is the essence of the Progressive Democrats is needed in City Hall to drag our capital city back from the disarray into

which it has slid in recent years. That's why I accepted Michael McDowell's invitation to be a candidate for the Progressive Democrats in the local elections next June 11th.

Over the next few months, I will be calling to all households in the area. I hope you will spare a few minutes to let me know your views on the local issues of concern to you. If you would like to assist my campaign in any way yourself, I would be delighted to hear from you. I look forward to meeting you, and in the meantime, please feel free to contact me by telephone, e-mail or on my website **www.wendyhederman.ie** at any time.



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