

# Cllr Bronwen Maher Independent



**Dear Resident,**

The Local Elections will be held on the 5th June, and I will put myself forward for re-election as your Independent Candidate. To be successful I need your support, and your **Number 1 Vote**, to continue working for you on Dublin City Council.

In my new role as an Independent Councillor I will keep working on the issues that are important for us all:

- **Value for money & better local services**
- **Proper planning**
- **Strong environment policies**
- **Protecting Dublin Bay**
- **Working for a fairer society**

I hope to meet as many of you as possible over the next two months but in the meantime please contact me about any issue you feel is important.

Yours sincerely,

*Bronwen Maher*



**‘Putting People and Communities First’**

# New value system in politics needed now more than ever

## The current economic downturn is a great opportunity to build an open fairer society

I believe we have a real opportunity now to re-assess our value systems. We need a new set of political values that champions hard work, transparency, accountability and the value of community. It is time to champion a people's politics that serves the public interest, that rewards people before profit, and that rewards communities over short-sighted sectoral self-interest.

### So where do we start? At the very least we need to:

- Reform the funding of political parties, politician's salaries, eliminate the overpayment of TDs expenses and the receiving of pensions while still a public representative;
- We need open public competition for appointments to state boards;
- A whistleblower's legislation, and we need transparency for lobbyist's and journalist's interests.
- In other words, make those that inform society accountable and make our laws and lawmakers accountable and transparent.

Only then will we begin to achieve what we need – a strong Government that protects the vulnerable, that demands that those with the most, pay the most and that builds a strong, fair and just society rewarding hard work and protecting jobs.

## Bronwen's Vision for Dublin:

- Efficient, clean, affordable public transport
- Ultra-fast high bandwidth broadband
- Electric Car – Charger Sites
- Improved Waste & Recycling services
- Community Childcare
- Local 'One Stop Shop' Primary Healthcare Centres
- Priority for Older Person's Services
- Increased Community Gardaí presence
- City Wide allotment schemes
- Farmers Market Tourist Trails

## Dublin can be a creative living 'green' city

Research has shown that cities where there is strong emphasis on fostering innovation – new technologies, new ideas, new business models and quality education opportunities including culture and diversity, are the cities that remain economically resilient. Strong local government, equality, and community supports is also important.

A 'creative open city approach' will also rely on the hardware - our ability to deliver the structural supports for a strong resilient economy - efficient, accessible public transport, ultra-fast high bandwidth broadband, including family-friendly and energy efficient building design. Examples of cities that have embraced this concept are Stockholm, Vancouver and Seattle while nearer to home Glasgow and Madrid have made encouraging moves in this direction.

According to leading US academic Richard Florida and other experts, the development and creation of dynamic communities provides a competitive and vibrant environment for enterprise supported by a high quality of life.



## Some Useful Websites

[www.cultivate.ie](http://www.cultivate.ie)

'Cultivating sustainable lifestyles and resilient communities'.

[www.theherbgarden.ie](http://www.theherbgarden.ie)

Irish Herb Garden, Naul, North Dublin – Certified organic herb nursery producing 140 varieties of seed and a wide selection of herb plants.

[www.ecoshop.ie](http://www.ecoshop.ie)

Eco-Shop, Greystones, Co. Wicklow . Composting, Wormeries, Water Butts.

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# Dublin Bay – Protecting the Bay for our Future

## Minister has power to stop Bay infill plans - Clontarf Public Meeting told

Clontarf residents were told that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley has the power to halt plans by the Dublin Port Company to infill 52 acres in Dublin Bay.

The residents were attending a public meeting for a progress report on developments regarding Dublin Bay organised by independent councillor Bronwen Maher. The meeting heard reports from Cllr. Maher, Joe Nolan - Dublin Bay Watch, Joe McCabe - Clontarf Residents' Association, and Seán Dublin Bay Loftus.

Cllr. Maher, who is Chair of the Dublin Bay Task Force, said that "the Minister, as a member of Government, representing the State, which owns the Dublin Port Company, can request the Port Company to withdraw its planning application until the ongoing studies on the bay are completed".

"The Minister announced that he has put proper planning top of his agenda in the Department of the Environment. This is an excellent opportunity for him to halt the Dublin Port Company's plans and let the people of Clontarf know that he is putting his planning claim into practice."



Seán Dublin Bay Loftus congratulates Bronwen Maher for her work protecting Dublin Bay

## Stop the Bus Cuts!



In January Minister for Transport Noel Dempsey published a report he commissioned on Dublin Bus. He claimed Dublin Bus was inefficient, that there was a need to simplify routes and announced the dropping of various routes with the loss of 120 jobs.

**But wait. What does a simplified route system mean for Dublin's public transport commuters?** It will mean elderly and disabled persons having to walk longer distances to a bus stop. It will mean taking two buses instead of one. Ultimately it will mean that those who rely most on public transport will suffer most. Yet at a time of increasing unemployment the need to use public transport will become even greater.

The Minister says bus users deserve a better bus service. If that is the case, why is Government funding for Dublin Bus, at 29%, one of the lowest subventions for a public transport system in Europe? In Brussels it is 68%, in Amsterdam 62% and even in London, where the system is privatized, it is 38%.

Put simply, a well-served, efficient, clean and affordable public transport system should be a basic bedrock for any city, economy or democracy.

## Bronwen's Eco – Watch

### Allotments planned:

St. Annes Park Nursery, adjacent to the old green waste depot, is to be the location for a new pilot scheme to provide allotments for city dwellers. The walled garden area can provide up to 45 plots with lock-up stores, composting and a community garden area.

It is also envisaged that the allotments will also act as demonstration sites encouraging people to grow vegetable and fruit in their own back gardens.

### Wildlife Habitats – Biodiversity Plan :

Bull Island, St. Annes Park, hedgerows and back gardens are home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife - up to 30% of the cities habitat comes from private gardens. Dublin City's Biodiversity Plan identifies and maps important feeding and nesting sites which will now have to be considered alongside planning applications. The city council's Biodiversity Officer has just completed a Management Plan for Bull Island.

## Home Energy Conservation Grants

Measure	Category	Grant*
Roof	Roof Insulation	€250
Wall	Cavity wall insulation	€400
	Internal wall dry - Lining	€2,500
	External wall insulation	€4,000
Heating Controls	Hi Efficiency Gas or Oil fired Boiler with Controls upgrade	€700
	Heating Controls Upgrade	€500
BER Assessment	A Before work and after works BER Assessment	€200

\*Sustainable Energy Ireland is administering the scheme. Call 1850 927000 or email [hes@sei.ie](mailto:hes@sei.ie). Note: Grant approval must be in place prior to any purchase of materials and all works must be carried out by a contractor registered with Sustainable Energy Ireland.

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# Supporting the local community - Putting your ideas into action

**"I have always worked to achieve positive and practical change for our area, and here are some examples of local issues and projects I have supported"**

- At forefront of campaign to stop Dublin Port's infill plans for Dublin Bay.
- Fire safety in Dublin Port
- Planning problems in Killester, Clontarf, Marino and Drumcondra
- Howth Road Mast
- Dollymount House development plans
- Protecting Clontarf golf club as a green space
- Litter and Graffiti black-spots in all areas.
- Green Waste recycling
- Whitehall Framework Plan & GAA grounds
- HGV Ban
- Westwood & Bar Code
- Rockfield Park - anti-social behaviour
- Richmond Road Area Plan
- St. Annes Green Waste Depot
- Promoting & protecting Local Heritage & Culture
- Red Stables Farmers Market

## About Bronwen

**'A No-Nonsense Approach to Getting Things Done'**

- Chair Dublin Bay Task Force 2008 - 2009
- Chair of the North Central Area Committee 2007 - 2008
- Chair of the Dublin Regional Authority 2007 - 2008
- Deputy Lord Mayor 2005 - 2006



Bronwen is an experienced local Councillor who has built up a reputation for hard work and honesty. Friendly and approachable, she has lived and worked in the area all her life and is originally from Kilmore Road, Artane, where her family ran a newsagents shop.

Bronwen has a long association with Clontarf, her mother's family grew up on Mount Prospect Avenue. Educated at Maryfield College, Drumcondra and the Holy Faith, Clontarf, she is married with one grown up son and lives in Killester.

A former senior member of the Green Party, Bronwen held many positions in the Greens during her twenty years association, which included working in the European Parliament as constituency and campaign manager for former MEP Patricia McKenna. As the party's Spokesperson on Women's Affairs Bronwen was author of the Green Party's 'Manifesto for Women' and Carers Policy, and co-author of the party's Childcare and Children's Policy.

## A Message from Bronwen: Can you help? Lend your support?

Being an independent candidate means I no longer have a TD or party machine supporting me. If you would like to lend a hand, become involved or help in any way, please give me a call on 087 784 1937

1 The Bramblings, Killester, Dublin 5  
[bronwen.maher@gmail.com](mailto:bronwen.maher@gmail.com)  
[www.BronwenMaher.com](http://www.BronwenMaher.com)



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