

STORMONT EVENTS



Ireland & Ulster Rugby Celebration Event



Addressing the Assembly



TinyLife Charity Launch

ABOUT GORDON DUNNE MLA

- Gordon was elected to serve the people of North Down in the NI Assembly in 2011 and is Vice-Chair of the Culture, Arts & Leisure Committee and a member of the Enterprise, Trade & Investment Committee.
- One key piece of legislation which he supported through the Assembly is the Human Trafficking & Exploitation Bill and has worked to support the Ulster Orchestra and improve local sports facilities as Vice-Chair of the DCAL Committee.

HAVE YOUR SAY

What issues do you feel need addressed within North Down?

Do you have any faulty street lights or roads in need of repair?

Are there any issues of Dog Fouling or Anti-Social behaviour in your area?

Please return to Gordon at DUP Advice Centre, 8 Church Road, Holywood, BT18 9BU.

HERE TO HELP YOU GET THINGS DUNNE!



NORTH DOWN ADVICE CENTRE
8 Church Road,
Holywood,
BT18 9BU
T: 02890 423322

OPENING HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 5pm
Friday: 9am - 3pm
(Lunch: 1.00pm - 1.30pm)
Home visits also available

CONSTITUENCY SURGERIES: 1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Skipperstone Community Centre
2.00pm - 3.00pm
Conlig Community Centre
3.30pm - 4.30pm

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE TEAM

Marilyn & Stephen.



@GordonDunneMLA

facebook.com/GordonDunneMLA



NORTH DOWN
CONSTITUENCY REPORT

GORDON DUNNE MLA



ISSUE 4 - 2015

Dear Friend

Welcome to my 4th North Down Constituency Report of the current Stormont Assembly term. I continue to work for you, advocate on your behalf and for the betterment of North Down through my role as your MLA.

I have outlined some of the progress which has been made locally since our last report. I trust you enjoy reading this update and would value your feedback on any issue.

2015 sees the beginning of the new Council, which will present both opportunities and challenges and I will continue to ensure that the Council delivers for local people.

My full time Constituency Advice Centre is open to serve you and I would encourage you to get in touch with me. It is vital that the Assembly continues to make progress on the issues that matter and ensure that it delivers for you.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Dunne MLA

ARE YOU
REGISTERED
TO VOTE?
CALL 0800 432 0712
TO CHECK
OR RING OUR OFFICE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



BANGOR



HEALTH



ECONOMY

FOR HELP AND ASSISTANCE ON ANY LOCAL ISSUE

TELEPHONE: 028 9042 3322 EMAIL: info@gordondunne.org

STAY IN TOUCH ONLINE AT www.gordondunne.org

TELEPHONE: 028 9042 3322 EMAIL: info@gordondunne.org



BANGOR

I have liaised with Traders, Council and Contractors throughout the Public Realm works scheme which represents an £8 million investment from Council and DSD which will benefit key areas in the Town through new footpaths, street lights, furniture and signage and will help increase tourism, boost local business and regenerate the area. I've been involved in discussions with DSD and real progress continues to be made on the long term redevelopment of Queen's Parade which is now at planning stage. The DOE funded facelift for Gray's Hill has been beneficial and have liaised with DRD and Translink regarding improved car parking provision at Abbey Street and Dufferin Avenue and also helped deliver the new MUGA Play Facility in Clondeboy. I will continue to work with traders and business owners on Rates Revaluation and ensure our Town Centres grow.



ECONOMY

I have engaged with Invest NI to support our local businesses and SMEs. Been involved with a number of Planning Applications for Business development and expansion and have lobbied LPS and the Finance Minister on behalf of business owners in relation to recent Rates Revaluations. As a member of the ETI Committee I am aware that energy costs pose a real challenge and have been working with the Enterprise Minister and Utility Regulator to reduce costs. Tourism is a potential growth area for North Down and I have worked to promote the area and ensure we raise the profile of venues such as Pickie Park, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Parks, Beaches, Sports facilities, Golf courses and will work with the new Council to ensure we attract an exciting Events programme locally.



HOLYWOOD

The Public Realm Work has provided the town with new pavements, street furniture and lights which will help revitalise the town, increase footfall, attract new business and represents a total investment of £2.4million following lobbying of the DSD Minister in the Assembly. The long overdue new floodlit 3G Sports Pitch and Pavilion at Spafield is now open. I welcome the recent upgrade work along the Coastal Path from Seapark to Helen's Bay. The work by DRD to reduce environmental pollution at the Kinnegar Sewage Works has now commenced and should be completed by early 2016. We continue the campaign for progress on 'The Front Development' at Shore Road, redevelopment of Kerr Park, improvements at Seapark Sports Pavilion and protecting local Community Services and Amenities.



RURAL FOCUS

Rural Crime has been a significant problem recently with arson attacks on Farm Buildings throughout the Craigantlet area. The PSNI must do more to protect vulnerable rural dwellings and machinery from crime and theft. I continue to work to increase Farm Safety through the 'Think SAFE Campaign' and educational awareness for farmers and their families. The Dairy industry has suffered hardship with falling milk prices and I will work to raise the concerns of the dairy industry at Stormont with the DARD Minister. Work continues to assist constituents regarding planning applications within the confines of PPS21 and I have raised the need for improvements to the rural road network and improved Winter Gritting. I continue to work with DARD on the replanting of forests in Craigantlet which have been recently felled due to larch disease.



DONAGHADEE

Public Realm enhancements to the value of £2.4 million within Donaghadee are long overdue and I am pleased that ongoing work is set to be completed towards the end of 2015. I will be working with Tourism NI and the new Council to promote the town and surrounding areas in an effort to increase tourism. I continue to work with DRD Transport NI in an effort to upgrade various sections of the town's road network. After much work, I am pleased that Natural Gas is now being provided in the Edgewater area of Donaghadee and will endeavour to press for the further extension of the Gas network locally.



HOUSING

The demand for housing continues to increase in North Down and more resources are needed for the provision of new homes. I welcome the new developments at Dunville, Hollywood, Bloomfield and Rathgill in Bangor. I continue to help residents avail of the Warm Homes Scheme and have lobbied DSD for Double Glazing schemes to be completed. Have been involved in various site acquisitions with Housing Associations and Planning Applications on behalf of constituents. Routine maintenance of the Housing stock continues and I welcome the ongoing programme for kitchen replacements in many homes. I also have been involved in helping many constituents get suitable homes through the Housing Executive and Housing Associations and continue to assist in Benefit entitlement. I also recognise the valuable role of local Community Associations.



HEALTH

In the past I fought against the closure of Bangor Hospital and returned to Bangor Hospital recently and joined the campaign to fight the proposed closure. After extensively lobbying the Health Minister and Health Trust, we managed to retain the Minor Injuries Unit. The campaign continues for a new Health & Wellbeing Centre in Bangor which would provide modern accommodation for GPs, Pharmacists and Dentists. I welcome progress on both the Generic Ward Block and Acute Services buildings at the Ulster Hospital. This £232million project should be completed by winter 2016. I will continue to lobby the Minister for provision of a full time Cath-Lab at the Ulster Hospital for Cardiac Patients and have also been involved in helping to save the Stewart Memorial Home, Bangor.



MILLISLE

The Village Plan proposals from Ards & North Down Council and Down Rural Area Partnership will benefit the village as we plan for the future. The recent upgrades along the seafront, such as new disabled access ramps, and play facilities are positive developments. We continue to work with the Millisle Youth Forum which provides such a valuable resource for the local community through 'The Garage'. I have repeatedly lobbied the DRD Minister to commence work on addressing the environmental pollution issue by implementing the upgrade to the Sewage Facility in Millisle. We have worked with the PSNI and Abbey Villa Football Club to help improve Road Safety and Speed Awareness within the village. I have also helped deliver the investment by Belfast City Mission (BCM) for a new Care Facility just outside the Village.



EDUCATION

We continue to lobby the Education Minister for investment in new School buildings locally including Hollywood Primary, Nursery and Priory College. Bangor Central Primary and St. Columbanus also remain in need of modern accommodation to meet the educational needs of our children. I have fought for sufficient funding for school budgets and have opposed recent cuts by the Minister to front line services. School places are also a major issue and it is vital our local schools have places available for local children to meet demand. I also continue to work with SERC College to encourage apprenticeships and courses which will help to facilitate real employment opportunities for our young people. We must ensure University places and fees are affordable for all.



ROADS

I have lobbied for the resurfacing and maintenance of many roads locally, repairs to Street Lights and replacement of flagstone footpaths. Road Safety improvement measures at our schools continue to be a challenge in our towns and villages. Have urged the DRD Minister to progress 'Resident Parking Schemes' in residential Town Centre areas of Bangor and Hollywood and have pressed for the installation of more Grit Boxes for areas at risk of adverse weather. I am pleased that the A2 Bangor - Belfast Dual Carriageway resurfacing project has been completed. Grass cutting and Weed control in residential areas is an ongoing issue and continue to press DRD for safety improvements to junctions on the A2 Dual Carriageway.



VILLAGE RENEWAL

After working in conjunction with local residents, I was delighted to see the reinstatement of the Crawfordsburn Post Box, which provides an important focal point and vital service for the village. The resurfacing work carried out within Helen's Bay Square has enhanced and improved the area. Work continues to upgrade the remaining sections of the Coastal Path through Rural Partnership and Council Funding. The upgrade to the Mill Pond and Crawfordsburn Play Park are welcome developments. I've also been involved in liaising with the Planning Service alongside residents concerning major planning applications in the villages. I continue to press for investment from various Departments through the Assembly to help regenerate our villages including Conlig and Groomsport, whilst protecting their character and heritage.



TOURS

Many groups and organisations throughout North Down have already availed of the opportunity of guided tours around Parliament Buildings, Stormont. If you would like a tour for yourself, a Charity, Church Group, Community or Youth Group then please do not hesitate to contact my office to arrange a Tour.