

05 October 2007

Minister outlines school planning for North Dublin – Kennedy

RECENT DISCUSSIONS between local Fianna Fail Deputy Michael Kennedy and the Minister for Education Mary Hanafin have revealed a range of plans for several of the schools in the area.

Deputy Michael Kennedy said: “I had been in discussions with the Minister for a number of months over the whole issue of school provision in North Dublin and I have recently been informed of a number of developments in the region.”

“Amongst the schools facing improvements are:

- St Maloga’s SNS, Balbriggan – to be expanded from a 16 to a 24 classroom school, to allow for the increase in surrounding population. The project has been given band one rating, which prioritises it in the school building programme.

- St Teresa’s National School, Balbriggan – extension plans for the school have advanced to the design stage, with the appointment of a design team recently approved. A technical site visit is to take place soon.

- Balrothery National School – The Department of Education is currently reviewing an application from the school for capital funding, under the Multi-Annual Building and Modernisation Programme.

“I can also reveal that the Department of Education is currently reviewing plans for a second post-primary school in Skerries, in anticipation of demand for places as the population booms there. Currently there are around 100 vacancies at the school, but the department is keen to avoid overcrowding in coming years.”

“From the information I have been provided, it is clear that the Minister is keen to address the issues surrounding education in Dublin North and is, like myself, working hard for the people of the region.”

“I will continue to strenuously lobby for improvements in the school system in Dublin North and I will be monitoring the progress of all of the plans recently discussed,” concluded Deputy Kennedy.