

25 September 2007

Victory for Donabate/Portrane but vigilance required for rest of county on sewerage plant scheme – Kennedy

DUBLIN NORTH'S Fianna Fail TD Michael Kennedy today welcomes the news that plans to locate a sewerage plant in the Donabate/Portrane region have been shelved.

Deputy Kennedy said: "Whilst I share the community's excitement and joy at this decision, I remain cautious about the authorities' future plans for a sewerage plant in the North Dublin region, as another community in the area is ultimately likely to be selected for this scheme or another one like it."

Deputy Kennedy said: "The plans have been shelved as a result of a wider Environmental Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which guided *against* locating the mega-plant in Donabate/Portrane region. Instead the report recommended that the seven councils involved in the proposal devise a strategy to deal with sewerage in the greater Dublin area. A regional plant is still on cards for North Dublin."

"There is no doubt that local activists, especially the FAIRSHARE group, have had a significant impact on this recent decision and their contribution is not only welcome but absolutely vital in ensuring that a super-sewerage plant is never located in Donabate and Portrane."

"However, the same groups and others like it need to remain vigilant - as will I – in the face of similar proposals which could once be mooted for another area of Dublin North. The Donabate/Portrane region was suggested after the coming together of seven councils, which included the four Dublin local authorities, in addition to Wicklow, Kildare and Meath County Councils. What's to stop the other councils overruling Fingal County Council once again and selecting another location in the North Dublin?"

"For this reason alone, I am calling on all the communities in Dublin North to come together in making their opinions known to the relevant authorities. Meanwhile, I will continue to lobby for my constituents in Dail Eireann," Deputy Kennedy concluded.