

Health Services

At least €100 billion spend on health services in the past 10 years—any improvement(?) - effective management and improvement in our health services needs more than just 'throwing' money at it! The fact is that the beds that were taken from the system in the early 1980's need to be re-installed and that current and extra staff (nurses primarily) with decent working conditions must be put in place.

Latest news from local sports clubs and organisations:

www.traleetimes.com

Contact us to include news and information from your club.

Waste Ground at Carrageendaniel

Residents of Carrageendaniel and Pairc na Dun will propose to the Town Council that this area of ground be set aside for the development of an enclosed park for the benefit of all residents in the Caherslee—Mounthawk areas.

Such a proposal is very worthwhile and laudable since the general areas does not have such a facility and would be welcome by young and old alike. The area in question is within easy walking distance for the majority of residents in the Caherslee—Mounthawk areas.

In the food-processing industry in Ireland the potential energy output from recovered vegetable oil and tallow is equivalent to 51 million litres of diesel. www.epa.ie More info. on this and other environmental issues on our website:

www.traleetimes.com

Energy use in Ireland

An increase of 3% in 2005 and carbon dioxide emissions increased by 3.2%.

Renewable energy grew by 26%. Wind generation grew by 70%.

Electricity imports increased by 30%.

Total energy import dependency was 90%

Solution to Slowing Down Traffic in Residential Areas: Road Narrowing

A road can be narrowed using pinch points, which are introduced either on one side of a road or on both sides. Road narrowing is often accompanied with priority signs that make traffic travelling in one direction give way to the traffic travelling in the opposing direction. The priority signs are alternated along the length of a road in order to reduce the speed of traffic travelling in both directions.

Don't Let Others Decide For You! Use Your Vote in General Election 2007

Ireland FACT

In 2005, the services sector accounted for 66% of employment, industry for 28% and agriculture for 6%.

GP Visit Card - Have you got yours?

Log onto

www.traleetimes.com and click on the Health link

A Directory of Contact Details for All Local Services is available FREE on: www.traleetimes.com

Job Vacancies can be Advertised on our Website www.traleetimes.com Contact us.

If You Want Information About Any Topic Let Us Know And We'll Do Our Best To Research It For You

All content of *Tralee Times* is available on our website:

www.traleetimes.com

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Start Your Journey 5 minutes earlier. Be Safe on Our Roads. Drive with Lights ON!

Irish inflation at 4.9% is amongst the highest in the Euro zone and is propelling a 'wage price spiral'. Consumers are warned that the costs of food and drink is likely to rise also due to a variety of spiralling business costs including: waste management costs; energy price increases e.g. electricity etc. Products affected will include bread, breakfast cereals, soft drinks, and canned, packaged and frozen foods.

Average Daily Numbers of Prisoners in Custody

YEAR	1997	2005
NUMBER	2,422	3,151

Fire Service Statistics

Year	Total Cost € m	Fires Attended	Deaths
1995	87.13	36,024	36
2003	176.88	31,837	34

www.traleetimes.com FIRE SAFETY Link

National Development Plan 2007—2013

€184 billion

It's Your Money!

www.traleetimes.com—link NDP

Tralee Times

Caherslee News

Volume 2 No. 1

Spring 2007

Tralee Times—Caherslee News relaunch

Welcome to a new look and refreshed *Tralee Times*. We will continue to bring to you the information and news as we have in the past. As always *Tralee Times* is driven by you the reader, therefore your input is necessary. Please do contact us at *Tralee Times* with information, news, issues, concerns and stories. We will do our best to include this information etc. Contact details: Editor: Leonard O' Donnell Telephone: 087—76 152 76 Email: leonardodonnell@eircom.net or editor@traleetimes.com

www.traleetimes.com

Our website will now be the location for the vast bulk of the content of the magazine. There are a number of reasons for taking this decision.

The magazine will be available to a wider audience. There is scope and opportunity to update the content etc. on a continuous basis—i.e. no printing deadline and no restrictions on page numbers.

This printed publication will indicate to you where further information may be obtained on our website relating to a particular story or information etc.

Tralee Times does not charge you to access our site at www.traleetimes.com so we invite you to visit our site as often as you like.

You can leave a comment on our FEEDBACK page, all comment welcome as we constantly try to improve our service for you the reader. Alternatively, simply email the editor at:

editor@traleetimes.com

Of course you may prefer to telephone or text your message:

087- 76 152 76

Message to Advertisers

As there is less space on our 'downsized' new look *Tralee Times* we have decided to restrict current and potential advertising space to our website. This has a number of benefits for the advertiser.

The advertiser can advertise at a cheaper rate and can avail of a much more enhanced service—colour, size and content and a wider audience. Contact us if you have any advertising queries.

Co. Kerry 'air-brushed' out of National Spatial Strategy

Although Co. Kerry has the 8th highest population by county in Ireland and Tralee is the 7th largest town, by population, outside of the major cities [a combination of the populations of Tralee and Killarney towns = 2nd place outside major cities], it seems that when it comes to the National Spatial Strategy that we are 'not allowed to play ball'! The current government and our local sitting Fianna Fail TD's in North and South Kerry have not considered the impact this will have in our county.

There has been no direct IDA investment in Tralee for 10 years. Major road projects in Tralee and Castleisland are being stalled. Vital funds are not in the pipeline for Co. Kerry!

Kerry North—General Election Campaign

Already our politicians and prospective politicians and their supporters are on the trail throughout the county. The General Election will take place in the early summer of 2007 (May-June).

Be prepared to engage them on your door-step and ask the questions. Government party politicians, in particular need to be asked to account:

What improvement have taken place in our 2-tier health service? What is anti-social behaviour so rampant in our areas?

How in the 21st Century are many very young children still being educated in dilapidated school buildings?

Why are road infrastructure improvements not forth-coming? Ask the awkward questions and not the easy ones!

Essential Directory of Local Organisations; Notices of Meetings; Local Events; Local Employment Opportunities; Sports Clubs News; Local Website Links; and more....www.traleetimes.com

Environmental Awareness

Our current use of energy is unsustainable. In 2003 the price of a barrel of oil stood at around \$35. In 2006, it reached \$70 and economists warn that the days of \$100 per barrel oil may not be too far away.

As a first step, the 1997 Kyoto Agreement was drawn up with the aim of reducing global emissions of greenhouse gasses by 2012 by 5.2% based on 1990 levels. Under the Agreement, to which Ireland is a signatory, this country undertook to limit the increase of these emissions by 2008-2012 to only 13% based on the level of emissions in 1990.

The recently leaked EPA report revealed that Ireland has the highest level of CO2 emissions per head of population in the world which means we have reached a crisis point in terms of the damage we are doing to our environment. In Ireland emissions levels are over 25 per cent above 1990 levels, 12 percentage points higher than the Kyoto target.

Currently there are:

- **No** plans to legislate to ensure blended bio fuels replace petrol and diesel

- **No** proposals for the extension of the removal of excise duty on bio fuels

- **No** plans to open a public competition for capital start-up grants for bio fuel processing plants

- **No** plans to require public transport and other public service vehicles to convert where feasible to bio fuels

- **No** proposals to make a major capital allocation to bio fuels instead of wasting money buying carbon credits

This situation must be reversed and there is a real need for decision-makers to take this situation seriously.

Investment in alternative energy supplies must be a priority. Co. Kerry, perfectly situated to avail of the prevailing south-westerly winds, should become a more significant location for wind generated power to the extent that Co. Kerry should be in the vanguard of such developments. Wave generated power is another area that must be considered. The development and production of Bio-Fuels on farms and consequent set-up grants along with 0 excise duty would go along way in reducing our CO² outputs. Legislation should be introduced that would demand that all petrol must include a 5% bio-ethanol mix and that all diesel contain a 5% bio-diesel mix. It is time to set aside the vested interests and lobby groups as this subject is far too important to ignore. Action not words!

'An optimist is the human personification of spring.'
Susan J Bissonette

Home Security

On our website we have included a page on this subject covering a variety of elements and advice on Home Security gathered together from various sources.

GARDAI

Tralee 066—71 22 0 22

Confidential Line: 1800 666 111

Hedges and Bushes

A timely reminder to those of you with hedges, bushes and trees along your perimeter walls, particularly where others may be walking—please trim them back!

If you have had the misfortune to have been struck in the eye by the branch of a tree you will be very much aware of this problem. The pain and discomfort is 'eye-watering' and I don't mean to be flippant. I have suffered this fate and I wouldn't not wish it on anyone.

Footpaths and Pavements

Great to see work being done to improve footpaths locally and throughout the town in general, in recent times (part no doubt of a planned scheme of works). *Tralee Times* has highlighted this issue in the past and there are obviously some stretched to be tackled as yet.

However, the main Caherslee road has deteriorated badly in the past couple of years. Recently I counted at least 27 locations on the road where the surface is uneven or badly worn from Balloonagh Cross to Mounthawk roundabout.

A number of factors contribute to this, such as: heavy goods usage; poor quality materials used; increased traffic flows; poor workmanship and unsatisfactory reinstatement of surface materials when a trench is repaired.

If such surfaces continue to exist throughout the town, you'll be paying for it at you're next NCT Test!

Weather Details

Details of weather conditions as recorded at Valentia Observatory, Cahersiveen, Co Kerry can be found on our website. Global warming or no global warming it was recorded that rainfall in 2006 was 1760.7 mm (2005 = 1500.1 mm) and the average (1961—1990) is 1430.2 mm. September was the wettest month with 263.9 mm and June was the driest with 46.8 mm.

With regard to temperature the overall average for 2006 was 11.4 °C (2005 = 11.3°C) and the average (1961-1990) is 10.4°C. The warmest month was July with an average temperature of 16.6°C and the coolest month was February with an average of 7.2°C.

www.met.ie

Fighting Crime on Our Streets

Last year (2006) was the bloodiest on record with 26 gun murders, and the trend continues unabated this year. Since 2003 murders are up by 43% and gun crime is up by 39%. However, the Gardai still lack significant resources to tackle head-on this type of crime. The number of armed Gardai has fallen by 15% since 2003 and those that are armed do not have access to a dedicated firing range. Stab vests and alternative weapons have been mentioned often in the recent past but have not materialised.

Irish History in March

March 1st, 1965 - Roger Casement's body is re-interred in Glasnevin cemetery, Dublin.

March 6th, 1935 - Ronnie Delany, 1500 meter gold medalist in the 1956 Olympic Games, is born in Arklow, Co. Wicklow

March 8th, 1966 - Nelson's Pillar in Dublin is blown up

March 10th, 1894 - Ireland collects its first ever Triple Crown, defeating Wales in Belfast

March 11th, 1951 - Ian Paisley co-founds the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster

March 16th, 1690 - French king Louis XIV sends troops to Ireland

March 17th, 1903 - St Patrick's Day becomes a bank holiday

March 21st, 1998 - Sonia O'Sullivan wins a gold medal in the World Cross-Country championships

March 22nd, 1983 - Belfast-born and Dublin-educated Chaim Herzog is elected president of Israel.

March 24th, 1968 - An Aer Lingus plane, the St. Phelim, crashes into the sea near Tuskar Rock, Co. Wexford, with the loss of all 61 passengers and crew.

March 25th, 1920 - The first 'Black and Tans' (auxiliary policemen) officially arrive in Ireland.

See www.traleetimes.com for more events in Irish History by the month.

On the 20th March, 1927 the lion named Cairbre, used to introduce Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer films, was born at which zoo? Answer: www.traleetimes.com—History Page

World History

February 13: 1633 :

Galileo in Rome for Inquisition
On this day in 1633, Italian philosopher, astronomer and mathematician Galileo Galilei arrives in Rome to face charges of heresy for advocating Copernican theory, which holds that the Earth revolves around the Sun. Galileo officially faced the Roman Inquisition in April of that same year and agreed to plead guilty in exchange for a lighter sentence. Put under

house arrest indefinitely by Pope Urban VIII, Galileo spent the rest of his days at his villa in Arcetri, near Florence, before dying on January 8, 1642.

Today, Galileo is recognized for making important contributions to the study of motion and astronomy. His work influenced later scientists such as the English mathematician and physicist Sir Isaac Newton, who developed the law of universal gravitation. In 1992, the Vatican formally acknowledged its mistake in condemning Galileo.

Housing Statistics—Ireland

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government statistics on housing provide an insight into the progression of the construction industry. The statistics show that over the past thirty years the trend has been for an increase in the number of loans approved from 12,471 (new 7,884) with a value of €53.5 million in 1970 to 120,037 (new 58,104) with a value of €27,753.3 million in 2005. As the number of loans has increased so has the number of Interest Only loans. In the past three years these loans have become increasingly popular reaching 8.9% of all mortgage loans in 2005.

In Ireland, the average house price is almost 14 times the average wage; private sector debt at almost 205% of GNP is the highest in the world. Banks make huge profits from all of this and since they seek market share they are in what I hope is not 'a fight to the death'.

Economic commentators give a figure of approximately 230,000 vacant properties. Of these up! to 115,000 or so may be holiday homes.

In December 2005 senior officials from the OECD and the Central Bank accepted that the Irish property market was overvalued by 15%.

The construction of private dwellings here now account for 60% of all fixed investment, 15% of our GNP and employs 10% of our workforce (150,000 people).

Only 6.5% of our housing is social housing.

Nationally, the numbers seeking affordable housing are 16,200, those seeking social housing number 43,600, but these figures include only those who have applied.

It is likely then, that in the medium to long term the provision of affordable and social housing may be the 'crutch' that will sustain the construction industry after the private sector boom has eased off. This, however, will only happen with leadership and good management in a planned and controlled manner.

Oil and Gas—What, Where and How?

Natural seeps of crude oil are not especially rare. But the oil leaking from the ground is usually a highly degraded substance, close to tar. It was at first used locally as a substitute for pitch or as a crude medicine. When drillers learned to tap petroleum at depth starting in 1859, its virtues began to be discovered, and over the next century oil transformed civilization.

.....**More on: www.traleetimes.com**