

Michael O'DOWD

Drogheda Urban



Michael O'Dowd is the Aontú Representative in Louth and lives in the centre of Drogheda. He is an accountant and has an MSc in Business Development from Ulster University.

Michael is married to Audrey and has two daughters and a son. He was twice Mayor of Drogheda and a former member of Louth County Council.

Michael is a founder member of the social enterprise Ablevision which empowers people with an intellectual disability to speak up for themselves through the use of digital media. He is a founder member of Drogheda Civic Trust and is also involved with the social enterprise My Streets Ireland.

DEMANDING BETTER HEALTHCARE

Our Lady of Lourdes hospital is under constantly increasing pressure and due to successive

government failure to invest in public healthcare this is unlikely to improve without a serious rethink as to how we manage public healthcare.

Michael is committed to helping the staff and raising awareness of their needs to hold the government accountable. He is clear that a repeat of patients on trolleys and young, sick children sleeping in cars waiting for care can never be repeated.



BUDGET 2024

Tax rates and social welfare rules have changed after the Budget. Michael has a handy factsheet to guide you through these changes. Reach out to him at aontulouth@gmail.com for a copy of the information and any questions about your entitlements.

BUS STATION TAXI DROP-OFF

Michael has highlighted the unfair practice of Bus Éireann in banning Taxis from accessing the Bus depot. This contravenes Bus Éireann's own policies in relation to passengers with disabilities.

Michael has already met local management, contacted the Accessibility Officer in the company and will continue to campaign for a solution to this unacceptable situation.



Aontú Leader
PEADAR TÓIBÍN TD

ADDRESSING LONG WAITING LISTS

One of the primary frustrations

communicated to Michael is the long waiting lists for relatively routine operations. He has been involved in arranging for patients to travel to the North through the Planned Healthcare Scheme to have knee, cataract and hip surgery in Belfast.

Whilst patient across the country wait on essential procedures to improve their quality of life, Michael is acting and finding an alternative for those he serves.



For assistance on local issues, contact Michael: Tel 085 805 7658 Email aontulouth@gmail.com

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

Michael is concerned at the lack of amenities for the almost 7,000 new residents that will live there. Community infrastructure such as a youth centre, parks and commercial premises to serve the new development have not materialised. He is working to ensure that the new community is served by adequate facilities and is not an outlier where residents have to travel elsewhere in the area to avail of essential public services.

Michael will prioritise the establishment of a locally based implementation team if elected to the Council. He recognises the need to be in control of this expansion and not leave it to out-of-town developers to call the shots. We need to ensure that we do not become a dormitory town where people sleep here but work and socialise in Dublin.

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON THE INCREASE.

Drogheda Town Centre is facing a crisis. Taxi drivers and shop owners are communicating to Michael that footfall remains down since the pandemic. There is a clear belief that the centre is not as safe as it used to be. Communities feel under siege due to the increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. Every year hundreds of Garda are being attacked, Gardaí are resigning and retiring. Garda morale is on the floor. Recruitment to Templemore has collapsed.

Michael O'Dowd has worked solidly for Drogheda trying to make this community safer and will push hard for more Gardaí and community supports. In the Town Centre large tracts of Narrow West Street remain derelict. We need to make people feel safe shopping and socialising in our town. Michael will work tirelessly to bring the community supports back into the town so that streets can be reclaimed. That means more Gardai but also the introduction of Community Wardens that can issue fines to those acting in an anti-social manner and help tourists and shoppers feel safer.

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62 COUNCIL HOUSES VACANT IN LOUTH IN A HOUSING CRISIS.

We're facing a housing disaster like never before. Total reform of the government's approach to social housing is urgently required.

The threat of homelessness is a reality for thousands in our community and the housing list is growing on a monthly basis. People are stuck paying enormous rents in the private rental sector or are forced to live with family, many young people are fearful that they'll never own a house and are looking to other shores for a better quality of life.

All this is happening while Council Houses remain vacant across Louth. Aontú research has shown that it takes on average 8 months for Councils to turn around a Local Authority house and re-let it. This is shocking given that a private sector rental takes 3 weeks to be turned around.

Michael will work to ensure that these homes are immediately brought back into use.

GOVERNMENT INCREASING ENERGY COSTS



AONTÚ
LIFE | UNITY | ECONOMIC JUSTICE

1 Jun 2023

Petrol +6c
Diesel +5c

1 Sep 2023

Petrol +7c
Diesel +5c

11 Oct 2023

Petrol +3c
Diesel +3c

Ireland faces a major cost of living crisis, with soaring prices for essentials, making it tough for families. Along with housing costs, childcare and education costs have also surged, impacting families' quality of life.

Rising food and energy prices add to the burden, leading to higher bills. This crisis worsens income inequality and threatens Ireland's economic well-being.

Aontú has been fighting for support for workers and families and will continue to force the Government to take action to address this pressing issue.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS



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