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Issue 18



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The Maze - Another Corporate DUP Rollover



Responding to the latest, but sadly not surprising u-turn on the Maze by the DUP, TUV Leader Jim Allister MLA commented:

“Confirmation that the DUP have corporately rolled over to Republican demands on the Maze will outrage many within the Unionist community, particularly victims of IRA violence.

“While Edwin Poots claimed that those opposed to the plan are engaged in nothing but scaremongering it was telling that he did not challenge the assertion

made by both Sinn Fein and a former IRA prisoner that Republican inmates of the prison will be able to tell their “story” on site. It is blindingly obvious that the Maze site will become a place of Republican pilgrimage, an IRA Mecca in the heart of an overwhelmingly Unionist constituency.”

Jim Allister continued:

“The boast of IRA prison leader Raymond McCartney has proved to be true: *“The listed and retained buildings will be open to the public. There will be the opportunity for the many stories of the gaol to be told.”* Only a fool would not recognise that such is Provo speak for the glorification of their terrorists.

“As Nigel Dodds once warned:

“However it is dressed up, whatever spin is deployed, the preservation of a section of the H-Blocks — including the hospital wing — would become a shrine to the terrorists who committed suicide in the Maze in the 1980s. That would be obnoxious to the vast majority of people and is something unionist people cannot accept.”

“Now the DUP are engaged in the very spin which their own deputy leader warned about!”

The IRA Terror Shrine at the Maze was, is and will continue to be opposed by TUV.

TUV Hold Meeting with Chief Constable over Flag Protests

Commenting on a recent meeting with Matt Baggot, Jim Allister MLA stated:

“I had a straight-talking meeting with the Chief Constable and ACC Kerr.

“I warned that the present partiality in policing is risking an irreversible disconnect between the PSNI and a significant section of the unionist community.

I focused strongly on the police approach to bail, contrasting the ‘no objection’ stance when Sean Hughes appeared on terrorist charges and the strenuous objection, on ludicrous grounds, when IRA victim, William

Frazer, with no record, appeared on petty sessions charges. In particular, I challenged how in a democracy the PSNI could have the audacity to frame a bail objection on the basis that the accused, if released, might talk to the press! I enquired if the Chief Constable would like to arrest me on that basis?

“I’m afraid the answers were few and far between, but at least the Chief Constable was left in no doubt about the anger over the reality – not the mere perception – of partiality in policing.

“The Chief Constable needs to face up to how

he has driven loyalist/PSNI relations to a new low and act now by desisting from such a biased approach to bail and parades, where policing tactics seem to be dictated by the political connotations.”

Jim Allister concluded:

“I do not condone, rather I abhor violence and accept law breakers on an even-handed basis should be pursued, but what we’ve seen in recent times is political policing of a most destabilising nature. As we head into the difficult summer months the Chief Constable has much ground to recover.”

"The most rousing orator on the night was TUV leader Jim Allister"

Ulster Herald on
Castderg Flag Protest

"The Member continually raises issues knowing fine well it can create many, many problems in the Chamber..."

William Hay MLA,
Assembly Speaker.

"The Bill is a test, therefore, of Northern Irish governance, Northern Irish democracy and the kind of values that we, in Northern Ireland, are seen to cherish."

Dr Máire Braniff of the
University of Ulster on Jim
Allister SPAD Bill

"Monstrous and Unwarranted Invasion of Privacy in Broughshane"

North Antrim MLA Jim Allister has condemned the PSNI publication of photographs of Broughshane flag protestors.

Jim Allister explained:

"The decision by the PSNI to release photographs of peaceful protestors, from an event in Broughshane on 15 December 2012, is a monstrous and unwarranted invasion of their privacy.

"This was a wholly peaceful protest, which I attended, and which was conducted throughout with the assent of the police present. The road

was only briefly blocked, with the consent of the senior PSNI officer present and to whom I spoke in this regard. There was no violence, threats or intimidation, rather a dignified protest was held, which I addressed.

Jim Allister continued:

"I am therefore outraged that a second batch of photographs of participants have been released in a press release which speaks of investigating serious offending and disorder. There was no such disorder in Broughshane. Detective

Supt Sean Wright, who heads this investigation, needs to catch himself on."

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

"I will be again protesting to the Chief Constable about this matter, particularly after a weekend when we've seen a gunman fire shots at a republican demonstration, children dressed up as terrorists and several unnotified parades. I see or hear of no police action about these matters. Clearly, the law abiding citizens of Broughshane are seen as an easier touch."

Rocket Launcher Find Raises Serious Questions Over "Decommissioning"

Commenting on the recent find of a rocket launcher Jim Allister MLA stated:

"If initial reports that the rocket launcher found in a house in west Belfast prove to be correct there are serious questions which demand an answer about the IRA's supposed decommissioning.

"If it was indeed a Russian made RPG7 then it seems reasonable to assume that they were part of those brought to Northern Ireland by the IRA in shipments from Libya in the 1980s. Yet we are told

that the IRA decommissioned all their weapons!

"Since the supposed decommissioning we have had discoveries of semtex and weapons which have been linked to the IRA. Today we appear to have had an IRA rocket launcher discovered in the Sinn Fein/IRA heartland of West Belfast.

Jim Allister continued:

"The security services need to come clean on this issue and tell us exactly where the RPG

originated from. The preservation of the "peace process" cannot trump the need for truth and justice. Coming hard on the heels of what looked very like an IRA punishment shooting it is high time that those who partner Sinn Fein/IRA in government faced up to some very uncomfortable questions."

Sinn Fein Contempt for all things British Exposed...Again!

In response to a written question by Jim Allister MLA, Sinn Fein have yet again been found wanting.

Jim Allister MLA explained:

"This year marks the 400th anniversary of King James I granting a Charter to Londonderry which declared "that the city or town of Derry, for ever hereafter be and shall be named and called the city of Londonderry."

"This was a pivotal event in the history of Londonderry and is particularly important to the Unionist community of

the City and indeed throughout Northern Ireland given the iconic status of Londonderry, the heroic defence of the city three quarters of a century later having inspired generations of Ulster Protestants.

"It is shameful therefore that Sinn Fein controlled DCAL is failing to celebrate this momentous occasion, a fact which has been confirmed to me in a written answer from the Minister.

Jim Allister continued:

"Patently Sinn Fein's

aversion to all things British, including the vitalisation of Londonderry which flowed from the Royal Charter, has dictated that the Stormont Executive will ignore this pivotal event and its 400th anniversary.

"This is particularly offensive given that Londonderry holds the title of UK City of Culture this year. The fact that this coincides with the 400th anniversary of the granting of the City's charter should be cause of major celebration. Yet it is obvious that Sinn Fein bigotry has prevented this from being the case."

TUV Congratulates Newly Co-Opted Councillor

Timothy Gaston has been co-opted to represent the TUV on Ballymena Council

Commenting on his selection as the TUV Councillor for Ballymena South Timothy Gaston stated:

"It is an honour and privilege to have been selected to represent the TUV in Ballymena Council.

"TUV is a principled Party committed to democracy and we believe it is therefore essential for that if Northern Ireland is to work effectively it must benefit from an official opposition in Stormont.

"As a Ballymena Councillor I will prioritise my work to rejuvenate the fledging town centre. It is evident that business rates need to be urgently reviewed and that Invest NI need to be held accountable for the lack of investment offered to the town.

"I pledge to work alongside our Party Leader Jim Allister MLA and Cllr Roy Gillespie for the betterment of Ballymena and Northern Ireland."

Commenting on the selection

of Timothy Gaston TUV Leader and local MLA Jim Allister stated:

"Timothy will join Ballymena Council as the borough's youngest Councillor and as such will bring a fresh approach to the chamber which will complement the vast experience offered by Councillor Roy Gillespie.

"Ballymena deserves committed public representatives who will dedicate themselves to the improvement of the borough. I have no doubt that Timothy is worthy of that task."



Timothy Gaston is welcomed to Ballymena Council by Jim Allister MLA and Cllr Roy Gillespie

Second European Day for Victims of Terrorism

On 11th March TUV Leader Jim Allister hosted the second European Day for Victims of Terrorism at Stormont.

Describing the event Jim Allister MLA commented:

"This month I hosted the second event to take place at Stormont marking the European Day for Victims of Terrorism.

Every year since the Madrid bombings in 2004 the European Union has dedicated 11th March as a Memorial Day to the victims of terrorist attacks. Sadly,

until last year, this day had never been marked at Stormont. I rectified this situation last year by hosting an event at which victims of Republican and self-styled Loyalist terrorism were allowed to tell their stories. A similar event took place this year with over 80 victims of terrorism in attendance.

"A moments silence was observed in memory of those who lost their lives before we heard from Florence Graham who lost her brother in an IRA bombing and Ann Service whose son was murdered by "loyalist" gunmen.

"I am very grateful to the two ladies who told their stories very movingly and I know that the event was felt to be worthwhile by those in attendance.

"I am also grateful to Alban Maginness MLA and Mike Nesbitt MLA for joining me in sponsoring this worthy event."



Jim Allister pictured on European Day for victims of terrorism with Florence Graham & Ann Service

Another Provo Appointed by Sinn Fein / IRA

TUV Leader, Jim Allister MLA has again demonstrated the symbolic relationship between Sinn Fein and their IRA terrorist twin:

"The decision of Sinn Fein/IRA to co-opt convicted murderer Ian Milne to fill Francie Molloy's Assembly seat illustrates yet again how wedded the party remains to terrorism.

"Milne once featured on

the RUC's "three most wanted list" and spent time in jail in the Republic before being arrested in Lurgan in 1977 and receiving a life sentence for the murder of a UDR member.

Jim Allister continued:

"Rather than attempting to leave terrorism behind appointments by Sinn Fein in recent times have shown that the party continues to believe Re-

publican terrorism was justified. This appointment demonstrates, once again, Sinn Fein's utter contempt for the victims of the IRA. It makes a nonsense of McGuinness pretending in his weekend speech that he was interested in understanding Unionists and illustrates that Sinn Fein/IRA are still in the business of rewarding those who, in their language, spent time on "active service".



SF Appoint Murdering Milne to Assembly

TUV Position on Unionist Unity

Addressing the TUV West Tyrone Association, TUV Leader Jim Allister reflected on the future of Unionist Unity following the Mid-Ulster By-Election:

"It was indisputably right that there should have been a single unionist candidate in Mid Ulster.

However whereas agreed candidates, if attainable, make sense in marginal seats in Westminster elections, there is no road over to PR elections, where the luxury of choice inevitably maximises the unionist vote and where the general unionist interest is served by inter unionist transfers.

Certainly in any election to Stormont those of us who oppose terrorists in

government would have no one to vote for if only DUP and UUP candidates were on offer and in consequence the overall unionist vote would suffer.

"So inter unionist cooperation requires different forms according to the nature of the election: in first past the post (only Westminster) agreed candidates make sense in marginal seats, but in PR elections multiplicity of choice, with inter unionist transfers, is the key.

"Whether the UUP and DUP should merge, that is a matter for them, though, I would comment that in truth since the DUP stole Trimble's clothes and

embraced the Belfast Agreement there is very little in policy terms to distinguish them and so their fusion would carry a certain logic. But if they do there will still be a need for, indeed a greater need, for an anti terrorists in government unionist alternative. So, TUV has no thoughts of going away anytime soon!

Jim Allister continued:

"Absorption by the DUP is the inevitable logic of the UUP being DUP lite. If they wanted to prosper, then, I would have thought distinguishing themselves from the larger party was the obvious way to go and in that forging an opposition in Stormont

would be the route to go. And, if they need any tips my fees are most reasonable!

Jim Allister concluded:

"I am somewhat bemused by Mike Nesbitt's plea for DUP transfers in the European election. Has he forgotten it was not DUP transfers that brought Jim Nicholson in as the top unionist in 2009! Hitching his wagon to the DUP may not pay the same dividend.

In June 2014 I don't expect DUP and UUP to be the only unionists on offer."

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Corporation Tax was a Major Mis-Calculation

Responding to Prime Minister Cameron's decision not to lower NI Corporation Tax, Jim Allister MLA commented:

"While the First Ministers would have us believe their failure to get corporation tax transferred to Stormont is a step backwards the reality is that it is the best decision for Northern Ireland. While the vested interest of big business rests solely in reducing their tax bill the corresponding haemorrhage from the block grant which everyone in Northern Ireland would suffer through a cut in public services needs to be considered.

"The recommendation by the Silk Commission in November last year that

corporation tax should not be devolved to the Welsh Assembly should act as a warning to Northern Ireland.

"The Welsh Government also told the Commission: "Devolution of corporation tax could offer the Welsh Government a powerful tool to promote economic development, but this is a volatile tax which is strongly linked to the economic cycle. There would therefore be significant budgetary risks to Wales that would need to be mitigated in any proposal for devolution".

"The Silk Commission also notes that because of the Azores judgment in the European Court there are significant risks to the

Welsh budget. Additionally, the report notes a point which should resonate with all Unionists: "

Many have noted to us that having a single corporation tax system makes the United Kingdom an attractive destination for international investment. This would be put at risk by having different systems in different parts of the United Kingdom. This point was made strongly to us by CBI Wales and True Wales who argued that inward investors placed great importance on a stable and predictable business environment and that corporation tax rates play a key part in this.

It is therefore not clear that

devolving corporation tax to the Welsh Government would necessarily be a useful policy lever."

"There is a negative side of devolving corporation tax and the very substantial risks involved which have been too long ignored by the media and the political establishment in Stormont.

"For years Stormont has wasted its energies in chasing this moonbeam. In a gross miscalculation they pursued no other economic approach and now it's back to the drawing board."