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Issue 1



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"Welcome to the first issue of 'Stormont Snippets' a monthly publication that will keep you up-to-date with my work as an MLA.

I want to begin this first issue by thanking all our candidates and workers for their sterling efforts on behalf of TUV in the Assembly election. To each and every person who stuck by their principles and voted TUV I say a big thank you.

Right is still right and therefore within the Assembly I will strive to ensure the voice of Traditional Unionism is heard loud and clear."

### The Voice of Conscience at Stormont

After his first day in the Assembly Jim Allister QC, MLA observed that:

"Nua DUP is in total hock to IRA/Sinn Fein. William Hay's temporary return as Speaker was a grace and favour appointment by Sinn Fein. The first instalment of the sordid deal soon emerged with the news that while Mr Hay keeps the seat warm for Molloy he will bask in the contrived title of 'Principal Deputy Speaker'.

Though shame-faced and discomfited by my presence as their abandoned conscience,

DUP MLAs are so wedded to power, any power, that they will pay any price to keep Sinn Fein happy.

The Assembly is constructed on rules designed to suppress democracy. Where else but Stormont could Joint First Ministers be elected with a prohibition on both debate and a vote on the proposition? Clearly the powers that be fear debate.

At least this Assembly will be different from the last because there will be a voice to challenge and rebuke the constant roll-over to the Sinn Fein agenda."



### Allister forces response on McArdle

Jim Allister was the only MLA to raise the appointment of a convicted murderer as a Special Adviser to the Culture Minister during Ministerial Question time. Unfortunately his comments were not addressed by the Minister on the floor of the House but in a written answer to another question tabled by Mr Allister. Ni Chuilin displayed her utter disregard for the feelings of the Travers family.

Commenting Mr Allister said:

"She does not employ the word used in my question – murder. And what does she mean when she says it was "wrong"? Was it "wrong" in the sense that it wasn't the father who was killed rather than his daughter? Was it "wrong" in the same sense in which Mitchell

McLaughlin said that the killing of Jean McConville was wrong - wrong but not a crime?

"Ni Chuilin quickly passes over the murder to talk about the "state forces" and "governments". Exactly how many people did "state forces" murder as they left a place of worship?

The Minister's utter contempt for the Travers family becomes clear in the final two paragraphs where she says:

"Republicans have made an invaluable contribution to the construction of the peace process. Without their contribution we would not have a peace process. I am therefore happy for Mary McArdle to continue in her position as my Special Adviser."

"Such Republican propaganda spouted in a Ministerial reply is truly scandalous. It is an indictment of all those who endorse the so-called peace process that someone of McArdle's ilk could be said to have made an "invaluable" contribution to it.

The fact that the Assembly has still not found time to debate a motion on this issue – despite one being tabled two weeks ago illustrates that the pro-agreement consensus at Stormont is content to let this appointment pass with the minimum of fuss."

Following Jim Allister's intervention Anne Travers publicly thanked him for striving to raise the matter in the Assembly and claimed that he was the only one who had done anything about the issue.

“At least this Assembly will be different from the last because there will be a voice to challenge and rebuke the constant roll-over to the Sinn Fein agenda.”

- Jim Allister MLA

“I would like to thank Jim Allister for posing this question. He is the only person who has done anything about this issue”

- Ann Travers

“I suggested to the PM that for him, as an international salesman for these basic tenets across the world, it should be embarrassing that in this part of his and our United Kingdom these rights were denied.”

- Jim Allister MLA

## Honouring Our Heroes

Jim Allister took the opportunity to attend the Welcome Home Parade for the RIR in Ballymena during May.

Jim Allister described the event as, “a marvellous opportunity for the town and its people to show their gratitude for the selfless courage of our young soldiers, so many of whom come from the towns and villages of North Antrim.”

He Continued:

“It seems a long time since Roy Gillespie first suggested it,

but tonight Ballymena and district can stand proud with the RIR. While we celebrate with the local families, we remember, of course, the three Northern Ireland soldiers who laid down their lives on this tour in Afghanistan. I also think of those seriously injured, like Ranger Gillespie from Galgorm, and rejoice in his significant recovery. Their sacrifice reminds us all of how much we owe our armed services.”

Jim Allister has also called for a parade to be hosted at

Stormont after plans for a homecoming parade in our capital city fell through.

Jim Allister explained;

“Stormont, in light of its history, is a prestigious venue where a fitting tribute could be paid to those who have fought to bring democracy and freedom to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Given that DUP Minister Sammy Wilson has remit over the grounds I can think of no reason why such an event could not take place.”

## Allister Makes the Case for A26

One of the cardinal issues that has afflicted the North Antrim constituency is the state of the A26. The road is one of the main arteries in Northern Ireland, has one of the highest daily vehicle usage figures, and has a tragic death rate. So, it is necessary that the inadequacy of the road is addressed.

Speaking during an Assembly debate Jim Allister argued that, “it is probably a reflection of the significance of roads issues and the inadequacy of some roads that we have probably debated the issue of roads more than anything else in the House since the start of this mandate. That in itself points to underinvestment, which is a legacy of the last

Executive, and that legacy now falls to the current Minister to address.

The issue is, in effect, about developing the economy of North Antrim, because there is an inextricable link between good road access and economic development. It is no coincidence that Ballymena, to which we have good road links, has seen industrial growth. Yet, if you drive the further miles to Ballymoney, you will see a dearth and a loss of industrial growth.

The stalling of the scheme is not just a frustration; it blights those whose lands are affected. Farmers were co-operative in the process and

not obstructive as some have been elsewhere. We arrived at a scheme that is viable and tolerable for all concerned. However, an inevitable consequence is that their land is now blighted by that planned expansion.

In the scale of things, £50 million is not a huge amount of money; in the scale of the extravagance of the A5, it is but nothing. I urge upon the Minister the necessity of giving it all the priority that it most certainly deserves.

At present we have the worst of all worlds: a promise unfulfilled, a blight on the landowners and yet no product. We need product on this matter.”

## North Antrim's Nursery Needs

Jim Allister has raised the issue of Nursery provision in North Antrim.

He explained to the Assembly that despite a 20-year campaign for a nursery unit by the board of governors at Moorfields Primary School the parents of the largely rural area between Ballymena and Larne remain un-served and that the Department have failed to address the issue.

Speaking in the Assembly Jim Allister argued that,

“In the provision of nursery places, we have got out of kilter in the prioritising of social need. If we are going to provide what we ought to, namely a statutory right to a nursery place for every child, we certainly need to make sure that the places that are available are provided on a more equitable and

sustainable basis. We can talk about the application of the policy, but, if the places are not there in a particular geographical location in the first place, it does not matter what the policy is.

The essential prerequisite is planning that will provide nursery units. When I come back to that rural hinterland, I find that there is not just underprovision but no provision.”

## Secret Society?

TUV Leader Jim Allister MLA has established, through questions to the Justice Minister, that since 2007 four “super injunctions” have been issued by the High Court in Belfast.

Commenting on the revelation Jim Allister said;

“The mystery and secrecy surrounding injunctive relief is generally not healthy, nor does it sit comfortably with the transparency expectations of a modern society. Thus,

establishing that there have been four ‘super injunctions’ in Northern Ireland contributes in a small way to redressing the balance of secrecy.

The growth of ‘super injunctions’ is a product of the courts being persuaded to prioritise privacy rights over freedom of expression and press rights within the Human Rights Act. I am far from convinced that this balance is weighted in the right direction,

particularly where it is a facility which in practical terms is only likely to be available to those who can afford it.

In Northern Ireland there has not been the level of debate necessary in a democracy about these issues and, therefore, I trust the release of this limited information may stimulate some necessary debate.”



**Jim Allister Celebrates his election to the Northern Ireland Assembly**

## Mystery of the Missing Millions

In these hard economic times when ordinary families are facing serious financial pressures it is more important than ever that they know the powers that be are being prudent when it comes to tax payer’s money.

However Jim Allister has been dismayed by the amount of money spent on consultants at the Assembly.

The Office of the Joint First Ministers has spent a shocking £16,036,000 on consultants over the past four years.

The Department of Education has spent in excess of £2,000,000 of tax payer’s

money on external consultants. Despite this huge outlay the department has continually failed to do anything to solve the selection crisis which has caused so much heartache across Northern Ireland.

Enraged by the huge expenditure on consultants and administration, Jim Allister raised the roll-out of Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme and, in particular, the amount of money spent on administration, rather than on delivery during the first question to the Minister for Agriculture.

However the Minister was unable to give the breakdown

between bureaucracy costs and money actually paid out.

Jim Allister will continue to scrutinise how much departments are wasting.

Commenting on the consultant Bill accumulated by OFMDFM and the Education department Jim Allister stated:

“I have already asked a number of other government departments how much they have spent on external consultants since the restoration of devolution and will be challenging all of them in due course to reveal how much public money has been used in such a fashion.”



**The DUP attempt to silence their ‘abandoned conscience’ following the first sitting of the new Assembly in May**

## 394 abortions in NI since 2006, WHY?

Jim Allister has discovered that there were 394 abortions performed in Northern Ireland’s hospitals since 2006. However while the Department of Health holds statistics on the number of abortions, information on the reason for abortion is not collected centrally.

Jim Allister will be asking Minister Poots if he will review the current practice of not

recording and collating the reason for each abortion and issue guidance that such should be done.

It is an ideal time to address the issue as the DHSSPS’s Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy is currently at consultation stage.

Commenting on his findings Jim Allister stated, “Given that abortion in Northern Ireland is

only permissible in cases where the life of the mother is in danger, I am surprised that this data is not already recorded. Given the sensitivity of the matter and the undeniable public interest in abortion in Northern Ireland I believe that the reason for each abortion should be recorded in order for there to be maximum public confidence that the law is being complied with.”



**In June DUP Speaker William Hay rejected Jim Allister’s move to rule that all MLA’s refer only to Northern Ireland when in the House**

## Kingsmill Report Welcomed



Jim Allister has welcomed the report into the Kingsmill Massacre.

Jim Allister argued that;

“The Kingsmill massacre was one of the most horrific incidents in the Troubles. Few incidents illustrated the sectarian nature of the IRA’s murder campaign as

graphically.

In pointing the figure of blame at the IRA the report simply confirms what everyone already knew but it is welcome in that it vindicates what the families have been saying for so many years.

Sadly the full truth of what happened that terrible day is still hidden. Yes it was the IRA which carried out the murders but who within that wicked organisation? No one has ever been brought to justice.

Worse still those who continue to justify the IRA’s bloody sectarian campaign sit at the heart of our government.”

## Douglas Flying Flag of Justice



TUV Councillor Boyd Douglas launched a protest in June following the appointment of Sean McGlinchey to the position of Mayor in Limavady. McGlinchey planted an IRA bomb in Coleraine which killed six people in 1973.

Cllr Douglas brought two meetings to a standstill by

producing a Union Jack flag in protest against McGlinchey’s appointment. His actions caused a media furore and acted to ensure the victims of McGlinchey’s heinous crime were not forgotten.

Cllr Douglas has been inundated with messages of support for his protest.

Commenting Cllr Douglas stated:

“Not everyone may agree with the method of my protest, but they thanked me for standing up and expressing the anger and hurt that is felt.”



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Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Nothing That is Morally  
Wrong Can Be  
Politically Right!

## Allister Leads the Calls to Resolve Milk Cup Funding Fiasco

Jim Allister has taken the opportunity to question Minister Foster about the funding crisis which surrounds the Milk Cup.

The Milk Cup’s application to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board was rejected because it “failed to meet the minimum assessment score required to merit an award” and after their appeal the organisers were informed that, “The panel felt there was not enough information detailed in the application form to merit an award”.

Commenting on the funding fiasco Jim Allister stated;

“The Milk Cup has been held annually for the past 28 years yet in the NITB’s “Event Viability and Management Experience” category the Milk

Cup scored 29 out of 65. That fact alone is sufficient to demonstrate just how preposterous the Tourist Board’s decision is.

But it gets worse. The Milk Cup scored 10 out of a possible 20 when it came to “Brand Northern Ireland”! Personally I would be hard pressed to think of another event which does more to promote Northern Ireland as a brand. Here is an event which has been held in our Province annually for the best part of three decades. It is a major youth sporting event which generates considerable interest overseas. Not only does the event bring young sports people to Northern Ireland and but it is also broadcast on major TV stations.

Manchester United TV (MUTV) for example covers the tournament on a daily basis and at the end, a one hour documentary is shown on their satellite station which, I understand, is the football club channel with the largest number of subscribers worldwide.

During questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, I pressed Mrs Foster on the issue as she has ministerial responsibility for tourism. It is regrettable that the Minister has not yet pulled the NITB into line.”

Jim Allister has pledged to continue the funding fight on behalf of the Milk Cup and has tabled an adjournment debate on the matter.

