



Cromwell's Bridge

This is one of the most important historical sites in Kenmare and, despite the developer offering the land to the County Council, they are hesitant to take public ownership of it.

I have researched the issues involved and written to the County Manager outlining their responsibilities.

I am confident the townspeople and our visitors will have use of this historic landmark soon.

Valentia

Due to my request, the issue of Valentia Marine Rescue Centre is to come before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport.

A briefing file has been sent to the Chairman of the committee Frank Fahy outlining the case for keeping the centre open.

Included in the brief was:

- The 16 page report that has put Valentia in jeopardy
- The deconstruction of the 16 page report highlighting the flaws and false information in the report
- The original announcement by then Minister for Transport Dermot Ahern to expand Valentia (2004)
- The proof of Valentia's involvement in over 50% of Mayday calls

It is hoped that there will be an early sitting of the committee to hear the argument for Valentia.

Health effects of Mobile phones masts and phones raised twice by Mark in the Senate

This issue was raised by me twice over the last number of weeks. Firstly, because of new research by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and secondly, in light of a report by the Russian Government on the effects of mobile phones on children's health. (see appendix 1 and 2)

With over 2,000 reports on the negative health effects of mobile phones and masts, the EEA advice makes the most sense. When in any doubt the "Precautionary Principle" should apply.

I have called on the Minister for Communications to demand the highest standards from mobile phone companies in terms of the lowest emissions from masts. I also want to ensure that the recommendations from Joint Oireachtas Committee on Communications on mobile phones will be implemented.
(see appendix 3 and 4)

Arbour Hill for 1916 Commemoration



Mark with Members of the Fianna Fail Parliamentary Party at Arbour Hill

The largest crowd in years attended Arbour Hill for the Fianna Fail 1916 Rising Commemoration for An Taoiseach's final address as party leader.

His words paid homage to those few ordinary men and women who did an extra ordinary thing on that Easter Monday 92 years ago. Many, including myself, wore medals won by parents and grandparents who fought in the War of Independence and the Civil War from 1916 to 1923.

As we move towards 2016 it is important to remember the words of Kennedy when he was in Ireland; "We need not feel the bitterness of the past to find the meaning for the present and the future".

It is fitting that on his final day as Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern will attend Arbour Hill for the National Commemoration and the Battle of the Boyne site with Ian Paisley.

Helping Alan Kerins to Help Others

This may be the best thing I will do as a Public Representative. This is a link to a short video about the plight of the vast majority of the worlds citizens
http://youtube.com/watch?v=kiUCTbi_XZs&feature=related .

It was my privilege to assist Alan Kerins in getting one year's career break from the HSE. I also managed to convince believers in Alan's vital work to be generous and ensure that Alan's wages are covered for the year ahead.

He is spending the next 12 months expanding the work of his charity the Alan Kerins Africa Project to help those who find themselves in the same situation we suffered through 160 years ago. For more information please visit www.alankerins.ie

Key role in Taoiseach's Gift to American People



An Taoiseach presenting the Sword to the Friends of Ireland Society

It was a privilege to be on Capitol Hill for the Taoiseach's address and contribute in my small way to the historic occasion.

In 1963, when JFK addressed the Irish Parliament, he presented the flag of the Irish Brigade led by Brigadier General Thomas F Meagher to the Irish people. I managed to source Meagher's battle sword and proposed to the Taoiseach's office that we would present it to the People of the United States during the visit to Capitol Hill.

The enormous generosity of the city of Waterford made this repayment of a 45 year old debt possible.

(Please see <http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/index.asp?locID=582&docID=3867> for An Taoiseach's speech to Congress and appendix 5 text of speech during the presentation. Appendix 6 is Irish Independent Article).

Appendix 1

Tuesday, 8 April 2008 Order of Business

Senator Mark Daly: I seek that the Leader call the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Deputy Ryan, to the House to discuss the new report by the European Environment Agency on mobile telephone masts and mobile telephones and their possible effect on health. Its author, Dr. David Gee, reports to the European Commission and the European Parliament. The report cautions the Government that it must apply the precautionary principle on the possible health effects of mobile telephone masts and mobile telephones. It urges the Government to have the highest standards in terms of emissions for mobile telephone masts. At present, we have the highest emissions in the world from mobile telephone masts.

I sound a word of caution. It took 57 years to prove that tobacco causes lung cancer. We do not have 57 years to wait to prove that mobile telephone masts cause cancer. The Irish people expect us to act in their best interests and to act against any vested interests. The March 2007 report of the then Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources has been superseded by other reports in Israel, Germany and beyond which state that there is now evidence that after ten years of mobile telephone usage there is a risk of cancer.

I must declare a personal interest in this. My uncle and aunt lived 100m from a mobile telephone mast in Kenmare and both died of cancer. I cannot say the mobile telephone mast was the cause of their deaths but if it was, I hope no one else suffers this loss. I urge the Government to apply the precautionary principle and to act in the best interests of the Irish people.

Appendix 2

Thursday, 24 April 2008 Order of Business

Senator Mark Daly: I wish to raise the matter of the situation in Gaza where an Irishman, John Ging, heads the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, operation there. It is incumbent on us in this House and on Ireland to do anything we can to support UNRWA and the people of Palestine who are, effectively, living in the open prison of Gaza.

The week before last I spoke about the effects of mobile phones and phone masts and asked the Leader to organise a debate on the issue. A new report by the Russian national committee on non-ionising radiation protection, Children and Handsets: Future Generations' Health is Under Threat, was issued recently. The report discusses the threat of mobile phone handsets to children's health. The threat is significant because of the early developmental stage of children's brains. The absorption of electromagnetic waves in children is more sensitive than that of adolescents or adults and can cause everything from attention deficit to cancer and possibly Alzheimer's disease. The report states that mobile phone handsets should only be used by children in emergency situations. Given that mobile phone companies are targeting children and teenagers, I seek an urgent debate on the matter.

Daly's mobile mast fears after deaths of relatives

BY EVE KELLIHER

THE deaths of two of his close relatives from cancer has prompted a Kerry politician to call for more debate on the potential health hazards posed by mobile phones and mobile phone masts.

Senator Mark Daly said he has "a personal, vested interest" in the issue following the deaths of his uncle and aunt, Denis and Anne O'Connor, who had both battled with cancer.

He told the Seanad that he believes the fact that their home and workplace were located within 50 metres from a mobile phone mast at Kenmare Garda Station could be linked to their illness.

Senator Daly has urged the Minister for Communications to attend a sitting of the Seanad to discuss a new report on mobile phones and mobile phone masts.

The report, conducted by the European Environmental Agency, calls on governments to apply the precautionary principle to policies regarding mobile phone technology.

"It's a big issue, all around Kerry and all around the country. A lot of people are quite rightly afraid to have mobile phone masts near their schools and their homes," Senator Daly told The Kingdom after he raised the issue in the Seanad.



Mark Daly: concerns over masts.

"By having the masts around garda stations, they are using the law to get around it, as planning permission is not needed for them there."

The Kenmare-based senator cited the new report's likening of the lenient standards governing mobile phones industry to those allowed to tobacco manufacturers in the last century.

And he is calling on the government to apply the highest possible standards rather than lowest to protect its citizens.

Senator Daly said it took 57 years to have proof beyond all reasonable doubt that tobacco smoking causes cancer and he warned that the public cannot wait another 57 years to better the standards

regulating mobile phones and masts.

"It's unproven whether or not mobile phone masts can be the cause of cancer, but it took 57 years for tobacco to be recognised as a cause of the illness. It's very difficult thing to prove," he said.

And he revealed that Ireland and the UK have among the highest emissions from mobile phone masts in the world.

The debate on mobile phones and masts will be scheduled this month in the Seanad pending the acceptance of Minister Eamon Ryan.

Senator Daly also highlighted the fact that Lloyds of London will no longer insure the mobile phone industry against the health effects on consumers.

He pointed out that Professor Jacqueline McGlade, executive director of European Environmental Agency, had issued an early warning on mobile phones, wi-fi and masts in September 2007.

There have been constant disputes in Kerry regarding the location of mobile telephone masts with many communities strongly objecting to masts being erected near their homes.

Kerry County Council also implemented a rule banning the erection masts anywhere near residential areas or schools but there are masts located in the grounds of many garda stations throughout Kerry.

Daly urges mast debate

By SINEAD KELLEHER



Senator Mark Daly

THE controversial issue of phone masts has been raised again by Kenmare Senator Mark Daly who has called on Communications Minister Eamon Ryan to attend a sitting of the Seanad to discuss a new report on mobile phones and mobile phone masts.

The driving reason for Senator Daly's objection to the masts is that the home of his aunt and uncle — who both died of cancer — was located 50 metres from the mobile phone mast in Kenmare

Garda Station.

He says he now wants the minister to discuss the report which was carried by the European Environmental Agency. The report calls on governments to apply "precautionary principle" to policies regarding mobile phone technology.

Speaking at the Seanad last week, Senator Daly, said that Ireland and the UK have among the highest emissions from mobile phone masts in the world.

In light of this, he called on the government to "apply the

highest possible standards to protect its citizens rather than lowest".

Senator Daly claimed that it took 57 years to have proof beyond all reasonable doubt that tobacco smoking causes cancer — he warned that we cannot wait another 57 years to better the standards regulating mobile phones and masts.

The debate on mobile phones and masts will be scheduled this month in the Seanad, pending the acceptance of Minister Eamon Ryan.

Appendix 5

An Taoiseach's Words when Presenting Sword

Chairman Neal, Congressman Walsh, (Senator Kennedy), Friends

This has been a proud morning indeed here on Capitol Hill, for Ireland and for me. As always, however, I feel so much at home when I join our good Friends here who have helped us for so long.

Thank you so much, (Ted and Richie), for the welcome which has been extended to me. I have been deeply honoured by Speaker Pelosi and by the Congress of the United States today.

May I extend a word of personal thanks also for all the assistance extended by everyone especially by Billy Traghese,(TRAN-GEY-ZEE) whose work and friendship we appreciate so much.

As I mentioned when I spoke in the Chamber, the work of the Friends over for over 25 years has been unswerving, enduring and ultimately central to the peace and prosperity which we enjoy on the island of Ireland today.

The history of the Irish in America is well known to you here. An American writer once wrote some years ago: "I was Irish before I knew anything." Many of you here will identify with the power of that statement and all it represents.

Many Irish, from North and South, played a role in the birth of this nation as the path to independence was found.

A very special journey in that chapter included the story of the Fighting 69th, who played a brave and proud role and whose brigade included many Irish names.

One such name was Thomas Francis Meagher from Waterford. I am very glad that Waterford city is represented here today. Meagher, whose portrait actually hangs in my Office in Dublin, fought with this famous Regiment of the New York Militia and fought also in battles of the American Civil War. It was Meagher also who gave us our own flag, the tricolour, on his return from Paris, inspired as he was by revolutionary ideas in Europe at that time.

When President John F. Kennedy, a son of Massachusetts, paid that memorable visit to Ireland in 1963, he gave the Flag of the "Fighting 69th" to the Houses of the Irish Parliament. As the President said when speaking in our Dail, "they wore a proud heritage and a special courage".

Today, I am very pleased to reciprocate this gesture by presenting to the Friends of Ireland in the Senate and the House the sword of Thomas Francis Meagher. In doing so, we express not only our warmest appreciation for all that our Friends have done for us for so many years, but we recognise also the countless stories of courage and sacrifice of so many before us, and which gave us the freedom and justice which we enjoy on both sides of the Atlantic today.

I hope that this sword serves as a reminder of our shared history and of our profound gratitude to our Friends in the Senate and House. I am confident that it will be given an appropriate place in these august surroundings.

Thank you.



HE MAKES HIS MARK



Banging on: Daly is putting himself about

Senator Mark "DVD" Daly has been busy of late.

As well as carrying out his own survey of councillors with fellow senator Jim Walsh, he is also responsible for choosing what gift Taoiseach Bertie Ahern brings to Washington for his address to the US congress.

Mark also managed to wrangle a prime speaking slot at the Fianna Fail Christmas party in City West hotel last year - although he annoyed Mr Ahern with his claim during the party

that Kerry would win the All Ireland for the third time in a row.

"It wasn't a joke, it was a fact," says a defiant Mark.

He is also developing his interest in foreign affairs - and was recently on an Oireachtas committee trip to the West Bank and Israel.

While the rest of the committee went home as scheduled, we're told that eager Mark stayed an extra day to get a deeper understanding of the conflict.