

February 2012  
Issue 7



**Inside this issue:**

- Exclusion of 12th & Ulster Covenant from Showcase **2**
- TUV Meet Secretary of State **2**
- Shameful Maze Shrine a step closer **2**
- Move to restore Queen's portrait for Jubilee **3**
- Allister Challenges Cullen on Convicted Terrorist **3**
- Allister questions Ford's stance on Amnesty **3**
- Allister Expresses Regret at Decision to Shut Out TUV Voice **4**

**Allister Blasts Stormont on Policing and Justice**



TUV leader Jim Allister MLA angered Joint First Minister Robinson when he opposed the re-designation of David Ford as Justice Minister.

Speaking in the Assembly Mr Allister stated:

“It has been almost two years since policing and justice powers were devolved. To some, that might seem like several political lifetimes, because, of course, there were those in this House who told us that aeons would have to pass before policing and justice powers were devolved. Then, one cold day in Hillsborough, Sinn Féin put their backs against the wall and threatened them that there would be no more Assembly and no more chauffeur-driven cars unless they caved in. They caved in spectacularly,

as the snowmen and melted away, and, once more, Sinn Féin got its way in this House and got the powers that were going to be so many political lifetimes away suddenly devolved.

“We were promised, of course, that there would be a momentous amount of money to help things, and that £800 million was coming our way. Where is it? I probed in the Budget debates last year, but the Finance Minister could not tell me where the £800 million was. Last night, I sat in a meeting of 200 people who were fighting to save their police station in the village of Broughshane because of cuts. Where is the £800 million that was going to save policing and justice? That is another part of the con that attended all that.

“How has it worked out? It has worked out so well that, at one point, the First Minister threatened to resign over the actions of the Justice Minister, who, surreptitiously, was going to destroy the symbols and

the name of the Prison Service and had to be called to book by the First Minister.

“Now he wants to reappoint him, because, of course, this is a post for which no unionist need apply.

“That is pure and simple and, again, is part of another deal with Sinn Féin and the DUP. It is not part of any negotiations in any real sense between parties in the House but part of a negotiation between Sinn Féin and the DUP in which, again, the compliant beneficiary will be the Alliance Party.

“All the things that the DUP once eschewed and said that it could never, never, never accept are the very things that it implements day and daily. As a prop to the implementing of them it had to agree the transfer of policing and justice at Sinn Féin's behest, and it agreed to continue to prop up the very essence and substance of the Belfast Agreement.

**Allister Keeps the Pressure on DARD Over IRA Monument**

Jim Allister MLA has uncovered an attempt by SF-IRA to award DARD funds to help maintain an IRA memorial in South Armagh

Following the revelation Jim Allister MLA has maintained the pressure on OFMdfM to ensure the plan does not succeed.

In a statement Mr Allister stated:

“A series of important questions about the whole issue remain unanswered. When did the Agriculture Minister make the decision that the Crossmaglen terrorist monument is eligible for

funding and why was it not referred to the Executive as a controversial issue? On what basis did the Minister decide that the monument was eligible for funding? What process did the application for funding go through? Just what was to be inscribed on the additional plaques which are intended to be added to the terrorist monument? How can the Minister square a decision to fund such a monument with her obligation under the Ministerial Code to uphold the rule of law and promote the interests of the whole community?

“And what action have the

First Ministers taken now that TUV has brought the issue to light?

“It is sickening to think that tax payer's money could have been squandered on a monument which glorifies IRA terrorists in an area where that organisation carried out some of their most blatantly sectarian murders.

“It would seem that on this issue DUP were, once again, asleep at the wheel. Where it not for the intervention of TUV this decision would have slipped past without so much as a whimper of protest.”

*"Mr Allister is the Assembly's resident naysayer, but his determined begrudgery often has a point."*

Liam Clarke  
Belfast Telegraph

*"Is Jim Allister's brand of opposition catching on? UUP MLA Mike Nesbitt earned headlines with a written question revealing that the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister paid consultants to assess the work of another set of consultants. It is interesting that such an ambitious reprehensive should otherwise look to the Way of Jim."*

Newton Emerson  
Irish News

*Allister: "Have you changed your bigoted stance, Minister?"*

*Minister: "There's no answer to that"*

Under pressure DECAL Minister refuses to answer a question from Jim Allister MLA

## Foster challenged on Exclusion of 12th and Ulster Covenant from Showcase

Jim Allister MLA has challenged Arlene Foster after celebrations marking the 12th of July and the Ulster Covenant were excluded in a marketing drive by her department

In a statement Mr Allister explained:

"I am appalled that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has excluded the 12th July from the Our Time, Our Place showcase.

"Other shocking omissions include Scarva – a major event attended by in excess of 100,000 people every year and renowned throughout the Province for the quality of the

bands which parade – and the centenary of the Ulster Covenant.

"What makes the exclusion of these events of major significance to the Unionist community all the more glaring is the inclusion of the St Patrick's Day parade in Belfast, the West Belfast Festival and an Irish traditional spring festival.

"We hear a lot of talk about a "shared future" but, going by this example, it seems that as far as the Northern Ireland Tourist Board is concerned only events which celebrate the Nationalist and Republican tradition should be

promoted. The rich history and cultural heritage of the majority of Northern Ireland's population is totally ignored.

"If, as the Tourist Board seem to suggest, it was the responsibility of organisers of events to apply for inclusion in Our Time, Our Place why was the Orange Order, as a key stakeholder, not contacted and told that they needed to do so?

"And why didn't the DUP Minister with responsibility for tourism ensure that events which are hugely significant to the Unionist community were included in the Our Time, Our Place showcase?"

## TUV Meet Secretary of State

Speaking after leading a TUV delegation which met the Secretary of State to discuss how to deal with the past Party leader Jim Allister said:

"TUV made the point to the Secretary of State that we have little expectation that the powers that be - at Stormont or Westminster - will ever permit justice for innocent victims, because of the threat that would pose to the perverse political arrangements whereby the victim makers rule over us. Whatever lip service is paid to justice for victims, there is no

quest for such, no appetite to bring the perpetrators to justice, because there is too much vested interest in protecting the disreputable status quo. In fact, innocent victims are an embarrassment to the political establishment, both to those who made them victims and those who brought the victim makers into government.

"We welcome the fact that the Secretary of State is opposed to a "truth commission". However, while it seems there will be no formal amnesty TUV made it clear that many

innocent victims deeply resent the fact that there is a de facto amnesty for Republicans who are involved in the government of our Province. And given Sinn Fein/IRA's veto in Stormont there was zero prospect of the innocent victims receiving justice from any proposals put forward by the local administration.

"TUV believes that we should have justice for the innocent victims of the Troubles and that this should be sought regardless of the cost to the political process".

## Shameful Maze Shrine a step closer

TUV Leader Jim Allister has reacted to news that the EU Commission has approved £18m for the Maze Shrine as 'a Provo victory' delivered through the complicity of a roll-over DUP.

Commenting Mr Allister said:

"A few years ago the DUP vetoed the stadium because of the retention of the shrine buildings on the Maze site. Then, to keep Sinn Fein happy they fell into line by agreeing a so called Conflict Transformation Centre which

will incorporate the very buildings which stymied the stadium project."

In a statement Jim Allister said:-

"The retention of the ugly prison buildings, by successive DUP ministers in DOE refusing to delist and demolish them, means the entire site, including its worthwhile aspects, like economic development and housing, will be blighted and tainted by the so called "Conflict Transformation Centre" – official speak for the

Maze Shrine.

"If this was a genuine economic development project there wouldn't be a terrorist about the place, but, instead, in both the construction of the Board and of the eventual edifice we will see the terrorist presence. Yet another IRA/Sinn Fein triumph and DUP capitulation.

"While frontline services are being slashed, including A & E departments, it is full steam ahead with the Maze Shrine project."

## Move to restore Queen's portrait for Jubilee

TUV Leader Jim Allister, who has been campaigning for the restoration of historical artifacts to Stormont and who established that the Assembly owns but does not display a portrait of Her Majesty, has welcomed the fact that he has been able to table an Assembly motion on the subject with the support of MLAs from all unionist parties.

The motion reads as follows:-

"That this Assembly, having regard to Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, calls on the Assembly Commission to recover the Assembly's Lydia de Burgh portrait of Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and display it in the Great Hall in Parliament Buildings."

In addition to Mr. Allister the motion has been signed by independent Unionists David McNarry and David McClarty and by two MLAs from each of the UUP and DUP; Danny Kinahan and Michael Copeland from the Ulster Unionists and Lord Morrow and Gregory Campbell from the DUP.

"It is now up to the Business Committee as to when, or whether, the motion is debated on the floor of the Assembly," said Mr Allister. "I

trust it will not be blocked because this is an important matter that must be addressed. It would be a shocking indictment of Stormont if we pass through the Jubilee year, and probably a visit from Her Majesty, but never allow her portrait to hang in Parliament Buildings.

"I welcome the cross-unionist support for this initiative, but also say to nationalists that in any seat of government there is a rightful expectation that a portrait of the Head of State should be on display, not hidden away. This is not about domination. It's about doing what's right."



**TUV Delegation met with Secretary of State to oppose any amnesty for terrorists**

## Allister Challenges Cullen on Appointment of Convicted Terrorist

Jim Allister MLA has discovered that DECAL Minister has appointed a second convicted terrorist to her department.

Commenting Mr Allister stated:

"Since coming to office Minister Cullen has repeatedly demonstrated utter contempt for the victims of IRA terrorism. The tone was set when she appointed a convicted killer as her Special Adviser. Then a few weeks ago she told me in answer to an Assembly question that she was "not aware" of any GAA grounds or competitions named after

terrorists, patently, because she does not acknowledge IRA killers as terrorists. Now we learn that she has appointed an IRA hunger striker who served 16 years for attempted murder to the board of NI Screen.

"Laurence McKeown is supremely unfitted for such a role and his appointment is a calculated insult to all innocent victims of the Troubles.

"Not only was McKeown convicted of the attempted murder of an RUC officer in 1976 but he then went on to

work for a Republican prisoners' group.

"Cullen herself served as a director of the same group until her resignation in November of last year.

"I have today tabled a written question to the Minister asking her to explain why she has made such an insensitive appointment. In truth, however, it has been apparent for some time that Cullen - herself a convicted terrorist - has no shame in using her position to elevate people of this ilk to positions of influence."



**Jim Allister MLA has called for the restoration of the Queens portrait at Stormont**

## Allister questions Ford's stance on Amnesty

On foot of an Assembly answer by David Ford, TUV Leader Jim Allister has suggested the Justice Minister may be a closet supporter of amnesty for historic crimes.

In a statement Mr Allister said:

"In an Assembly Question I asked the Justice Minister for his view of the Police Ombudsman's support for an amnesty. Instead of taking the opportunity - as might be expected of a Justice Minister - to repudiate any such

anti-justice suggestion, I suspect from the minister's answer that he too would be willing to betray victims by affording amnesty to those who made them victims.

"By saying he would welcome a public debate on these issues, he is, I perceive, signaling empathy with the cause of amnesty. Amnesty is the antithesis of justice. It both rewards the law-breakers and punishes their victims. The rule of law requires the

certainty that, however long it takes, facing justice hangs over the perpetrator. Extinguish that hope for the victim and you add to his/her hurt.

"I am, therefore, disappointed by the minister's stance. He had the opportunity to reassure victims that the long arm of the law would continue to pursue the criminal, but instead he chose to give solace to the lawbreaker."



**Jim Allister MLA uncovered SF plans to use taxpayers money to maintain an IRA memorial**

## Allister Expresses Regret at Decision to Shut Out TUV Voice on Centenaries



The Speaker refused to permit TUV to debate a motion that included the centenary celebrations despite the TUV being the only Party to object to the motion.

Jim Allister explained his disappointment with the decision explaining:

“Standing Order 17 (5) states that the Speaker should have due regard to “the balance of opinion on the matter” when deciding who to call during a debate. I therefore find it

baffling that - in spite of the fact that I indicated to the Assembly Business Office this morning I would be the only member opposing the Alliance motion on centenaries - I was not called during the debate.

“Anyone who has followed my work in the Assembly will know that I have been most vocal on the importance of marking the centenary of events such as the Ulster Covenant and seeking the return of historic objects to display in Stormont which have connections with the 1912 - 1921 era such as the portrait of Sir Henry Wilson who was involved in the famous Curragh Incident in March 1914 and the

portrait of Lord Craigavon who played a pivotal role in organising the Covenant.

“I and my party opposed the motion because of the manner in which it sought to equate such honourable events as the Covenant and the Somme with such dishonourable events as the terrorist uprising of 1916. Moreover, the motion required the Stormont Executive to join in celebrating the Uprising and afforded a role to the Irish Government which is unwarranted. It is not true to history or reality to try and fuse and equate the brave and sacrificial stand of the 36th Ulster Division at the Somme and the 16th Irish at Hulluch with the actions of

the rebels of the Easter Rising.

“The 16th Irish suffered some two thousand casualties fighting for freedom at Hulluch at the very same time as the rebels were rising against the legitimate forces in Dublin.

“We should not pretend otherwise.

“It is testament to the Assembly’s lack of confidence in their own position that the single voice of opposition could not be permitted to be heard on the floor of the house on this issue.”

38 Henry Street  
Ballymena  
BT42 3AH

T: 028 25640250  
E: [info@jimallister.org](mailto:info@jimallister.org)

1 Charles Street  
Ballymoney  
BT53 6DZ

T: 028 27238393

Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
BT4 3XX

T: 028 90521175

## Allister Opens Ballymoney Office

Jim Allister’s Advice Centre at 1 Charles Street, Ballymoney was officially opened on Saturday 11th February by TUV President William Ross. Over 40 local party members gathered for the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Jim Allister MLA said this constituency office, which supplements his full-time office in Ballymena, was specifically to serve Ballymoney and Moyle. It completes the provision of an effective constituency service by TUV for all of North Antrim. “My mission is not just to be an effective voice of Opposition in Stormont against the Sinn Fein/DUP cabal, but, equally, to bring delivery on constituency issues across North Antrim. Already the office, which opened its

doors in January, has been busy and I’ve no doubt it will play a key part in helping to tackle the multiple needs of the constituency.”

William Ross, the TUV President, congratulated Mr Allister on opening up a second office in North Antrim and also paid tribute to his tenacious work in Stormont.

“He shines a strong light into the dark corners of DUP/ Sinn Fein rule, exposing that which those who misgovern us would rather keep secret. From many sources, some quite surprising, I hear reports of the success and ability of our Party Leader in Stormont. Equally, he does not neglect the needs on the ground and this office will further extend the service he gives.”

