

July/August 2011
Issue 2



Jim Allister opposes the SF/DUP deal to elevate Francie Molloy

Jim Allister pricked the conscience of Assembly Members before the vote to make Francie Molloy Principal Deputy Speaker:

Speaking in the Assembly Jim Allister stated:

“Some of the first business of this Assembly when it came back after the election was the first stage of the sordid deal between the DUP and Sinn Féin, which, today, reaches its climax. On this, the last day of this sitting, we will see elevated to the totally unnecessary and pointless position of Principal Deputy Speaker Mr Francie Molloy.

“We heard something of his

TUV Leader Jim Allister MLA has sought further clarification from Finance Minister Sammy Wilson regarding the salary afforded to Special Advisors.

Commenting on the revelations that Special Advisors are eligible to claim a salary up to £90,000 Jim Allister MLA stated:

“The world of Stormont SPADs remains incredibly secretive. I have been able to shine some limited light into the darkest recesses of that world however there remain many more secrets that must be unearthed.

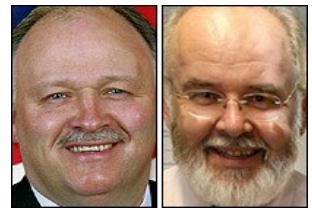
CV from the proposer. We certainly did not hear it all. Other places have heard much more about the CV of Mr Molloy. Those on the DUP Benches, when they go to elections, pretend – yes, pretend – that they are returning to Stormont to resist the Sinn Féin agenda. I have been here only a few weeks, but, every day, I see, hand in glove, the co-operation between the DUP and Sinn Féin. When those Members troop through the Lobby to my right to vote for Mr Molloy, as they inevitably will as the Lobby fodder that they are for DUP/Sinn Féin rule, may the words of their colleague Mr David Simpson ring in their ears.

“I remind them what he said of Mr Molloy in the House of Commons when he implicated him in the murder of Eric Lutton. Yet today, people like David Simpson’s colleague Stephen Moutray, who once said that he would go back to his shop before he would support Sinn Féin in

government, will troop through that Lobby to elevate the very man who David Simpson told him all about.

“Rev William McCrea addressed the House of Commons and told it that Francie Molloy should be arrested for war crimes against the people of the UK. May that salutary lesson ring in the ears of those who today troop through, and prick whatever conscience remains, as they do the bidding and show obeisance by taking whatever action it takes to keep Sinn Féin happy in this House.

“So, I say to each one of them: shame on you for the action you are about to take.”



Mr Simpson (left) made the allegations against Francie Molloy (right)

Allister Shines Spotlight on SPADs

“We do know they are exempt from security clearance - hence convicted murderers are eligible - but, unlike GB, the Stormont regime will not reveal how much each actually earns. Now, when it comes to pay increases they seem to be above the freeze which is supposed to apply across the public service. Given that hitherto DFP has contended that their pay is linked to that of senior civil servants a question which now arises is whether top civil servants are also getting an increase to their salary bands, while the lower ranks bear the full brunt of the freeze? This is one of the issues I have raised

in a further letter to the DFP Minister. As for the supposed 'Review', following the McArdle appointment, has that too been buried in the surreal SPAD world at Stormont? I have established by FOI that McArdle is one of the Special Advisors in Band B and, therefore, eligible for a salary of up to £90,000 pa. What a scandal!”



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Quotes to Note

“Mr. Allister has a sharp lawyer's eye for the detail and has been making the TUV look pretty effective by raising points on everything from the role of special advisers to super injunctions, up on the hill.

**- Liam Clarke
(Belfast Telegraph)**

“He is the only opposition we've got and he is doing a bang up job”

**- Newton Emerson
(Irish News)**

“some of the most interesting and relevant questioning of the past few months has been generated by Jim. He has proved himself to be a very effective one-man opposition and even some former detractors have developed a grudging respect for the integrity of his criticisms.”

• **- Alex Kane**

TUV Leader Jim Allister has congratulated Ballymaconnolly band on the organisation and conduct of their annual Rasharkin band on Friday night, 19th August.

In a statement the North Antrim MLA said:-

“Once more in the face of provocation and orchestrated hostility, and a malevolent Parades Commission, the Ballymaconnolly parade has taken place with great discipline and decorum. I congratulate the organisers

TUV Councillor Roy Gillespie and Party Secretary Joel Johnston have met with residents from Cullybackey to discuss plans for a through road before a public meeting with DRD Minister Danny Kennedy. The TUV delegation listened to the concerns of the local residents regarding the volume of traffic that passes through the main street. Residents are campaigning for the Minister to provide the 4 million pounds necessary to build a through-road that would alleviate much of pressure caused by the 13,000 vehicles that daily pass through Cullybackey.

Jim Allister has expressed concern about the state of fishery stocks and the extent of pollution incidents affecting the River Maine system.

In a series of detailed Assembly questions Mr Allister has established that whereas there is yet no appropriate assessment tool to measure trout stocks, in regard to salmon in 2010 there was only 61% of the number of eggs required to sustain stocks at an

Well done Ballymaconnolly!

and the spectators who conducted themselves so well. It was a great spectacle of colour and culture, to which no one except those determined to be offended could object. Apart from the corral of malcontents, swollen by those they bussed in, the village as a whole took a mature and accepting attitude, confirming to me that the Parades Commission overreacted, as usual, to the demands of the malevolent few. Hence, the unwarranted prohibition on the parade returning down the main

TUV Backs Cullybackey Residents

Residents were assured of support from the TUV for their campaign and will meet party leader Jim Allister next month.

During the meeting with Minister Kennedy Cllr Gillespie argued that Cullybackey main street was unsafe for people walking along the footpath as lorries had to mount the pavement on occasions to pass through the village. He also reminded the meeting that the residents of Cullybackey had been promised a through road in 1984 and that the situation had become significantly worse

Street. Likewise, by extending the recent ban on entering Sunnyside Drive to the upcoming RBP parade the Commission has compounded its folly of dancing to the anti-libertarian demands of politically motivated protestors.

It is unfortunate such a huge police operation was necessary to guarantee the basic right of freedom of assembly. I join in thanking the police for their contribution to a successful evening in Rasharkin.”

since then.

Cllr Gillespie described the meeting as most encouraging and thanked the Minister for visiting Cullybackey to speak with residents and to view the road. He explained that the Minister had promised to review the situation and would endeavour to inform local residents of his decision as soon as possible. He congratulated the residents group on their foresight and hard work in ensuring that the through-road was once again raised to the government's attention.

Allister expresses concern over decline in Maine fish

acceptable level. Further, the annual fry index has been falling.

Commenting Mr Allister said,

“These worrying trends are related, I believe, to other information which I unearthed in other questions, namely the excessive number of pollution incidents and the introduction of a mere ‘on call’ bailiff service. “The River Maine system is a wonderful natural

asset enjoyed by many, not just fishermen. Yet, sadly, as a fishing facility it has been allowed to diminish, largely because of inadequate attention from DCAL, the bailiff system now in place and the failure to address the pollution incidents in a proportionate manner.

“I will continue to monitor the situation to see what improvements, if any, DCAL and the Environment Agency bring.”

Electricity Prices Inflated by North - South Links

Jim Allister MLA has spoken out against the news that hard pressed consumers will be hit with a massive 20% hike in the price of electricity later this year which follows a huge hike in 2008.

Commenting on the hike Jim Allister argued:

“It is important to remember a point which is ignored by many of those who will feign sympathy with the public when it comes to this issue. One of the reasons for the runaway price of electricity in Northern

Ireland was the creation of the single electricity market on the island of Ireland, which Nigel Dodds championed when DETI Minister, followed, most significantly, by the sale of NIE to the Republic's semi-state ESB. I warned at the time Northern Ireland consumers would be bled dry the deeper ESB and the Republic got into decline.

“Prior to the Assembly recess I asked the DETI Minister Arlene Foster a series of questions relating to the price of

electricity in the Province. I established that customers in Northern Ireland pay more than any other part of the United Kingdom and that prior to the establishment of the North/South arrangements NI figures were converging with GB prices but are now diverging again as the gap with the ROI closes.

Additionally, I pressed her on what plans she had to oversee a reduction in the cost of electricity.



July 2011: Jim Allister MLA opens his constituency office in Ballymena

Closure of A&E Departments

TUV responded to a public meeting discussing the potential closure of Belfast City A&E department. Our concerns included:

- * The absence of any explanation for closing the more utilised City hospital over the Mater Hospital A & E.
- * The evident strategy to induce closure by 'temporary' measure. We believe the public deserve clarity therefore the Health Minister must come clean as to whether his real intention is to permanently close the City's department.
- * The lack of a clear strategy

or consideration of the capacity of the Royal and Mater hospitals to treat the patients that use the Belfast City Hospital

* The result of all A & E departments being located in the West and North Belfast constituencies, with disadvantage to unionist areas.

* How it comes about that when Michael McGimpsey was talking about severe cuts resulting from the DUP/Sinn Fein budget, the DUP was proclaiming there was ample funding, yet now is moving to remove this vital service from South Belfast

Commenting on the public meeting TUV stated:

“The TUV welcomes the public meeting as it affords members of the public the opportunity to demand answers from their local representatives. The devolved administration in Northern Ireland was hailed as a great achievement by the architects of the Belfast Agreement because it was said to provide caring, responsive government and an opportunity for the people to hold their politician's to account. The response to public opposition to closure of the City's A & E will test that pledge.



August 2011: Yet again the minority Protestant community face discrimination in Rasharkin

Where now the promise of caring, sensitive government under devolution?

Jim Allister has labelled the behaviour of the Department of Justice over the Police Reserve Gratuity as 'a disgrace'.

Commenting on the issue Jim Allister stated:

“David Ford's intransigent holding to an arbitrary, ill-publicised deadline, which is adding immense hardship to one of the most deserving sections of society, throws into sharp relief all the heady promises about the value of devolution. Weren't we repeatedly told how local

politicians in charge would bring caring, sensitive government? Direct rule at its worst wouldn't have taken as cruel a stance as that which Ford is clinging to.

“For someone who preaches flexibility in politics he is being remarkably intransigent.

“It is strange how David Ford found breaches of decommissioning deadlines by the Provos and others acceptable, but holds those they were trying to murder to the letter of his artificial deadline when it comes to a

gratuity recognising their valiant service. His stance is an utter disgrace.

“In addition to continuing to lobby for those ex Reservists who have approached me I will be urging them to refer the matter to the Ombudsman as maladministration because of the inadequacy of the publication process, the lack of serious effort to contact those who had served - though their contact details were obtainable - and the absence of an accessible and serious appeal process.”



August 2011: Jim Allister MLA submits a complaint to Assembly Ombudsman over David Ford's handling of the Gratuity Payment

TUV leader Presses Parades Commission over Blasphemous Placard in "Gay Pride"

Jim Allister MLA braved a media storm to defend the rights of Christians following an offensive Gay Pride parade.

Jim Allister explained that:

"Following the displaying of a highly offensive placard at Belfast's "gay pride" parade I wrote to both the PSNI and the Parades Commission expressing my concern.

"A poster was carried during the annual parade bearing the words, "Jesus had two Dads and he turned out just fine".

"Such sentiments would not be permitted if Mohammed had been the object of the

marcher's mockery. Why should Christianity be treated any differently?

"This year – as has been the case previously – the "Pride" parade has been anything other than the family friendly event which the organisers attempt to portray it as. Christians peacefully demonstrating at the event were subjected to a torrent of foulmouthed abuse and obscene gestures.

"It is high time that the organisers of Belfast Pride were held accountable for the actions of those who take part in the parade."

Allister Exposes Translink Double Standards

After meeting with Translink and waiting more than a month for a reply regarding the company prohibiting the wearing of wristbands commemorating local men serving in Afghanistan. TUV has received a reply.

commenting on the reply Jim Allister MLA stated:

"Translink's reply is wholly unsatisfactory as it provides no explanation as to how and why the discreet wearing of an wristband supporting our troops could be offensive and while they refer to 'advice' from the Equality Commission they do not say what that advice was.

"However, the most intriguing



thing about Translink's answer is the company's solemn commitments to 'equality' and 'neutrality'. In light of same I have invited Translink to explain to me why they have tolerated for years a shrine to republican terrorism on the railway embankment at Newry.

"Talk about neutrality and equality rings rather hollow when it translates into Translink having no difficulty facilitating and permitting a large memorial to the IRA."



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**Nothing That is Morally
Wrong Can Be
Politically Right!**

Moyle-Gaza Saga

The following Statement was presented to Moyle Council Meeting on Monday 22 August 2011 by Cllr Sharon McKillop.



"I propose that Moyle Council revoke the decision to support the twinning project with Gaza.

I fear that the implications of the twinning project between Moyle and Gaza Councils will have a negative impact on Moyle Council.

While there are further political arguments against the twinning project I would prefer that the debate focuses on what is best for Moyle Council and for the people of this borough.

I will succinctly outline why

Councillors should choose the sensible option of revoking the decision of the previous Council to undertake a twinning project.

1. Community Relations: The previous Council decided to proceed with the twinning project despite all elected unionist representatives rejecting the proposal. Therefore it is evident that Unionists feel deeply uncomfortable about the twinning project. Cllr McShane has previously claimed that the decision to twin Moyle and Gaza Councils was non-political and that it had support from across the community indeed he further claimed that it was a collective decision by Moyle Council. However the decision to twin Moyle and Gaza councils was never supported by Unionist representatives and therefore never commanded community support. I would

therefore ask council representatives to consider how the twinning project could have a positive impact on local relations when a significant minority remain hostile to it.

2. Tourism: Gaza Council is controlled by the Hamas group. Hamas seized political power in 2007 and this year refused to hold legitimate municipal elections. Furthermore Hamas remains classified as a terrorist organisation within both Europe and the US. Not only do these honest facts provide a basis for questioning the legitimacy of the Gaza Council it also means that visitors from the US and elsewhere in Europe may chose not to visit the Moyle area or at best be uncomfortable about doing so because their governments view Hamas as a terrorist organisation.

3. Administration/Costs to Taxpayer: The costs to the taxpayer remain unknown.

What will the administration costs associated with the project amount to? Will Moyle Council be funding the visit of Gaza representatives? How much will the 'urban planning' amount to and most importantly as already highlighted how much will it cost in lost revenue from tourism? With these economic questions unanswered how can councillors continue to support the twinning experiment?

Given these arguments that I have clearly presented I would close by asking my colleagues if they really want to twin our Council with somewhere that would divide the community and hinder economic progress.

This move is both backward and divisive – if Moyle Council want to 'move forward' then they should revoke the twinning motion."