

# As a parent I deplore the lack of playgrounds in the locality

Many parents in the Firhouse area have to travel miles, either to Marlay Park or Tymon Park, to find playgrounds for their children. This means that many children end up playing on their own, and not with their friends.

The local Ballycragh park, on Parklands Road has the potential to provide a play area for hundreds of local children. However, this park has neither a play area nor a playground with which to cater for toddlers and older children. Cases of anti-social behaviour have also prevented local residents from fully utilising the park. Ballycragh park should provide local residents with a safe

and user friendly place to congregate. It must be properly upgraded and installed with play equipment. Security measures for local residents and families using the parks should be prioritized.

**"I am calling for South Dublin County Council to ensure that Ballycragh Park and all other South Dublin parks have safe, clean, secure and family friendly spaces. Across our area there are huge disparities in access to playgrounds for our children. Some children have a choice of playgrounds within walking distance, while others have to travel for miles to get to a playground. Rather than build more unwanted apartment blocks in, the council should invest in play areas for children."**

## Preserve Tallaght Hospital

As a mother of two girls, I denounce the planned movement of the National Children's Hospital from Tallaght to Mater hospital. There is no reason to move a properly functioning children's hospital to a traffic infested site which lacks adequate parking. Families in the greater South Dublin area have hugely benefitted from the hospital and moving it will put our children at risk if they are not attended to promptly. Numerous times I have called an ambulance for my daughter, and she gets medical attention within a few minutes. I shudder to imagine how long it will take to get to Mater Hospital.

I will be working with Green Party Spokesperson on Health, Senator Deirdre De Burca and Minister Eamon Ryan TD towards the preservation of Tallaght Hospital and its frontline services. We have requested a meeting with the Department of Health to discuss the decisions made on the hospital.

I call on all local representatives to move beyond party politics and points scoring in order to achieve lasting solutions for our children's health.



Tendai  
**Madondo**

Local Elections  
Candidate for  
**Tallaght**

## Tendai Madondo working with Minister Eamon Ryan



## Local training and employment

More than 7000 people have registered with Tallaght Social Welfare office, many have never queued on the dole before. This has been a frustrating process for many people, who not only have to cope with loss of family income, but huge debts.

This highlights the need for proactive measures to create employment, training and upskilling opportunities. This is why I met with Green Party leaders and senior ministers last week to call on a **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER JOBS TASKFORCE**. The taskforce should assess local training and employment needs and recommend an action plan. My colleague Minister of Environment, John Gormley told me that "In the coming weeks the Government will be announcing the establishment of an action group on green enterprise. They will draw up a plan for how we can grow our green enterprise sector into a world class export business, creating thousands of highly skilled green collar jobs"

### About Tendai

Tendai has lived in Tallaght for 6 years and has worked for: **Tallaght Hospital, Tallaght Partnership**, and with **Tallaght Volunteer Bureau, Tallaght Intercultural Action** and local churches. Tendai holds an MBA in Health services from Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and has degrees in Philosophy, health care and change management, and Adult and Community Education (Maynooth University). Tendai is a renowned human rights advocate who has spoken out internationally on human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Cambodia. She sits on various national steering committees and is Christian Aid's Global HIV and Gender adviser.

### Contact Tendai

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## Some useful contacts

### Jobs at Activelink -

[www.careerjet.ie/jobs/a/activelink.html](http://www.careerjet.ie/jobs/a/activelink.html)

### Crimes Victim Helpline:

1850 211407

### National Cervical Cancer Screening

[www.cervicalcheck.ie](http://www.cervicalcheck.ie)

### National Breast Cancer Screening -

[www.breastcheck.ie](http://www.breastcheck.ie)

### Tax Saver Commuter Tickets

- [www.taxsaver.ie](http://www.taxsaver.ie)

### Warmer Homes Scheme -

[www.sei.ie/Grants/Warmer\\_Homes\\_Scheme](http://www.sei.ie/Grants/Warmer_Homes_Scheme)

### Affordable Housing Scheme-

[www.affordablehome.ie/My-Local-Authority/South-Dublin-County-Council.aspx](http://www.affordablehome.ie/My-Local-Authority/South-Dublin-County-Council.aspx)