

# Evening Echo

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Cork's evening newspaper since 1892



## It's time public servants got a reality check

A TEACHERS' Union of Ireland survey last week reported that teachers felt they were working harder for less pay. Join the club.

Everyone in the private sector has been doing that for at least two years, as the recession has bitten, but it comes as a surprise to some public servants that they may be asked to move outside their comfort zone.

It still hasn't dawned on many of those who are paid by the taxpayer that the country can't afford to keep them in the style to which they have become accustomed.

The sense of entitlement emanating from some public service union representatives is breathtaking — especially to the many thousands of ordinary workers who have lost their jobs.

Teachers, nurses, gardai, civil servants, local authority workers and many others have secure jobs with secure pensions and they are not half as put upon as some of their union leaders make out. In fact, if they were to consider their situation with an open mind in the context of the economic crisis facing the country, then they may conclude they should be only too happy to endorse the proposed agreement which emerged last week.

Sure they will have to accept the cuts which have already taken place and accept they won't be getting pay rises — but they're an awful lot better off than most people outside the public sector and they should be content with their lot. Indeed, as public servants, they should be seeking ways to contribute more to the general good.

## Get set for 2016

ON THIS day in six years time, we'll be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. If it was today, it would be hard to celebrate — as the country is, to quote Sean O'Casey, "in a state of chassiss." Out of respect for our glorious dead but, more importantly, out of regard to our future generations, we'd better get our act together between now and 2016.

### Press Council of Ireland

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By KEVIN MURRAY



Chairman, Cork Chamber Transport and Infrastructure Committee

THE draft Cork Area Rapid Transport Scheme (CATS) is a very welcome initiative from Cork City Council because it holds the promise of a high-quality public transport system that Cork needs to work better.

At the centre of the plan is the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme — a modern and efficient rapid transit corridor running from west to east through the heart of the city, which in time will link Ballincollig through the city to Mahon.

These are big CATS; these are fast CATS. These are the CATS that mean business.

Building upon the strong foundation of sub-regional planning being delivered through the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP), the proposals contained in the draft Cork Area Transport Study are intended to reinforce Cork's position as a modern, efficient and forward looking city region in Europe.

Some have described this system as a 'bendy bus,' but this fails to capture the full extent of BRT's capabilities. When combined with the proposals for a reconfigured bus network and revised traffic management arrangements in the city, as proposed in the draft CATS report, Cork can expect to be served by a fully integrated, high capacity and efficient public transport system.

Efficient, high-capacity public transport systems are critical to the economic development of modern urban regions. However, Cork is under-resourced in terms of public transport options and this is reflected in the under utilisation of existing services.

The combination of a modern Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, combined with a reconfigured and expanded conventional bus service, new traffic management measures and connection to commuter and intercity rail services at Kent Station, should provide the region with an efficient and cost-effective public transport system.

Cork Chamber has long called for the redevelopment of Kent Station. It is a shame that a visitor to Cork steps out of the train station facing north-east and away from the city.

We want our visitors to step out from the station and see the city before them.

Kent Station must be rebuilt and turned around to face the city. This is a long-held aspiration of Cork City Council and many other stakeholders but the decision and funding is in the hands of CIE/Irish Rail and central government.

Now we must lobby hard for Kent Station to be developed, because this is an essential piece of the public transport puzzle — and is vital if the BRT is to reach its potential.

Cork needs a redeveloped Kent Station at the heart of a bus/rail public transport network; with a dedicated bus connection to the airport and even a harbour ferry on its doorstep.

Cork thrives on activity. Ours is a convenient city and we love our freedom to make choices and travel where and when we want. The provision of enhanced high-quality public transport systems will give the people of Cork more options.

Some options are more sustainable and others are more convenient. If we make the right investments in public transport we maximise our chances of getting the best blend of both to suit the individual and the community.

Certainly, the introduction of a Bus Rapid Transit route through the centre of Cork city will cause some traffic disruption, but it will be nothing compared to the disruption that would have to be endured for a rail-based metro. That will be a huge relief to hard-pressed businesses, commuters and shoppers.



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# Cork's new bus plan will energise our city



Cork Chamber says that a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme and a new Park and Ride at Carrigrohane will be all positive for the city.

However, the implementation will not be without its challenges and Cork Chamber looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with Cork City Council to help smooth the path to our BRT system.

In particular, Cork Chamber considers the flexible management of adequate parking in the city centre to be of paramount importance for the retail sector. We don't want to push the private cars away; we want to attract the shopper to BRT.

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is just the spine of the proposed public transport scheme for Cork. There is far more to CATS than the BRT; there is a big change coming to the existing bus routes in the city.

The CATS plan is to change the bus routes so that they connect up with the BRT spine and link the suburbs north and south with the central corridor; and the input of Bus Éireann to the plans is welcomed.

Cork Chamber is eager to see all of the major employment, healthcare and educational centres integrated with the rapid transit system.

We in Cork Chamber, see this as an ideal opportunity to provide more Park and Ride facilities to link with the BRT choices.

Park and Ride has proved successful on the Kinsale Road, and Cork Chamber welcomes the construction this year of a new Park and Ride at Carrigrohane. The north of the city needs to be provided with Park and Ride access at the earliest opportunity.

Similarly, the passenger facilities for both the BRT and conventional bus services must be designed in a way that makes public transport an attractive, hassle-free option. Modern technology such as real-time passenger information and off-board ticketing adds greatly to passenger experience and is a necessity for modern transport systems.



Kevin Murray says that we want our visitors to step out from Kent Station and see the city before them. He says that the station must be rebuilt and turned around to face the city.

At present, many bus stops in the city are merely a pole located on a footpath and do not even provide basic protection from the elements. This makes the commuting experience on wet Irish mornings a very unpleasant experience indeed and undoubtedly does little for the image of public transport in the city.

While the CATS plan is a very welcome public transport initiative, and Cork Chamber welcomes this and many other smart travel initiatives being developed by Cork City Council, we do want to see that it is fully integrated with the needs of private transport and business freight.

It is important that these proposals are included in a wider Metropolitan Cork Integrated Transport plan, under the auspices of the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP), and not just a standalone public transport plan for the city.

The proposed shift from car to public transport included in the CATS strategy is likely to

have an impact on the traffic network throughout the region and we must plan for this change.

There is perhaps a view outside Cork that we did well in past years to get funding for ambitious transport schemes such as the Jack Lynch Tunnel and that others deserve funding now. This is wrong headed thinking. Cork has shown Ireland that timely investment in transport infrastructure reaps rewards and avoids costly retrofit such as the hugely expensive work now planned to fix Dublin. We must continue to make the case that the transport plans of our city and county councils should be funded because they are well thought out and sensible.

Cork Chamber welcomes the draft CATS plan, commends Cork City Council and its partners, and commits to engaging with the city council to bring forward a high-quality transport network for Cork city and the region.

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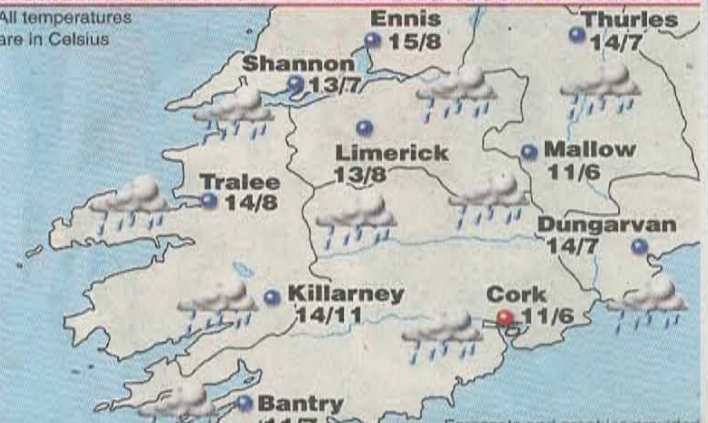
## Weather Forecast

Temperatures are in Celsius

TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
L: 6°C Periods of rain	H: 11°C Spells of rain	H: 10°C Scattered showers	H: 12°C Sunny intervals	H: 12°C Partly sunny
	L: 4°C	L: 5°C	L: 4°C	L: 5°C
Winds: S at 20-35 mph	Winds: W at 10-20 mph	Winds: W at 8-16 mph	Winds: NW at 5-10 mph	Winds: NE at 7-14 mph

### REGIONAL FORECAST IRELAND.ACCUWEATHER.COM

All temperatures are in Celsius



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

### REGIONAL SUMMARY

Generally cloudy tonight with periods of rain. A strong southerly wind. Minimum 6C (43F). Mainly cloudy on Tuesday with spells of rain. A moderate to fresh westerly wind. Maximum 11C (52F). Broken cloud and sunny spells on Wednesday with scattered showers.

### WORLD CITIES

City	Max	Min	W
Beijing	22	7	s
Calgary	10	-7	pc
Dublin	9	7	pc
Geneva	12	2	sh
Kabul	21	4	s
Kuwait City	38	24	pc
Lanzarote	23	16	pc
London	12	4	r
Malaga	22	9	s
Mexico City	28	12	pc
Moscow	13	3	pc
New York City	24	13	pc
Nice	16	6	c
Palma	15	3	sh
Paris	12	1	sh
Rome	16	9	r
San Francisco	13	8	r
Singapore	28	24	c
Sydney	21	14	sh
Tokyo	12	8	c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, r-rain, t-thunderstorm, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice

### SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight ..... 8:14 p.m.  
Sunrise Tuesday ..... 6:58 a.m.  
Moonrise Monday ..... 3:09 a.m.  
Moonset Monday ..... 10:37 a.m.

Last Apr 6	New Apr 14
First Apr 21	Full Apr 28

### HIGH TIDES TODAY

Location	11.02	23.37
Baltimore	11.02	23.37
Bantry Bay	10.42	23.17
Cobh	11.07	23.42
Cork Harbour	11.17	23.52
Galway	11.27	23.58
Limerick	00.15	13.08
Waterford	-	12.04

### HOLIDAY HOT SPOTS TODAY

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tomorrow's highs and tomorrow night's lows



## Thought for Today

*If Easter is about the cross why all the chocolate eggs? Because no matter how broken or hard boiled you are, once you taste the true meaning of the cross, life is a whole lot sweeter — Intercom magazine.*

Easter is indeed a special time of year. The Easter message is one that gives us all hope and gives us a timely lift. We all have our difficult moments. We carry burdens, darkness, hurts, pain and disappointments. We're not on our own, every single person carries these. But the Easter message reminds us, that right in the middle of them, there is a promise of new life, new beginnings and a sense of hope and promise. Without Easter we would have absolutely nothing but with Easter we have indeed everything. We ask God's many blessings on each of us this Easter.

Thought For Today by Fr James McSweeney  
(Chaplain Coláiste Choilm, Ballincollig)  
[www.todayismygifttoyou.ie](http://www.todayismygifttoyou.ie) or [www.2u.ie](http://www.2u.ie)