

PTA
Newpark Comprehensive School
Newtownpark Avenue
Blackrock
County Dublin

19th January 2009

Dear _____,

RE : NEW BUILDING FOR NEWPARK COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

On behalf of the Newpark Comprehensive School PTA, which represents the parents of Newpark students, we are writing to request that you assist us with our plight for a new school building.

The current main school building was erected in the early 1970's as a temporary structure with an expected life span of 20 years. As you are aware the Department of Education determined in 2000 that the most economic option for the school was the replacement of the main school with a new building. A design team was appointed in 2001 and a full presentation of the proposed design was presented to the Department in 2007. However, the Department has not moved the project forward since then. The 'Celtic Tiger' has come and gone and Newpark has been left with a dilapidated and outdated structure, which has deteriorated badly since the Department was first made aware of the poor state of the building more than 10 years ago, and continues to do so.

The PTA is of the opinion that the current building has deteriorated to the extent that it now poses serious health and safety issues for its users. Newpark is not only a school but a vital resource for the community and is in daily use from 8.30am-6.00pm by the school and from 5-11pm by the Adult Education Centre, Sports Complex and Music Centre. It is therefore vitally important that the building project should proceed to the next stage urgently, which we understand to be final design approval by the Department. The school can then lodge the approved design with the County Council for planning approval. As the school's local TD we urge you to take action on our behalf to address this serious matter.

Yours sincerely

Newpark PTA