



# Programme

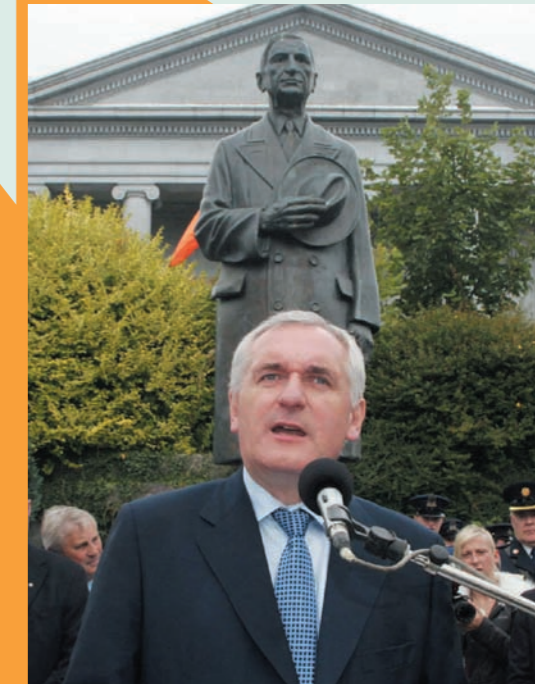
**Fianna Fáil National Youth Conference 2006**  
**17th and 18th February, The Lynch West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare**  
*“Investing in Ireland’s Future”*

## Friday

### 17th February 2006

- 17.00- 22.00** **Delegate Registration**  
*Venue: Hotel reception Area (Oak Suite for registration of Substitute Delegates)*
- 18.30-19.30** **Final of deValera Public Speaking and Commortas Óráid Poiblí**  
*Venue: Inis Oirr Suite*
- 19.30- 20.30** **Candidate Hustings**  
*Venue: Inis Mor Suite*  
 Chairman: Senator Timmy Dooley
- 20.30- 20.45** **Welcome by Minister Tony Killeen TD and Minister Sile deValera TD**  
*Venue: Inis Mor Suite*
- 20.45- 21.00** **Official Conference Opening by Minister for Finance Brian Cowen TD**
- 21.00-22.30** **Questions and Answers Ógra Style**  
 Chairman: Cllr. Malcolm Byrne  
 The Panel will include: Minister Brian Cowen TD, Iggy Ó Muircheartaigh President NUIG and Mary Cunningham, Director NYCI
- 22.30-23.00** **Leas Cathaoirleach Hustings**
- 23.00- late** **Welcome Party**  
*Venue: Inis Oirr Suite*
- Saturday**
- 18th February**
- 09.00 – 10.30** **Voting**  
*Venue: Inis Mor Suite - All delegates must provide valid photo identification and College ID if requested.*
- 11.00-12.15** **Workshop A - Investing in Ógra, the Future of Fianna Fáil**  
*Venue: Inis Oirr Suite*  
 Chairperson: Michael Shovlin, Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra.  
 Speaker: Seán Dorgan Fianna Fáil General Secretary

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- 12.15 – 13.30** **Workshop B - Investing in Education**  
*Venue: Inis Oirr Suite*  
 Chairperson: Emmet O’Halloran Ógra Policy Coordinator  
 Speaker: Minister Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Education and Science
- 13.30-14.00** **Counting of Votes**  
*Venue: Abbey Suite*  
 Returning Officer: Sean Sherwin Deputy General Secretary Fianna Fáil
- 13.30 -14.45** **Young Councillors Group Meeting**  
*Venue: Oak Suite*  
 (Closed Session – Invited Councillors and speakers only)
- 14.00 -15.15** **Workshop C – Investing in Society and Community**  
*Venue: Inis Oirr Suite*  
 Chairperson: Nicholi Cody National Youth Committee  
 Speakers: Minister Dick Roche TD, Sean O’Neachtain MEP
- 15.15 – 16.45** **Conference Plenary Session**  
 "Investing in Ireland Future"  
*Venue: Inis Mor Suite*  
 Chairperson: Marina Keane Chairperson Clare Ógra Fianna Fáil  
 Speakers: Minister Michael Martin TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Pdraig O’Ceidigh, Managing Director Aer Arann
- 16.45 – 17.30** **Speech by Cathaoirleach Barry Andrews TD**
- 17.30-17.40** **Conference Address by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD**
- 17.30-17.40** **Address by Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra Michael Shovlin**
- 18.00- 19.00** **Final of deValera Cup Debating Competition**  
*Venue: Abbey Suite*  
 Chairperson: Senator Brendan Daly
- 20.00** **Ógra Fianna Fáil National Youth Conference Banquet**  
 Guest Speaker: Minister John O’Donoghue TD, Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism  
**Presentation of Gobnait O’Connell Award for Ógra of the Year 2005**  
**Entertainment**  
 provided by Erin’s Fury (followed by disco)

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## MESSAGE FROM AN TAOISEACH BERTIE AHERN TD,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Banner County for the 2006 Ógra Conference. This year has been a very busy and successful year for our Party as we continue to lay a strong foundation for our general election campaign.

As a vibrant and integral component of the Fianna Fáil organisation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Ógra members and activists for their work throughout the country, and urge you to continue to your hard work in the coming year.

This year's Conference gives you the opportunity to discuss and debate the issues vital to the future of our country. Across the board, Fianna Fáil has helped to bring about real improvements to the lives of Irish people. Now Fianna Fáil must look to the future and see where investment is necessary to ensure that communities nationwide continue to benefit from an Ireland of long-term peace and prosperity.

This year's theme - 'Investing in Ireland's future' - identifies the crossroads at which Ireland now stands. It is the decisions that we are now taking which are setting the seeds for Ireland's future successes. Across the board we are investing more than ever in our health system, in our ambitious Transport 21 plan, in the fight against crime, in protecting Ireland's unique environment and in ensuring greater equality for those less well off in our communities.

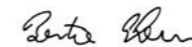
A central element to Fianna Fáil's investment in the future of Ireland is the commitment we have given to all levels of education. Along with the comprehensive initiative on childcare, this year's Budget has prioritised the need for a highly skilled workforce to ensure that Ireland can achieve its full potential in the coming decades. The new Strategic Innovation Fund that we are introducing will ensure that our education system will continue to play a pivotal role in Ireland's future success.

As well as Fianna Fáil's commitment to education, our commitment to vibrant and safe urban and rural communities is as strong now as it was when our Party was founded. I encourage all Ógra members to get more actively involved in your local communities in the coming weeks and months. Community spirit is an invaluable asset to Irish society, and Fianna Fáil will work tirelessly to ensure that it is protected and strengthened.

This year is a milestone for our Party. As we continue to pursue the Republican ideals laid down by our founders, I am proud to lead a Party which has achieved so much since our foundation 80 years ago this year. This year is we will also pay homage to heroes of the 1916 Rising and commemorate the sacrifice they made on our behalf 90 years ago.

Of course, this year a member of a family synonymous with Fianna Fáil makes his debut as Chairman at a Ógra Conference. Barry Andrews has brought a new vitality and energy to Ógra since he took over the Chair, and I wish him every success in his new role. Working with him, I am certain that Ógra can and will play a central role in our upcoming election campaign. I look forward to working together with you in this campaign to secure Fianna Fáil and Ireland's future.

Is mise le meas



*Bertie Ahern T.D.*

*An Taoiseach*



Photo : An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD with L-R, Aileen Gittens, Eoin Burke, Peter Doris & Marie Davis of Ógra.



Photo : Barry Andrews TD, Chairman of Ógra.

*Message From*  
**Barry Andrews TD,**  
Chairman of Ógra Fianna Fáil

*Welcome to the annual Youth Conference.*

The National Youth Committee has put in a huge amount of work to ensure that this weekend is a success. I hope that you enjoy it and take full part in all the activities and debates.

I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the National Youth Officer, Aidan O Gorman, and Maeve Donlon in Fianna Fáil HQ and all the members of the committee for their hard work over the last few months.

The past year has been an encouraging one for both Ógra and the party in general. Upward trends in recent polls will provide members with the encouragement to strive for the historic third term.

Ógra is organised in virtually every college in the country, and this year, we would like to extend a particular welcome to Portobello College and to Blanchardstown IT, our most recent additions.

Recruitment in 2005 was greater than 2,200 bringing total numbers up to more than 6000.

Some challenging areas remain in terms of getting Ógra established and it is crucial that senior members do not stand in the way of the full participation of all Ógra members in the senior party. I have visited a number of Ógra units throughout Dublin and I hope to visit more outside Dublin in the next 12 months. The political commitment of these units is impressive.

The year ahead will be exciting for all members and I am sure that the Parliamentary Party and all elected representatives can work in partnership with Ógra in assisting each other in achieving their goals.



## *Message From* **Seán Dorgan** General Secretary of Fianna Fáil

I am pleased to welcome you to Ennis for our annual National Youth Conference.

Since we met in Cavan last year, An Taoiseach has appointed a new Chairman of Ógra Fianna Fail: Barry Andrews TD. This is Barry's first conference as Chairman. I warmly congratulate him on his appointment and look forward to working with him as he leads Ógra to even greater heights over the coming months and years.

Ógra Fianna Fail is now in its 31st year. Since its establishment in 1975, it has played a critically important role in the development of Fianna Fail. Many commentators like to say that young people are disinterested in politics and that political parties hold little attraction for them. Ógra has continually proven that this is not so. Each year, we continue to attract greater numbers of young people to our Party, joining through Ógra Fianna Fail. We are the largest political party in the third level sector in Ireland - recruiting thousands of new members each year. I encourage each of our new members to get involved, to challenge and to be a force for change both within Ógra and your immediate communities.

Our challenge is to develop Ógra throughout the country: to have an active Ógra structure within each constituency, appealing and open to all. I encourage you to be the driving force within your own constituency to ensure that the structure is established, to invite and welcome interested people to join, and to get involved in active political campaigning. Fianna Fail needs an active Ógra Fianna Fail. It needs Ógra to challenge, to campaign, to encourage its members to stand for selection and election.

This is an important year for Fianna fail. We have over 16 months before a vitally important General Election. I ask each of you to get involved, to bring in your friends and colleagues to the Party, to be constructive in working to develop Fianna Fail in your communities and nationally.

I recently received a report from the National Youth Committee looking at the current positioning of Ógra and assessing its strengths and weaknesses. I look forward to working with the NYC in implementing this report over the coming months.

I wish you all a successful conference and look forward to meeting you over the weekend.



## *Message From* **Aidan O'Gorman** National Youth Officer

Its been a busy 15 months since we were all gathered in Cavan and the annual report published later in this booklet stands as a testament to the achievements of Ógra Fianna Fáil in that period. Thanks to all Ógra members for your hard work and dedication to both Ógra and Fianna Fáil.

I would like to thank those members of the National Youth Committee who worked hard this term and who will be working this weekend to ensure the conference's success. I want to say a very sincere thank you to Michael Shovlin who led Ógra ably before the appointment of Barry Andrews as our new chairman. I am delighted that Barry has been appointed to his new role. He is an excellent figurehead for our organisation and is displaying huge enthusiasm for Ógra. I look forward to working closely with him in the run up to the next general election.

Maeve Donlon has joined our team in Headquarters and her efforts on behalf of Ógra and the party's membership have made a real difference. This year we launched individual membership of Fianna Fáil and have been working hard to improve direct communication to all members. As Maeve and I continue to work together, these improvements will become more apparent throughout 2006.

As we look ahead, our goals have to be increased recruitment and making membership of Ógra more rewarding to those who commit such great effort to our cause. Activity levels within each Ógra unit are the key to our success. Ógra is about meeting people, expressing your views and sharing ideas. Mostly, Ógra is fun and offers us all an opportunity to play a part in shaping the future of our society.

Over the coming months Ógra will show its true worth on an election footing I ask to see greater activity levels on the ground in 2006. We must hold more events than ever before. We will make clear to everyone that Ógra Fianna Fáil is the largest, most vibrant political youth organisation on this island.

The theme of this conference is "Investing in Ireland's Future". This concerns modern Ireland and availing of the opportunities Fianna Fáil to improve our society. I hope you enjoy the weekend; meeting old friends and making new ones. Many senior Ministers and Oireachtas members are attending to listen to you. Be sure to take full advantage of the opportunity to express your views. Our hosts, Clare Ógra have put in a fantastic effort to ensure that this will be one of the best youth conferences ever.

Ta súil agam go mbainfidh gach éinne taitneamh as an gcomhdáil agus go mbeidh deireadh seachtaine iontach ag gach éinne i gContae an Chláir agus go mbeirimid beo an am seo arís.



Photo : An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD speaking at the Annual deValera Commemoration 2005, Ennis.

## Continuing the legacy of the founding fathers

Here are the highlights from the Taoiseach's speech delivered last year in Ennis to mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Eamon de Valera.

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Eamon de Valera, it is important that we reflect on this giant of modern Irish history and on his great service to our nation and draw inspiration from it.

deValera was a man of valour, intelligence and distinction, with a fervent passion for freedom and democracy. The Banner, is de Valera country, he was first elected in the old East Clare constituency in 1917 and went on to serve the Country for 54 years.

At a time where cynicism about politics is now an everyday reality, we would do well to remember his example and the example of the many other politicians that have served this country and Irish democracy so well.

We are living through one of the most exciting times in Ireland's modern history. It is a time of unprecedented prosperity, peace and opportunity. The potential for progress has never been greater. Independent Ireland is now in full stride and beginning to fulfill the hopes and expectations that all the patriots of the past knew we possessed.

The freedom to plan, decide and implement the policies that are transforming our country today cannot be taken for granted. In this bright new era, we should never forget the sacrifices made for Irish democracy by those who have gone before us and all those who strove to gain for us the independence we enjoy today.

De Valera's political motivation was characterised by a desire to see Ireland chart our own social, economic and political progress.

The attainment of full independence in most of Ireland was the major political achievement of de Valera's generation. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to the leaders of struggle for political independence: Eamon de Valera, Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith, Cathal Brugha and many more who fought against overwhelming military odds to establish the Irish people's right to self-determination.

The great tragedy of 20th century Ireland was that fundamental differences of opinion arose over the acceptance of the exact terms of the 1921 settlement. In Ireland, civil war was fought with great reluctance and deeply regretted by almost all the participants. Its legacy created great bitterness and poisoned the political atmosphere for many years.

In considering the struggle for independence, we should honour the achievement of all those who took part. Collins and Eamon de Valera, deValera and Collins, both great men, shared the same goal, an Irish Republic. Their difference was one of means. Their diverging actions were motivated by what each of them considered in the best interests of the country.

The leadership role de Valera played in the aftermath of the Civil War in persuading the majority of republicans to lay down the gun in the knowledge that circumstances had changed and that it was time to move on deserves to be recognised. A 1923 proclamation by de Valera declared that the continuation of the armed struggle provided no way forward, that political methods were now the only means of progress towards national objectives, and that democratic order must prevail. The Provisional IRA's statement at the end of July, if followed by necessary actions, offers a clear sign that this paramilitary organisation have come around to accepting this peaceful analysis.

*"As we approach the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, Fianna Fáil must take account of who we are as a party and where we have come from. Fianna Fáil will remain what it always has been: the Republican Party."*

In office, de Valera inaugurated a great period of constitutional advance culminating in the enactment of a republican constitution. The de Valera era was also a time of great social progress in Irish life. When Fianna Fáil first came to power, the immediate social need was to build up our economy and give work to our people here at home. De Valera did not hesitate to use the full machinery of Government to help create employment. An industrial manufacturing base was created in the 1930s with industrial output increasing by an incredible 44% and the number of people in industrial employment doubling.

It was de Valera's Fianna Fáil that chiefly created the Irish welfare state. At his behest, unemployment assistance, widows' pensions and orphans pensions were introduced to help alleviate appalling poverty. In the late 1950s, it was de Valera's final administration, which laid the foundations for our current economic success by beginning the process of opening Ireland up to foreign investment and embracing industrial modernisation.

As we approach the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, Fianna Fáil must take account of who we are as a party and where we have come from. Fianna Fáil will remain what it always has been: the Republican Party. But, in seeking to



move forward, we must constantly strive to restate our fundamental belief in policies that can be adapted for the Ireland of today and tomorrow.

Eamon de Valera believed that the whole purpose of politics was to make life better, and more fulfilling for all our people. De Valera wanted to develop our economy with that purpose in mind. This Government has laid the foundations for continued economic prosperity. The best traditions of our party demand that all must share in this new-found wealth and ensure equal opportunities and equal rights for each and every citizen.

Fianna Fáil was founded at a time in our history when the morale of our country was at an all-time low. The rancorous legacy of the Civil War and severe economic hardship were just two discouraging problems. Times have changed and political leadership has enabled us to garner the fruits of independence, so that today no one disputes the value of an Independent Irish State.



## Conference Plenary Session

*"INVESTING IN IRELAND'S FUTURE"*

Saturday 18th February 3.15pm

Venue: Inis Mor Suite

Chairperson Marina Keane (*Chairperson Clare Ógra Fianna Fáil*)

## Investing in Ireland's Future



This year's National Youth Conference examines the theme of "Investing in Ireland's Future". This weekend, members of Ógra will have the opportunity to contribute to this debate and also to interact with invited guest speakers.

In his recent budget speech, Minister Brian Cowen TD outlined how our Fianna Fáil Government is succeeding in investing in our future. "We are living in the midst of the longest and strongest era of sustained prosperity in all of Irish history. This didn't happen by chance. This involved careful planning. It involved investment in infrastructure development where we had considerable ground to make up. It involved a commitment to educate our children so that they could be a match for their peers across every discipline. It involved careful fiscal management and the creation of an economic environment that would attract investment. And, of course, it represents the hard work of the Irish people themselves. As a nation, we now enjoy a much enhanced quality of life. We are a prosperous country. More of our citizens are in work than at any time in our history. More enjoy a decent quality of life than ever before. We are welcoming more and more new people to our shores – citizens of the new Europe – and we are providing for them too."

This weekend, the Fianna Fáil National Youth conference will focus on the prospects to create an even better future and better society for young people. During the weekend, we will examine such matters as enterprise, innovation and building the Knowledge Economy. We will look at opportunities to fully utilize the potential of our country. As young political activists we want to contribute to building a better Ireland. We want our generation to enjoy even better facilities, services and a better quality of life. As Fianna Fáil members, we know that these ambitions need foresight and continued long term investment in hospitals, schools and roads.

We are delighted to welcome many senior Ministers and Public Representatives to our conference. The highlights of the Conference will include a "Questions and Answers Session" on Friday night and the conference "Plenary Session" on Saturday. On Friday we are delighted to welcome Minister Brian Cowen TD, Minister for Finance. He will be joined by Dr. Iognaid O'Muireachtach, President of NUI Galway and Mary Cunningham, Director of the National Youth Council of Ireland.

The main Plenary Session on Saturday is traditionally the forum where we discuss the conference theme in depth. The Plenary Session guest speakers this year are Minister Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and Padraig O'Ceidigh, Director of Aer Arann. This workshop will take place at 3.15pm on Saturday in the Inis Mor Suite.

Photo : Minister Brian Cowen TD will be addressing the conference on Friday night.





Photo : Minister Micheál Martin TD.

## Micheál Martin TD

### Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Micheál Martin was appointed Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in September 2004 and has previously served as Minister for Health and Children from 2000 to 2004 and Minister for Education from 1997 to 2000.

He was born in Cork in August 1960. He is married to former Fianna Fáil National Youth Officer Mary O'Shea and has four children. A former secondary school teacher, he was elected to Cork Corporation in 1985 and served as Lord Mayor of Cork in 1992-1993. He was first elected to Dáil Eireann in 1989 and indeed at each subsequent election. He is a former National Chairman of Ógra Fianna Fáil.



Photo : Pádraig O'Ceidigh, Managing Director, Aer Arann.

## **Pádraig O'Ceidigh**

### **Managing Director, Aer Arann**

In 1994, Pádraig purchased Aer Arann a small airline serving the Aran Islands and carrying 3,000 passengers per annum.

Since then, Aer Arann has become a world class international regional airline. It is one of the fastest growing regional airlines in Europe with a turnover in excess of €94 million and passenger numbers of just under 1 million for 2004.

In 2002, Pádraig was awarded the Irish Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He has judged the World Entrepreneur of the Year awards for the last 2 years.

Pádraig O'Ceidigh is a native Irish speaker from An Spideal, Co Galway. A trained accountant, he has also worked as a teacher and solicitor.

## Ógra Fianna Fáil Debating and Public Speaking Competitions



Photo : Caroline Young, winner of public speaking competition 2004, with Michael Moynihan TD.

Three years ago the national Debating and Public Speaking Competitions for members of Ógra were reintroduced. In the past the competition has been won by people such as Ministers Mary Hanafin T.D. and Brian Lenihan T.D. The competition has three elements; a debating section for teams of two, a public speaking section for novice speakers and an comórtas óráid poiblí, an Irish language competition for individual speakers.

These competitions have proved very popular since their reintroductions. The finals held at the last youth conference were very entertaining. Congratulations to the winners of the 2004 competition; Lorcan Price and Steven Nolan of Cumann De Barra NUI Galway. The Individual Public Speaking Competition was won by Caroline Young of Tipperary North Ógra, agus bhuaigh Séin O Muineachain as Cumann Wolfe Tone Coláiste an Tríonóide an comórtas óráid poiblí as Gaeilge.

Two semi-finals recently took place in NUI Galway and Kilkenny. The standard of speakers has been very high and we expect the finals to be entertaining and very hotly contested. The public speaking and comórtas óráid poiblí finals will take place on Friday night of conference with the final of the deValera Cup Debating Competition taking place on Saturday at 6.00pm.

2006 sees the 80th Anniversary of the founding of Fianna Fáil and the 90th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter rising. The deValera Debating competition will reflect these events with the motion for discussion being:

*The Restoration of Irish Unity must become Fianna Fáil's first Priority.*

Please lend your full support to all the competitors in these events.

Dara Calleary (Árd Chomhairle) and Morgan McCarthy (Former National Youth Committee Member) have generously sponsored the perpetual shields for the public speaking and óráid poiblí competitions.

## Gobnait O'Connell Memorial Award for Ógra of the year 2005-2006

The presentation of the Gobnait O'Connell Memorial Award for Ógra of the Year 2005 will take place at the Youth Conference Banquet. Previous winners include Donogh O'Malley, Cumann UCC, Clare Ógra and Tipperary North Ógra. The winner will receive the Gobnait O'Connell Perpetual trophy and a cheque for 700Euro for the further development of their Ógra unit.

The shortlist this year consists of reigning champions Tipperary North Ógra CDC, Dun Laoghaire Ógra CDC, Dublin Central Ógra CDC, Clare Ógra CDC and Cumann de Barra N.U.I. Galway. The standard of entries is very high and each finalist has prepared a comprehensive presentation to put before the five-strong judging panel.

The 'Ógra of the Year' is judged under seven headings; Membership, Events & Activities, Election Campaign Activities, Publicity/Media Relations, Policy Developments; Future Plans and a final statement entitled 'Why we are the best Ógra of 2005'. The prize will be awarded to the unit of Ógra which displays enthusiasm, effort and initiative in all of its activities.

The award is dedicated to the memory of Gobnait O'Connell, former Membership Development Officer and Youth Officer of Fianna Fáil. Gobnait was tragically killed in a car accident in September 2000. During her three years in Fianna Fáil Headquarters, Gobnait was a dynamic and enthusiastic force, who worked tirelessly for the Party and in particular gave her wholehearted support and passion to Ógra Fianna Fáil.



**Above:** Michael Moynahan making the presentation to John O'Dwyer and Catherine Maher, Tipperary North Ógra, winners of the Gobnait O'Connell Award 2004.



### 2005 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

*"INVESTING IN IRELAND'S FUTURE"*

## Review of Ógra Fianna Fáil 2005

by Michael Shovelin

*Leas Cathaíorleach Ógra Fianna Fáil 2005*



Photo: Michael Shovelin, Leas Cathaíorleach Ógra Fianna Fáil 2005, with An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD at the deValera Commemoration.

### *A chairde,*

It has been a busy fifteen months since we all last met in Cavan. The following report is a summary of only some of our activities during that time. Ógra has achieved solid progress over the course of an important year of focus on the Fianna Fáil organisation ahead of a General Election. Much credit must go to Ógra officers and members throughout the country for ongoing voluntary commitment to a great national movement. The outgoing National Youth Committee must also be thanked for their work. They have laid the foundations on which Ógra's campaign for that election must now be built. Having strengthened the organisation and focused on issues of concern relevant to young people, we must now consolidate our achievements, fight for and then focus increased resources within Ógra to enable us put our ideas and energy to work, campaigning on the basis of a young persons' manifesto. We must now demonstrate that we have the ability to carry these issues concerning young people into national debate resulting in Government decision and as a result, excite and attract young voters to support Fianna Fáil.

For my own part, it has been an honour to serve as your elected Leas-Cathaoirleach since November 2004, and to have been elected to the preceding four National Youth Committees. The opportunity to have been involved at all levels of Ógra and the Fianna Fáil party over the past eight years since first joining the Kevin Barry Cumann has gone a long way to satisfy my own desire to contribute and participate in a meaningful way to the progress of our country. To have had the chance to get to know so many great people, so many excellent minds and make so many good friends along the way has been the real bonus.

I know that with your continued commitment to Fianna Fáil and your continuing desire to see republican economic and social progress on this island, Ógra Fianna Fáil can only go from strength to strength. We all look forward to Ógra's next 30 years.

*Ar aghaidh le Fianna Fáil!*

*Is mise,*

*Michael*

### National Youth Conference

The 2004 National Youth Conference took place in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Co. Cavan on November 19th and 20th and was a resoundingly successful weekend. Hosted by Cavan Ógra CDC, the theme of the conference was "Our Nation – Our Community", and much debate was had over diverse issues from overseas aid, to community employment schemes, to same-sex civil partnership. Along with the Taoiseach, Ministers and Oireachtas members, guests included the DUP's Jeffrey Donaldson MP, ensuring that Northern Ireland was a topic high on the conference agenda. Special prominence was given to many of the Ógra Councillors successfully elected for the first time at the Local Elections that summer and Tipperary North were deserving winners of the Gobnait O'Connell Award for Ógra of the Year. Up to five hundred delegates enjoyed a good social weekend also, with lively election campaigns for Leas-Cathaoirleach and other National Youth Committee positions adding to the event.

### National Youth Committee

The newly elected National Youth Committee held its first introductory meeting in Dublin in December. This was followed early in the New Year by a weekend-long planning meeting in Killybegs, Co. Donegal, where members also met with Fianna Fáil Honorary Secretary and Minister for Agriculture and Food, Mary Coughlan TD. They also met with representatives from the fishing industry in the town. While the majority of remaining National Youth Committee meetings over the fifteen months were held in Dublin, the committee also met in Ashbourne, Co. Meath and in Ennis, Co. Clare during 2005.

At a regional and local level, National Youth Committee members worked throughout the year to support and assist the ongoing development of Ógra both in constituencies and third-level institutions. A central reporting procedure to collate information on activity throughout the country was put in place by the Committee. Ógra units were also encouraged to work and hold events together. This was to most effect in the Dublin region with a number of Dublin-wide events taking place including a mini soccer tournament, a social night in Bad Bob's, Temple Bar and a table quiz raising some €700 for the charity Suas.

The National Youth Committee also examined its own workings and undertook the process of consulting the membership on both how the party can better assist Ógra in its work and how Ógra can be of even greater benefit to the party. A report and recommendations were forwarded to the General Secretary for consideration and implementation in 2006.

### 30 Years of Ógra

2005 was the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Ógra Fianna Fáil. The occasion was marked with a number of events during the course of year. Cork was the location for a commemoration in honour of the former Taoiseach and Uachtaráin Fianna Fáil, Jack Lynch who established Ógra in 1975. Ógra members from all over the country, along with local deputies, John Dennehy TD and Dan Wallace TD, gathered on a sunny June Sunday morning at St. Finbarr's to mark the contribution made by Lynch in founding Ógra and giving a distinct voice and platform to young people within the Fianna Fáil party. The main 30th year celebration was held during the Ard Fheis weekend in October. Four

hundred current and past Ógra members packed into the ballroom of the Gleneagle Hotel in Killarney for a banquet where Taoiseach and Uachtaráin Fianna Fáil, Bertie Ahern TD was guest of honour. Along with the Taoiseach, and the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of Ógra, the dinner also heard from Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Seamus Brennan TD who was the party's youngest ever General Secretary in 1975 and instrumental in the establishment of Ógra. During the course of the night, a draw also took place in aid of the charity Aware that works to raise awareness about and tackle depression, and as a result suicide, the largest cause of death among young people of Ógra age. €2,000 was raised for this very worthy cause.

### Changing of the Guard

The 30th anniversary banquet also marked the first official national Ógra function for the newly appointed Cathaoirleach of Ógra, Barry Andrews TD. The prominent Dún Laoghaire deputy was appointed to the position following Michael Moynihan TD stepping down from the role at the 2004 National Youth Conference after some seven years at the helm. During that time Deputy Moynihan worked with five different National Youth Committees, three National Youth Officers and two General Secretaries. He oversaw the significant development of a modern Ógra Fianna Fáil. A special presentation was made to Deputy Moynihan on behalf of the membership by Leas-Cathaoirleach Michael Shovlin to mark his immense contribution to Ógra at a function in June.

### Summer Forum and Barbeque

June also saw the Ógra Summer Forum and Barbeque take

place in Cork City, the location chosen to mark the city's year as European Capital of Culture. Staying with the European theme, the main speaker at the event was leader of the Fianna Fáil group in the European Parliament, Brian Crowley MEP. Training and advice on policy development and press publicity formed the basis of earlier sessions in the day, where main speakers were Liam Cullen of the Research Office and Jerry O'Connor of the Press Office respectively. A Munster consultative meeting was also arranged for that same day where representatives of each Ógra unit in the Munster region attended. The Ógra Summer Barbeque took place that evening in the Franciscan Well Brewery where there was a good attendance at one of Ógra's annual national social gatherings.

### deValera Commemoration

Another, now annual, Ógra event took place on Saturday, September 3rd in Ennis, Co. Clare. Hosted by Clare Ógra CDC, the Eamonn deValera commemoration has established itself as the main annual commemoration of Fianna Fáil's founder. This year's attendance and oration at the large memorial outside Ennis Courthouse by the Taoiseach was in due recognition of this. The occasion was well attended by both Ógra and senior party membership from throughout the country with a large attendance from Co. Clare itself.

### Recruitment in the Year of the Organisation

2005 was designated as "Year of the Organisation" within Fianna Fáil. Being a year falling between the Local/European and General election seasons, the focus was on renewing and strengthening the party organisation throughout the country.

The same was the case within Ógra where the National Youth Committee focused on organisation and recruitment. The focus resulted in several constituency Ógraí that had become inactive holding fresh information meetings followed by AGMs and electing new Officer Boards. General attendance at local Ógra meetings and events throughout the country towards the latter half of the year showed significant improvements. This was aided in no small way by record third-level recruitment in September and October. Recruiting just over 2,000 new members in 25 different third-level institutions, cumman officers and National Youth Committee members contributed to our most ambitious recruitment campaign to date under our "Join the 'Party'!" theme.

### 69ú Ard Fheis

The success of our recruitment was clearly in evidence at the 69ú Ard Fheis on October 21st and 22nd in Killarney, Co. Kerry. With several hundred Ógra members in attendance, the story of the weekend was the level of interest and involvement of young people in Fianna Fáil. Ógra members participated at all levels over the weekend, from proposing some forty-nine motions on the Ard Fheis Clár, to participating in much of the debate on the floor, and having five candidates in the Committee of Twenty election. The Ógra presence was consolidated with the distribution of a special Ard Fheis edition of Grassroots and a central stand outside the main hall, where members also raised money for the Special Olympics. National Youth Committee members also initiated a petition over the weekend calling for Fianna Fáil to organise on an all-island basis. This became the central theme of the Ógra Fringe Meeting on the Saturday of the Ard Fheis where there was quite heated discussion on the topic with Chairperson of



the Fianna Fáil Northern Ireland Committee, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern TD.

### All-Ireland Organisation

Fianna Fáil organising on an all-island basis was a hot topic for the duration of the year. The Leas-Cathaoirleach and some National Youth Committee members met with members of Fianna Fáil in Derry to see how the issue could be advanced, Ógra held its first exploratory meeting in Queen's University and Ógra members of the Ard Chomhairle continued to raise the issue at that level. The result was some movement by the party towards Ógra's objective. The successful introduction of individual membership has allowed people living in Northern

Ireland the ability to join the party, something not possible in the past and Ógra was successful at the Ard Fheis in committing the party to running a recruitment campaign north of the border in 2006.

### Bye-Election Campaigns

The fifteen months was, falling as it did between the Local/European and General Election seasons and with no referendum, due to be a quiet electoral period. The exception to this was the Meath and Kildare bye-election campaigns. Falling as they did on the same day, while Ógra members were active in both, our main focus was on the Meath campaign where Ógra Councillor Shane Cassells was the candidate. Members from all over the country descended on the constituency over the course of the campaign to canvass and attend rallies in the bid to see Cassells take the opposition seat. Despite the enthusiasm and vibrancy of the campaign and the best efforts of Ógra, while polling very well, Cassells was not successful, but his performance demonstrated yet again that good young candidates generate a goodwill that transcends traditional party loyalties and are an asset in any electoral battle.

### Young Candidates

The National Youth Committee saw that this very sentiment was successfully endorsed in a practical way. This was achieved by succeeding in having the Ard Fheis direct that one out of every five Fianna Fáil candidates selected to contest the 2009 Local Elections shall be under the age of 30.

Ógra Councillors throughout the country, first elected prior to our last National Youth Conference, have had a very suc-

cessful fifteen months. As well as Cllr. Shane Cassells's by-election campaign, other highlights included: a very successful term by Ireland's youngest Mayor, Cllr. Damien Blake as Mayor of Letterkenny; Cllr. Cathal Crowe becoming the youngest member of the European Committee of the Regions; Cllr. Brían Ó Domhnaill being successfully re-elected to Údaras na Gaeltachta; the selection of recent former National Youth Committee members Cllr. Michael McGrath and Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose among others as General Election candidates; and this is to name but a few achievements. Ógra Councillor Shane O'Reilly was elected to the Committee of Twenty together with three of the other four Ógra candidates, namely Jennifer Allen, Anthony Kelly and Niamh Muldoon. Together with constituency representatives and the directly elected Ógra representatives to the Ard Chomhairle, their election brought to a record 12 the number of Ógra members on the Ard Chomhairle by the end of 2005. Debating Competition

In the run up to the 2006 National Youth Conference, the deValera Cup Debating Competition has again got under way with qualifying rounds in Galway and Kilkenny taking place prior to the conference weekend final. Participants will be competing to follow in the footsteps the 2004 winners, Cumann de Barra's Lorcan Price and Stephen Nolan and the then winners of the Individual Public Speaker Competition and Comórtas Óráid Poiblí as Gaeilge, Caroline Young and Séin Ó Muineachain respectively.

All in all a very busy fifteen months and 30th birthday for Ógra Fianna Fáil.



## External Liason Co-ordinator Report

### Peter Doris

The role of External Liaison Co-ordinator has certainly been a challenging one but one that I have enjoyed. Below is a report of my activities since I took up this position in January 2005.

In March 2005, I met with the Union of Secondary Students (USS). This meeting was very beneficial because very few Ógra members attend secondary schools so there is a danger that Ógra can become out of touch with the issues affecting third level students.

In November 2004, just after the last National Youth Conference, two members of Ógra Fianna Fáil, Cathal Lee and Denis Ryan, were successfully elected to the Board of the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI). At the next NYCI conference in November 2005, Cathal Lee was re-elected to the Board while Denis Ryan stood down after four years of representing Ógra on the NYCI.

The Inter-Isles Forum is a forum to which all political parties from the UK and Ireland are invited while the North South Forum invites all parties from the island of Ireland. The purpose of these forums is to discuss and compare our various parties' policies on a different topic at every forum. They also offer Ógra a valuable opportunity to develop contacts with other political parties. Since the last National Youth Conference, three of these forums have taken place in Kilkenny, Belfast and Edinburgh. Ógra has had full delegations at each Forum and our members have consistently done an excellent job as ambassadors for Ógra Fianna Fáil.

In October 2005, I was invited by the youth wing of the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) to Aviemore in Scotland a fringe meeting of the SNP Party Conference. I was asked to speak about nationalism in modern Ireland. After my speech, I was asked why Fianna Fáil won't organise on a 32 county basis. Even the Scots are talking about it!

Ógra was invited to China to meet with the youth wing of the CPC. Three representatives from Ógra Fianna Fáil attended the Inaugural Conference for Young Political Leaders in Asia & Europe in Beijing and Tianjin in November '05. The conference offered a great opportunity to develop links and learn from parties all across Europe and Asia.

In my term as External Liaison Co-ordinator, I have had correspondence with the SDLP, the SNP, Plaid Cymru and the UUP. Indeed, representatives from these parties have been invited to attend the National Youth Conference. Hopefully, in the coming term of the National Youth Committee, Ógra will be able to build on these links and forge new ones.



## Communications Co-ordinator Report

### Jimmy Healy

Getting the message out has always been one of the main difficulties that has faced Ógra over the years. While some news filters down, not enough of the members have traditionally been kept informed of what the rest of the organisation has been getting up to.

Addressing that situation has been the main challenge of the year. For instance while Grassroots, the Ógra Newsletter will shortly mark its second birthday, it had been suggested that not enough members were receiving it. While a number of copies were being distributed to the various cumann secretaries, one of the main problems we faced was that these were not finding their way to the other cumann members in some cases. This has been addressed thanks to the new database system in Fianna Fáil Headquarters which allows us to now send Grassroots out to all the listed individual members. Now far more members are receiving it in directly the post, although if anyone is still missing out they should contact Aidan O'Gorman in Fianna Fáil HQ (email [aidan@fiannafail.ie](mailto:aidan@fiannafail.ie)).

The Youth Conference in Ennis will mark the publication of the fourth edition of Grassroots since the last conference, bringing to eight the total editions published since its launch in early 2004. These four most recent issues have included a large number of interesting articles with the various interviews an obvious highlight. Members of Ógra have had the opportunity to have their questions put to An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD, Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin TD, new Ógra Cathaoirleach Barry Andrews TD and Fianna Fáil General Secretary, Sean Dorgan.

Apart from Grassroots we've also put in place the Ógra E-Zine, which provides thousands of Ógra members with all

the latest Ógra news and events. Again if anyone is not receiving this email service but would like to they should contact Aidan. The website has been regularly updated and the discussion forum has grown although there is still a clear need for more Ógra members to contribute. Perhaps the new website will encourage more contributors once it is up and running in the not too distant future.

We've also had a very busy year in terms of press releases issued, with Ógra getting its message into both the national and local media on a number of occasions. However there is still a lot of room for improvement in this area. While some of the local units have also been very successful in securing media coverage for their own units, most still are not issuing press releases or having any real dealings with the local media.

At a national level we also need to be more vocal and really give the media something that catches their imaginations. We need to not just tow the Government line but to have our own voice on issues and to criticise them when necessary. We also need to come up with interesting things to say and that is a challenge that applies to every Ógra member. If you have an idea, share it, otherwise it will never come to fruition.

To conclude I would like to thank a number of people without whom there would have been no communications worth talking about this year. In particular I'd like to thank Aidan O'Gorman and Maeve Donlon from Fianna Fáil HQ. I'd also like to thank Ógra Leas Cathaoirleach Michael Shovlin, Emmet O'Halloran, Colman Byrne and Foresight Communications, all those that have contributed to Grassroots as well as all those in Fianna Fáil HQ and the Fianna Fáil Press and Research Office.



## Policy Co-ordinator Report

Emmet O'Halloran

Since the National Youth Conference in Cavan, Ógra has taken some positive steps in the area of policy formulation. Structural reform facilitated more focus and fewer barriers in terms of how the National Youth Committee devised and implemented policy. The position of a National Policy Co-ordinator that was elected from within the existing the committee was restored and overall the results were positive. Despite some criticism I feel the reform enabled the National Youth Committee to address the area of policy in a far more effective manner.

The process began by encouraging all members of the organisation to get involved in the policy making process, both the volume and quality of ideas dramatically increased. As the largest youth political party in Ireland and more importantly as the most diverse, we were able to draw from a number of sources. During my time in the role, I have received policy papers from a broad spectrum of individuals.

From an agricultural document from an individual in Kerry to a document relating to the regulation of nightclub bouncers from Waterford Ógra the range of issues that were addressed was immense. Proposals on the minimum wage, transport and immigrant integration, automatic voter registration, the proper regulation of property management agencies, broadband penetration and a central grants authority, were also submitted from different units of the organisation.

The National Youth Committee sent over twenty policy motions forward to the Ard Fheis. Press releases issued on

these and other topics were successful in getting publicity for Ógra, in particular through local media.

At a time when other Youth Political Groupings were launching "poster campaigns" and passing them off as policy Ógra was busy developing innovative, far-reaching yet simplistic documents that attempted to improve the quality of life for the young people of Ireland. In 2005 alone we proposed the redevelopment of the Western Rail Corridor (addressed by "Transport 21"), called for the raising of the National Minimum Wage by 9% to €7.65 (subsequently adopted by Minister of State for Labour Affairs, Tony Killeen TD) and lobbied the continuity of measures designed at protecting the rights of young farmers (addressed the December budget).

In December 2005, we presented Minister for Finance Brian Cowen TD with our Pre-Budget proposal. This document was aimed at addressing 13 areas of Government, making some 32 proposals, ranging from increased funding for 3rd level education, incentives for a greener environment and measures aimed at tackling underage drinking.

In the past, we have demonstrated that we have a voice Government. However, my philosophy has been that it is useless having a voice if you have nothing to say...in 2005 Ógra once again proved to that our voice is not just heard but it is in fact listened to! We have lobbied almost every Government Minister virtually every issue of importance to young people in Ireland. We have made a difference.



**ELECTION PROFILES**

*"INVESTING IN IRELAND'S FUTURE"*



Photo : Shane Fakunli, 3rd year computing student in Griffith College decides Fianna Fáil is the party for him.

## Introduction

The Youth Conference also plays host to elections to the Fianna Fáil National Youth Committee. For many people these elections are the highlight of the conference.

The National Youth Committee is responsible for the overall development and promotion of Ógra. It organises national and regional events. It formulates policy positions based on motions discussed at the conference and on proposals submitted by Ógra units throughout the country. The committee also conducts recruitment campaigns for the Party. The committee meets every four to six weeks. Between meetings committee members keep in touch with Ógra officers in their areas and ensure that everyone is informed of the latest Ógra developments.

The Youth Committee consists of members who are elected to represent a group of Constituencies or 3rd Level Cumainn in a particular area. There are also 5 representatives on the Fianna Fáil Ard Chomhairle (National Executive) representing Dublin, Rest of Leinster, Munster, Connacht/Ulster and 3rd Level Colleges. The most senior elected position in Ógra is that of Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice Chairperson). The holder of this position is also a member for the Fianna Fáil Ard Chomhairle and acts as a spokesperson for Ógra along with the Chairman. Elections for this position are confined to candidates who have previously served one term on the Youth Committee. The Ógra chairperson is a member of the Parliamentary Party appointed by the President of the Party. This system ensures that Ógra has a voice in Parliamentary Party discussions,

All balloting for the Ard Comhairle and National Youth Committee takes place at the National Youth Conference. Each registered constituency Ógra and 3rd Level College Cumann is entitled to twelve voting delegates. At least four of these delegates must be male and four female. The Single Transferable Voting system is used and delegates are asked to vote for their preferred candidates in order of preference. Canvassing for the various positions takes place in the run up to the conference and at the conference itself. Voting will take place from 9.00 to 10.30am on Saturday morning and this year we will have ten different elections. A number of tight elections are anticipated so it promises to add to the excitement of the weekend. All voting delegates are reminded to bring photo identification when going to vote. Counting of votes will take place in the Abbey Suite and the winners will be announced at about 2pm. On the following pages all the candidates have submitted a short profile of themselves.

## Candidates - Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra

### John Paul Feeley



Photo : John Paul Feeley.

John Paul Feeley, aged twenty-four, is from Blacklion, County Cavan. He is a trainee solicitor, having studied at Griffith College, Dublin and the Law Society of Ireland. Coming from a political family, John Paul has been actively involved in Fianna Fáil for many years. He has served as the founding Chairperson of the Éamon deValera Cumann, Griffith College, Treasurer of the Law Society of Ireland Cumann, and Communications Officer of Cavan Coiste Ógra. Currently he is Secretary of Killinagh Cumann and the Belturbet Comhairle Cheantair and PRO of Cavan Comhairle Dáilcheantair; he is also the Chairman of Cavan Coiste Ógra.

He has served on the National Youth Committee continuously since November 2001. He was elected as the Connacht/Ulster representative to the Árd Comhairle in November 2004.

A community activist, John Paul was recently elected Secretary of Shannon Gaels GAA Club, having been PRO for three years. He is a member of numerous other community organisations.

As Leas Cathaoirleach John Paul wants Ógra to work to its full potential and, with determination, focus on a number of key issues including:

- Recruitment on an All-Ireland basis.
- Promoting young people within Fianna Fáil and especially in the Local & European Elections of 2009.
- Demanding dedicated resources and support for Ógra as a national campaigning organisation.

## Candidates - Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra

### Anthony Kelly

A native of Killarney, Co. Kerry, 22-year-old Anthony has been actively involved in Fianna Fáil for the past five years and is the Director of Elections and Cathaoirleach of Ógra in Kerry South. He has previously served as Chair of the Donogh O'Malley Cumann in UCC, where he is currently studying for a PhD in law.

Having served for over two-years on the National Youth Committee Anthony is fully aware of the actions that need to be taken for Ógra to reach its full potential. As the candidate with the most experience on the Ard Chomhairle, Anthony is in the best position to enhance the role of Ógra within the party.

Anthony has set out pro-active measures that will be implemented if he is elected to serve Ógra:

"I want to see a National Recruitment Campaign incorporating not just third level institutions but one which will reach out to young people in every community. I pledge that we will set up Ógra on an All-Ireland basis during my term. I will ensure greater communication between the National Youth Committee and Ógra membership. I will promote our young candidates without fear or favour. I will guarantee an increase in resources for Ógra.

Ba mhaith liom an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn in Ógra. Ba phríomhaidhm é an pháirtí a bhunaigh Éamon de Valera i 1926 an Ghaeilge a neartú i mbeál na ndaoine. Ba cheart, mar sin, go mbeadh feachtas polaitiúil amháin ar a laghad as Ghaeilge gach bhliain. Obróidh mé go dian ar son na cúise sin mar Leas-Cathaoirleach Ógra Fhianna Fáil.

It would be an honour to serve as your Leas-Cathaoirleach. I would much appreciate your No 1 vote or your next highest preference. Finally wishing all delegates an enjoyable and successful weekend".



Photo : Anthony Kelly

## Candidates - Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra

### Sarah Staunton



Photo : Sarah Staunton

Hi I'm Sarah Staunton and currently I am the Third Level Representative to the Ard Comhairle. I have been nominated by South Tipperary Ógra CDC to contest the Leas Cathaoirleach position. I currently manage a constituency office in Dublin South East and have been coordinating the Justice for Joseph Rafferty Campaign. I am a former student of the University of Limerick.

The last 15 months served on the Ard Comhairle coupled with my time spent as Secretary of the Con Colbert Cumann in U.L. and a member of the Clubs and Societies Executive of the U.L. Students Union has given me invaluable experience in representing student's views.

On a constituency level my experience as Secretary and Vice-Chairperson of Tipperary South Ógra CDC and of Youth Officer for the South Tipperary CDC has given me clear insights in to how the challenges facing Ógra units particularly in rural areas, can be overcome.

Playing a pivotal role in the By-election last year, as well as previous local and European election experience has compounded my belief in Ógra's potential as a dynamic, relevant and powerful political vehicle.

It is my desire to facilitate Ógra in being central to driving policy and to firmly establish us as a vital component in a successful general election campaign. I look forward to meeting you in Ennis and would appreciate your support.

## Árd Chomhairle representative – Connacht/Ulster

### *Kieran Geoghegan*

Kieran Geoghegan is from Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. He is honorary secretary of Monaghan Ógra and PRO of Monaghan Fianna Fáil CDC. He is an honorary life member of Cumann de Barra in NUI Galway and is a member of Kevin Barry Cumann in UCD. He is also PRO of Castleblayney Cumann and secretary of mid-Monaghan Ógra CC.

If elected, Kieran will ensure the views of all members in Connacht and Ulster are heard on the incoming Coiste Ógra and the Árd Chomhairle and will keep in regular contact with all Ógraí in the two provinces to this end. In particular, he will campaign for the establishment of Ógra units and college cumainn in the north as it is vital for Fianna Fáil to recruit members from all parts of the country so as to ensure that it has a truly national electoral base. Kieran will also build on the success of the past year where all Ógra CDCs have registered in Connacht-Ulster and help CDCs establish as many Ógra Comhairle Ceantair as possible so as to maximise the representation of Ógra at all levels of the organisation and its profile in local communities.

### *Darragh Mc Shea*

Darragh McShea from Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal is currently studying in Galway. Throughout the course of the last four years Darragh's involvement within Ógra has consistently increased and he is now heavily involved on both a constituency and third level basis. He now seeks your support for the position of Connacht/Ulster Árd Chomhairle Representative with the intention of helping to make 2006-2007 a great success. Priorities if elected would include the strengthening of Ógra in this region through vigorously pursuing policies of year round recruitment and utilising local media to raise the organisations profile on the ground.



## Árd Chomhairle Representative – Dublin

### *Eoin Burke*

22-year-old Eoin Burke from Collins Avenue has been an active member of Fianna Fáil for the past seven years. During this time Eoin has worked ongoing in the Taoiseach's constituency of Dublin Central. As secretary of the Patrick Sarsfield Cuman and Chairperson of Ógra Dubin Central, Eoin has played an essential part in reviving Ógra in the constituency. As well as organising social events for the Cumann, Eoin has helped to increase its membership to 25 active members in the past year. If elected, his main ambition is to continue the drive for new members of Ógraí around Dublin and to improve interaction between members of each cumann.

### *Peter Doris*

Peter Doris is from Cabinteely, Co. Dublin. A civil engineering student in UCD, he is chairman of UCD's Kevin Barry Cumann and also treasurer of his local Ógra in Dun Laoghaire. Peter has served on the National Youth Committee as third level rep for Dublin and is now seeking your support to represent Dublin on the Árd Chomhairle. Peter believes that the continued strength of Fianna Fáil in Dublin relies on a strong and active young membership. As Dublin Árd Chomhairle rep, Peter will aim to have 100% registration of Dublin Ógra units at the next National Youth Conference. Peter will also prioritise the reinvigoration of the Dublin Forum. The Forum should offer Dublin members, from 3rd level cumainn and constituencies, an opportunity to meet and develop concrete policy proposals to generate the profile that Ógra so badly needs in the Capital.

Peter would greatly appreciate your support this weekend.



## Ard Comhairle Representative – Leinster

### *Thomas Keogh*

Hi my name is Thomas Keogh. I'm a 22 year old student in Waterford I.T. doing a BA(Hons) in Legal Studies, with Business. Through my family, I've been involved with Fianna Fáil all my life. I got involved in Ógra when I came to college, where I have served as first year officer and secretary and am the current Chairman. I'm also the Vice-Chair of Wicklow Ógra CDC. I've served on the National Youth Committee since our 2003 conference in Portlaoise.

I've worked hard for the members of Leinster both on the National Youth Committee and the Árd Comhairle. As we move towards the next general election, I ask for your support in helping me to work hard for our great party and return us to a third full term under Bertie Ahern.

I promise to work for all the members of Leinster and will always be available if anyone needs to contact me.

### *Donnacha Maguire*

Donnacha Maguire. I am 21 and a P.E. student from Kells. This will be my first attempt at running for the National Youth Committee. I want to see Leinster Ógra flourish. With an election due shortly, all units must be active, however, Ógra more so, as a new generation of young people become first time voters.  
Bheinn an-bhuíochasach dó g'dabharfé do chéad vóta dom in Inis!

### *Brian Nolan*

Brian Nolan, the current PRO of Ógra Fianna Fáil in Carlow, has been an active member of Fianna Fáil all his life. He was involved in re-establishing Ógra Fianna Fáil in Carlow and since then he has held various officer board positions. While studying in Trinity Brian was actively involved in Cumann Theobald Wolfe Tone and he was a founding member of the Ógra Fianna Fáil cumann in DIT.

As Ard Chomhairle Representative Brian would work to boost Ógra membership in Leinster, to improve co-ordination with the NYC reps and reassert Leinster's position in Ógra Fianna Fáil.

Brian is currently working with a French bank in the IFSC having spent four years studying Business Studies and French in Trinity and a year in DIT Aungier Street where he undertook a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Studies.



## Ard Comhairle Representative – Munster

### *Domhnall Meighan*

"Domhnall Meighan is 22 years old and has previously held the position of constituency rep in the National youth committee. Domhnall is at present Chairman of Cork south west Ógra and has previously held positions in the Donagh O'Malley Cumann UCC.A long standing member of Ógra, Domhnall believes he has the experience to bring Munster Ógra into the next General election and promises to work for Munster and will be as always available for anyone that wishes to contact him



## Third Level Árd Comhairle Representative

### *Richard Hoban*

Richard Hoban is a third year Science Education student at DCU. He has been involved in re-activating the DCU Padraig Pearse cumann in 2004, serving as treasurer in that same year. He is now the current chairperson and actively seeks your support for the Third level Árd Comhairle position.

As a result of being a part of the Washington-Ireland PrÓgramme for service and leadership in the summer of 2005, Richard believes that the Future of Fianna Fail lies in developing and empowering its grassroots structures more effectively. "Third level institutions have a pivotal role to play not just in the recruitment of members but more so in the attainment of them within the structures of Fianna Fail both during and after college". The 'formula' for achieving these objectives is something he feels needs to be improved upon.

If elected, he will endeavour to instigate more Third Level cohesion and discussion on the issues of raising awareness of Ógra's objectives more transparently within colleges, recruitment of members and most importantly, the attainment of these members.

### *Davinia Kingston*

Davinia is a 22 year old economics Post graduate student in U.C.C. She is actively involved in Fianna Fail, as a leading figure at both third level (Chair of Donogh O Malley Cumann in U.C.C.) and at a local level (Secretary of the Cork South West Cumann). Whilst promoting communication and cooperation among established Ógrai; Davinia believes that we must build on the successes of Ógra, by driving forward recruitment in all third level colleges. For too long third level institutions without a cumainn have been sidelined. Davinia will ensure that all cumainn have their voice heard on a National Forum. Go raibh míle mait agat.

### *Lorcan Price*

Lorcan Price is a 3rd year arts student in NUIIG. He has been active in Ógra Fianna Fail since joining Cumann de Barra on campus in 1st year. Lorcan is committed to the expansion and reinforcement of Cumanns in the various 3rd level institutions around the country. He is also very concerned that the party honour its commitment to establishing and organising in the six occupied counties, and feels that 3rd level collages in the North are the most appropriate place to start that process. Accountability is an important part of any elected representatives function, and to this end I will undertake to update every collage on a regular basis on the progress of our recruitment and expansion efforts. Minister Seamus Brennan has called on Ógra to be active, radical and committed to influencing and changing government policy for the better. I, with your support intend to ensure we in Ógra expand our membership beyond the traditional collages to include peoples from all occupations and communities both north and south.



## National Youth Committee Positions

### Connacht/Ulster third level Representative

#### *Enda Heslin*

Hi. My name is Enda Heslin and I hail from south Leitrim. I am twenty one years old and am in my final year of studying BCL at NUI Galway. For quite some time now I have been involved with Ógra on campus. I have decided to run for third level representative for Connaught/Ulster and would like very much to be given the opportunity to become involved with Ógra in this region. I would like to see third level Cumainn in the region flourish and grow even stronger in the future. If given the opportunity, I am willing to devote my full concentration and ability to carry out the responsibilities of this position.



### Leinster third level Representative

#### *Shane Quigley*

My name is Shane Quigley. I come from Dundalk in Co. Louth. I am presently studying Finance and Venture Management in NUI Maynooth. This is my second year as Chairperson of The Sean Lemass Cumann in the University. I also presently hold the position of Societies Officer in the Students Union here in NUIM. I believe that it is vital to have strong established Cumann, in every Third Level Institution in Leinster as we face into the next General Election. I hope to bring my relevant experience to this position and to represent the views of the Third Level Cumann of Leinster on the National Youth Committee.



### Munster third level Representative

#### *Máire O'Donoghue*

Máire O'Donoghue from Killarney is a BBS student in University of Limerick running as 3rd level Munster representative on the Youth Committee. I am considerably involved in the Con Colbert Cumann in UL and was elected secretary of the cumann for this year. I was also elected Secretary of the UL Law Society and have served on the events Committees for both. Presently, I am a Presidential Award Gold medal challenger. I plan to mobilize the student electorate of Munster for the forthcoming general election, and ensure that the Munster voice is heard at National level. Vote Máire, honest and reliable.





### *Darren Treacy*

My name is Darren Treacy. I'm 19 and I've been a member of Fianna Fail since I was 14. I'm a psychology student in UCC and I'm Treasurer of the cumann there. I'm from Ardcroney in North Tipperary. I've served as MDO, PRO, Vice-Chair and am currently Secretary, of Gobnait O'Connell award winning, North Tipperary Ógra. I'm youth officer of Borrisokane CC FF. I've contributed to the Ógra pre-budget submission. I've helped set up Ógra in Nenagh, Borrisokane and CIT. If elected, I'll encourage co-operation between the Munster colleges and bring the views of their members to the youth committee. I look forward to meeting you all.

### **Dublin third level Representative**

#### *James Carroll*

James Carroll is from Monasterboice, Co. Louth. Currently studying law in UCD, he is active member UCD's Kevin Barry Cumann previously serving as First Year Rep and Treasurer. As this year's President of UCD Students' Union, he is very aware of the challenges facing third level students on a daily basis and has amassed a wealth of experience and knowledge making the case for third level students. With your support, James will increase the number of third level cumainn in Dublin. With so many third level students in Dublin, third level cumainn should be holding regular meetings together to discuss issues of common interest. James will deliver on this. He also believes passionately that for Fianna Fáil's continued success, it is our duty to go into the Six Counties. How can he start this? Twin our best third level cumainn with Northern colleges. James needs your votes for this to happen. Go raibh maith agaibh.

#### *Bernard King*

Hi, my name is Bernard (Benny) King. I am currently studying Human Resource Management in DCU were i have been involved in the Pdraig Pearse Cumann for four years servicing as treasure this year. I have always been involved in Fianna Fáil though my family who have been actively involved in the party my local area since the 1920's. As a National Youth Committee Member I hope to (working with fellow members) increase awareness of Ógra and increase recruitment through targeting schools and youth organisations. As well as heightened exposure to the media. I also hope to forge a tighter link between the cumanns in Dublin through various social events. For I feel that there is strength in numbers



## **National Youth Committee**

### **National Youth Committee - Connacht/Ulster**

#### **Donegal South West, Donegal North East, Cavan, Monaghan**

##### *Oilbhe Brady*

Oilbhe Brady is a 20 year old, science student in UCD. Home for her is Bundoran, Co. Donegal. She has been an active member of fianna fáil for over four years both in her home constituency of Donegal South-West and in the Kevin Barry cumann, UCD. Oilbhe currently holds the position of cathaoirleach of Donegal South-West, Ógra CDC. She has also served on Donegal Youth council 2001-2002. Oilbhe is the youngest of the Brady family who are also active members of fianna fáil organisation in Donegal South-West.

If elected to National Youth Committee Oilbhe will work to:

- Ensure Ógra organises on a 32 county basis.
- Push for young candidates to be put forward for the next general election.
- Promote young women in the Fianna Fáil organisation.
- Promote Ógra as a core and influential part of the Fianna Fáil party.

Oilbhe would appreciate your 1st or highest preference vote!

#### **Galway West, Galway East, Roscommon**

##### *Emma Brennan*

Emma Brennan is a twenty year old, second arts student at NUI Galway studying Legal Science alongside Sociology and Political science. A native of Co. Roscommon Emma became actively involved in Ógra upon entry to third level, serving as assistant secretary on the officer board of Cumann de Barra, and currently holds the position of treasurer there. Emma has been involved in the recent re-establishment of Ógra Roscommon and serves as secretary of that unit. Emma is seeking your support for the Area Representative position of; Galway East, Galway West and Roscommon. If elected Emma's focus will be on the strengthening and expansion Ógra units throughout Galway and Roscommon.



## Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim

### *Gerard Mc Hale*

A Chara,

My name is Gerard McHale, and I am presently Chairperson of Mayo Ógra Fianna Fáil. I am seeking Election to the position of NYC Representative for Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim. I am current completing the Masters of Accountancy Programme in UCD. If elected I will strive to:

- 1) Develop local Ógraí in Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim.
- 2) Develop policy and push for greater investment in the Western Region.
- 3) Continue to encourage Fianna Fáil to Develop in the Northern Six Counties.
- 4) Work to ensure 1 in 5 Council Candidates in the next local elections are under the age of 30



## National Youth Committee – Leinster

### Meath East, Meath West, Louth, Kildare North , Kildare South

#### *Cathrine Mc Nally*

Catherine McNally. I am a 21 year old fund Accountant from Navan, Co. Meath. I have just completed my first year on the National Youth Committee. I found my time both enjoyable and challenging. If re-elected I will continue to ensure that Ógra's voice is heard on both a local and national level. I will also ensure to fully support newly set up Ógraí. I ask for your number one vote.



### Carlow,Kilkenny,Wicklow,Wexford Representative

#### *Ciara O'Connor*

My name is Ciara O' Connor. I am currently a 2nd year student in Trinity College Dublin studying the pharmaceutical Technicians course. I have been actively involved in Fianna Fail since my early teens. I am presently secretary of Ógra Fianna Fail in the Enniscorthy District. I am a member of the local Fianna Fail cummann in Rathnure of which my father is president. My family has a long history of involvement with the Fianna Fail party. I look forward to the possibility of being on the National Youth Committee. Slan agus go raibh mile maith agaibh.



#### *Stephen Proctor*

Stephen Proctor. I'm a native of Carlow and have been involved in Ógra for several years in both the Local Ógra and in the Institute of Technology Carlow where I did a degree in accountancy. I'm now working as a trainee accountant and studying for my professional exams with the CPA. Last year I was co-opted onto the National Youth Committee as the Third Level Representative for Leinster and I'd hope any experience I've gained I can put to the benefit of Ógra in the Leinster area. My goal would be the strengthening of Ógra in the area. I look forward to meeting everyone at the conference, and that everyone has a good time. Go raibh maith agaibh.



### Offaly,Laois,Westmeath,Longford

#### *Nobody Nominated*

## National Youth Committee – Munster

### Clare, Limerick East, Limerick West, Tipperary North, Tipperary South

#### *Anthony Maloney*

I'm Anthony Maloney from Co. Clare. I have much experience within Fianna Fáil, including Ógra CC, senior CC, Ógra CDC and 3rd level cumann. This has given me invaluable experience within the party. I've also gained a much greater, deeper sense of knowledge - that is, what Fianna Fáil needs in the future; a solid foundation of youth and enthusiasm. Ógra CC's will have an important role to play. They will prove to be the primary recruitment instrument and feeder into the Ógra CDC. If elected I aim to encourage the increased establishment of Ógra CC's and provide them with resources to promote them in their areas.



#### *Caroline Young*

Caroline is nineteen years old and is from Borrisoleigh in North Tipperary. She has been an active member of Ógra since 2003.

She is a founder member and current Chairperson of Borrisoleigh Ógra CC and Youth Officer of Borrisoleigh Senior CC and Honorary Treasurer of North Tipperary Ógra Fianna Fail. She has been a very active recruiter of new members. Caroline won the Public Speaking Competition at the 2004 Youth Conference in Cavan.

If elected she would work to continue closer relations between the five North Munster Ógra Units and encourage the establishment of as many Ógra Comhairle Ceantair as possible. Looking forward to a fantastic Youth Conference in Ennis.



### Waterford, Cork North Central, Cork South Central, Cork East

#### *David O'Connor*

David has been an active member of Ógra for many years and was first elected to the National Youth Committee in November 2004. He has served as Treasurer and Secretary of Waterford Ógra and also as Vice-Chair of the Theobald Wolfe Tone Cumann in Trinity College Dublin. A law graduate from TCD, he has recently completed the Law Society entrance exams. David hopes to see the continued development of Ógra Fianna Fáil and of its place within the wider party.



### Kerry South, Kerry North, Cork South West, Cork North West

#### *Niall Kelleher*

A 20 year old, from Graceland, Shinnagh, Rathmore, Co. Kerry, Niall is currently the Secretary of Kerry South Ógra Comhairle Dailcheantair and was involved in the revival of Ógra in Kerry. He is also Youth Officer of the Comhairle Ceantair and Treasurer of the Senior Comhairle Dailcheantair. He is currently managing director of Combined Legal Services a company he set up himself last year. Niall has been heavily involved in Fianna Fail since he joined back in 2002 and if elected he aims to further promote Ógra at Cumann and Comhairle Ceantair level. Niall, would greatly appreciate your support and looks forward to meeting you all over the weekend,  
Go Raibh Maith Agat.



## National Youth Committee - Dublin

### Dublin Central, Dublin South Central, Dublin South East, Dublaoghaire

*Eoin Burke*

See profile in Dublin Ard Chomhairle Section



*Shane Holden*

My name is Shane Holden and I'm a 22 year old Civil Engineering Student from UCD. If elected I wish to build strong links between all Ógrai I represent and ensure recruitment and policy formation are our priority. I am Secretary of Dún Laoghaire Ógra and Vice Chairman of Clonkeen Cumann. I have worked in Fianna Fáil HQ and gained a wealth of valuable experience from that period. I represented Fianna Fáil at the last North South Forum, and was heavily involved in organising my local Ógra's successful Dublin-Monaghan Bombings Public Meeting. Visit my website <http://www.Ógraff.com/shane-holden> for more information.



### Dublin South, Dublin South West, Dublin MidWest, Dublin West

*Steven Dixon*

My name is Steven Dixon and I am running for the position of Dublin South, Dublin Mid-West, Dublin West and Dublin South West Representative. I am currently attending Trinity College Dublin where I am studying law. I have been active in Ógra since I first joined Cumann Theobald Wolfe Tone in 2003 of which I am currently the secretary. I am also a member of Cumann Frank Aiken in Stillorgan and co-treasurer of Dublin South Ógra. I hope to have the opportunity of improving the organisation in the area if I am elected into this position.



### Dublin North, Dublin North West, Dublin North Central, Dublin North East

*John Sheridan*

John Sheridan is an 18-year-old second year student at DCU and is originally from Louth. He has been highly active in Fianna Fáil in Dublin North West since he started in DCU. John is currently vice chair of Padraig Pearse cumann in DCU and helped re-found the cumann in 2004 when he served as secretary. He is also the current Treasurer of Dublin North West Ógra. He has worked hard in North Dublin for Fianna Fail in his short time there.

He is studying Economics, Politics and Law and is also secretary of the DCU Debating Society and an active member of the University's An Cumann Gaelach. With a strong record in leadership and representation and as one of North Dublin's youngest members John feels he can offer strong representation to the members of North Dublin.



Notes

Lined area for notes



**MOTIONS**  
*“INVESTING IN IRELAND’S FUTURE”*

## Workshop A

### Investing in Ógra and the future of Fianna Fáil

1. Ógra Fianna Fáil proposes that any National Youth committee member who is unable to carry out his/her duties for a period greater than twelve weeks shall be deemed to have resigned their positions.  
Meath West CDC
2. Ógra proposes that politics no longer be just jobs for the boys.  
Con Colbert Cumann UL
3. Monaghan Ógra proposes, that Fianna Fáil members at every opportunity refute the erroneous claim of provisional Sinn Féin which claims today to be the same organisation as the Sinn Fein founded in 1905.  
Monaghan CDC
4. Ógra calls on the Ard Chomhairle and the Youth Committee to fully implement all motions passed by the Ard Fheis and the Youth Conference.  
Monaghan CDC
5. Ógra calls on the incoming National Youth Committee/Coiste Ógra not to be like the bad workman blaming his tools and end the gruesome debate on Ógra structures  
Monaghan CDC
6. Ógra demands that Fianna Fáil doesn't make any arrangement with any party not fully committed to (Bunreacht na hÉireann) the Irish Constitution after the next General Election.  
Waterford CDC
7. Ógra congratulates Dun Laoghaire TD Barry Andrews on his appointment by An Taoiseach to the position of Cathaoirleach of Ógra Fianna Fáil, and wishes him well in the future.  
Dun Laoghaire CDC
8. Donegal South West Ógra proposes that Ógra Fianna Fáil adopt an all-island structure.  
Donegal South West CDC  
Related Motion: Tipperary North Ógra
9. Ógra call for the existing age limit for membership of Ógra to be extended to 29 years to prevent the current situation of older members losing contact and failing to take an active role in the party as a whole subsequently.  
Kerry North CDC
10. Ógra Fianna Fáil, calls on the National Youth Committee and on the Senior Party to start an active recruitment campaign in Northern Irish Universities  
Kevin Barry Cumann UCD,  
Related Motion Mayo Ógra CDC
11. Ógra Fianna Fáil, demands that the motion adopted at the Ard Fheis calling for 1 in 5 of our candidates at the next local elections be under the age of 30 be implemented fully.  
Mayo CDC
12. Ógra calls for the introduction of an extra member on the National Youth Committee, to represent the Constituency of the six counties. This member would be co-opted onto the committee from the Northern Membership, after this National Youth Conference, but would be subsequently elected at National Youth Conferences by six county individual members.  
Kevin Barry Cumann, UCD

13. Ógra calls on the National Youth Committee to twin Southern Irish Fianna Fáil College Cumann with, their Northern Irish counterparts when established. This "twinning" would create an opportunity for these new Northern Cumann to gain experience and help in their organizational efforts.  
Kevin Barry Cumann, UCD
14. Ógra call for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra Fianna Fáil be renamed Ceannaire Ógra Fianna Fáil  
National Youth Committee  
Related Motion: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD
15. That Ógra Fianna Fáil launch a dedicated recruitment drive across second level schools.  
National Youth Committee
16. That the National Youth Committee elects an officer board and exercises ongoing control its own budget.  
National Youth Committee
17. That the Ógra Árd Comhairle representative in each region, in conjunction with that region's Third Level representative, organise regional meetings of the Chairs and Secretaries of Ógra C.D.C.s and Third Level cumainn, at least twice a year, to ensure more participation from local Ógra units in generating policy.  
Clare CDC

## Workshop B

### Investing in Education

1. This Youth Conference calls on the Minister for Education to continue with the full introduction of the Senior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Physical Education syllabus.  
Con Colbert Cumann UL
2. Ógra calls on the Minister to review the archaic system of determining teacher numbers with regard to rural National schools in particular  
Monaghan Ógra CDC
3. That the current system of third level grant aid be reformed to ensure that all third level students, regardless of the awarding authority, receive their grants in a timely manner and not later than 31st October of the relevant college year.  
Clare CDC
4. This Conference demands the immediate reform of the Third Level Grants system to establish a centralised grants authority.  
DCU
5. Ógra calls on the Minister for Education and Science to extend the Maintenance Grant to cover Top-UP fees due to take effect for students attending third level institutions in Northern Ireland this year.  
Donegal South West CDC
6. This conference calls for Ógra Fianna Fáil support a University for the South East.  
Waterford CDC, Thomas Francis Meagher Cumann WIT
7. Monaghan Ógra calls on the Minister to consider allowing medical faculties admit students over and above the cap on places if they feel able logistically and financially to do so.  
Monaghan CDC
8. This Youth Conference calls on the Minister for Education to carry out a feasibility study on the provision of a grant scheme to compensate student teachers for costs incurred during the teaching practice.  
Con Colbert Cumann UL
9. That a review be carried out a primary and secondary level in the way in which Irish is taught so that it can be taught in a way that would allow it to be a living and vibrant language with more emphasis placed on speaking Irish.  
Kilkenny CDC, Clare CDC, Tipperary North CDC
10. Ógra believes that Irish should retain its status as a compulsory subject for the Leaving Certificate.  
Con Colbert Cumann UL, Clare CDC
11. Clare Ógra call on the Minister for Education oversees a quick roll out of the primary and secondary schools building programme.  
Clare CDC

## Workshop C

### Investing in Society and Community

1. That VAT on bottled water is abolished until such time as the water supplies in every village and town in Ireland meet adequate drinking water quality standards.  
Clare CDC
2. This Youth Conference call on the Government to implement fully the road safety strategy 2004-2006 so to reduce as a matter of urgency the number of deaths on Irish roads.  
Con Colbert Cumann UL
3. Ógra proposes that a full scale safety campaign be carried out to highlight pedestrian safety and that the wearing of reflective clothing for pedestrians be made compulsory in the hours of darkness on roads with no public lighting.  
Dun Laoghaire CDC
4. Ógra proposes that Ministerial state cars be converted to eco-friendly fuel (Bio Mass)  
Waterford Ógra
5. Ógra calls on the abolition of VAT on condoms and all contraceptives  
Kevin Barry Cumann UCD
6. The Kevin Barry Cumann calls on the Government to create tax incentives for and invest in research aiding the development of renewable sources of energy.  
Kevin Barry Cumann UCD
7. Ógra Calls on the removal of the blood donation ban for Homosexuals  
North Tipperary CDC
8. Adolescents with mental health issues should be treated in age appropriate mental health settings instead of the current situation where they are put in inappropriate adult services. Ógra therefore proposes that the Minister for Finance be mandated to finance a specific mental health service to cater for adolescents, specifically those in the 16-18 year old age category in each of the HSE areas.  
Dun Laoghaire CDC
9. Ógra Fianna Fáil should voice support for the tremendous work and effort of our nurses in A&E around the country and pledge to work to further the resources needed.  
Waterford CDC
10. Ógra Calls on the Government to priorities infrastructural development expenditure in the BMW region by fast-tracking the Western Rail Corridor Project, as a matter of regional urgency.  
Mayo CDC, Con Colbert Cumann UL
11. That Shannon Airport be linked to the main rail system  
Clare CDC
12. Ógra notes the severe time delays associated with obtaining Age Identification Cards and proposes that either more resources be placed into this scheme or that the law be changed to recognise the validity of other types of identification.  
Wolfe Tone Cumann Trinity College
13. Ógra calls on the Government to review the harshness of the Nitrates Directive in order to keep young farmers on the land  
North Tipperary Ógra

**MORE >>**



Photo : Minister Mary Hanafin TD with Michael Shovelin and other Ógra members.

## Workshop C

### Investing in Society and Community

14. That Ógra voice its concern at the growth of the sensationalist agenda and unrestrained Political Correctness attitude in the Media in Ireland today  
Waterford CDC
15. Ógra proposes that a campaign be launched for the total elimination of mobile phone roaming charges between North and South on the island of Ireland.  
Donegal South West CDC
16. Ógra proposes the immediate implementation of the report on Seanad reform especially with respect to Third Level Graduate Voting Rights.  
Padriag Pearse Cumann DCU,  
Related Motions: Con Colbert Cumann UL, Theobald Wolfe Tone Cumann TCD , Dun Loughaire Ógra
17. Ógra proposes that the number of TD's and ministers be increased to reflect the increases in the state's population. A referendum on the constitution is necessary to increase the number of cabinet ministers appointed by the Taoiseach  
Dun Laoghaire CDC
18. That Ógra condemn the Minister for Health and Children for the non-provision of cancer services in the North West of this Island and calls for the establishment of a full cross-border centre for cancer care in Letterkenny to cover the counties of Donegal, Derry & Tyrone  
Donegal South West Ógra
19. Ógra calls on the abolition of VAT on condoms and all contraceptives  
Kevin Barry Cumann UCD
20. Random Breath testing.  
Kevin Barry Cumann UCD
21. Ógra proposes that taxis should be subject to regulation as regards condition, age and quality of vehicles and also with a view to different charging structures  
Dun Laoghaire CDC
22. Ógra notes the inadequate System currently in place which allows individuals who have failed their driving test to continue to drive. This conference calls on the National Youth Committee to establish a group to review the current driving test system and to create policy for presentation to the Government  
Kevin Barry Cumann UCD
23. Ógra calls on the Government to subsidise the high costs of Cigarette Substitutes  
North Tipperary CDC
24. Ógra calls on the abolition of VAT on Hurleys.  
Kevin Barry Cumann UCD
25. That the means test for the Carers Allowance be abolished.  
North Tipperary Ógra CDC
26. Ógra calls on the Government to grant single fathers equal rights to their children, in law.  
North Tipperary CDC
27. That the Minister for the Environment, Dick Roche T.D., dismisses the case made by members of Limerick City Council for a boundary extension into South East Clare.  
Clare CDC
28. That this Government would commit to putting a specialist body in place to work on a Brian Ború project in East Clare in advance of the upcoming millennium commemorations of the Battle of Clontarf.  
Clare CDC
29. Ógra calls on the government to give grants to households and business to install geothermal and solar panels heating units.  
North Tipperary CDC
30. Ógra calls on the Government to in act legislation to establish properly funded restorative justice projects for each District court area in the country.  
North Tipperary CDC



## Standing Orders

### PROCEDURES

The ruling of the Cathaoirleach of Ógra Fianna Fáil, or in his absence the Leas Cathaoirleach, on all matters of Youth Conference procedure will be final.

### MOTIONS

No motion may be moved which does not appear on the Clár. A motion may be moved only by a delegate from the Third Level Cumann or Ógra Comhairle Dáilcheantair which has submitted it or a similar motion recognised on the Clár. If a qualified speaker does not rise to speak the Cathaoirleach of the workshop will move on to the remaining motions.

### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

A Topic for Discussion must be raised by a Delegate from the Third Level Cumann or Ógra Comhairle Dáilcheantair which has submitted it or a similar Topic recognised on the Clár. The Cathaoirleach may then accept contributions to the discussion from any Delegate or registered Ógra member at his/her discretion. The Cathaoirleach may accept Proposals additional to those appearing on the Clár if he/she deems them to be relevant to the Topic. Additional Proposals should be written where possible, in clear language and including the name of the proposing Ógra unit. Any additional Proposals accepted by the Cathaoirleach must be clearly stated to the Workshop. A direct negative of a Proposal may be accepted only in the case of Topics for Discussion. The Cathaoirleach will take a vote on each Proposal under the Topic for Discussion at the end of each Topic.

### AMENDMENTS

An amendment may be moved only if notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing to the Cathaoirleach of the workshop and it has been accepted as relevant. An amendment proposing a direct negative to a motion may not be moved.

### SPECIAL MOTIONS

An application for the addition of a Special Motion, not appearing on the Clár must be signed by a representative or

representatives of 25% of registered Third Level Cumainn or Ógra C.D.C before the terms of the motion are submitted to the Cathaoirleach. A Special Motion must be submitted to Cathaoirleach Ógra Fianna Fáil on the Friday night of Conference before 11.00pm. If the Special Motion is accepted by the Cathaoirleach, the Cathaoirleach will then inform the Conference that the Special Motion will be tabled at the start of the relevant Conference Workshop. The proposers should be present and ready to identify themselves when the motion is put.

### SPEAKERS

Only Delegates, National Youth Committee members and registered Ógra members may speak. The Cathaoirleach of a workshop will announce the time limit for speeches on each motion and Topic at the start of the workshop. Contributions must not exceed the time limit set by the Cathaoirleach. Speakers may be required to register in advance. In this case only registered speakers will be called to speak. All speakers must take their place in the designated speaker's area at least five minutes before the commencement of the workshop. Delegates must confine their remarks to the specific matter of the workshop i.e. the motions in the Clár and specific matters relevant to the particular policy area. A speaker must cease speaking at the sounding of the Cathaoirleach's bell. A speaker must yield to the Cathaoirleach of the workshop at all times and the Cathaoirleach's decision will be final.

### POINT OF INFORMATION

A Delegate may offer a Point of Information to a speaker on a motion. The Delegate must be acknowledged by the workshop Cathaoirleach before offering the Point of Information.

### VOTING

The Cathaoirleach will take a vote on motions in the Clár by way of a show of hands after each Motion. The Cathaoirleach will take a vote on each Proposal under the Topic for Discussion by way of a show of Delegate Cards at the end of each Topic. In the event of the Cathaoirleach being unable to decide the outcome of any vote, a count will be made by the tellers.