

INDEPENDENT LIMERICK

Application for the Position of Councillor: Cathal McCarthy

YOU WILL ELECT THE COUNCILLORS THAT YOU DESERVE!

It is Local Election time again, and for the residents of Limerick City West it is an opportunity to employ a new set of Councillors to represent your best interests and give voice to community concerns on the Council.

The media, both local and social, is flooded with candidates offering their opinions on a variety of issues. Weeks before the election and the local papers are full of Councillors demanding strategies to be implemented and actions to be taken for matters they could have raised at Council meetings over the past 5-years.

Are you getting dizzy from all the media spin? Are you sick of seeing candidates "welcoming" this and "announcing" that, in a desperate attempt to link themselves to something they had absolutely nothing to do with, or claiming to have "gotten" this and "done" that when it is the unelected Council officials that make most of the decisions. Are you tired of the fast-food politics or are you a glutton for more?

Now, before you bin that *Fine Gael* Big Mac and rush off to bite into a *Sinn Féin* Royale with Cheese, or abandon your *Fianna Fáil* fish 'n chips to swallow a feed of *Solidarity* battered sausages, before you opt for more of the same, consider having something more substantial and traditional.

Just like food, the politics we consume can be bad for us and voting for a different happy-meal won't change a thing. Even some independents can leave you with indigestion if you're not careful.

If you, like me, are dissatisfied and disgusted with our current corrupt political establishment, and how disengaged our public representatives are from reality, then you need to voice that loud and clear through the ballot box.

Change can only begin at a local level. If you want to see real change then you need to do more than simply change who you vote for, you need to change the type of representation you are voting for. You need to vote for a candidate who is just as dissatisfied and disgusted as you are. Someone who shows real concern for the direction our Nation is taking and the decline of our city.

I have represented my community and many individuals voluntarily over the last 18 years, and I have gained huge political insight and experience on a local, national and international level. I have experienced first-hand having my community's voice go unheard and our rights trampled upon and I fought tooth and nail to defend and them.

I am applying to you for the position of Councillor on Limerick City & County Council. This job will allow me to participate in important decisions that affect our communities and our lives.

As your Councillor I will support and lobby around issues such as housing and other developments in your area, if that is what your community wants. If your community is opposed to a project then I will voice that opposition on the Council and vote against it. I will not be silent. I will hold officials to account and will always side with your community. I will represent the will of the people, not the ideological policies of a party or my own personal beliefs.

Vote No. 1 Cathal McCarthy.

If you have received this through your letter box then that means I have canvassed your area and you were not home when I called. I do not have the resources or time to canvass your area again, so if you would like to meet with me or ask me questions then do not hesitate to contact me on 087 784 50 70



McCarthy, Cathal

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MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!

LIMERICK CITY WEST

Councillor	Totals for 2018
Butler, Daniel (FG)	€36,265.17
Collins, James (FF)	€42,212.83
Hogan Eleanora (FG)	€22,599.47
Leddin, Joe (Lab)	€28,193.65
Loftus, John (Ind)	€22,604.51
Lynch, Seán (FF)	€41,475.86
McCreesh, Malachy (SF)	€22,168.58

Annual payments to your current Councillors

Councillors are paid by the taxpayer what amounts to an annual salary with expenses. The basic rate of pay for a Councillor is €16,867 a year and with monthly expenses the least an elected Councillor can expect to earn is €22,000; this is for a part-time position that requires at a minimum, turning up for meetings every few weeks. There's an extra €5,000 if elected by the Councillors to chair a committee and €15,000 if they elect you as Mayor.

Do you believe you are getting value for money?

A huge amount of expensive marketing is invested in election campaigns to ensure the public remains on the fast food political diet. The maximum a local election candidate is allowed to spend on their election campaign is €11,500.

I'm investing a fraction of that capped amount of my own money into my job application to you, and I will not be receiving financial backing from a big brand party; I have refused invitations from a variety of political parties to join their ranks throughout my years as a community activist.

I don't expect to get any extras and I won't be doing the bare minimum if you vote me in; I intend to get on to as many Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) as possible and ensure that officials are held to account. As well as part 8 Planning, Councillors vote on local taxes, the buying and selling of public property and can influence policy through the SPC's. I will read the reports that other Councillors aren't bothered to read and I will ask the questions that are not being asked. I will work for your community as if I was being paid to be the Mayor. I am currently employed part-time on a Community Employment scheme, so I will have plenty of time to commit to the part-time job of Councillor.

I have been involved in local politics for over 18 years; I have served on Council committees representing the Community & Voluntary sector and I am more than familiar with the structure and workings of local government. I can do this job better than most. The choice is yours; give me your No. 1 vote and I promise you won't regret it.

I ask that you read my CV on the back page when considering me for the position; I think you will find that I am more than qualified to do the job.

PRACTICAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

It doesn't matter how often or how loudly it is chanted, Housing is NOT a Human Right.

We DO however; have a human right to *adequate housing*, which means that where the state is in the business of housing supply then that dwelling must be up to standard and adequate to the needs of the tenants. It also means that the state should not act to undermine or deny residents their human right to adequate housing and it *does not* mean that the state must provide housing for all. Many residents had their human right to adequate housing attacked during the €322-million waste of taxpayers' money known as "regeneration."

This state-sponsored land grab also involved residents having their Constitutional property rights trampled on as homeowners were bought out for a pittance and turned into tenants. Not a single Councillor ever voiced an objection to this, in fact, they all voted to facilitate it. Families were displaced, over 1,000 homes were demolished and only 134 units were built to replace them.

I am an advocate for the Human Right to participate in the decisions that affect our lives, and over the years I did my best to engage with the state and its agencies, using every legal means at my disposal to get them to listen. From running in the General and Local Elections to petitioning the EU as an individual and participating in a collective complaint to the *European Court of Human Rights*, I even lobbied the *United Nations* at them once; I used any stick I could find to beat them back. As your Councillor I will not be silent on the issues that are affecting your community.

My community activism began in 2001, when three of my neighbours were burnt out of their homes by criminal elements. I formed a residents' association and we pressured the Council to acquire and refurbish the 3 houses. Although our residents' association had secured funding from central government, plans to rebuild the houses were withheld by the Council and in 2007 we were handed over to the Regeneration Agency for demolition. We refused to move and prevented the Agency from demolishing No.'s 1, 2 & 3; if we hadn't there would be an empty field there today. In the end we succeeded; there was no demolition, just refurbishment. No empty field for illegal dumping and wandering horses, just cosy homes.

By standing our ground, maintaining our independence, fighting back and actively engaging the structures of power, our homes were saved.

If elected I will fight your corner on the Council.



HORSE OUTSIDE

I was the representative for the Community & Voluntary Forum (CVF) on the Council's Environmental Strategic Policy Committee (ESPC). I had some success in raising the issue of wandering horses and in getting the ESPC to hold a special meeting to change the bylaws on 7th April 2014.

A representative from Limerick Animal Welfare (LAW) told the meeting of the difficulties of rescuing abused horses and how their vets and volunteers are often subjected to abuse and threats of violence. LAW informed the meeting that in all their years of rescuing abused horses they had never rescued a horse that had been micro-chipped.

LAW urged the Council to consider regulating for the proper licencing of horses and expressed strong support for the establishment of horse projects, saying that they couldn't understand why it hadn't happened already and that they were disappointed with the failure of regeneration in that regard.

I informed the meeting that there was unanimous support from the CVF for the establishment of horse projects throughout the city.

I said that the current situation was untenable; there were 222 horses seized in 2013 at a cost of €280,000 and that you would be forgiven for thinking that none at all were seized, that the issue of sulky racing and wandering horses was a constant concern for many motorists and communities.

I asserted that the Council was fighting a losing battle and the City needed to be reconciled with the horse; responsible horse owners should be facilitated and licensed, and that the establishment of horse projects would have a positive influence on youth that had slipped through the cracks of the education system and were at risk of falling into criminal and anti-social behaviour. I stressed that it would eliminate the problem of wandering horses.

I also proposed that a pound should be reopened in Limerick to ensure adequate enforcement of the new regulations, which would end what is effectively an unenforceable ban on horses in the city.



Supporters of my horse project proposals wander into my garden to wish me well in the elections ☺

All of the Councillors had been invited to attend this meeting, but only 6 did. The Council official reporting to the meeting said that several horse projects would be needed for the city and that the communities concerned should be encouraged and supported to manage the projects, but because not enough Councillors were present to take a vote that the matter would be postponed until after the local elections in May 2014 for the incoming Council to deal with. The newly elected Council in 2014 never dealt with it and as we hold the 2019 local elections the matter continues to be unresolved. In the past 5-years over €2million of taxpayer's money has been wasted on the "control of horses".

If elected I will work to get better value for your money and I will oppose all wasteful spending practices.



FOR THOSE ABOUT TO FUND

Councillors have absolutely no individual power; they have collective power by way of a majority vote and individual Councillors cannot allocate funding.

In fact Councillors can be left without a vote when they have a conflict of interest.

I was a member of the Council's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) from 2014-16, which allocated the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) funding to Community organisations. I was the interim representative for the Public Participation Network (PPN).

None of the Councillors on the LCDC could vote because they all had a conflict of interest. Only 3 out of the LCDC's 19 members could vote; myself, the other Community & Voluntary rep and the Chief Executive. Everyone else had to leave the room before we voted. The LCDC had just enough non conflicted members to allow it to function within the law.

How dysfunctional is that?

If either I or my Community & Voluntary colleague were unable to attend a meeting then there could not be a vote and no money could be allocated as the law requires a private (voluntary) sector majority. It would be very wrong for me to claim that either I or my colleague allocated the money to the community organisations; the LCDC allocated the money, which was collected from the taxpayer and provided to the LCDC by central government.

If more Councillors understood what they were being elected to, and more importantly, if more voters understood what they were electing them to do, then perhaps we would have a more functional and accountable Council.



The following facts are about my views on some national issues and they do not care about your feelings.....

I understand that many voters are more concerned with issues that are completely outside the remit of the Council, so rather than have someone else whisper about my views on the doorsteps I thought it best to tell you myself. I will not be raising these issues on the Council and my views do not affect my ability to represent your community on local matters.

ABORTION: I am a former pro-choicer who campaigned to save the 8th amendment, which acknowledged the right to life of the unborn in our Constitution and banned abortion unless it was to save the life of the mother.

I canvassed door-to-door with the *Life Canvass* and helped to run an information roadshow for *Pro Life Action Now* (PLAN). Unfortunately, on 24th May 2018, a majority voted to devalue human life and gave the government the power to introduce the most liberal abortion laws in Europe, so liberal that a substantial number of people now regret voting YES.

It should be understood that the result of the referendum did not extinguish the right of people to hold pro-life views; I have been pro-life since 1992 and I will continue to be – life begins at conception and we should value all human life – instead of allowing their deliberate destruction in the womb we should cherish all the children of the nation equally.

I applaud the amazing work of *Gianna Care* and *Ask Majella* and I encourage all pro-lifers to support them to help mothers take the crisis out of their pregnancies and keep their babies. I am very concerned that the government is working to shut them down.

Irish birth rates have fallen below replacement level and I find it extremely sinister that instead of encouraging and supporting mothers to keep their babies, the government is actively promoting and funding abortion with taxpayer's money.

IMMIGRATION: I am opposed to open borders; I believe that we need tighter immigration controls and my position remains the same as it was when I raised it in the 2007 General Election:

"Government policy on immigration is exploitative and racist, preaching tolerance while promoting resentment. Little is being done to integrate and we have enough problems with crime and anti-social behaviour without importing more. It only takes a handful of bad apples to tarnish the public perception of the hard-working majority."

There has been a substantial increase in immigration in the intervening 12-years and some very bad ISIS apples have been let in. According to Muslim cleric Shaykh Umar al-Qadri, head of the *Irish Muslim Peace and Integration Council*, there are about 150 Jihadists using Ireland as a safe haven and convenient "*back door*" into the UK and Europe. One such Jihadist that visited Limerick went on to kill 8 people in central London on 3rd June 2017. This type of unchecked free for all immigration is completely unacceptable.



05/05/2018: Here I am in Limerick City centre with the PLAN roadshow campaigning to save the 8th; pro-lifers lost the vote, we did not lose the argument.

Current immigration rates are not sustainable and there is a serious strain being put on housing; almost one-third of newly homeless families in emergency accommodation are not Irish. Let me be clear, I don't blame the unfortunate immigrants for this situation; I blame successive neo liberal governments and the cheer-leading open-borders fanatics of the far-left.

I believe people immigrating to Ireland should be encouraged to integrate and I am vehemently opposed to the facilitation of Sharia Law; it is not compatible with our Constitution or natural justice. In 2011, then Taoiseach, Enda Kenny proposed the establishment of a *Sharia Council of Ireland* and people should be wary of any future government proposal to amend the Articles in our Constitution that relate to the courts.

I am opposed to the *UN Migration Pact* that the government signed in December 2018 as it promotes open borders and mass immigration. Speaking last November about the Pact and their *Ireland 2040* plan, the Tánaiste, Simon Coveney TD, said:

"I happen to be somebody who is quite liberal on immigration. We estimate over the next 20 years the population of Ireland will grow by an extra million people. Linked to that estimate is that half of that number wont have been born in Ireland. I think that will be a really good thing for Irish Society."

I don't think it will be good for society and neither does America, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, and Switzerland as those countries have quit the pact expressing serious reservations.

Ireland is not just a place to live, it is the homeland of the Irish people and only immigration that is of benefit to the Irish Nation should be permitted.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

A CALL

TO THE VOTERS OF LIMERICK CITY WEST

LIMERICKMEN AND LIMERICKWOMEN: As part of the Irish nation, as residents and as citizens of the Irish Republic we should remember the sacrifice made by our forebears in our nation's long and arduous fight for independence and freedom. Our patriot dead gave their lives so that we could be free and an essential requisite of any free society is Freedom of Speech.

Today in Ireland, Freedom of Speech is under attack and if advocates for "hate speech" legislation get their way we could have the Gardaí arresting people for Tweets and Facebook posts like they do in the UK, while serious and violent crimes get less and less attention. It's disturbing to think that our Gardaí might be ordered to arrest and prosecute people for frivolous things such as "misgendering" someone or for having an unmutual opinion that is contrary to the state's official position on serious issues, such as mass immigration and demographic change.

There is nothing racist about wanting to control our borders or holding the view that only immigration that is of benefit to our nation should be permitted. There is nothing racist about saying that illegal immigrants should be deported. There is nothing racist about expressing concerns about changing demographics and we only have to look to the North to see the consequences of such an event; 400-years since they first arrived and the planters are still not Irish and they continue to be loyal to a foreign monarch. There is nothing racist or sectarian in stating that Sharia Law is incompatible with our Constitution.

Unfortunately, our Constitution does not have an amendment that protects Freedom of Speech and the government has the power to regulate and criminalise it. We already have sufficient laws against incitement to hatred and violence; the real purpose of "hate speech" laws is to shut down debate and silence dissent. The state wants to regulate your opinion and in the interim far-left activists are "no-platforming" anyone they disagree with by threatening venues with disruptive protests and acts of violence. The far-left are the clowns of the neo liberal circus; their cheer leading for "hate speech" legislation makes them the greatest threat to our individual liberty.

If you value the freedom that our heroes of 1916 fought and died for then you must let your voice be heard. We should be oblivious to our differences and wary of those that seek to divide the minority from the majority with their poisonous identity politics.

I believe people should be free to hold and express their opinions whether I agree with them or not. As your Councillor I will defend Freedom of Speech and I will always use it to give your community a voice that won't be silenced.

Your No. 1 candidate for Limerick City West
CATHAL McCARTHY.

MY ANTI-RACISM ELECTION PROTOCOL

As a candidate for Limerick City West in the local elections, I, Cathal McCarthy, declare my opposition to all forms of discrimination and I affirm my commitment to challenge racism, sectarianism, sexism and all forms of bigotry whenever and wherever I encounter them.

I am not seeking office to represent people based on their particular race, religion, ideology, gender or sexuality and I abhor the divisiveness of identity politics. If elected as your Councillor I will uphold my constitutional duty to represent all residents of Limerick City West and to promote the best interests of their geographical communities.

Now that I have declared my intentions I think it is only fitting that I challenge some absolutely appalling bigotry.

I condemn the fake anti-racist organisation, ENAR Ireland, for bullying and expelling its members for having pro-life views. I condemn ENAR's interference in last year's abortion referendum and their incitement of hatred towards pro-lifers by declaring the 8th Amendment to be "racist". I condemn their interference in last year's Presidential election by labelling one of the candidates, Peter Casey, as "racist" for expressing his reasonable views on Traveller housing and ethnicity. There is no need to endorse a dodgy NGO like ENAR; they have no moral authority to say who is and who isn't racist. Shame on those, especially Sinn Féin and Aontú, for signing ENAR's anti-free-speech pro-censorship pledge.



I have always been a supporter of free speech. Here I am in Limerick City centre in 1992, campaigning for an end to the censorship of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, which had been in place since 1972 and prohibited Sinn Féin from being on Irish television and radio. Section 31 stifled debate and distorted the news; it helped to prolong the Troubles in the North and created a hierarchy of victims whereby nationalist deaths were barely acknowledged in RTE news reports. The ban on Sinn Féin was lifted in 1993.

You will elect the representatives you deserve. Think before you vote!

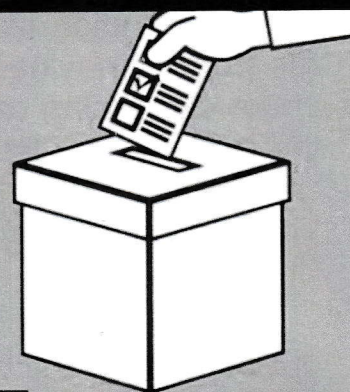


NO HATE
SPEECH
MOVEMENT

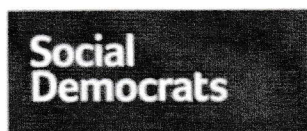
#AREP19

ANTI-RACISM ELECTION PROTOCOL 2019

www.enarireland.org



PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT
WORKING FOR THE MANY, NOT THE FEW



INDEPENDENTS 4 CHANGE



From Neo Liberals to the Far Left, these parties are united against Freedom of Speech

SAFE SPACE

In previous election newsletters I set aside a page for children to colour in while reminding people that we live in a country with more golf courses than playgrounds. Today we live in a time of "trigger warnings" and "safe spaces" with adults encouraged to act like children, so if you've been upset or triggered by anything I've written then build a fort out of your pillows and cushions, grab your crayons and get colouring.

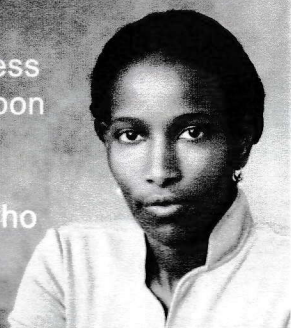
FUN FACT!

Did you know that our National flag was first introduced by the Young Ireland leader, Thomas Francis Meagher, in 1848? As described in "*An Bhratach Náisiúnta*" by *Government Publications*, the tricolour is essentially a flag of union; green represents the older elements of our nation and the newer elements are represented by the orange with the white between them representing the union of different stocks in a common nationality. So there is no need to go changing our flag because of the imagined offence that the far-left claims it causes to today's newest elements as they are already represented. Diversity is incidental, unity is our strength!

NOTABLE QUOTES

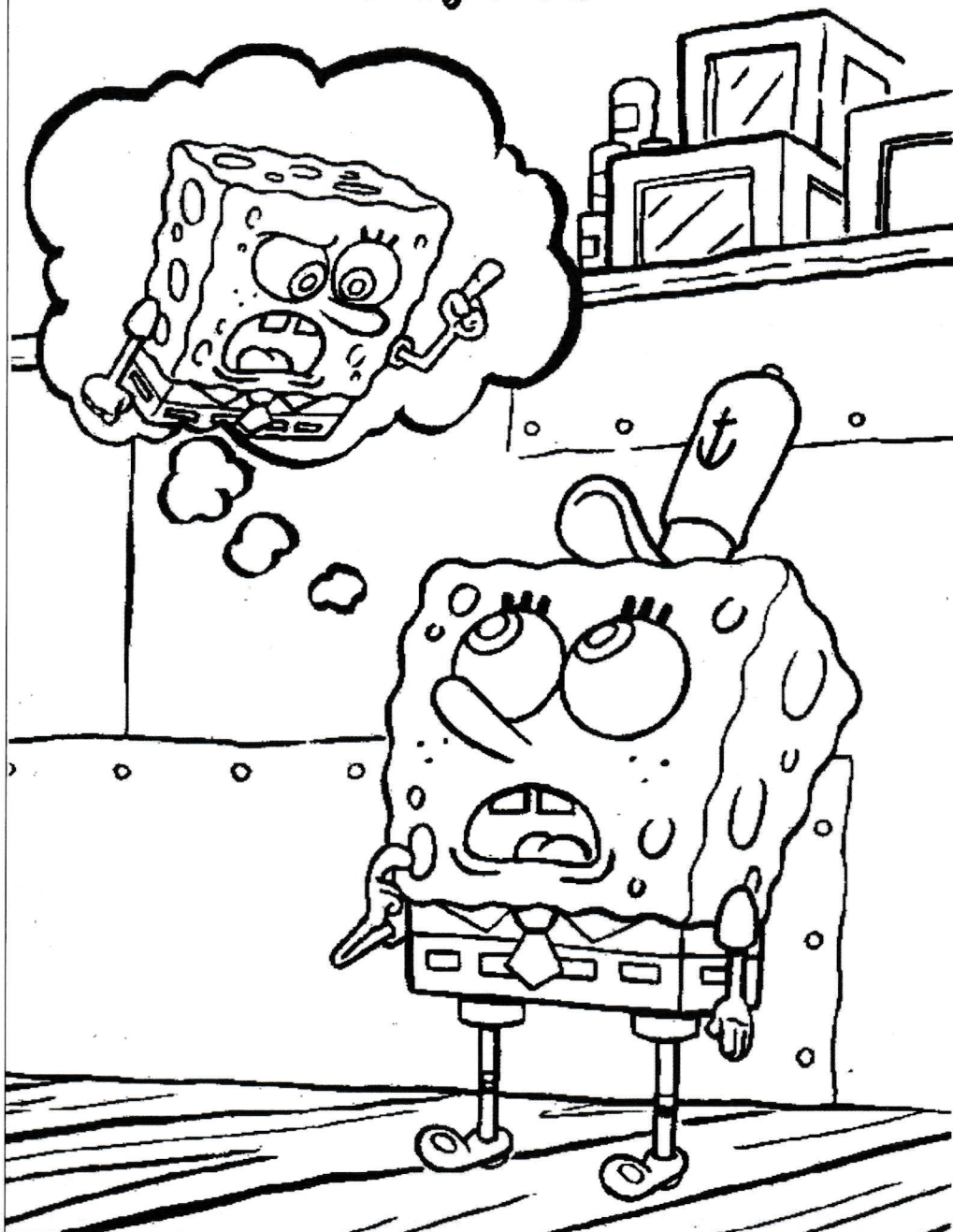
Ayaan Hirsi Ali

"Political correctness is a weapon used to silence people who tell the truth."



"Avoiding offence means that we don't accept each other as equals"

"Stop thinking that way, soldier! You've got to find a way to win!"



Speaking of safe spaces, I want our schools to be a safe space for our children where they can learn and grow without having their **innocence corrupted**. I am extremely concerned about proposed legislation supported by the Fine Gael led government that was introduced by the Socialist Party/Solidarity TD, Ruth Coppinger, which seeks to overrule the religious ethos of schools to allow outside organisations to deliver a **sex education** programme that would teach about **pornography**, **abortion** and the biology-denying **gender theory**. I am not a religious person, but I do find it suspicious that those who object most to schools having a religious ethos want to replace it with **ideological indoctrination**. Parents should educate their children about sex, not the state.

If there are any other national issues that you would like to know my views on please feel free to contact me.

CURRICULUM VITAE: YOUR COUNCILLOR FOR LIMERICK CITY WEST

Name: Cathal McCarthy. **Address:** 5 Weston Gardens, Limerick. **DOB:** 21 May 1970 **Status:** Married, father of 3

RELEVANT EDUCATION

University of Limerick: Graduate Diploma (Hons) in Sociology (Youth, Community & Social Regeneration).

The Learning Curve Institute: FETAC Level 5 Certificate with Distinction in Community Addiction Studies.

Community Action Network: FETAC Level 5 Certificate with Distinction in Human Rights.

NATIONAL POLITICS

I was a member of the National Executive of the Irish National Congress (INC) from 1993 – 2010 and was elected to a number of positions in that time; PRO (1998 – 2010), Vice-Chair (1999 – 2001), Chairperson (2001 – 2003).

Highlights: I was a member of the organising committee for “25 Years: Time for Peace – Time to Go” campaign and national rally (1994). I was a member of the negotiation team to agree new wording on Articles 2 & 3 of the Irish Constitution to facilitate the Good Friday Agreement (1998). I was the organiser of the protest against the civic endorsement of sectarianism by Dublin City Council, which received international media coverage (2000).

Lowlights: I left the INC in 2010 as I felt the organisations independence had been compromised by party politics.

LOCAL POLITICS & COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

Since 2001 I have worked on a voluntary basis as an independent Community Activist; I am Chairperson of the Weston Gardens Residents' Association and Limerick Regeneration Watch, I was PRO with the Ballinacurra Weston Residents Alliance (BWRA) and advisor to the Moyross Residents' Alliance (MRA). I was PRO with the short-lived Concerned Residents Alliance (2008 – 2009), a city-wide alliance of residents' associations.

I was Treasurer of Our Lady of Lourdes Community Umbrella Group and their representative on the Limerick City Community & Voluntary Forum (CVF). I represented the CVF on Limerick City Council's Environmental Strategic Policy Committee until 2014. I was the interim representative for the Public Participation Network (PPN) on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) from 2014 to 2016.

Highlights: Representing “regeneration” communities at the EU (2009). BWRA taking first prize in the Limerick Community Challenge (2011). Support from UN for WGRA & BWRA proposals on community participation (2014). Saving my avenue from demolition and seeing the 3 burnt out houses refurbished and lived in (2015).

Lowlights: The failure of our Councillor's to represent and give voice to community concerns on “regeneration”.

ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW

If you missed me when I called and you (or your community group) would like to interview me for the position of your Councillor then please contact me and we can agree a mutually convenient time to meet. I am asking for your No. 1 vote and if you want me as your Councillor then you need to vote No. 1 for me - I will actually do the job.

M: 087 784 50 70

E: cathalgmccarthy@gmail.com

W: www.cathalmccarthy1.blogspot.ie

A CONSISTENT VOICE FOR COMMUNITIES AND REAL CHANGE



Pictured on the Left: Here I am addressing the EU Committee on Petitions at Parliament Buildings in Brussels on 16 April 2009. I had been calling since 2008 for the Regeneration Agency to sponsor a clean-up of the areas but was being ignored; the Public Health Inspector's reports were also being ignored. My petition exposed the failure of our Council to address environmental issues in “regeneration” areas; illegal dumping and ‘fly-tipping’ was rife and nothing was being done about it. The Irish authorities were found in breach of Community Law and warned that they would be fined if they failed to comply. I returned home to the news that the Regeneration Agency would sponsor a €500,000 clean-up of the areas.

Pictured on the Right: Here I am addressing the *Limerick Spring Assembly*, a *City of Culture* event held in the Crescent Hall on 12 April 2014. ‘Speaker of the House’ was TV3's Vincent Browne and my motion that our Council should adopt a human rights based approach to community participation was passed unanimously. I informed the Assembly that this proposal had received written support from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights.