



DESIGN YOUR FUTURE

**YOUNG FINE GAEL
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

22-24 NOVEMBER 2013



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YFG President

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Chara,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Tower Hotel Waterford for the 26th Young Fine Gael (YFG) National Conference. For those of you attending your first Conference, I would like to offer you special welcome. The National Conference is the most important event on our calendar. It is the place where you, the members, decide the policy positions of the organisation and where you select your National Executive for the coming term.

This Conference comes in a moment of truly historic significance. Having survived the economic crisis, Ireland is now moving back to re-taking its place of pride among the nations of the world. We have hosted an extremely successful European Presidency, as well as numerous referenda and campaigns over the last twenty two months and YFG has played an important part in all of that political activity.

We are now moving towards the 2014 Local and European Elections where, once again, Fine Gael candidates will put forward a vision for Ireland's recovery and future progress. I would like to wish the very best of luck to all our candidates, but most particularly, to the many YFG members across the country who will be going before the people in a few short months.

You are arriving at one of the most competitive conferences seen in decades, and is exciting as a result. But, ultimately, this is your conference and it is your opportunity to make your views known to TDs and Ministers and for you to play a part in shaping this organisation and this party. I would encourage you to make sure you engage as fully as you can and to enjoy what will be a truly historic and memorable conference.

Welcome.

Patrick

Patrick Molloy
President

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FUTURE**

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YFG
★
YOUNG FINE GAEIL
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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT

STABILITY TREATY

YFG's Stability Treaty Referendum—Secure Your Future, Vote YES—marked the first full campaign of this term with members from across the country canvassing and convincing people of the importance and benefit of this treaty. This included campaign days, morning and evening commuter canvasses and a constant presence across cities, towns and villages and throughout campuses and communities up and down the country. The campaign was also a departure, with the creation of a thoroughly identifiable campaign, distinct from every other group. Our online campaign with its 21 tweets, videos, dedicated website, blogs, helped to spread the message and was colourful and engaging. The campaign as a whole inspired considerable praise and comment; it was a very clear demonstration of the active role YFG plays in political campaigns.

FINE GAEL ARD FHEIS

YFG's Social made a successful start to the Ard Fheis and well-attended by members, Senators, TDs, Ministers and An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny. It was a great opportunity for many YFG members to get a photograph and time to chat with the Ministers and the Taoiseach.

YFG's Una Clarke presented this motion: "YFG proposes that it should be mandatory for all schools to have an anti-bullying charter, with a dedicated section relating to cyber-bullying." Una spoke about the Phoebe Prince case in the US and the devastating and life changing effect that bullying can have on a young person. She mentioned that the addition of social media and technology has only made bullying easier. The motion was passed by a huge majority. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from

attendees, both young and old. Other motions proposed by YFG members were also successful, such as making PE an exam subject for the Leaving Certificate and allowing more private coach to compete for routes operated by CIE.

YFG ran a seminar on the topic Human Rights—Individual Rights, joined by Tanya Ward, Children's Rights Alliance, Carl O'Brien, Irish Times; Colm O'Gorman, Amnesty International; Orla Tinsley, health campaigner, and Simon Harris T.D. YFG members, spear-headed by the National Executive, volunteered to guide all delegates of Árd Fheis around the new venue for a FG event, the Convention Centre Dublin. Volunteers were supplied with designated blue t-shirts, and were aided by maps and times of sessions. Other YFG members ran Twitter and FB Digital Teams throughout the event, which added a new dimension to Fine Gael party events.

TRAINING DAY

We put in place a National Training Day in the Aisling Hotel in June 2012 to prepare for increased engagement in media and policy activity. The on-going professional development of members of YFG is essential to ensuring the next generation of leaders in our organisation are trained, motivated and ready to develop the organisation. The Training Day was attended by close to 100 members and sessions were hosted by National Executive members, the NYO, senior staff from the Oireachtas Policy and Research Department and the Press Office. These sessions covered strategy, teamwork, policy, communications, social media (behaviour and activity) and resolutions drafting.

One of the key focuses of the event was our focus on teamwork and group engagement.

We carried out numerous surveys on the role of YFG, the National Executive and the role of the specific branch officers. Members were given the new revitalised Training Manual and Communications Manual and were encouraged to adapt these guides to suit their own branch's make up and requirements. Both manuals can be found on the My YFG section of the YFG website.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2012

In July 2012, the Inaugural Garret Fitzgerald Summer School took place in Killarney, Co. Kerry. It was an action-packed weekend with a fantastic attendance and the usual blend of political and social activities in the 'tourism capital of Ireland'.

YFG President Patrick Molloy opened Saturday's proceedings welcoming members with the help of local FG public representatives including Brendan Griffin TD, Sean Kelly MEP, and former YFG National Chairman (as it was known then) Councillor Jim Finucane addressing delegates. The motions submitted were debated with fervour and some garnered major media attention, including the legalising of marijuana for medical reasons and compulsory for teachers to correct exams during the summer without additional remuneration.

The seminar topic proved inspired—Is Ireland Leading in Tourism Innovation?—as we discussed the importance of tourism on a local and national level, the 9% VAT rate and the challenges facing the industry. We were joined by distinguished speakers Shaun Quinn, CEO of Fáilte Ireland; Michael Vaughan, President of the Irish Hotel Federation, and Michael Rosney, Killarney hotelier. On the Sunday morning, National Assembly took place and a discussion on

The social elements were covered too; we visited Scott's Bar and The Grand late bar on the Friday. Despite the not-so-sunny weather, members went on jaunting cars, a lake cruise or kayaking to get a sense of the beautiful scenery Killarney had to offer. Delegates got a chance to take a breather for a couple of hours before convening again for the BBQ. Some were even brave enough to have an icecream!

YFG's Children's Referendum Campaign was one of the signature events of this term where we played a prominent role with our engaging and comprehensive campaign. This referendum also marked a movement to Saturday polling, a change we championed. The campaign logo and leaflet concepts came from YFG's own members and it was the first time YFG launched a campaign from a climbing wall! This campaign once again saw members up and down the country actively leading the way to pass this referendum. While the overall turnout on the day was disappointing, it was a fantastic achievement and one which the YFG, Fine Gael and the entire country should be extremely proud of.

A Policy Day took place in Port Laoise in January 2013 where the two Policy Officers pitched ideas to the membership on areas to research into policies to campaign on. Dr. Mona O'Moore from the Anti-Bullying Centre in TCD and Ian Power of Spunout.ie outlined the issue of cyber-bullying, while Patrick O'Donovan T.D. gave a passionate address on the prevalence of obesity among our youth. It was voted to research into viable policies that would help to mitigate obesity. Members gathered for a social after and there was a big attendance for the event.

There has been significant attention given to YFG in the media over the last 22 months—from threesomes and support for spunout.ie, to calls for Trade Unions to engage fully with Croke Park Renegotiations. The Inaugural Garret Fitzgerald Summer School in 2010, where we commemorated a great Fine Gael leader and the man who established YFG, was widely covered and individual Summer School motions also drew the attention of the media. We have had radio appearances across the country, interviews in The Atlantic about the changes to marriage equality via the Constitutional Convention and it is to be commended that branches and Regional Councils also were very active in representing YFG in local media.

We were greatly saddened by the passing of Shane McEntee in December 2012. He was a dear friend to YFG, and a staunch party person, and an inspirational politician. But, we were very proud to support to attend and support Helen McEntee at the Selection Convention in Kells Meath East Bye Election, with MJ Murphy, Carol Madigan, and Patrick Molloy in attendance. YFG members had been impressed by Helen's fantastic convention speech and were very proud of the youth issues she wished to champion.

Saturday night. This was a huge success, with up to fifty members for the Saturday and thirty members staying the night to canvass for the whole weekend.

During the campaign and on the Helen's successful election, it was noted by Helen, by the local and county organisation, and by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny himself, that the role played by YFG members was astounding.

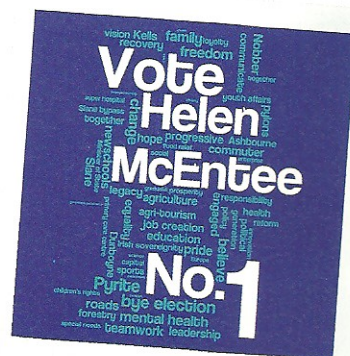
On foot of the Policy Day, the two Policy Officers researched the policy areas, with the help of the committee set-up to run a future campaign. A host of parliamentary party members including Senators Colm Burke and Eamon Coghlan and experts in the area such as Professor Clodagh O'Gorman and Alan Donnelly were consulted.

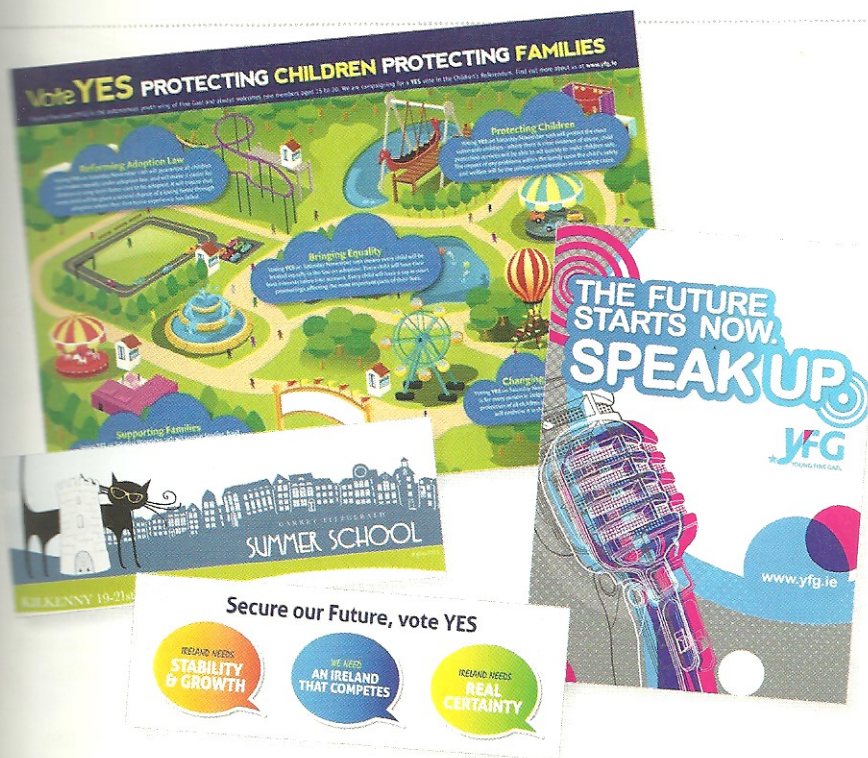
Some policy ideas were inputted into the Pre-Budget Submission, while others will go to the membership at this Conference. If passed at Conference, they would give the next National Executive a mandate to campaign for these policies for government implementation.

YFG dedicated their seminar at the Fine Gael National Conference to the issue, where we were joined by Minister James Reilly; Professor Alan Donnelly of UL; Senator Eamonn Coghlan and Dr. Muireann Cullen of the Nutrition Health Ireland.

We gathered in Kilkenny for the second Garret Fitzgerald Summer School. Blessed with gorgeous weather, members again came in their droves to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

President of YFG, Patrick Molloy opened the Summer School with welcoming addresses by Kilkenny FG public representatives to delegates. Along with the traditional motions, we had a YEPP-style resolution format for policy discussion where the background,





premises and potential consequences are all outlined. In another innovation, for the motions section, the seats were removed to create an open plan room. The Chair John Paul Phelan T.D allowed members move to different sides of the room to indicate agreement/disagreement or no opinion on the motion. As the debate ensued, members were allowed to swap from side to side which made for fascinating viewing for all! Job Creation was the chosen topic for the seminar and members got a great opportunity to hear insights into the challenges facing SME's, how to be build a successful business from entrepreneurs and room for improvement in government's job creation strategy. We were joined by Minister Phil Hogan, Vincent Cleary, CEO of Glenisk; Jim Power, Economist; Olwen Dawe, Irish Business Intelligence, and Sean Kyne, TD and Oireachtas Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Member.

The final session was an open debate on the Seanad Abolishment Referendum where we saw excellent and passionate contributions from both sides. The subsequent vote on YFG's stance on the issue was a tie. The Sunday saw the traditional national assembly and a meeting of officers for guidance into running of their branches. Once again, the social element was not neglected, we convened at the Greyhound track on the Friday evening where some were lucky, before moving off to Morrison's. Members were spoiled for choice activity-wise with a guided cycle tour of Kilkenny City, paintballing or the Smithwick's Brewery Tour. The BBQ in Bridie's was second to none, and Langton's looked after us well all weekend.

PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

YFG submitted Pre-Budget Submissions for both Budgets during this Executive's term, on foot of surveys and consultations with branches. In both submissions, there was much focus on job creations measures for enhancing or further tax incentives to achieve this. In the first submission, we had called for rebate for hauliers which was subsequently passed in that budget. We also called for further reductions in quangos and an increase in social protection for the self-employed. In the second submission, our policy for widening the R&D tax credit relief; removal of the Employment Investment Incentive Scheme for high earners investors; adjustment of the Capital Gains Tax for farmers; and retention of the 9% VAT rate were mirrored in Budget 2014.

IRELAND SOUTH REPORT

The Munster Region has had a very successful term. We held 6 seasonal events, including Michael Collins Béal na mBláth weekend, Oktoberfest, an Inter-Branch Debate and a Regional Training Day. All of these events were well attended and helped to improve the lines of communication and interaction between branches within the region.

The first Munster Regional Council of the term was elected at the AGM in Waterford in May 2012. The AGM also incorporated a day canvassing in Waterford for a Yes Vote in the European Fiscal Treaty Referendum. We organised several canvasses and information sessions on both the Fiscal Treaty Referendum and the Children's Referendum across the Region.

Throughout the Region branch activity and membership numbers have increased. The Kerry South Branch was launched and the Carberry branch was reorganised and split into two. Efforts were made to re-launch branches in CIT and WIT, we hope next year will see improvements. UCC and UL have also had a fantastic 22 months, their Freshers' Campaigns both went well, their weekly events have been second to none and their member's attendance at meetings has improved on last year.

NORTH-WEST REPORT

Over the last 22 months the region has grown steadily with a number of inactive branches increasing their activity levels. Almost the overwhelming majority of branches in the region held meetings and activities.

Regional reform has commenced with the establishment of two regional councils, the Western Regional Council covering Mayo, Longford, Westmeath, Roscommon and Galway and the Northern Regional Council covering Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, and Monaghan. There were a number of campaigns throughout the term including the Children's Rights and Stability Treaty referendums that members in the North West campaigned on either with their respective college or non-college branches and they also held information meetings. There were three National Executive meetings held in the region (Ennis, Sligo and Westport) during the 22 months enabling members from the region to raise any issues/questions they had.

IRELAND EAST REPORT

The Ireland-East Region has grown and become more integral to the success of the organisation as a whole over the past 22 months. Upon taking office, existing branches made a firm foundation to work on, and two fledgling strengthened the region over time.

A newly reformed LRC has had a successful start, and ran an excellent event in Maynooth during the summer helping to prepare YFG members for running for the local elections. The region played a role in the many different campaigns for referenda, holding regional meetings. Existing branches have been focused upon, growing in number with tens of active members in some branches.

DUBLIN REPORT

The Dublin Region has been reformed, with better communication between chairpersons

and members through the Dublin Discussion Forum on Facebook and regular regional Chairperson meetings, this has led to a better-run organisation. The annual "Dublin Day" event also went reform. In 2012, it was decided to move it to mid-week to better facilitate college members. This proved to be a massive success with both 2012 and 2013 being the best attended in years. The format also changed from having a Dublin-wide Debating Competition and this year having a Formal Ball with guest speaker, Gavin Duffy. A Mock Dáil was arranged between all youth parties in UCD in March. Members got their a great insight into the "cut and thrust" of politics. The annual Christmas Party also underwent change with a private function room being organised with a DJ.

Political Reform was also hot on the agenda, with a debate on the topic in the Mansion House chaired by Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD. The reintroduction of the Collins/Griffith Weekend this year also led to a great event. Overall, Dublin is more active than ever.

RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGNS

This Executive has undertaken two ambitious and colourful recruitment campaigns, which coincided with the start of school and college year. As an organisation, can be proud of our recruitment activity—despite the Government making tough decisions, members have flocked to YFG, they see it as the articulate and passionate voice of young people in Ireland. Over the last two years, we have seen increased activity in colleges, institutes of technology, and non-college branches—all that is as a result of members getting involved in the recruitment campaigns to kick it all off. Recruitment is one of the most important activities we can

undertake, it is great fun and kicks off the year with real energy and drive—and, along the way, we get a great new intake of active members!

Our themed recruitment campaigns have engaged new members and appeal to young people, who are interested in political debate and see politics in a different light to previous generation. In 2012, we appealed the hero in young people to Be Part of the Change and this year, we challenged young people to use politics as their vehicle for change—The Future Starts Now. Speak up.

YFG EU PRESIDENCY EVENT

As Ireland held the Irish Presidency of the EU Council, YFG marked the time by holding the seminar 'Europe 2020—The Future for European Youth'. The seminar was held in Morrisons Hotel, Dublin on April 27th 2013. The morning session dealt with youth unemployment where delegates were addressed by UCD PhD student Dan Hayden, YFG's own YEPP Secretary General Colm Lauder and Marie-Claire McAleer from the NYCI.

For the next session, we were joined by Orlaith McCarthy, then Irish EU Presidency Executive Officer, and Cllr. Neale Richmond of European Movement Ireland, who outlined the skills and experience required for work in EU institutions and gave a practical guide for those considering it as a career option.

We were joined by then Minister for European Affairs, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton, and Mairéad McGuinness MEP who all outlined current EU policies, how they affect young people here seeking employment opportunities and the success of the Irish EU Presidency.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION SAME-SEX MARRIAGE SUBMISSION

Given the overwhelming support for same-sex marriage from YFG members in recent years, YFG made a strong submission on behalf of the members to the Constitutional Convention. The submission drew a quite a lot of print media coverage and YFG were invited to send a delegate to the convention.

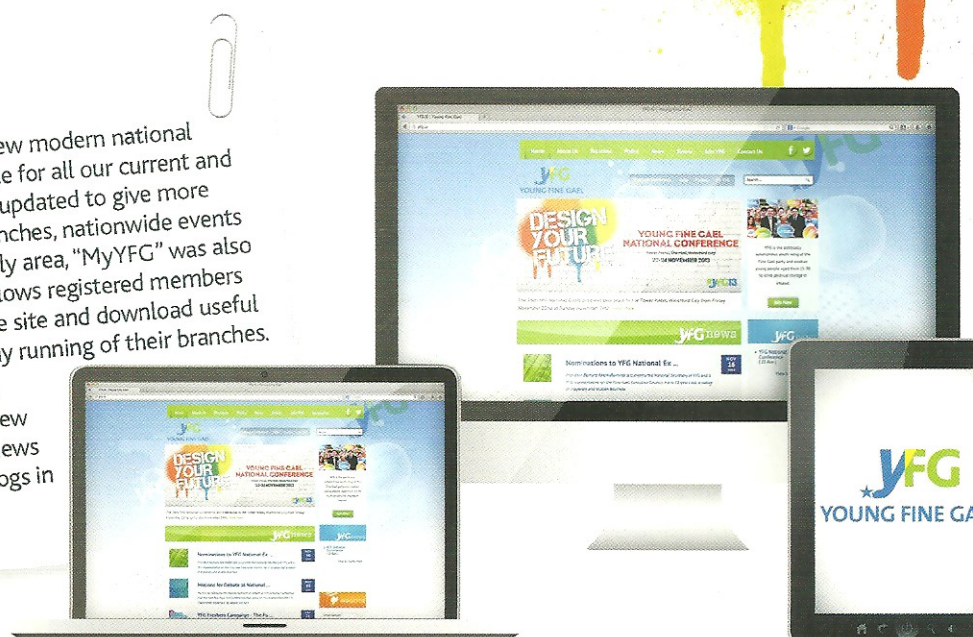
JOB CREATION SURVEY

YFG Policy Officer Timmy Eoin O'Sullivan announced at the YFG EU Presidency event that a job creation survey would be open to members to seek feedback on their own experiences and what potential policies the government should look into to. The survey found that there was a lack of awareness and/or clarity into the current government schemes aimed to abate the crisis and a necessary change to our education system to reflect the 21st century economic demands and needs. These sentiments were reflected in YFG pre-budget submissions and upcoming YFG National Executive motions and resolutions.

WEBSITE—WWW.YFG.IE

In July of this year we launched a new modern national website which is a fantastic resource for all our current and future members. The site has been updated to give more information on our network of branches, nationwide events and policy positions. A member only area, "MyYFG" was also included in the re-design, which allows registered members to contribute to the content of the site and download useful resources to help in the day-to-day running of their branches.

We invite all members to explore the new website and utilise the new opportunities to submit branch news and events as well as member blogs in the coming year!



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

THE YOUNG FINE GAIL (YFG) INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

is responsible for the international relations of YFG. We build up relationships with other youth political organisations, particularly the Young European People's Party (YEPP). We do our utmost to represent YFG views on an international level and we strive to engage the members of YFG with international politics.

Within weeks of this International Committee's appointment we were thrust into the thick of European youth politics with the YEPP Congress in Sofia last May. A YEPP Congress is roughly equivalent to a YFG National Conference. Delegates from YEPP member and partner organisations across Europe (and beyond) came to Sofia to elect a new YEPP board, debate policy resolutions and, under the theme Europe 2020 and Europe's Place in the World, discussed our collective vision for Europe's future.

The Congress in Sofia shows the diversity of YEPP, with delegates from forty different countries, but also shows the high regard in which YFG are held within the organisation. Our own Colm Lauder (Alfie Byrne Branch) was elected as YEPP Secretary General, one of the most senior positions within the organisation, and the highest position any Irish board member has ever held. A YFG motion calling for YEPP to support direct elections for European Commission President was adopted, continuing our excellent track record of policy engagement at European level.

In the past year the International Committee members have been actively representing YFG within Europe through Training Days in Berlin and Brussels, the YEPP Summer School on the Digital Agenda in Tallinn, at the Citizens' Agora in Brussels and at the YEPP Presidents' Council & Job Creation Summit in Bucharest.

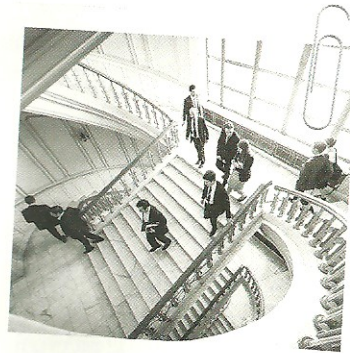
Our active involvement in YEPP allows us to help articulate the YFG message to as large an audience as possible and

facilitates YFG in influencing the policy debate at an international level at a scale that would otherwise be near impossible.

A prime example of this is the extremely successful Jobs Plan document launched by YEPP and signed by the Presidents of its member organisations in Bucharest. This policy document calls for national governments to collectively agree to follow three basic policy measures to help alleviate the crisis of youth unemployment. It calls for low tax incentives for job creators; more jobs focused education systems and reduced bureaucracy for entrepreneurs. The significant YFG input into this policy debate is evidenced by the passing, at the Jobs Creation Summit, of a YFG resolution promoting a reduced tax burden for employers across Europe, reaffirming the first point of the YEPP Jobs Creation Strategy document.

This policy document has been tremendously successful including: being heard by the European Parliament, receiving support from the EPP Employment Ministers, 'green lighted' by EPP heads of state at the EPP summit, discussed by the YEPP board with Commission President Barroso, influencing the European Council proposals on job creation and receiving the concerted support of young EPP members of parliament across Europe.

Of course, not all our activities are related to YEPP. Dialogue has been opened with a number of political parties



in Northern Ireland and in Britain, we are actively involved with the National Youth Council of Ireland and a number of members are engaged with the US Embassy Youth Council in Dublin recently attending their "Innovation All-In" job creation conference.

On the other side of our job, this international committee is working to engage members of YFG across the country with our activities. To such an end we have run a number of successful events in the YFG Summer School, as part of the MRC Training Day in Killarney, as well as at this National Conference bringing in speakers heavily engaged with European politics to get YFG talking about international issues.



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	19/02/2012 Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore	04/03/2012 The Auburn Lodge, Ennis	8/04/2012 FG HQ, Dublin	09/06/2012 Buswells, Dublin	18/08/2012 Castle Hotel, Macroom	25/08/2012 FG HQ, Dublin	05/10/2012 FG HQ, Dublin	18/10/2012 Clarion Hotel, Sligo
President* Patrick Molloy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vice-President* Carol Madigan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Secretary* Bernard Aherne	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Campaigns & Communications Rob O'Sullivan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Membership Officer Frankie Mulqueen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓
National Policy Officer Deirdre Bonham							✓*	✓
National Policy Officer Timmy Eoin O'Sullivan	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓
Organiser-Dublin Dale McDermott	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organiser-East MJ Murphy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organiser-North-West D.J. Kelly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organiser-South Eileen Lynch	✓	✓	✓	●	●	✓	✓	●

	15/12/2012 FG HQ, Dublin	24/02/2013 FG HQ, Dublin	02/06/2013 Westport, Mayo	07/07/2013 FG HQ, Dublin	21/07/2013 Kilkenny	09/08/2013 FG HQ, Dublin	08/11/2013 FG HQ, Dublin
President* Patrick Molloy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vice-President* Carol Madigan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Secretary* Bernard Aherne	✓	✓	✓	●	●	●	✓
Campaigns & Communications Rob O'Sullivan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Membership Officer Frankie Mulqueen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Policy Officer Deirdre Bonham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓
National Policy Officer Timmy Eoin O'Sullivan	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organiser-Dublin Dale McDermott	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓
Organiser-East MJ Murphy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organiser-North-West D.J. Kelly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●
Organiser-South Eileen Lynch	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓

● Due notice of absence and apology presented to the Executive

* Also a member of Fine Gael Executive Council * Deirdre Bonham was co-opted to the YFG National Executive

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE



Candidate for President

BERNARD AHERNE

Bernard is currently the National Secretary of YFG and a YFG representative on the Fine Gael Executive Council. He is 22 years old, a native of Tipperary and studies Business and Law at UCD. He has been an active member since 2007, when helping his local hero, Noel Coonan first get elected to the Dáil.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Tipperary All-Star Hurler with experience of rebel relationships. Seeking gorgeous, promiscuous, hardcore voter for weekend of passion and political misbehaviour in the Déise. All ages, sexes, fetishes, etc. are acceptable. Lover, not a fighter. Waterford area.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... be a rich US corporation seeking tax avoidance, reliefs, state provided infrastructure and, of course, a highly skilled work-force and gateway to Europe ;)

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

...aside my wonderful girlfriend, it would have to be Enda Kenny. "Now that you've done it for the party, any chance you'd electrify this lift?"



Candidate for President

EILEEN LYNCH

I am twenty three and hail from Aghabullogue in Co. Cork. I am currently training with Philip Lee Solicitors in Dublin, having graduated from Law and Irish in UCC in 2012. I have been heavily involved with Macra na Feirme, and am also a greyhound racing enthusiast. I have been a member of YFG since 2006.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Outgoing Ginger Lady seeks out fellow ginger man to go to the dogs, carry her handbag and agree with her. Land desirable but not a necessity. Please include CV and Reference, all applications considered.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... have a cup of tea, because in Ireland, tea fixes everything!

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Leo Varadkar, 'cos he'd know how to tweet us to safety!



Candidate for President

DALE McDERMOTT

Dale is a 20 year old Accounting & Finance student in DIT. He has been a member of YFG since he was 16, where he has been an active member of Dublin South-West. He is the outgoing Dublin Regional Organiser.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Young, devilishly handsome stud-muffin seeks similar, preferably wearing a blue shirt. MUST bank with Permanent TSB. Must like long walks around housing estates delivering leaflets and microwave dinners. Non-smokers only, unless smoking hot.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... not to have Snapchat in, saving you from endless "selfies" in Coppers!

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Fidelma Healy Eames—Just so she can help me to understand the detriment of being "raped on Facebook".



Candidate for Vice-President

NOREEN MIMNAGH FLEMING

Single Royal lady seeks TALL country man for romantic dawn walks before milking. GSOH and a love of pizza necessary. Dancing shoes required. Road frontage essential. Cinema lovers need not apply.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Single Royal lady seeks TALL country man for romantic dawn walks before milking. GSOH and a love of pizza necessary. Dancing shoes required. Road frontage essential. Cinema lovers need not apply.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

...Ireland is the best small country in the world to debate why Barry's tea is better than Lyons with a Fianna Fáiler..

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Mary Mitchell O'Connor—for the fashion and fast car banter!



Candidate for Vice-President

ROBERT O'SULLIVAN

From Cork, Rob graduated from UCC with a degree in Business Information Systems in 2011. He has since moved to Dublin where he works as a Technology Analyst. Rob is the outgoing Communications & Campaigns Officer on the National Executive and wants to continue to build a stronger YFG into 2014.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Young idealistic go-getter looking to meet similar female for mutual friendship or possibly more, depending on candidate's finances. Part time banker/politician by profession, hobbies include live-tweeting #vinb #rtept from basements and Sunday morning leaflet dropping. Proficiency in home cooking and ironing shirts a strong advantage. RA members need not apply.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... to be a poor alcoholic! And the best small country in the world with an endless supply of water, except in our taps!

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... best lift buddy would be Sinéad Sheppard from Six!



Candidate for National Panel

ÁINE DEMPSEY

I joined YFG at the age of 16 and I have been an active member ever since. I'm currently 19 and studying pre-veterinary nursing. I've held various positions throughout the organization including 2 years on the DRC.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Will you be the Gomez to my Morticia? Dublin Girl, 19, tall, black hair and blue eyes looking for someone with land who likes hearty soups and jigsaws of puppies in mugs.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... meet the love of your life at 3 a.m. in a fine dining establishment like Supermacs.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Mary Mitchell O'Connor - So I can find out where she gets her gorgeous clothes and so she can give me driving tips.



Candidate for National Panel

CIARA McMAHON

Hey all, I'm 23 and from the wonderful City of Meathhill, Co. Meath. I joined YFG back in 2009 in NUI Maynooth, where I studied Politics and History. I have since done a Masters in Political Communications and Public Affairs and am now working for Minister Frances Fitzgerald in Clondalkin.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Mighty Meath Lass seeks political husband who looks good in a blue shirt, for long passionate nights of leaflet dropping, canvassing and debating. A strong and stimulating....mind, an advantage!

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... Be a member of YFG! :D

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Eoghan Murphy TD....hoping he might use his connections, to get Tommy and Co from 'Love Hate', to use any means necessary to free us!!



Candidate for National Panel

DAVID McMANUS

David studied Economics & Politics in UCD where he held the position of Policy Officer before serving as Chairperson of the DRC. Outside politics, David enjoys life in the fast lane working as a Corporate Account Manager for Enterprise Rent a Car (3,000 cars, give us a shout!).

Lonely Hearts ad:

Young corporate warrior seeks attractive female for political intercourse and maybe more! Must be ambitious, good fun and not afraid of the public eye.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... because deep down, we all just want to live in a romanticised version of Glenroe.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Senator Eamonn Coghlan, that man doesn't wear a watch, he decides what time it is!



Candidate for National Panel

PADRAIG O'SULLIVAN

Hi! My name is Padraig. I am a fourth year student of Politics and Economics in the UL. I live outside a small town in Tipperary called Newport. Outside of YFG, I am also a member of Macra na Feirme and I have a strong interest in Irish history.

Lonely Hearts ad:

If you want to meet a candidate your own age, listen in on the latest policy or simply have a bit of a laugh, then call Podge Chatback and listen to a National Executive candidate you want to get to know "089 833 3 201" Woo!

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... impose water restrictions during a period of unprecedented rain.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Minister James Reilly. He spends enough time in them these days that he could run a constituency clinic out of one of them.



Candidate for National Panel

STEPHEN SPILLANE

I'm 27 and a Health Care Advisor with Boots. I have been a member of YFG for 9 years. I joined YFG while in UCC and never left. I am active member of a number of voluntary organisations including Cork Pride and the Select Vestry of St Anne's.

Lonely Hearts ad:

27 GM GSOH Looking for significant other for long walks on the beach and political debate. Being able to drive big plus. Should be under 35. Enjoy nights out as often as nights in. Hectic schedule so should be flexible. Hope to hear from you.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... die in or be married in.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Jerry Buttimer, as with any GAA man, he's good in a tight spot and knows how to keep your spirits lifted!



Candidate for Organiser (North West)

SHANE (TED) LYNOTT

Hi all from near Ballina, Co. Mayo. I am a qualified Physical Education and Geography teacher from UL. Positions held include: Western Regional Council Chair, Northwest Regional Council Policy Officer, member of the Children's Committee during Children's Referendum, P.R.O. of UL YFG.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Like political parties, I favour a whip system as I am always on the lookout for a strong willed lady to keep me in line. Out with friends, I only get second preferences (sloppy seconds) but this weekend I hope I'll be someone's first preference. To girlfriend Niamh xx

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... have a dedicated nightclub for rural citizens where Gardai, nurses and teachers can marry a fellow civil servant of non-pale extraction. Coppers, take a bow.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Michael Noonan—he knows EVERYTHING, tales of wisdom. "So Minister Noonan, been meaning to ask you, how do they get the figs into Fig Rolls?"



Candidate for Organiser (Ireland East)

CIARAN ALLEN

Ciaran Allen is a 23 year old from Wexford, he graduated from UL, with a Degree in Politics & Public Administration. Ciaran re-launched the Wexford County YFG Branch in 2010 and was elected as Chairperson for two years. He is currently Treasurer and was co-opted to the LRC in July.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Your perfect mate, into everything you are. Not afraid to make promises I can't keep. Looking for weekly clinic/date? 1st Sat in Wexford, 2nd Sat in Enniscorthy of every month... Can bring you to Dublin City Tuesday through to Friday. Don't worry about any expenses, I've allowances for that.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... be cynical and negative about everything but still be happy, upbeat and merry about life.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Sean Kelly, we'd discuss his thoughts on becoming my MEP. Always enjoy his refreshing analysis of politics, if all else fails, bit of sport too.



Candidate for Organiser
(Ireland East)

CONOR BERGIN

Since joining in 2011, Conor has been highly active in YFG - from his local branch in Laois where he was Chairperson from 2012-13 to his college branch in UCD where he is currently Chair. Conor is also Chairperson of the LRC and Constituency Secretary of Laois Fine Gael.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Seasoned political hack seeks ardent Campaign Manager to make his dreams a reality. Must be prepared to work weekends, nights, holidays etc....

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... It isn't... but it can be

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Charlie Flanagan. How many Laois men could it take to get out of a sticky situation? We've already gotten out of Offaly!



Candidate for Organiser
(Ireland South)

LUKE HOGG

I'm Luke Hogg and I'm running for MRO. I have been a member of YFG for nearly 4 years and during that time I have served in many positions on different committees within the organisation. As a journalism student, I have many media connections throughout Munster and exceptional communication skills.

Lonely Hearts ad:

If you're looking for a man who will bring the bacon home, I'm that guy. I'm a motorbike aficionado, who enjoys riding his hog around town. I'm looking for a sturdy lady, who enjoys a good ham sandwich and watching Babe. I'll certainly go the whole Hogg for you!

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... watch Michael Martin and Fianna Fáil do verbal gymnastics on an Olympic scale.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... Leo Varadkar, because he has plenty of experience of being stuck in lifts.



Candidate for Organiser
(Ireland South)

MICHAEL O'HERLIHY

I'm 23 years old and hail from Kilmurry, Co. Cork. I recently graduated from Energy Engineering in UCC and now work as an applications engineer for a firm in Cork City. I have a keen interest in current affairs, sport, cars and aviation. In my spare time, I enjoy meeting up with my friends and generally taking it easy!

Lonely Hearts ad:

Male, 23, black hair, blue eyes, 6'0, medium build, mild-mannered, snappy dresser, politically motivated, Golf GTI driver. Enjoys long walks on the beach, travel, frequent cups of tea and the occasional pint. Seeks female with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. Ability to cook a necessity. Cork area.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... go out and pursue your career without losing sight of where you come from. Our small size and inclusive society ensure this.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... it would have to be Minister James Reilly. He has been in such a position before and would be in it for the long haul, not the Shorthall!



Candidate for Organiser
(Dublin)

DAVID HIGGINS

Hi, my name is David but some of you may know me as "Piano Man". I first joined Fine Gael in 2009 and have held numerous positions within the party since. I'm now a third year MSISS student in TCD and I chair the YFG DRC.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Tall male with recently shaved head, seeking female partner for life-long companionship and possible world domination. Must have Grade 6 piano or higher.

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... do business, to raise a family, and t... *Enda pauses and stares at the crowd* ... "to Paaaaaaarrrrrtyyyy"
... *Music starts and Enda begins to breakdance*

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... The Reform Alliance. They would all fit comfortably in a lift.



Candidate for Organiser
(Dublin)

BRIAN WALSH

I am a final year student studying Law & Politics at NUI Maynooth. Currently, I am Vice-Chair of the DRC, Secretary of YFG NUI Maynooth and Secretary of YFG Dublin Rathdown, my home constituency, where I am also very much active in the senior party.

Lonely Hearts ad:

Confirmed bachelor looking to meet confirmed spinster, with a view to becoming an item on a trial basis. Assets include: substantial holdings with good road frontage. Prospective partner must be of strong character and physique, and of course, hold a tractor license. P.S. I'm still living with my mother and father...

Ireland is the best small country in the world to...

... because there is a nightclub in Dublin where you're guaranteed the shift, or you will get your money back.

Member of Fine Gael to be stuck in lift with...

... James Reilly, because he has form... Also, being a doctor, he could take care of any panic attacks, palpitations, perspiration, hyper-ventilating, hysteria and any stress incontinence!!!

STEERING COMMITTEE



Deirdre Bonham

Deirdre Bonham is in her final year of studying Law with Politics. She re-launched Laois YFG in 2011 and has played an active organisational role in campaigns in Laois and Dublin such as the Stability Treaty and Children's Referendum. She is known to have a fondness for Giraffes and Kim K.



Tommy English

Tommy English is from Achill Island, Co. Mayo. He is working and studying in the big smoke now. He combines being Chairperson of Achill YFG with a slight interest in politics! Avid hobbies: can't beat a bit of sport—rugby and GAA, mainly. Avid beliefs: there'll have a Mayo Taoiseach present Sam to the lads next September. He's keeping the faith!



Paul Fox

Paul Fox works for Paudie Coffey TD; he previously worked for John Paul Phelan TD and Jerry Buttimer TD. He is a graduate of DIT and IADT. Roald Dahl once wrote a book called The Fantastic Mr. Fox based loosely on his life and times.



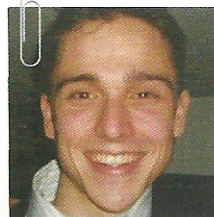
Alan Gallagher

Alan Gallagher has been a member of YFG for the last 10 years. He is a former National Secretary of YFG and Chair of the DRC. Alan was recently selected to contest the Local Elections in the Rathfarnham Ward. His likes include piña coladas and getting caught in the rain. His dislikes include running against Cork people at YFG National Conferences.



Carol Madigan

Steering Committee Chair - Carol Madigan has served in the National Executive for 3 years, most recently as Vice-President and previously as a National Secretary. She has enjoyed her time on the National Executive and would like to thank all the people who helped her during her term. She looks forward to having more time for studying, going to rugby games and visiting her family, who often use Facebook to see where she is.



Patrick Molloy

Patrick Molloy has been the President of YFG for the last term, prior to that he was the Dublin Regional Organiser. He is a graduate of UCD in Politics and History and European Economic and Public Affairs. In the near future he intends to go back to obsessing about how much better Leinster are than Munster.



Sarah O'Connor

Sarah O'Connor has been the NYO since Sept. 2011 and will start as Dublin Regional Organiser for Fine Gael in Dec. 2013. She was Parliamentary Asst. to Tom Hayes TD and also worked publishing in Dublin and Oxford. She studied in UCC and also in Boston College as Fr. William J. Harvey Fellow, and has a Diploma in PR. She is obsessed with campaigning, writing, (more campaigning) and tea and is going to miss YFG very much.



Colum Roche

Colum Roche is from Kilkenny and has been a member of YFG since 2007. He studied Economics in UCD where he was a member of numerous committees of the John Smyth branch in his time there. Colum previously served as Leinster Regional Organiser on the National Executive. He is now working as a Consultant with Deloitte and studying to become a Chartered Accountant. Any weekend you can often find Colum tearing his hair out in a bar after watching a Liverpool game!

THANKS

For members who submitted motions, resolutions, constitutional amendments, suggestions, input, photos, ideas—we are very grateful. For those who did so with a ridiculous sense of humour or at highly irregular hours of the day—we are more and less grateful, respectively. The Steering Committee would like to thank the staff of the Tower Hotel Waterford; the staff of Waterford Crystal, The Winterval Festival; Viking Triangle, and the City Council; the local public representatives; the YFG and FG organisations in Waterford; the An Taoiseach and the Parliamentary Party and their staff; local organisations in Waterford; all speakers and chairs; the stage, sound and AV staff; and the staff of HQ, especially Laura, Ger, Luke, Maggie, Brid, and Ian.

THE REAL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE



Patrick Molloy

This north-side, chauffeur-driven prince enjoys the odd coffee. His haircut icons alternate between Nidge and The Dentist, in the hope of being cast in Season 5 of Love/Hate.



Carol Madigan

This West Limerick enforcer found Newcastlewest wasn't hard enough, so she moved to Clondalkin... To teach them how it's done.



Bernard Aherne

The imagined consequence of a Tom Hayes & Noel Coonan love-child, has always had eyes for the big schmoke. So Tipperary, he's almost Kilkenny!



Deirdre Bonham

Don't mention Fota or the Dublin Zoo near Deirdre or it'll end in an hour long lecture about giraffes. If the law doesn't work out for this lady, she intends to open Laois's first giraffe farm.



Frank Mulqueen

The artist formally known as Frankie, AKA Tankie... Appearing on a poster near you, if they can dip the camera (Editor—ouch)...



Rob O'Sullivan

The quiet one (Editor—it's always the quiet ones). He's from Cork too, but don't hold that against him, there are better things about him. Like... He works for a bank. Hobbies include singing 'always look on the bright side of life' at the drop of a hat.



Timmy Eoin O'Sullivan

The former Kerry legend has turned accountant. Timmy Eoin enjoys long walks and a balance sheet.



MJ Murphy

Entrepreneur extraordinaire. The only explanation for the moustache is that he uses it to clean the chimneys. Unfortunately for his family and friends, the "tache" (like puppies) is not just for Christmas.



Dale McDermott

Having given up his career as the Milky Bar Kid, Dale decided to enter politics. Has a Brian Hayes obsession.



D.J. Kelly

D.J. has travelled more than any other person ever over this term. Or any term. He re-created the Lord of the Rings every time he attended an executive meeting.



Eileen Lynch

Star of the hit show "The Only Way is Macroom", she has gone on to start a job in civilization. Loves everything Michael Creed & Aine Collins.



Sarah O'Connor

Very soon to be the artist formally known as the NYO. Came to YFG spreading #pep to the organisation; leaving YFG to spread #pep to Dublin Fine Gael.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION



Patrick Molloy

I am the outgoing YFG President. I have previously held the position of Dublin Regional Organiser. I am from Drumcondra in Dublin and am a member of the Alfie Byrne Branch and formerly of UCD where I studied Politics and History and completed a Masters in European Economic and Public Affairs.



Carol Madigan

I am originally from Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. I have served 3 years on the National Executive, first as National Secretary and I am now outgoing YFG Vice-President. I am a proud graduate of UL and currently work as a Science and Biology teacher in Clondalkin. I am studying for a Masters in Management in Education.



Deirdre Bonham

I am a 21 year old UCD student who joined YFG in 2010 where I was elected to the position of 1st Year Rep and subsequently acted as OCM and Vice Chair on the UCD Committee. I was co-opted onto the National Executive as a Policy Officer in 2012.



Frank Mulqueen

I was elected to National Executive in February 2012 in Tullamore (older members may remember me as Frankie rather than Frank). I am a Civil Servant in the Department of Social Protection. At 24, I am currently one of Fine Gael's youngest candidates in next year's Local Elections running in Limerick City West. I remember my time on the National Executive fondly and also having a full head of hair.



Timmy Eoin O'Sullivan

I'm a 25 year old, trainee accountant working in Limerick City. I hail from Ireland's 'tourism capital of Ireland'—Killarney, the proud host to the Inaugural Garret FitzGerald Summer School 2012. I was elected to the YFG National Executive in February 2012 holding roles as Regional Reform Officer and interim South Organiser, before being appointed as Policy Officer in October 2012. Thanks to everyone who guided and supported me throughout the term.



MJ Murphy

Hi everyone and welcome to the South East! I'm from Wexford, I'm 22 years old, and I've been self-employed since last November when I graduated with a BA in History from NUI Maynooth. It has been a pleasure working with you all over the last term and I wish my successor the very best.



D.J. Kelly

I have been a member of Young Fine Gael for over five years in Donegal. I am currently studying Bioanalytical science in Letterkenny IT. I love watching football and I'm a huge Arsenal fan, I also do an American football podcast. I've really enjoyed my time on the National Executive and I'd like to wish the next National Executive the very best of luck.

CONFERENCE ITINERARY

FRIDAY

HOTEL LOBBY

5.00 – 7.30
Registration

ARDMORE SUITE

7.30 – 7.40
Adoption of Standing Orders

ARDMORE SUITE

7.40 – 8.00
Official Opening

Speakers:

- **John Cummins**,
Waterford City Mayor
- **Paudie Coffey**, TD
- **Damien Geoghegan**,
Waterford County Mayor

ARDMORE SUITE

8.00 – 10.00
The Great Debate

Chairperson:

Tony Lawlor, TD

Judging Panel:

- **Martin Heydon**, TD
- **Leo Butler**, FG Executive Council
- **Carol Madigan**, Steering
Committee

ARDMORE SUITE

10.00 until late
Mystery Social Event

Free Entry to the
Foundry Night Club

SATURDAY

ARDMORE SUITE

10.00 – 12.00
Resolutions & Motions

Chairperson:

- **Jerry Buttimer**, TD

Response:

- **John Deasy**, TD

ARDMORE SUITE

12.00 – 1.30
Candidates Debate

Chairperson:

Kieran O'Donnell, TD

RIVERVIEW SUITE

1.30 – 3.30
Voting

DUNMORE ROOM

2.00 – 3.00
International Committee
Session

Chairpersons:

- **Leo Varadkar**, TD, and
Minister for Transport,
Tourism and Sport
- **Colm Lauder** Secretary
General of YEPP

Speakers:

- **Seán Kelly**, MEP
- **Senator Catherine Noone**

ARDMORE SUITE

4.00 – 6.00
Primetime Session

Speakers:

- **Konstantinos Kyranakis**, YEPP
President
- **Paschal Donohoe**, TD and
Minister for European Affairs
- **Helen McEntee**, TD
- **Patrick Molloy**, President of
Young Fine Gael
- **Enda Kenny**, Taoiseach and
Leader of Fine Gael

ARDMORE SUITE

8.00 until late

- **Shane McEntee** Memorial
Gala Banquet
- Presentation of Awards
- **The Unusual Suspects**
- **Dave Cronin**, Beat102102,
DJ Newcomer of the Year



26TH YOUNG FINE GAEL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

22-24 NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY

ARDMORE SUITE

10.30 – 11.30

Constitutional Amendments

Chairperson: **Cllr. Sean McKiernan**

LISMORE ROOM

11.30 – 1.30

Election Count

ARDMORE SUITE

11.30 – 1.00

Youth Unemployment Seminar

Chairperson:

• **Dara Murphy TD**

Speakers:

- **Konstantinos Kyranakis**,
YEPP President
- **Colm Lauder**, Secretary General of
YEPP
- **Eddie Mulligan**, local entrepreneur,
Waterford City Business Group
- **Jordan Casey**, Apple's Youngest
App Developer
- **Tom Cullen**, Waterford's Winterval
Festival
- **Barry Downes**, TSSG
- **Dara Murphy TD**

YFG Policy Resolutions re. Youth
Unemployment

ARDMORE SUITE

1.30

Election Result & Close of Conference



ARDMORE SUITE
2.00 – 3.30
Young Candidate
Training and
Network Session

#YFG13

MOTIONS

- 1** YFG proposes that the voting age be dropped to 16 years of age.
Tipperary South YFG
- 2** YFG calls on the Local Authorities of Ireland to put in place a new and start-up business agreement on commercial rates being graded 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% each year in the first 4 years of business, to support job creation and entrepreneurship.
YFG National Executive
- 3** YFG calls on the Government to appoint an independent investigator to assess all investigations of missing persons for the last 25 years and to re-open those which are deemed feasible.
Laois YFG
- 4** YFG calls on the Government to roll out a blanket campaign on suicide prevention, similar to campaign ran against smoking and speeding, and investigate introducing mandatory annual counselling sessions for all second level students.
YFG Maynooth
- 5** YFG believes that the Government should abandon any proposal to introduce 'minimum alcohol pricing'. The Government should increase excise duty and other taxes, which would make alcohol more expensive and discourage alcohol abuse.
Dublin South West
- 6** YFG calls for an end to the right of automatic remission in prison sentences. Under the current system, nearly all prisoners are automatically entitled to be released after serving two thirds of their sentence, which we believe is a mockery of justice and an insult to the victims of crime. YFG calls for remittance to be judged on an individual basis, as a reward to those deemed to have genuinely reformed.
Wexford YFG

SELECTED

- 7** Young Fine Gael supports Minister Coveney's work to lift the restrictions on Irish Beef exports to America and China. We call on the Minister to work with his Department's veterinarians to implement all required technical changes to enable American and Chinese legal changes to affect our farmers. Furthermore, we call on Bord Bia to begin advertising and marketing campaigns to reap the maximum benefits from these changes.

YFG National Executive

- 8** YFG calls on the Government to introduce a scheme whereby third level grants would be repayable upon a person earning at least €21,000 per annum, after finishing their third level education. Grant qualification criteria should remain the same, as should current student registration fees capped at €3000.

DRC

- 9** YFG calls on the Government to radically change the teaching of languages in Ireland, by changing the Junior Certificate exam to be solely based on oral language skills and by introducing written examination only at Leaving Certificate level.

YFG National Executive

- 10** YFG proposes that the Fine Gael party will not enter into a coalition with any party whose leader was a member of the previous FF/Green govt.

UCD YFG

- 11** YFG calls on the Minister for Justice to replace the current organisation-lead system of Garda vetting with a system covering multiple organisations, to be valid for two years as this would ensure a better and faster process of Garda Vetting applications and would clear the backlog of applications.

YFG Maynooth

#YFG13

YFG RESOLUTIONS

REFORMING ELECTIONS TO DÁIL ÉIREANN

Resolution for YFG National Conference
2013, Tower Hotel Waterford
Saturday 23 November
Presented by: Alfie Byrne YFG -
Dublin North Central/Dublin Bay North

Recognising:

- That the Fine Gael party pledged wide-ranging reform of our democratic institutions when in opposition
- That Fine Gael was given a mandate for sweeping reform of our institutions at all levels at the 2011 General Election
- That a clear mood remains among the public for reform of how politics operates in Ireland
- That the Seanad referendum result shows the public are not satisfied with the reforms that have been offered to date and are open to a more wide-ranging reforms than those that have been offered to date

Acknowledging:

- That technical changes to the internal workings of the Dáil are simply not enough to regain public trust
- That far more fundamental electoral reform is required
- That localism and "parish-pump" politics contributed directly to decades of misrule and continue to damage our democratic system
- That competition within parties, rather than between parties, is damaging to Fine Gael and corrosive to the political system
- That the multi-seat constituency system of election to the Dáil has entrenched these problems
- That virtually no other member state of the European Union elects its lower house in this way
- That the reforms of Local Government which will be implemented in 2014 are totally insufficient and mark only an incremental reform of the system

YFG proposes:

- That Fine Gael in Government should bring about a revolution in how the Dáil is elected
- That a majority of the members of the Dáil should be elected in single-seat constituencies, elected by the Alternative Vote method, with the remainder elected through a "Top-Up" list system to ensure balanced representation for smaller parties and Independents
- That members of the Oireachtas should be specifically barred from engaging in local issues and should only represent the views of their constituents on national policy and legislation
- That in order to continue to rebalance the system and continue to provide adequate local representation, that local government is

strengthened in a meaningful way, and that Councillors are resourced properly to allow them to better represent constituents on local issues

- That as only part of these reforms, there should be a modest reduction in the size of the Dáil to approximately 130 members

REFORMING PATERNITY AND MATERNITY RIGHTS FOR EQUALITY

Resolution for YFG National Conference
2013, Tower Hotel Waterford
Saturday 23 November
Presented by: Tipperary South YFG

Recognising:

- That the family structure has changed in recent years, that there is an increase in alternative family structures such as single parents, divorced parents and same sex parents
- That increased numbers of women in the work force have led to a greater need for maternity leave, with paternity leave often being overlooked as an option
- The Maternity Protection Act 1994 and the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Act 2004 state that the mother is entitled to 26 weeks' maternity leave together with 16 weeks additional unpaid maternity leave
- That under the Adoptive Leave Act 1995, as amended by the Adoptive Leave Act 2005, only the adoptive mother is entitled to avail of adoptive leave from employment, except in the case where a male is the sole adopter
- That in Ireland employers are not obliged to grant male employees special paternity leave, either paid or unpaid, following the birth or adoption of their child. This is a policy that is not in the best interests of the child or the family structure
- That some employers do offer minimal paternity leave entitlements, which are generally less than a week
- That some European member states offer shared maternity and paternity leave to new parents, which should be the case in all member states
- That paternity entitlement should not be left up to the discretion of the employer
- That the traditional roles of the father and mother have changed, with fathers increasingly staying at home to mind the child as the mother returns to work

Acknowledging:

- That Article 18 of the 'Convention of the Rights of the Child' states that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child, and therefore should have equal maternity and paternity rights
- That having a child is a large economic

constraint on families, particularly in the area of child-care and this burden can be lessened by increased paternity leave and shared leave between the parents

- That the large increase in women in the work force, and indeed to women returning to work after having children highlights the need for maternity rights
- That the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all people are equal in dignity and rights, therefore denying a father of equal paternity rights is a violation of this
- That, due to the fact that women are entitled to extensive maternity leave and men are not, this can lead to sexism in the work place and women of a certain age might not be hired for a job or promoted based on this inequality
- That shared maternity and paternity leave would allow parents equal access to their child and this would be in the best interests of the family and the child

YFG calls on:

- The Government to recognise the importance of paternity leave and ensure that paternity leave be enshrined into law and not left up to the discretion of the employer
- The Government to create and implement policies that give equal paid parental leave to both parents following the birth or adoption of their child
- The Government to ensure that the best interests of the child and the family are met by allowing parents to be able to split the leave between them
- The Government to recognise the changing shape of the family and how policies in relation to the family must change also
- Employers, companies and unions to recognise the need for equal paternity and maternity leave

IMPROVING MIGRANT PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL, EUROPEAN & GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Resolution for YFG National Conference
2013, Tower Hotel Waterford Saturday 23
November
Presented by: Wicklow & Dublin Bay
South YFG

Recognising:

- That, according to a Central Statistics Office (CSO) Report, there was a 6% increase in the number of immigrants arriving in Ireland between April 2012 and April 2013. This accounted for 56,000 people moving to Ireland, 22,000 of which were under the age of 24.
- The need to continuously legislate on immigration, integration and human rights policies, to ensure the inclusion of immigrants

in the political process, as they are directly affected by public policy at Local, National & European level

- That 17% of the Irish population is now from an ethnic community or new community group, and that they need effective representation in Government and in Irish political parties.
- That during 2012, the highest rate of births occurred in Ireland since 1891, with 27% of these new children born to from immigrant mothers
- That 14% of young people (15-24) or 15% of children and young people aged 24 or younger belong to ethnic minorities
- That since 2011, some 80,000 people have been newly recognised as Irish citizens and that some constituencies (such as Dublin North Inner City and Fingal County Council) now have a population made up of more than 50% ethnic community or new community group, who are potential voters and have constituency needs

Acknowledging:

- That Fine Gael and YFG believe in Equality and Human Rights
- The importance of integration, equality and diverse effective representation in reducing prejudice and discrimination in Municipal Councils, City Councils, the Oireachtas and the European institutions when legislating
- That there is some anecdotal evidence that current methods of selecting future political representatives in political parties has discouraged some of those who ran in local elections in 2009 from running in the 2014 elections and some new candidates from ethnic communities
- That recent research concentrating on the participation of migrant candidates in local election in 2009 found that it was much more difficult for migrant candidates to get nominated in areas where competition within parties were strong (Fanning & Shaw & O'Boyle: Immigrant Candidates and Politics in the Republic of Ireland: Racialisation, Ethnic Nepotism or Localism? Nationalism and Ethnic Politics 2010)
- That the 2009 and 2011 Local and General Elections show that migrant candidates need full party support
- That the European Union has made several recommendations about encouraging candidates of different ethnic backgrounds to have representation under the 'For Diversity against Discrimination' at all levels of government and legislating for this occurrence

YFG Calls On:

- Fine Gael recruit an Integration and Equality Officer on an ongoing basis
- The Government to introduce a quota system that will encourage political parties to encourage ethnic minorities to run in the coming elections
- The introduction of a similar quota in the Seanad for ethnic minorities who can be chosen by both the political parties and the general public
- The introduction of quotas at local

government level in order to have a reasonable representation which reflects the quantitative representation of ethnic minorities

- The Government to introduce affirmative action policies in public structures such as the Garda Síochána and the Judiciary in order to ensure that diversity, equality and an overall reduction of discrimination is achieved in Ireland

IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATORS IN IRELAND BY DEVELOPING A NATIONAL TEACHER EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Resolution for YFG National Conference

2013, Tower Hotel Waterford

Saturday 23 November

Presented by: Dublin West YFG

Recognising:

- That, as one of the most significant resources in schools, teachers are critical in raising educational standards and improving the efficiency and equity of schooling depends, in large measure, on ensuring that teachers are highly skilled, well resourced, and motivated to perform at their best
- The changes in the Irish Educational landscape with the new Junior Certificate where teachers will assess their own students' work mean that this is the right the time to ensure that our educators are of the highest standard in Ireland
- The catalyst for this national evaluation model comes during a time when much emphasis is being placed on the important contribution of education in leading countries out of economic hardship. Undoubtedly, teachers in our classrooms today are laying down foundations upon which young people will grow and flourish

Acknowledging:

- That meaningful teacher evaluation involves an accurate appraisal of the effectiveness of teaching, its strengths and areas for development, followed by feedback, coaching, support and opportunities for professional development
- That it is also essential to celebrate, recognize and reward the work of teachers
- That promoting teacher evaluation is in the national interest, as well as serving students and their families within communities. Teachers need feedback on their performance to help them identify how to better shape and improve their teaching practice and, with the support of effective school leadership, to develop schools as professional learning communities
- By having a national teacher evaluation model, the hiring of teachers within Ireland will become more structured and transparent, with a clear framework upon which teachers would be evaluated

Young Fine Gael calls on:

- The Minister for Education to developing a conceptual framework to analyze teacher effectiveness in all schools in Ireland including: character and nature of teacher, use of ICT in the classroom, use of innovative learning

methodologies in the classroom, student engagement in, 'on task' learning, teacher portfolio of work consisting of resources, differentiated learning resources, special educational resources and critical reflections.

- The Department of Education to develop a national standards matrix
- Every school to partake in this evaluation process in conjunction with Government School Self Evaluation policy where the evaluators will consist of the following key people: teachers (either internal or external to the school), inspectors from the Inspectorate in the Department, school leaders.
- The Schools to make the details of the evaluations to be made public to introduce transparency to the process.

PROMOTING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPE'S YOUTH RESOLUTION FOR YFG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

2013, Tower Hotel Waterford

Sunday 24 November

Presented by: Dublin Rathdown YFG

Recognising:

- The information and communications (ICT) sector is of huge economic importance to Ireland as part of the modern European economy with the ICT sector growing on average 7 times faster than other sectors across the EU member states and internet-based business is set to double across the twenty seven member states
- That nine out of the ten top ICT companies have a permanent presence in Ireland with the ICT sector accounting for a third of Ireland's exports by value making development of ICT infrastructure an essential element in making Ireland the best small country to do business, in creating jobs and in encouraging direct foreign investment
- That slow internet speeds and a low connectivity rate of only 77% (70th in the world) are symptomatic of an ICT infrastructure in need of major development to develop Ireland's ICT industry to its full capacity
- The education gap apparent between the industry's needs and graduate outcomes is leading to unfilled vacancies in a time of high youth unemployment

Acknowledging:

- The efforts outlined by Minister Pat Rabbitte in 2012 to develop ICT infrastructure in Ireland aiming to roll out broadband of 30 Mbit/second to everyone in Ireland with half the population to have access of 100 Mbit/sec connectivity
- Policies such as "Tigrihuppe" and "EstWin" in Estonia have been highly successful in promoting strong, innovative digital economies within some European member states. Outside of the European Union, governments in Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan have been responsible for developing digital infrastructures delivering unequalled connections speeds and widespread

internet access

- Promotion of the Digital Economy as one of the priorities of the recent Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- The success of organizations such as CoderDojo in cultivating the necessary skills to compete in the ICT sector from an early age

YFG calls on:

- The Irish Government to focus on developing ICT skills through education at as early a stage as possible with a particular emphasis on programming
- The targeting of Government funding towards the development of high quality, high speed internet networks throughout Ireland targeting 90% connectivity rate by 2020 with average connection speeds of 100Mbps/s. Support should also be given to the development of technology sharing networks in technologies interlinked with the digital economy such as 3D printing
- The Irish government to support the development of a common policy for data protection across the European Union, removing a major bureaucratic barrier to innovators in the European Union
- The promotion of ICT careers and education courses targeting young people

INCREASING THE ROLE APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES PLAY IN EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Resolution for YFG National Conference
2013, Tower Hotel Waterford
Sunday 24 November
Presented by: YFG National Executive

Recognising:

- That many participants in YFG Job Creation survey cited the importance of access to apprenticeships or internship while in the education system
- That youth unemployment in Ireland remains at almost 30%, nearly 7% above the EU average
- That Ireland has only 29 recognised trades while Germany has 342 recognised trades—Ireland has traditionally associated the scheme with the construction and other related industries, whereas, in Germany, it extends to a much bigger variety of industries
- Germany operates a dual system of learning and on-the-job training in their education system
- That in the UK, Prime Minister David Cameron said that apprenticeship schemes would play an important role in rebuilding the UK economy and the awarding body City and Guilds has

seen an increase in a million of apprentices between 2011 and 2013

- That the last fundamental review of schemes came in the 1990's when the changes implemented resulted in a 'competency based system' to a 'time-served basis'

Acknowledging:

- That the Minister for Education and Skills announced an overhaul of the apprenticeship

scheme will take place

- That German Chancellor Angela Merkel calls on other government to reduce reliance on academic study and more focus on apprenticeship scheme
- Germany as Europe's economic engine and our closest neighbour rate apprenticeships very highly in terms of tackling youth unemployment
- Ireland's current structure is very market driven, can be expensive, and that duration and training can be rigid
- Former assistant director of apprenticeship with FÁS, says the a reformed system must reflect the necessary time to acquire new skills and knowledge
- Ireland's youth unemployment rate still stubbornly high, a new reformed system must be implemented as soon as possible

YFG calls on:

- The Government to recognise the importance of apprenticeship scheme in tackling youth unemployment
- The Government to introduce new interim certificates to apprentices, which would help them to progress to other qualifications and further training, especially in those cases where apprentices have been made redundant.
- The Government to break the link between the apprenticeship pay rate to the fully qualified rate, this is costly and the change would allow for more opportunities for both employers and apprentices
- The Government to break the dependence on academic route to train young people for entry to the workforce

YOUNG FINE GAEL TURNING SOLUTION PROVIDER FOR YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Resolution for YFG National Conference
2013, Tower Hotel Waterford
Sunday 24 November
Presented by: Ballina YFG

Recognising:

- That the most imposing challenge faced by young people in Ireland is attaining relevant employment opportunities in the disciplines for which they are qualified to work
- This challenge is very relevant to YFG membership and our peers, as we are either encountering it as graduates/newly entrants to the workforce or will encounter it once graduating/entering the workforce in the coming years
- That no other single issue, either social or economic, resonates with or calls for action among YFG members

That with the most pressing youth problem in Ireland, has an opportunity to effectively lobby the government and needs to act quickly to put forward our solutions

- This government has begun the task with initiatives such as JobsBridge, the national internship programme and reductions in social welfare to incentivise young people who happen to have available employment to take it. Just two (sometimes controversial) examples

and Young Fine Gael need to help government achieve more

- That this is a European-wide problem and we must encourage European wide solutions that incorporate Ireland as well as having our own indigenous policies
- That many of Government's policies need a more worker centred approach where the needs of the young unemployed are brought to the fore and not just the macro needs of business

Acknowledging:

- That active campaigning on the development of youth employment opportunities will ensure government stay on task in tackling this issue
- This is a European problem, and that Ireland can become the leading country in directly tackling this epidemic in the same way as we are the leading nation emerging from bailout programmes. We can lead in reducing the average of 25% youth unemployment across Europe by initiating policies that tackle our own high rate that exceeds the EU average currently
- That adoption of effective and practical policies can mean that this generation, and those following, can enjoy the fruits of our extensive investment in education and training through obtaining relevant employment in our chosen field, here in Ireland

YFG calls on:

- The incoming YFG National Executive to allow the membership to campaign on this issue at the earliest opportunity
- That a dedicated national meeting of YFG will be held to formulate policy ideas and campaign strategies that will annex best possible results in a constructive manner
- That a dedicated Youth Employment Committee will be advertised to members and established with duties of policy generation and refinement, campaign strategy, membership mobilisation and overview of campaign delivery locally and nationally
- YFG's International Committee to work with the committee to further our aims and objectives at an EU level
- The Government to ensure all public contracts are awarded to private companies with a requirement to employ newly qualified apprentices of three years, newly qualified graduates in the area of Law, HR, Finance, etc.
- The Government to introduce incentives for employers to employ persons under 30
- That the Minister for Education introduce a minimum of work experience component (comprising of 10% of final results) for all undergraduate third level degree courses so that students are prepared for entry to the workplace

- That the IDA encourage a policy for foreign direct investment companies to employ a quota of new Irish graduates
- That employment legislation be introduced to ensure the cessation of public sector institutions re-hiring retired personnel to complete part-time employment where the employment does not require vast experience and expertise

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

10.30, SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 2013

CHAIRPERSON: CLLR. SEAN McKIERNAN

Amendment 1 – Age limit of YFG membership

That Article 3.2 be amended to change "30" to "35".

Effect: The age limit for YFG membership would increase from 30 to 35.

Proposed by: North Tipperary YFG, West Waterford YFG

Amendment 2 –

That Articles 3.1(b), 4.3, and 4.8 be amended to replace the words "non-college" or non college" to read local

Effect: Change in how non-college branches are referred to in the YFG Constitution and Rules.

Proposed by: North Tipperary YFG

Amendment 3 – Officerships

That Article 4.5 be amended to read as follows:

"4.5 No member may serve as Chairperson of two or more units of the organisation at the same time without written approval from the National Executive which may only be granted in exceptional circumstances."

Effect: No member could become Chair of more than one Branch or Regional Council without written approval from the National Executive. The prohibition on a member being Secretary of more than one Branch or Regional Council would be abolished.

Proposed by: Cork South West YFG

Amendment 4 – Co-options to the National Executive

That Article 5.2 (d) be deleted in its entirety.

Effect: The President of YFG would no longer have the power to co-opt up to three additional members to the National Executive to address any imbalances that exist as regards region and skills.

Proposed by: Dublin South West YFG

Amendment 5 – Co-options to the National Executive

(Falls if Amendment 4 is carried)

That the following be added to the end of article 5.2(d):

"The President must seek nominations for any such co-options from the Regional Councils"

Effect: The President would be required to seek nominations from Regional Councils before making a co-option.

Proposed by: UL YFG

Amendment 6 – National Executive

That the following be inserted at the end of Article 5.7:

"In addition, each National Executive member shall produce a quarterly report on their work on the National Executive to be circulated to all members of the Organisation."

Effect: All members of the National Executive would be required to prepare a quarterly report for circulation to all members.

Proposed by: UL YFG

Amendment 7 – Elections at National Conference

That the second sentence of Article 6.8 be amended to read as follows:

"The General Secretary of the Fine Gael Party or his Nominee shall act as returning officer, and all members of the organisation shall be entitled to be present at the counting of votes."

Effect: All members would be entitled to be present at the counting of votes in the elections to the National Executive.

Proposed by: UCD John Smyth Branch, Kerry YFG, YFG Dublin Regional Council

Amendment 8 – Regional Organisers

That the following sentence be added to the end of Article 6.11(a):

"For the purposes of this Article, the Dáil constituency of Clare shall be presumed to form part of the Ireland South constituency."

Effect: The constituency of Clare would be transferred to the remit of the Ireland South Organiser.

Proposed by: Clare YFG, North Tipperary YFG, UL YFG

Amendment 9 – Policy

That Article 8.3 be amended to delete the first instance of the word "among".

Effect: Deletes the unnecessary repetition of a word from this Article.

Proposed by: Dublin South West YFG

Amendment 10 – National Assembly

That Article 9.2 be amended to replace "sixty per-cent" with "fifty per-cent", to replace "two-thirds" with "one third", and to replace "six weeks" with "three weeks".

Effect: In order for a National Assembly to be called by the National Executive, petitions would need to be received from 50% of its members, a reduction from 60% at present. In order for a National Assembly to be called by branches, petitions would need to be received by one-third of branches, a reduction from two-thirds at present.

Proposed by: YFG Dublin Regional Council

Amendment 11 – National Assembly

That Article 9.3 be amended to replace "twenty-one days" with "fourteen days".

Effect: The notice period for informing members of the holding of a National Assembly will be reduced from 21 days to 14 days.

Proposed by: YFG Dublin Regional Council

Amendment 12 – National Assembly

To amend Article 9.7 to change "75%" to "fifty-one per cent" and to replace the words "Branches and a Regional Council" with the word "Units".

Effect: A motion at a National Assembly to dismiss a member of the National Executive would require the approval of 51% of votes cast, a reduction from 75% at present. For such a motion to be discussed it would have to be submitted by any 5 Units, which would be a reduction from 6 Units at present (5 Branches and one Regional Council).

Proposed by: YFG Dublin Regional Council

Amendment 13 – Functions of Regional Councils

To delete article 10.4(e) in its entirety and replace it as follows:

"To discuss resolutions by the Branches to the Council"

Effect: Corrects an error in the ordering of the existing wording of this Article.

Proposed by: YFG Dublin Regional Council

YFG: A HISTORY

"If it had not been for (our) presence and support, public meetings organised by Cumann na nGaedheal and the Centre Party could have not been held, such was the ferocity of the organised conspiracy against these meetings".

Patrick Lindsay (Fine Gael TD, Mayo North, Master of the High Court, Minister for the Gaeltacht)

Ireland in the 1930s was to use Dylan Thomas's phrase "an ugly lovely place". Lovely in the sense that the burgeoning Irish democracy created by Collins and Griffith's settlement of the Anglo-Irish War was still intact; ugly in the sense that an undercurrent of bitterness and rancour still threatened the State's survival.

From this maelstrom sprung what can be loosely regarded as the first YFGers – young men and women, university students in the main, who formed branches of the Blueshirt movement provided (whatever else may be said about their organisation) support to ensure that free speech and freedom of political association survived the transfer of power after the 1932 General Election.

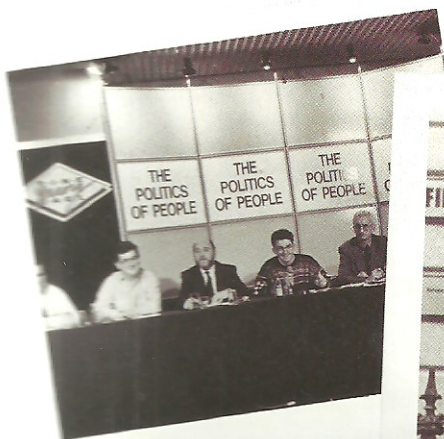
Whilst Garret FitzGerald rightly deserves the credit for the foundation of Young Fine Gael

(YFG) in 1977-78, recognition should also be given to people like Paddy Lindsay in UCG, Alfred O'Rahilly in UCC and John Marcus O'Sullivan in UCD who encouraged and promoted membership of Fine Gael in their respective universities.

By the mid 1960s Fine Gael reached a sort of epiphany moment when the party platform was radicalised with the publication of the "Just Society" policy document which was unabashed in its leanings towards social reform whilst developing a more progressive policy outlook on issues such as education, health care and economic planning. The Just Society document is relevant for present purposes as it denotes a marker towards a whole generation of young people who came to be involved in Fine Gael in the late 1960s. Indeed, at the 1969 Fine Gael Ard Fheis, no less a figure than former leader James Dillon dubbed the new young arrivistes as the Young Tigers.

Fast forward to the defeat of Liam Cosgrave's National Coalition government in 1977 and the election of Garret FitzGerald as party leader. YFG was provisionally founded in 1977, as a result of the organisational revolution which gripped Fine Gael after Garret has acceded to the leadership. The post of National Youth Officer was created in order to foster the growth of YFG, and look after the fledgling organisation's administration. The first National Conference was held in November 1977, in Liberty Hall, with Roy Dooney elected as the first National Chair (to be succeeded by the now Senator Colm Burke). The initial growth was exponential. By the springtime of 1978 there were over 100 YFG branches in existence. At the 1979 National Conference, YFG passed its first policy manifesto, it was liberal, progressive and dynamic. Several YFGers made it through that year's local elections, and the crowning achievement of the year had to be 22 year old Myra Barry's victory in that November's Cork North East By-Election.

This first flush of progressivism was sustained throughout the 1980s. By 1980 YFG embarked on its crusade to change the illegitimacy laws. Over 150,000 petitions were collected. The 1983 National Conference in Galway was a passionate affair set against the backdrop of the Pro-Life Amendment Debate. YFG rejected the need for a referendum as it threatened to derail the much-vaunted Constitutional Crusade, promised by FitzGerald. 1983 was a watermark year, it saw YFG and Fine Gael diverge on issues of policy, and this is testament to the independence of our membership at the time.





The rest of the 1980s and much of the 1990s were defined for YFG by our attitudes to and on Northern Ireland. It's fair to say that when North-South dialogue was little more than a pipe dream, the only organisations to the forefront in this regard were youth organisations. YFG was heavily involved in cross-community dialogue—one of the more poignant items in the YFG archives was a note from Gordon Wilson to the then YFG National Executive in 1987, thanking YFG for their condolences following the murder of his daughter Marie and ten others in the Remembrance Day bombings at Enniskillen.

The 1990s were a time when what has now become the leif motif of YFG—campaigning to win elections became finally honed. We helped give the Dail “a Ring” in 1994 in West Mayo, fought bye-elections for Coveney, father and son in Cork South Central and helped elect the man who is “Solid as the Rock”, Tom Hayes, South Tipperary in 2001.

The 2004 Local Elections saw the beginnings of Fine Gael’s long march to government aided and assisted by YFG every step of the way. Between 2004-2009 we saw the entry into Irish politics of such YFG alumni as Lucinda Creighton, Leo Varadkar, Jarlath Munnelly, John Paul Phelan, Pa O’Driscoll, Liam Quinn, Simon Harris, Patrick O’Donovan, Brendan Griffin, Pascal Donohoe, Paul Connaughton Junior, Joe Carey and many many more, too many to mention with the space that is provided.

By 2010, YFG membership soared to over four thousand. The long march to government ended in 2011, with Fine Gael’s first election into government since 1982, returning a record 76 TD’s, 12 of whom were under 35.

Gerry O’Connell
Vice President, FG
Former President, YFG (2001-2003)

MY TOP 5 YFG MOMENTS:

- 1 The 2005 Meath Bye-Election Campaign: It was an election for a seat first won by Eamon Duggan—a man who shared a horse and trap with Michael Collins to the Treaty negotiations. It was defended at every election since by CnaG/FG and it was contested and won on our behalf by an honourable man, a great man and a never to be forgotten man, Shane McEntee RIP.
- 2 The Election of Enda Kenny as An Taoiseach: Proposed by YFG member, Simon Harris TD.
- 3 The “Talk” Suicide Awareness Campaign: Turning tragedy and adversity into advocacy. Channelling despair into hope and showing solidarity with the bereaved family of our fellow YFG member and friend Gary McTernan, this was a worthy campaign.
- 4 U2 appearing on a pre election photo shoot with Garret and Joan FitzGerald, 1981: You simply couldn’t get cooler than that.
- 5 The passage of the Status of Children Act, 1987 – an important first step towards a more compassionate Ireland.

WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT YFG:

“Fine Gael are diluting our democracy by playing up to Beatle worshippers and screaming teenagers” – **Sean MacEntee**, 1965 (Fianna Fáil TD and Tánaiste).

“It’s like the Boomtown Rats are here, you can’t get within a mile of this place” – **An Taoiseach Enda Kenny** (then FG Spokesperson on Youth Affairs) at the 1978 YFG Conference in Limerick.

“The greatest crowd of political juvenile delinquents in the country” **Frank Fahey**, 1984 (Ex – Fianna Fáil TD and Moscow hair and beauty salon owner).

“It has lived up a debate that has been dominated by boring politicians and sanctimonious academics” – **Lucinda Creighton TD** (then YFG Vice President) speaking at the launch of the “Its Better 2 B on the Inside” YFG Nice Treaty Referendum poster, 2002.

“I am what you call a Young Fine Gaeler” – **George Hook** speaking at the YFG National Conference Banquet 2007.

RUNNING FOR LOCALS?



Senator Hildegarde Naughton

Senator Hildegarde Naughton was appointed to Seanad Éireann by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny in July 2013. She was elected to Galway City Council in 2009 and served as Mayor of Galway City in 2011-12. She worked as a primary school teacher in Galway City and plays an active role in the Arts in Galway.

I ran for the local elections for the first time in 2009. I was very fortunate to have a great group of friends, family and party members who came out on the campaign trail to help me get elected. Many of my friends had never canvassed before and were understandably nervous. I think it helps to hold an initial meeting with your canvassing team outlining the key message you want to get out to the electorate during the campaign. You don't have to have the answer to everything on the doorsteps. If you don't know, say you don't know, and tell them you'll find out and get back to them. Make sure you get back to them!

FIRST TIME CANVASSERS

It is best to ask an experienced campaigner to canvass with a new team member to learn the ropes. The first door is always the

hardest. In my experience, there's a lot of respect on the doorsteps for new candidates who put themselves forward even if people have a different political viewpoint to yours.

PRACTICAL CANVASS ADVICE

close gates after you; don't ring doorbells after 9.00 p.m. (children sleeping, too late to call); be wary of knocking on doors during major sporting events; read the body language and know when to listen and when to talk.

CANVASS CANVASS CANVASS

You will be given a lot of advice on how to get elected. Meeting the public face-to-face is the most effective way of convincing people to vote for you.

Best of luck to everyone putting their names forward and campaigning for the 2014 local elections!



Cllr. Liam Quinn

Liam was first elected to Offaly County Council in June 2009, receiving the highest Fine Gael vote in over two decades. He subsequently went on to contest the 2011 General Election and was the youngest Fine Gael candidate in the country, then aged 24. Liam narrowly missed out on a third seat and was eliminated on the tenth count, with over

6,500 votes – only 28 votes behind. Liam went on to contest the Seanad Election on the Cultural and Education panel. In YFG, Liam has held the positions of Leinster Organiser, National Panel Member and Vice-President. Outside of politics, he is an avid country sports and dog enthusiast and enjoys fly fishing on summer evenings.

ARE YOU IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

If you are interested in politics, then YFG is definitely the best place to start. It began for me when I joined UL YFG in September 2004 and I've never looked back from there. You'll meet some great people and strike up lifelong friendships along the way. If you're lucky, you might even make an enemy or two!! The secret to the success of any organisation is its ability to attract people from all walks of life and to respect our differences where they exist and highlight the areas where we agree.

YFG SUCCESS

To the best of my knowledge, in 2009 the Edenderry District was the only district in the country to elect two first time YFG candidates. This perfectly illustrated that new candidates who are

geographically well-placed can deliver seats, if given the chance. So I urge as many of you as possible to get involved in our selection conventions and, even if you don't succeed this time, your day will come.

WINNING ELECTIONS (LOCAL ONES, AT LEAST)

If you do find yourself on a ticket, spend a little time speaking to people who have gone through the election mill. Set yourself clear targets for canvassing each week and, if someone offers to drive you for a few days, grab it with both hands—parking a car 50 times a day won't win you any votes. Always beware of the stallers—remember, if you get tea and apple tart in a house (as appetising as it seems), you're probably not getting a vote there. Also, screen the social network pictures of yourself and, whatever you do, don't write a song about the party leader and, worse again, let someone record you singing it. Our older members will get the reference. "Oh Enda, Enda, Enda...."

FINALLY

Elective politics isn't for everyone and it's very important that the people who do most of the hard grafting for our organisation get the credit they deserve. With this in mind, I urge you all to enjoy this weekend in true YFG-style and get well rested over Christmas for the local elections next year.





Cllr. Laura McGonigle

— member of Cork City Council

Laura was first elected to Cork City Council in 2009, exceeding the quota on the first count. She had been co-opted to the Council in 2007, to replace Deirdre Clune, on Deirdre's election to Dail

Eireann. Laura also serves as a distinguished member of the Fine Gael Executive Council. She likes Michael Noonan, petting dogs, and singing loudly in her car to Neil Diamond.

BEWARE!

You'll meet some lovely people on the campaign trail and you'll meet some very contrary people. I particularly remember one lady opening the door in 2009 and being bitterly disappointed that we weren't members of Fianna Fáil. She told us that she had been waiting for them. And when they did arrive, she'd invite them in and give them tea, but that they'd have to "claw at the door to get back out". We were slightly disturbed, but very much in agreement that all Fianna Fáilers should be locked away!

REPRESENTATIONS

You'll also receive a plethora of strange and wonderful queries from constituents. I've had everything from addressing the imbalance in the ratio of ducks to drakes at the Atlantic Pond in Cork, to requests for repatriation of someone's false teeth. The lesson is that these issues are of concern to the person who has raised them with you. So even if they do seem mad-cap, it's key to respond to their queries and to be honest with them, if only to tell them that there's nothing you can do.

YOUR TEAM

While the local Fine Gael organisation will be a huge part of your campaign team, you'll come to rely on your family more than anyone else. Not just for canvassing, poster and leaflet dropping — but to make sure that you're fed, that you don't leave the house with your hair sticking out and most importantly, to be a sounding-board when you need to let off a bit of steam. My advice ... use this Christmas as an excuse to soft soap them in advance of the Local Elections!

RUNNING MATES

Unless you're the only FG candidate on the ticket, I can tell you now that you'll spend far too much time fretting about what your running mate is doing. Be confident enough in your own campaign not to get side-lined. Your running mates will get under your skin; just take a deep breath, carry on.



*Beware of dogs;
be thick skinned;
bite your tongue;
get elected!*

Simon Harris TD

Simon Harris TD is a Member of Dail Eireann for Wicklow. He serves on the Dail Public Accounts Committee, the Oireachtas Finance Committee, Secretary of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party and as Co-Chair of the Oireachtas Cross Party Group on Mental Health. Simon was elected to both Wicklow County Council & Greystones Town in 2009, at the age of 22.



It is so important that Fine Gael continues to grow and rejuvenate. We need a constant flow of new, credible, committed candidates who want to get involved and serve their community. YFG can be a great training ground and I learnt a lot during my time in YFG and my period on the National Executive. Experiences such as running campaigns, debating, working in a team, setting and reaching targets (and so on) all stood to me when I decided to run in the Local Elections in 2009.

Now is a really exciting time to get involved—local government is changing. Councillors are being given new powers and new responsibilities. We need people to want to solve problems and not just moan and protest. That's what Fine Gael is about and that's why we need you to play your part. Every good wish and best of luck!

THERE IS NEVER A PERFECT TIME

So many people say things like "I'd love to run for election but this isn't the right time". I don't believe there is such a thing as a perfect time. If you want to do it and the opportunity is there, take the plunge and go for it.

YOU CAN BE ELECTED

Again, people will try and tell you that you can't get elected. Maybe Fine Gael already have Councillors in your area and there is no perceived vacancy for a new candidate. People used to say those things to me and yet I went on to top the poll in the County Council election and poll the highest vote ever in a Greystones Town Council election. The point is, if you work hard and put your mind to it, you can get elected even in an area where there may not be an obvious political vacancy.

YOU NEED YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

I relied on so many good friends and family members to help me campaign, deliver leaflets, knock on doors, put up posters, etc. Many of these people were not political per se, but really got behind my campaign. So talk to your family and friends and don't be afraid to ask for help—they might even enjoy it!

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR KNOCKING ON DOORS

It's all about meeting people and listening to their views and sharing your ideas. Yes, social media is important, but there is no substitute for hard graft. Get a good pair of shoes, a clipboard, a few leaflets and go knock on doors. The earlier you start, the better. It will really stand to you.

As the election gets closer, you will feel like you are being pulled in all directions and you will worry about what your opponents are at. Best advice is: ignore what others are doing, have a good plan, stick to it and work hard.

*Keep focused
and don't panic!*





Sarah O'Connor

NATIONAL YOUTH OFFICER

REPORT

I want to welcome all of you new and long-standing members to the 26th YFG National Conference. This National Conference is electric with energy, with candidates who want to be on the National Executive, with members bursting ideas, with policies to lobby for, with motions and resolutions, with passionate arguments about the future of the organisation.

Design Your Future follows a YFG National Executive term which has progressed at break-neck speed. Every new event and new campaign and new idea was swiftly followed by another, as was evidenced by the National Executive report and the number of photos we had to wade through! Much has been achieved to grow the policy work of the organisation, to create new branches, to run exciting campaigns, to enhance our international influence, to develop candidates for local elections, to reinvigorate communications, to speak up for young people and their issues. The achievements of YFG over the last 22 months stand for themselves. Much has been achieved; much more lies ahead.

I want to point out to you that National Executive members are a marvel, for their commitment, idealism, energy and unrelenting positivity—I have worked with two National Executives and they have both blown me away. This weekend, all credit goes the outgoing team, led by YFG President, Patrick Molloy and Vice-President, Carol Madigan. They all put their names on a YFG ballot paper; they all dedicated their time to YFG; they all deserve your appreciation. They, like you, are ones to watch!

I hope that you, as YFG members, will leave Waterford with two common tasks:

1. Ask yourself what three things you want to change about Ireland. Figure them out as you get a bus, train or as you drive home (if you are one of the lucky locals with a mere stroll to home, figure them out tomorrow). When you know what they are, organise your next branch meeting, get them on the agenda and get started.
2. Ask yourself what your "Big Idea" is for YFG. The words "I have an idea" are both infectious and addictive—you will find you can't resist and others can't either. Whatever your "Big Idea" for the organisation is, call your branch members, lobby the National Executive, the Parliamentary Party, whoever (!) and sell it.

Shakespeare said: "Neither a borrower, nor a lender be". I say: Neither a talker, nor a singer be. This Fine Gael-led coalition government has been about concerted, planned and incremental action to fix our country. YFG members should follow that lead with concerted, planned and incremental action plans for YFG and for young people.

This National Conference is electric. That energy is yours; this organisation is yours. You deserve to own it because you are a passionate person about what Ireland can and should be. Politics needs young people who assess where we are, design the future, then make it. Make it.

Sarah O'Connor

Sarah O'Connor



Kate Acheson

KATE ACHESON

Kate has over four years experience organising events and campaigns on local, provincial and national levels collaborating with the media, third level institutions, students, government officials and setting up large scale conferences. Kate held the position of President of IT Carlow Students' Union from 2009-11. From 2011-13 she held two national positions with the Union of Students in Ireland; Vice-President for the Southern Region and Deputy President/Campaigns Officer. Kate's Dad, Tom was elected to the South Tipperary County Council as a Fine Gael Councillor in June 2009 and he has held the position of Vice Chairperson since June 2013.

I am looking forward to working with YFG across the country and assisting with the development and planning of societies and branches. While some have argued for decades that young people in this country are demotivated, we all know that young people are key to reigniting the spark in this country. The hope, passion and commitment of our youth is crucial for the bright future that we all know is possible, even if sometimes it feels out of reach. But, it is not out of reach for YFG, this organisation embodies passion, drive and focus. The strong voice of YFG and youth people is just what our political system need to hear, to ensure that the bright future is in reach for everyone. I look forward to working with and supporting the National Executive and YFG over the coming months, especially in the run up to the Local Elections 2014.

Kate

SHANE McENTEE

1926 -2012

Danny Ryan, Meath East YFG

There are not too many people in life who are recognised solely on their first name. Often, if they are, it's more likely to be because of infamy than affection. However, in Meath, all you had to say was "I was talking to Shane", and everyone knew exactly who you were talking about. More importantly, nine times out of ten, the response you got was a big smile, and a "How is he?"

It's Shane's big smile that I remember more than anything. I first really met him when I was a sixteen year old who rang him out of the blue asking for a job. Little did I know that nearly everyone who looked for work in his pub, Dee Local, got a chance. The day I started, about midday, there was a knock on my door. It was Shane to see that I was good to go. Seeing how nervous I was, I was flashed that grin, told "You'll be grand", and with that, he was gone. I knew I was in safe hands.

Often, when thinking about the motivations of politicians, it is easy to fall into the cynical assumption that they're out for their own benefit. This simply was not the case with Shane. Anyone who knew him knows that Shane was committed to helping those who needed help long before he became a TD. For him, a Dáil seat was only a better forum to do what he had been doing all his life. If you saw the effect that the Pyrite issue in Ashbourne, Co. Meath had on him, or affection he held for the farming community, or the countless favours and helping hands he offered people, you could not say that this was a person who was in politics for a pay packet or the fame and the glory. So many times, I heard people say something along the lines of: "Well, I normally vote for the other side, but it's Shane, and he's done so much to help me to do such-and-such". People were not voters to Shane, they were people. If they needed to be helped, he would do his best to do so.

Like the majority of my county-men, Shane was a proud Meath man. He loved being around the constituency, meeting people, running into friends, and discussing both dairy cows and Meath defenders. Being on the campaign trail with Shane around Meath was an experience because he would know these little lanes and backroads that will never appear on any map, but there were houses to be canvassed. Invariably, he would know who lived in these houses, and would be welcome. I remember one day canvassing with Shane during the last General Election. I was never more than an hour from home, and I still have no clue where we were. Shane knew the entire county like the back of his hand, and he cared so much about Meath and its people.

Shane was always very supportive of the efforts of YFG. He truly appreciated the efforts that were made by the membership in helping him gain his seat in the 2005 Bye-Election. He was always curious about what was happening, what the campaigns coming up were, if he could help. He was always interested in our point of view. YFG was never dismissed by him, but was seen as a source of interest and worthwhile opinions.

Lest anyone think I am writing about a saint, the man was a pure messer, always ready to jump head-first into divilment. On one occasion, there was a Fianna Fáil meeting taking place in the other



bar in Nobber, Keoghans. From somewhere, somebody produced a mask of a certain Taoiseach from Offaly. Shane, seeing the chance for fun, found the biggest coat he could. I had to stop working so I could stuff the front of the coat with jumpers. When the "belly" was large enough, Shane took off. I don't know what exactly happened next, but from what I can gather, he went on to run through the Fianna Fáil function as fast as he could, sprint a couple of laps around the pub, run back to his own as fast as he could, returning with the immortal line, "Do you think they knew it was me?" There are so many more stories I could tell about Shane, and the vast majority of them are probably best left not in print to preserve the dignity of all involved (including my own...).

It can be said that the true measure of a man is how he cares for his family. Shane's love for his cannot be doubted. On the night of the 2011 General Election, Shane, naturally, was the last one back to Dee Local for the celebrations. I was sitting with my back to the door as he walked in, so as I turned around, I got to see exactly where his attention was fixed. Despite the hordes of well wishers slapping his back and offering handshakes, his eyes were searching. Once he had found his children Vinnie, Helen and Sally, and most especially, the love of his life Kathleen, and had seen that they were good and happy, then the celebrations could start. Even at the moment of immense personal and political success, his family came first.

To borrow a quotation said about another huge personality from our area, Kevin McConnell, Shane's life can be stated as: "Family, football, farming, and Fine Gael". Shane loved being a politician, loved talking football and farming, and loved his family. He believed that life was for living, and for extracting the full amount of enjoyment. Shane was a man I respected, I trusted, and I counted as a friend. I, as do so many, miss him very much, and I am proud to see my friend Helen carving her own niche, but with the same drive and pride in her work as her father always had.

YFG POLICY UPDATE

ICT IN SCHOOLS

YFG members used the recent Job Creation Survey to express their desire for Information Technology (ICT) to have a more profound presence in our education system, particularly at our second level. According to IRC Government of Ireland Scholar, Dan Hayden, countries with a lower GDP than Ireland invest heavily in educating their young people in ICT.

In Finland's highly regarded education model, it is compulsory that all teachers possess a Masters degree. Their GDP per capita is 10 % lower than Ireland. As part of the Tigerleap programme, schools in Estonia will teach children as young as 6 years of age the basics of computer programming and creating web and mobile apps (our GDP figure is nearly double that of Estonia).

Another example of better use of our resources in preparing young people for their future is evidenced in our primary schools spending 11% of compulsory instruction time in religious education, compared to the OECD average of 4%. We believe a better use of resources would be investing more time into nurturing and enhancing other skills in our youth, vital skills like physical education, ICT, entrepreneurialism.

Ireland currently has approximately 5,000 job vacancies in ICT sector. While it is relatively common to have more supply than demand, Ireland can still do more to mitigate this figure. According to award-winning tech journalist, John Kennedy, proficiency in computer coding will soon be more important than a second language was in the 20th century. He argues that the introduction of a ICT curriculum in post-primary school should be a priority for Irish policy-makers. The UK recently announced ambitious changes to their curriculum where ICT will teach students how to write codes and undertake an understanding of algorithms from the age of five.

As the business world becomes more digital, we see a corresponding increased urgency for us to change our education system to meet future needs. Mathematics, and analytical and critical thinking will be vital components for employability in the 21st century. But Ireland also lags behind the OECD average of 17% in mathematics compulsory instruction time, with only 12% of class time allocated to it. We possess assets like being native

English speaking, having attractive tax rates and also membership of the EU and these are all important factors to attract inward investment, but over-reliance on these factors may lead to complacency which will cost the youth of tomorrow.

Our budget restraints are well documented but we, as young people, must speak up and ensure our vision, flexibility and ambition are used to enhance enhance the education system here and the future that will follow for young people.

YOUNG 'N' HEALTHY CAMPAIGN

As part of YFG's Young 'n' Healthy Campaign research, we learned from a recent Oireachtas study that in Ireland 22% of 5-12 year olds, 20% 13-17 years olds, and 66% of adults are overweight or obese. The main contributors to our obesity problem are a lack of exercise and unhealthy eating habits.

Weight problems for children create huge risk to their general health and well-being later in life, as the chances of remaining overweight or obese into adulthood are large. Cardiovascular disease and Type 2 Diabetes are among the other health problems heavily linked to weight problems.

Drinks sweetened with sugar, corn syrup, or other calorific sweeteners, or energy and sports drinks are also known as SSBs. A host of leading public health and leading experts believe that SSBs are one of the largest drivers in the unsustainable rates of obesity. SSBs play a key role in the obesity epidemic; they have no nutritional role and do not provide a feeling of fullness. For young people, for each SSB consumed each day, their risk of obesity is increased by 60%.

The introduction of a tax on SSBs is an attractive option because there is no nutritional value in SSBs and there is a healthier alternative in water and other drinks. In the 1970's, a 10% tax on soft drinks was in place in Ireland. While no studies exist to show the wider health benefits of the measure, there was 11% reduction in the consumption of soft drinks (after adjustment of normal factors).

According to the impact survey commissioned by Minister for Health, Dr.

James Reilly, it found that a re-introduction of that 10% tax (later abolished in the 1990's) would reduce the number of overweight and obese people by 14,000 or 1.25% in the population of obese people.

Dr. Noelle Cotter, the main author of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) report stated that the report found that teenage boys are the largest consumers of SSBs, which suggests that the tax would increase the potential of them switching from SSBs to healthier alternatives, given their income levels.

As part of their research for the report, the steering committee commissioned Ipsos MRBI to survey adults with their attitude and relationship for SSBs:

- 91% think that young people consume too many SSBs,
- 87% think that SSBs play a significant role in obesity among young people,
- 44% of purchasers would buy fewer SSBs if the was implemented at 10%.

YFG believes that the introduction of this tax would play a small role in mitigating our obesity levels. According to studies by leading researchers in the field, changing the awareness levels of Irish people about the adverse impact of SSBs would help to reduce consumption, improve health and increase the possibility of switching to healthier alternatives.



STANDING ORDERS FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PART 1 – Interpretation (or the purposes of these Standing Orders):

'Amendments to the Young Fine Gael (YFG) Constitution and Rules' means the amendments to the YFG Constitution and Rules proposed by certain Units or Organs of the Organisation and detailed in the National Conference Programme.

'Conference Motions' means the motions proposed by certain Units or Organs of the Organisation, selected for discussion by the National Conference Steering Committee and detailed in the National Conference Programme.

'Chairperson' means the individual presiding at a Session.

'Delegate Card' means a card issued by the National Conference Steering Committee to a Registered Delegate, who must be an affiliated member of YFG who has registered at the National Conference.

'Observer Card' means a card issued by the National Conference Steering Committee to a person they deem entitled to observe the proceedings of the National Conference.

'Media Card' means a card issued by the National Conference Steering Committee to a member of the media accredited to cover the proceedings of the National Conference.

'Organiser Card' means a card issued by the National Conference Steering Committee to members of the Steering Committee and other persons assisting in the organisation of the Conference, as they deem appropriate.

'Candidate Card' means a card issued by the National Conference Steering Committee to Candidates who have submitted and accepted a nomination to contest the National Executive Elections as outlined by Article 6.6 in the YFG Constitution.

'Emergency Motion' means any motion other than a Conference Motion or an Amendment to the YFG Constitution and Rules and not appearing on the National Conference Programme, as prescribed in Part 9 of these Standing Orders.

'National Conference' means the 26th National Conference of YFG.

'National Conference Programme' means the printed programme for events taking place during the National Conference.

'National Conference Registration Desk' is the registration desk where members register their attendance at the National Conference and are issued National Conference Programme, a Delegate Card and miscellaneous items. This desk will open two hours before the commencement of the National Conference and will close at 3.30pm on Saturday 23 November 2013.

'National Conference Steering Committee' means those individuals appointed under Article 7 of the YFG Constitution and Rules to organise the National Conference and who have not otherwise resigned.

'National Executive Elections' means the elections of the President of YFG, the Vice-President of YFG and the ordinary members of the YFG National Executive.

'Photographic Identification' means an ISIC card, current photographic student card, Garda ID, Passport, drivers' licence or other form of photographic identification permitted for use by the National Conference Steering Committee.

'Registered Delegate' means a member of YFG who, in accordance with Article 3 of the YFG Constitution and Rules, has registered his attendance at the National Conference Registration Desk and has been issued with a Delegate Card.

'Session' means a full meeting of the National Conference meeting in plenary session, or a part thereof (as applicable), and as outlined in the National Conference Programme.

'The Great Debate' means the team debating competition being held on Friday 22 November 2013 at the 26th National Conference.

'Speakers Desk' is the area adjacent to the microphones at which persons wishing to raise a point or wishing to speak at any Session registers their desire to do so.

'Unit(s) and Organs of the Organisation' has the meaning prescribed under Article 2 of the YFG National Constitution and Rules.

'YFG Constitution and Rules' refers to the constitution and rules of Young Fine Gael as adopted by the 25th National Conference of Young Fine Gael.

PART 2 – Ultimate determination:

The ruling of the Chairperson of any Session shall be final on all matters.

PART 3 – Referral:

The Chairperson may adjourn a Session in order to consult with the National Conference Steering Committee on any matter relating to the National Conference.

PART 4 – Conference Motions (or Resolutions) and Amendments to the YFG Constitution and Rules

1. Other than in the case of Emergency Motions as provided for under Part 9 below, only Conference Motions (or Resolutions or Amendments to the YFG Constitution and Rules) which are listed in the National Conference Programme may be moved.

2. A Conference Motion (or Resolution

or an Amendment to the YFG Constitution and Rules) may only be moved by the Unit or Organ of the Organisation listed on the National Conference Programme.

PART 5 – Quorum at Sessions

A) Where fewer than 15% of Registered Delegates are present, a Session shall be deemed to be inquorate and the Chairperson shall adjourn that Session until he deems that Session to be quorate.

B) Any Registered Delegate may call a quorum count.

C) Only one quorum count may be called at each Session.

PART 6 – Speakers

At all Sessions and at the Great Debate, speakers shall only be allowed speak for the duration as announced by the Chairperson.

PART 7 – Amendments

A) Amendments to Conference Motions may be submitted to the Speakers Desk before or during the relevant Session and must be signed by no less than two Registered Delegates. Amendments to Resolutions must be received in writing by the Steering Committee no later than midnight on the night before they are scheduled on the programme for discussion. Such amendments may be put to the floor at the Session subject to the absolute discretion of the National Conference Steering Committee.

B) Emergency Motions and Amendments to the YFG Constitution and Rules may not be further amended pursuant to this part.

PART 8 – Relevancy/Disruption

If any Registered Delegate or any other person is directed to cease speaking on the grounds of irrelevancy, disruption or being in excess of the allotted time, that Registered Delegate or person must do so forthwith.

PART 9 – Emergency Motions

i) Emergency Motions may be submitted to the National Conference Steering Committee and may be put to the floor at a Session subject to their absolute discretion.

ii) An Emergency Motion must be submitted to the National Conference Steering Committee before 10:00am on Sunday 24 November 2013 and must be signed by no less than eight Registered Delegates.

iii) Emergency Motions must only deal with events of exceptional significance.

iv) All decisions of the National Conference Steering Committee in respect of this Part shall be final.

PART 10 – Voting

A) Sessions

i) The Chairperson of a Session shall

appoint tellers for the duration of that Session.

ii) Voting at any Session shall be by a show of Delegate Cards.

iii) The Chairperson may order a re-vote where the outcome of a vote is unclear by a show of Delegate Cards.

iv) If the Chairperson orders a re-vote pursuant to subsection iii) of this part, then the teller will count the votes and inform the Chairperson of the result of the vote.

v) In the event of a tie, a Conference Motion (or Resolution, or any amendments thereto, or Emergency Motion or Amendment to the YFG Constitution and Rules) shall be deemed not to have been carried, as a majority has not been attained.

vi) Once a vote has been called and ruled by the Chairperson, and a result declared, no further requests for counts shall be considered.

vii) Conference Motions (or Resolution or any amendments thereto, Emergency Motions and Amendments to the YFG Constitution and Rules) shall be put to a vote when, in the view of the Chairperson, they have been fully discussed.

viii) In the event that an amendment to a Conference Motion or Resolution is proposed, the following procedure shall apply:

- Firstly, the Session must vote on accepting the amendment.
- If the amendment is passed, the Conference Motion as amended shall be put to the Session.
- In the event that there is more than one amendment proposed the Chairperson shall call for a vote on the amendments, which in his opinion are the most far reaching first.

B) Voting at National Executive Elections.

All Registered Delegates will be entitled to vote at the National Executive Elections.

The National Executive Elections will be run in accordance with the procedures outlined by the National Executive Steering Committee.

A Registered Delegates will not receive a ballot paper for the National Executive Elections unless Photographic Identification is produced to authenticate his identity.

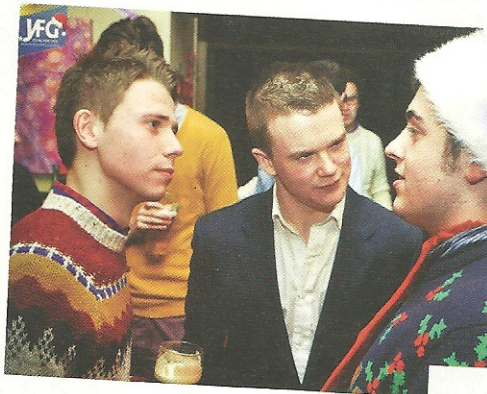
PART 11 – Admission to Ardmore Suite, Tower Hotel Waterford

A Delegate card, Observer card, Media card, Candidate card or Organiser card must be produced to gain access to the Ardmore Suite, Tower Hotel Waterford.

PART 12 – Standing Orders

Once these Standing Orders have been accepted by the National Conference, they shall not be suspended or amended.

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE



#YFG13



YOUNG FINE GAEL

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