

Finaghy Crossroads Group provides a template for other areas

- President McAleese

"Here are people who have given exemplary leadership, stunning leadership in a place which has now a new story to tell". So said President Mary McAleese at the official launch of the Finaghy Crossroads Group in the Finaghy Library on Thursday 29th June.

Joint Chairperson of the group, Balmoral Sinn Féin representative Stiofan Long explained the history behind the group and its current focus, "The group itself is two years in the making. It was established after years of behind the scenes work in the Finaghy area to reduce sectarian tensions and promote community safety in

the area, particularly around the Crossroads. It's long term strategy, to be rolled out over a three year period, was developed by residents, politicians, and community groups including the Finaghy Community Development Association (FCDA)

"We would hope that local



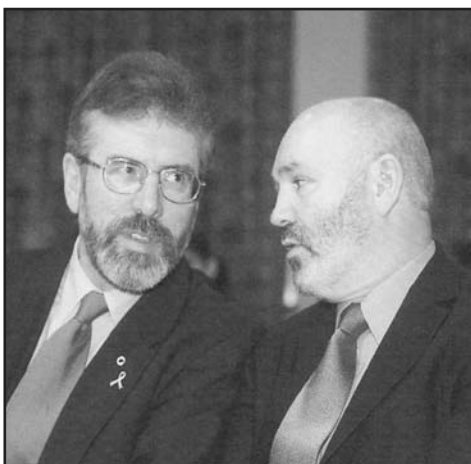
• President Mary McAleese, along with her husband Martin and Balmoral Sinn Féin representative Stiofan Long

schools, churches, and youth centres will work in conjunction with residents and community groups to address issues such as underage drinking, drug abuse and the lack of youth facilities in the area.

"Our aim is to turn Finaghy into a thriving urban village which can be shared by all. Though, as

the Summer months have shown, there is still much work to be done, this initiative is clearly a major breakthrough for community relations in South Belfast and shows what can be achieved if all sides of the community sit down and discuss issues of common concern", he concluded.

Maskey expresses support for Crossroads Group initiative



• Alex Maskey MLA and Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP

Sinn Féin MLA for South Belfast Alex Maskey has welcomed the launch of the Finaghy Crossroads Group.

Speaking after attending the launch Cllr Maskey MLA stated.

"Sinn Féin is delighted with the public recognition Finaghy Crossroads Group has received for the hard work it has done in recent years. This Cross Community Group which is made up of people from all political traditions, and

none, has laid out its strategy to tackle sectarianism and promote Finaghy as a safe area for all. It has done much work behind the scenes in recent years to try and prevent sectarian attacks and intimidation from happening and I would like to congratulate all those involved.

"Tackling sectarianism, from wherever it comes, and promoting community safety are priorities for Sinn Féin and we will

continue to lend whatever support we can to this unique group in its endeavours. However, we recognise that will not happen overnight as evidenced by the erection of flags in Finaghy over what has now come to be termed the 'marching season', but we also realise that it is only through dialogue, promoted by projects such as Finaghy Crossroads Group, that these issues can be addressed in the long-term to everyone's satisfaction".

Trossachs Alleygating

Sinn Féin has given its backing to calls by residents in the Trossachs area for alley-gating to be installed in the area.

We have contacted both the City Council and Bryson House and requested that both the City Council and Bryson House formally process the application made by residents of Trossachs Drive for alley-gating to be installed.

Pressure mounts on City Council over Willis Lake

Pressure from local residents and political representatives is mounting on Belfast Council to take control of the Willis Lake area and turn it into a nature reserve.

Balmoral Sinn Féin representative Stiofan Long said,

"This project is important, not only in environmental terms, but also because with the proper support the area can be turned into something which the whole area can be proud of.

"I would now urge all political representatives, from across the political spectrum to ensure that they give this project, and the local residents, the support it and they deserve".

Move on Bank charges welcomed

Sinn Féin has welcomed the decision by the Consumer Council to refer the exorbitant overdraft charging by Banks to the Office of Fair Trading.

"If Banks can not demonstrate a commitment to delivering this service to the general public for a reasonable return voluntarily, then it is incumbent on government to regulate charges", said Stiofan Long.

"It is unacceptable that government is moving in the direction that even people on benefits require a bank account while these institutions are free to impose exorbitant charges and penalties on customers without any form of mutual agreement", he concluded.

Long overdue railway safety work welcomed

• Green light given to upgrading of Finaghy railway bridge

Local concerns about the safety of the Railway bridge at Finaghy Road South have finally been addressed with an agreement by the DRD Roads Service to begin work at the bridge following an investigation into its safety.

People in the local area have long been concerned about the safety of the bridge. This concern increased following the 2001 Selby accident in England in which 10 people lost their lives after a Land Rover came off a motorway and onto the rail line.

Sinn Féin's Stiofan Long has welcomed the moves to begin the upgrade work which are

due to begin in Spring 2007.

"There has always been serious concerns about the dangers of this bridge, particularly over the last few years", he explained.

"I am glad that work is being done to the station and more importantly to the bridge as we have been lobbying for this for some time now.



• Bridge concerns:
Stiofan Long

"Obviously there is a real danger with this bridge as a car could come off the road and onto the tracks, particularly giving the age of the bridge, and the amount of traffic which travels across it.

"I hope that this work can now be carried out with as minimum disruption to local residents as possible", he concluded.

DUP accused of playing the Race card on immigration

Sinn Féin MEP's Bairbre de Brún and Mary-Lou McDonald have accused the DUP MEP Jim Allister of shamelessly playing the race card with regards to both Bulgaria and Romania joining the European Union next year.

This comes after the DUP's Jim Allister called upon the British Government to restrict access of workers from Bulgaria and Romania.

Ms McDonald said, "I am not surprised by the DUP's attitude towards the free movement of workers throughout the European Union. Mr Allister's use of language is not only unfortunate but also unacceptable.

"Sinn Féin has previously called upon EU member states to remove restrictions placed on migrant workers and allow for the free movement of workers right



• Bairbre de Brún MEP

across the EU. Ireland remains only one of a small number of EU countries to open up their labour markets to new member states. We must embrace those who come to Ireland in the same way and at the same time work to combat exploitation and discrimination against migrant workers.

Ms de Brún said, "The twin problems of exploitation of migrant

workers and the displacement of Irish workers are ones which government, policy makers and the trade unions must effectively deal with. It is unacceptable that all across Europe worker is pitted against fellow worker based upon how little they are prepared to work for or the health and safety standards they are prepared to accept. "Jim Allister's insular and mean spirited views on the issue of immigration are consistent with his party's inability to share power with nationalists and republicans in the Six Counties. The Irish experience of immigration has been overwhelmingly positive with migrant workers contributing to society and enriching the cultural fabric of the nation. Mr Allister should recognize this and support the free movement of workers across the EU whether they are Irish, British or Romanian."

All-Ireland role set to increase whatever happens on November 24th

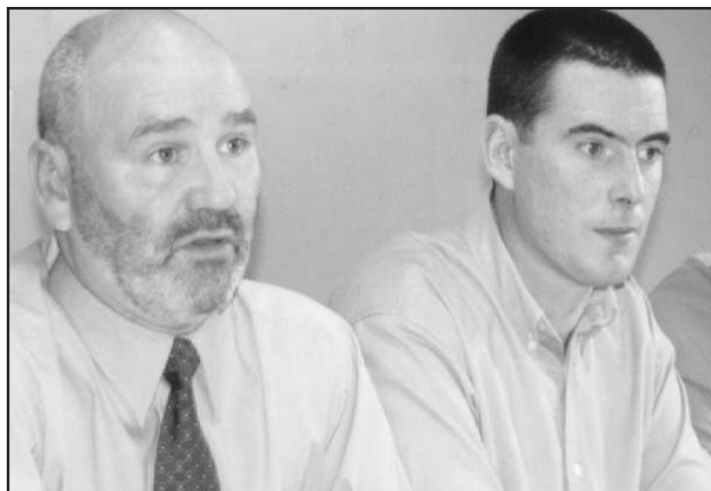
• Growing demand and acceptance that expansion of the all-Ireland agenda is essential.

South Belfast Sinn Féin MLA Alex Maskey has warned the DUP that whether they fail the 24th November deadline for the return of the power-sharing Executive or not that there is a growing demand and acceptance that expansion of the all-Ireland agenda is essential.

Clr. Maskey MLA said, "Regardless of what the DUP may pretend the reality is that there is a growing demand and acceptance of the need to expand the all-Ireland agenda.

"Whether the DUP fail the 24th November deadline for the return of the power-sharing Executive or not it is clear that there will be an increase in the all-Ireland role of the existing bodies.

"Sinn Féin believe that in each case there are very strong arguments in favour of the expansion of the role and remit of the existing areas of co-operation and Implementation bodies as well as additional areas of co-operation and new



• Warning for DUP: Maskey & Long

Implementation Bodies.

"It is up to the two governments to ensure that the expansion of

the all-Ireland agenda is handled smoothly and that the intransigence of the DUP is not allowed to slow the process."

Expansion of the All-Ireland Agenda: what we are calling for...

Sinn Féin is calling for the expansion of the remits of existing areas of co-operation:

- Health
- Education
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Transport

Sinn Féin is calling for additional new areas of

co-operation:

- Community Development
- Arts and Heritage
- Economic Co-operation
- Public Investment

Sinn Féin is calling for the expansion of the remits of the existing Implementation Bodies:

- Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission
- Language - two agencies

Ulster Scots and Foras

- InterTradeIreland
- Food Safety Promotion Board
- Special EU Programmes Body
- Waterways Ireland

Sinn Féin is calling for nine additional new Implementation Bodies:

- Justice
- Policing
- Social Economy
- Energy

- Rural Development
- Pollution Control
- Mental Health
- Communications
- Higher and Further Education

Sinn Féin is also seeking to develop the potential of the Cross Border Corridor Group through its cross border corridor strategy.

Israel must be held accountable for its war crimes

Israel must be held accountable for its recent war crimes in Lebanon. That was the message from Balmoral Sinn Féin representative Stiofán Long who was reacting to claims from international human rights group Amnesty International that Israel deliberately targeted civilians during its recent attacks on Lebanon.

"Amnesty International confirmed today what was blindingly obvious to anyone who watched events unfold in Lebanon -- that Israel was deliberately targeting civilians and is guilty of war crimes", said the Balmoral representative.

"Sinn Féin has been very consistent in

highlighting war crimes by the Israeli regime and demanding accountability for their actions. In light of Amnesty International's report on Israel's attacks on Lebanon we are calling on the Irish Government to revise its policy on relations with Israel. In particular there is a need to end its policy of preferential trade relations with Israel in order to hold that country accountable for its war crimes.

"It is also important to remember that Lebanon is not the only country to suffer at the hands of Israel. Human rights abuses have been continuing against the Palestinian people while the world's gaze has been on Lebanon", he concluded.



• A Lebanese civil defence worker carries a child from the rubble after an Israeli raid

Slógadh Shinn Féin

Sinn Féin's annual Irish language gathering - Slógadh Shinn Féin 2006

Bhí Slógadh Shinn Féin i mBéal Feirste den chéad uair le 15 bliain déag ag deireadh Mí Iúil. Ba léir ón tús go raibh tábhacht ar leith ag baint leis an tSlógadh i mbliana nach raibh amhlaidh roimhe. Seo an chéad Slógadh a bhí ann ó ghlac an Ard Chomhairle leis

an mholadh uailmhianach chun an pháirtí a ghaelú. Bhí fuinneamh agus dóchas san aer nuair a tháinig Gaelgeoirí an pháirtí le chéile an uair seo.

Thar an deireadh seachtain bhí Oíche díospóireachta, cheoil agus craic sa suíomh bhreá

cultúrtha Lárionad an Droichead. Bhí gnó tábhachtach idir lámha againn agus muid ann, ionadaí éagsúla ag caint ar Chearta Teanga in Éirinn, rud a bhfuil tábhacht ar leith ag baint leo sa lá atá inniu ann, go háirithe i ndiaidh cás Máire Nic an Bhaird ar na

mallaibh. Shuigh Pilib Ó Ruanaí, iar-phríosúnach Poblachtánach ón Trá Ghearr agus ceannródaí teanga sa taobh seo cathrach sa chathaoir. D'fhán muid sa Droichead d'oíche amhránaíochta agus filíocht le Fergus Ó hÍr, Éamonn Ó Faogáin agus léigh iarthóir úr an pháirtí in Oirthear Bhéal Feirste Niall Ó Donnghaile sliocht de cuid Roibeárd Uí Sheachnasaigh, níor chríochnaigh muid go dtí na huaireanta beaga.

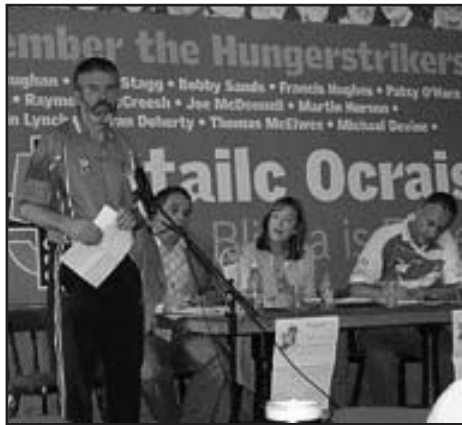
Ba chúis bróid dúinne a bheidh páirteach sa Slógadh i mbliana agus go raibh cuid de lonnaithe taobh istigh de limeastéir comhairle ceantair s'againn. Bhain achan duine a bhí ann an



Seanna Walsh: Sinn Féin Roinn an Chultúir

sult as an craic ach go háirithe na himeachtaí tábhachtacha ar ghaelú an pháirtí thar tréimhse 7-10 mbliana, rud a féidir linn uilig bheidh páirteach leis.

Is é athgabháil na Geailge áthgabháil na hÉireann!



Sinn Féin: Working for YOU!

Sinn Féin is an activist based Party intent on giving you the best representation possible. If you need advice or have a problem, no matter how big or small, feel free to contact us at :

Unit 3,
174 Ormeau Rd,
BT 7 2ED.

Tel: (028) 90243194

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10am - 2pm
e-mail: sinn.fein@btconnect.com

Over 60's urged to claim Winter Benefits

Sinn Féin is urging people aged 60 or over to check and see if they are eligible to receive a Winter Fuel Payment.

Fuel poverty is a massive problem in the north which is set to get worse as a result of spiralling costs in the price of oil and gas. We would urge everyone who is 60 or over,

and who is in receipt of a state pension or other social benefits, to avail of the Winter Fuel Payment which amounts to £200 per household, rising to £300 for anyone over the age of 80.

People should contact their local social welfare offices or they can obtain a claim form by ringing 08459 151515."

Don't wish for a United Ireland
Work for it

5 reasons to join Sinn Féin

- Saoirse - Campaign for Irish unity and independence
- Síocháin - Advance the peace process
- Comhionannas - Work to build an Ireland of equals
- Feachtas ar son athrú - Deliver change through campaigning locally and nationally
- Ceartas sóisialta domhanda - International solidarity



If you would like to join Sinn Féin fill in the form and send it to: South and East Belfast Sinn Féin, Unit 3, 174-178 Ormeau road Belfast BT7 2ED.
Name:.....
Address:.....
Tel/E-mail:.....
Age:.....