



# Sinn Féin



Lunasa 2009

**Seán Martin/Seán Treacy Cumann - Trá Ghearr**

# MOUNTPOTTINGER BARRACKS 1902 – 2009



At a Policing Board meeting on Thursday 6th August Sinn Féin and the community secured the closure and disposal of Mountpottinger barracks. This comes after a long campaign to have this military installation removed from the area. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in this campaign. This includes those who attended the numerous protests, those who submitted responses to the consultation, those who signed the petition and those who attended the special DPP meeting in February.

This success was achieved by this community and everyone who resisted the notion that our community needed to be under continuous observation.

The PSNI have announced that they will formally close Mountpottinger on Monday 31st August.

It has been Sinn Féin's consistent position that military installations such as this have

been an obstacle to the new era of community policing which we seek to achieve. It has been a constant physical reminder of everything that was used to oppress our community from harassment to brutality and from collusion to murder.

We believe that the closure of this station removes another obstacle to achieving the civic policing service to which we

are all entitled.

Sinn Féin will consult with the community in the time ahead to determine how this site can be used in the community's best interests.

We look forward to this next phase confident in this community's ability and confidence to transform what has been a blight on this area into a positive beacon for the future.

## Ó Donnghaile requests Council investment

Niall Ó Donnghaile has written to Belfast City Council requesting that the "renewing the routes" programme be extended to the Mountpottinger Road.

Speaking about the programme Niall said, "This scheme involves clean-up and renewal work along arterial routes in the city. Already, excellent work has been carried out on both the Newtonards and Albertbridge Roads as part of this scheme.

"The Mountpottinger Road is an arterial route used by thousands of commuters every week and would certainly benefit greatly from this type of regeneration project."

## New resources for ex-POW's

Tar Anall, the longest running republican ex-prisoner group, has been successful in securing resources to deliver quality services for the next three years.

The range of services available to republican ex-prisoners and their families include training and education, counselling, family support and welfare and rights advice.

The Autumn/Winter training and activity menu now offers a wide range of personal and social development skills, issue and job based training opportunities and a number of events and activities that will contribute to the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of republican ex-prisoners is now available.

Anyone who wishes to find out more about what is available should contact Tar Anall on 028 90 323631

**To mark this momentous event in the history of our community we would welcome everyone to join us at a rally at the Barracks on Monday 31st August at 7pm. After the rally there will be musicians and a buffet in St Matthew's Social Club.  
- All Welcome -**

## Traffic signal modifications

Niall Ó Donnghaile has welcomed confirmation by Regional Development Minister Conor Murphy that traffic signal modifications to provide a fully controlled right turn at Albertbridge Road/Castlereagh Street and Mountpottinger Road are to be included as part of a number of schemes taking place throughout the city this year.

## St Matthew's Primary School vandalism

The Sean Martin/Sean Treacy Cumann would ask that parents ensure that they are aware of where their children are and what they are doing when they are out playing.

The call comes after St Matthew's Primary School was broken into and vandalised by a number of children from the area. St Matthews Primary School is an important asset to our community and those who involve themselves in attacks on the school are attacking their own community.

## Strand Close Electricity Sub Station

Niall Ó Donnghaile has recently met with NIE in relation to the removal of the electricity sub station in Strand Close. Niall explained, "NIE informed me that it is their intention to discontinue the use of this sub station and to remove the structure. I understand that the removal of this eyesore has been a contentious issue for some time and I'm sure that this development will be welcomed by residents."

Sinn Féin will continue to keep you updated on this issue.

## Bryson Street doctors surgery

A recent public meeting heard doctors from Bryson Street surgery update resident on plans to redevelop the surgery.

They heard that the surgery will relocate for a year while this work takes place.

Niall Ó Donnghaile expressed the view that it needed to be somewhat accessible to all, with the new City East Building on the lower Newtownards Road, facing Strand Walk, being suggested.

While still to be confirmed, it is likely that this will be the new location for the surgery. We will keep you updated on this matter.

# Féile congratulations

The Sean Martin/Sean Treacy Sinn Féin Cumann would like to congratulate the committee of Féile na Trá Gíorra and all of those who helped make this year's festival, which has gone from strength to strength, such a success.

• **FÉILE CONGRATULATIONS:** Niall Ó Donnghaile presents the winners of the Lagan Boat race with their trophy. The competition was between the Markets and the Short Strand, with the Short Strand team winning.



## Díomá faoi tuarascáil deireanach an Choimisinéir um Athruithe ar Theorainneach a an Rialtais Áitiúil

Ag caint dó i ndiaidh foilsiú tuarascáil deireanach an Choimisinéir um Athruithe ar Theorainneacha an Rialtais Áitiúil, dúirt Séanna Breatnach, ar cathaoirleach é ar Roinn Cultúir Shinn Féin, dúirt sé: "Tá díomá mhór ar Shinn Féin i ndiaidh do Choimisinéir na dTeorainneacha Rialtais Áitiúil ó thuaidh diúltú d'aitheantas a thabhairt do leaganacha dátheangacha na mBardaí sa thuairisc a chuir sé chuig an Roinn Timpeallachta.

"Tháinig a thuairisc amach as próiseas comhairlúcháin ina léirigh Gaeil ar fud na sé chontae tacaíocht don bheart seo, cuid acu a labhair as Gaeilge leis an Choimisiún ag na héisteachtaí a bhí mar chuid den phróiseas. Níl na fáthanna a thug an Coimisinéir dá dhiúltú, cóir ná ciallmhar. Níor

dúradh linn, • **ROINN CULTÚIR SHINN FÉIN: Seanna Breatnach.**

mar shampla, cad chuige a gcreideann an Coimisinéir nach foras gaolmhar é a Choimisiún faoin Cháirt Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh, agus cén fáth ina thuairim nach mbaineann an Cháirt leo. Tá sé níos aistí arís a cheistiú fán éileamh atá ann don aitheantas seo agus an t-éileamh chomh mór agus a bhí in áiteanna áirithe. Cuir i gcás Béal Feirste mar a raibh formhór na n-aighneachtaí ar fad – 82% i ndiaidh na chéad tréimhse – ag tacú le haithint na leaganacha Gaeilge de Bhardaí.

"Tá pobal bríomhar Gaeilge ann atá ag fás i dtuaisceart na hÉireann. Nochtann an chuid is mó de logainneacha an nasc



stairiúil láidir idir áiteanna agus an Ghaeilge. Déanann moltaí an Choimisinéir neamhaird ghlan ar mhianta phobal na Gaeilge go ginearálta agus léiríonn siad cé chomh haineolach atá sé maidir le fíor-nádúr na gceantar lena bhfuil a Choimisiún ag plé.

"Tá sé de dhualgas ar an rialtas, mar a leagtar síos i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus sa Cháirt Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh, céimeanna a ghlacadh go gníomhach chun aitheantas a thabhairt ar fhéiniúlacht phobal na Gaeilge ó thuaidh. Is léir ón méid atá i dtuarascáil deireanach an Choimisinéir go bhfuil deis maith chun sin a chur chun cinn caillte anseo."

# Ar aghaidh le chéile:

# Organising for Unity

The Martin/Treacy Sinn Féin cumann would like to thank all of those who voted for Sinn Féin and who helped with our campaign during the recent European elections. These elections saw Bairbre deBrún re-elected as an MEP for the Six Counties, topping the poll in the process. This was an historic development, the first time since partition that Sinn Féin has topped the poll.

This result comes in a year that Republicans have been marking the 90th Anniversary of An Chéad Dáil Éireann. A united Ireland built on equality as outlined in the Democratic Programme of An Chéad Dáil Éireann is the live political project for republicans in 2009.

Our strategy involves building the necessary political strength to achieve our objectives. We seek to maximise popular opinion in active support of Irish unity. That is why, within a week of Sinn Féin topping the poll in the Six Counties, we launched a Task Force on Irish Unity.

This Task Force has a responsibility to roll out a series of events throughout every Irish county and to mainstream their work into every elected forum on the island of Ireland. In addition it will work to mobilise the Irish diaspora, and those who have supported our struggle, in the

USA, Australia, Europe and Britain to encourage them to put their weight behind the campaign for Irish re-unification.

Thousands have already attended events addressed by Party President Gerry Adams in the US while a similar event has taken place in England.

The Six County state was founded upon sectarianism. This was a direct consequence of British colonialism and modern day partition and a section of the unionist political class remains wedded to that ideology.

Because of the sectarian foundations of the state and because unionism cannot be trusted to govern fairly, the current political institutions are all-Ireland in nature. There are also many equality and other legal safeguards such as compulsory power-sharing and partnership political arrangements in place. It has taken some time, but the majority of



• AN CHEAD DÁIL ÉIREANN: Niall Ó Donnghaile and Alex Maskey MLA.

Unionism is now locked into these arrangements. There can be no going back on this.

Moving forward, the struggle for Irish freedom continues to develop in this new phase where a peaceful and democratic path to a united Ireland exists. But there is still a significant way to go. The next stage is the completion of the job of uniting Ireland, our primary political objective. We believe that we have a strategy and a political project that will deliver a united Ireland.

Activity by small militarist factions will not advance the cause of Irish freedom.

Whatever their motivation they offer no realistic alternative to the strategy pursued by Sinn Féin which has been endorsed by the vast majority of Republicans and nationalists in the Six Counties.

The Good Friday Agreement contains a legislative, peaceful and democratic mechanism to set up a new and democratic Ireland. The economic and political dynamics in Ireland today make a united Ireland a realistic and realisable objective in a reasonable period of time.

For Sinn Féin it isn't a matter of IF we will get a united Ireland. It is a matter of HOW and WHEN.

## Short Strand Traffic calming moves welcomed

Over recent weeks Sinn Féin has been contacted by residents in and around the Bryson Street, Edgar Street, and Madrid Street areas in relation to traffic in, and passing through the area.

These residents have raised concerns that these streets are being used as "rat-runs" for traffic and are becoming increasingly hazardous for pedestrians due to speeding and reckless driving. Further to this the residents had enquired about the possibility of ramps or other traffic calming measures being installed.

Niall Ó Donnghaile, welcoming the move, explained, "I have raised these concerns directly with Roads Service. and am pleased that, as a result of this, the Roads Service have informed me that Bryson

Street, Edgar Street and Madrid Street, have been included in their '2009/10 traffic calming programme of works scheme'.

"Before any measures can be introduced into these streets, Roads Service will carry out a consultation with various bodies including local residents to determine what type of traffic calming measures will be most suitable."

Encouraging residents to ensure that they take part in this consultation he said, "I would encourage all residents to respond to this consultation when it takes place.

"I have requested specific details of how Road Service will carry out this consultation and I will inform residents of any further detail as soon as I receive it."



• TRAFFIC CALMING: Niall with Sinn Féin's Regional Development Minister Conor Murphy MP.



# Hunger Strikers' families condemn false allegations

**FAMILIES** of IRA and INLA Volunteers who died during the 1981 hunger strike have condemned those who have been making false allegations that their loved ones died needlessly.

The families privately met with Sinn Fein and a representative of the Bobby Sands Trust on 17th June, at the invitation of the party's president Gerry Adams.

Those present included relatives of Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kieran Doherty, Tom McElwee and Mickey Devine (his nieces and his son Mickey óg).

Bridie Lynch, sister of Kevin Lynch, was unable to attend but sent Gerry Adams a note expressing her support.

The Hughes' family were represented by two nephews of Francis. Francis's brother, Oliver, who was unable to attend, sent a

letter to be read out at the meeting. Representatives of all the families, including two nieces of Mickey Devine, participated in the discussion, as did Gerry Adams, Brendan McFarlane and Danny Morrison. All family members who spoke, except for Tony O'Hara, were united in their anger at the relentless campaign alleging that the hunger strikers died needlessly.

The families were clear that the British had made no deal with the hunger strikers or their representatives in 1981. Some suggested that a statement should go out appealing to people such as Richard O'Rawe, who instigated the campaign with the serialising of his book in the 'Sunday Times', to stop hurting them; other family members doubted if he would listen.

After the meeting, an offensive and false account of what was said was issued by Willie Gallagher of the IRSP, who was not present. This angered the families so much that the following day they then decided to go ahead and put out a statement. Whilst Tony O'Hara agreed that Gallagher's report was false he declined to join with the other families.

The families' statement repudiated the Gallagher version of the meeting, stating, the "meeting was a very emotional and difficult occasion for all of us, particularly in light of the allegations coming from Richard O'Rawe and the IRSP. All of the family members, who spoke, with the exception of Tony O'Hara, expressed deep anger and frustration at the ongoing

allegations created by O'Rawe. "Tony O'Hara's suggestion that we should meet with Richard O'Rawe and Willie Gallagher got no support and we asked Tony to express to Richard O'Rawe and Willie Gallagher our wish for them to stop what they are doing and to give us peace of mind.

"The account of the meeting published by Willie Gallagher is inaccurate and offensive.

"Our loved ones made the supreme sacrifice on hunger strike for their comrades. They were not dupes. They were dedicated and committed republicans. We are clear that it was the British government which refused to negotiate and refused to concede their just demands."

The letter read from Oliver Hughes to the meeting was met with widespread applause. It said: "I would like to thank Gerry Adams for the invitation to this meeting but unfortunately I cannot make it as I have a prior engagement. However, the Hughes family will be represented.

"I don't believe there is a need for such a meeting and I find it scandalous what people have been saying about the hunger strike. They have no consideration for what it is doing to families like ours. It was twenty-eight years ago and we thought we could have some closure, some rest, even though we will never forget what our Francis and his comrades went through, not just in 1981 but from the time the British withdrew political status. I am referring to

the blanket protest, the beatings, the dirty protest, the solitary confinement, all that.

"Margaret Thatcher and her government killed those men, it is as simple as that.

"Our Francis was a soldier and he went on hunger strike for five just demands. That decision was his and we admire his courage and are proud of him and stand by his memory and will not let it and the hunger strike period be sullied by the likes of Liam Clarke and the Sunday Times and others.


"Those who are now trying to say that Mrs Thatcher was interested in giving in to the prisoners demands are talking rubbish. The British pretended they were going to do a deal in Christmas 1980 and we all know what happened there.

"From all that I witnessed and heard the prisoners comrades on the outside always followed the men's wishes and worked day and night to defend them and help them win their demands.

"It is disgraceful what is going on from people none of whom I ever met or heard of before, people like Richard O'Rawe who publishes a book which the Sunday Times serialises. The Sunday Times which called Francis Hughes and Thomas McElwee and the other hunger strikers 'criminals' and 'terrorists'.

"I'll not be listening to their propaganda."

Signed, Oliver Hughes.

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If you would like to join Sinn Fein fill in the form and send it to:  
**South and East Belfast Sinn Fein, Unit 3, 174-178 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2ED.**

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