



Sinn Féin



Feabhra 2009

Seán Martin/Seán Treacy Cumann - Trá Ghearr

MOUNTPOTTINGER BARRACKS MUST GO



■ **The PSNI have been carrying out a consultation into the future of Mountpottinger Barracks. Sinn Féin and local Community groups have made submissions calling for the removal of the barracks and the return of the land to be used for the local community.**

■ **The PSNI will make a presentation about the future of the Barracks at the next public DPP meeting. This will be an opportunity for YOU to make YOUR voice heard.**

Sinn Féin are calling upon YOU to attend the next public DPP meeting in East Belfast to make YOUR views on this barracks known. This meeting will take place on:

Monday 16th February in the Mount Conference Centre (Albertbridge Road/Woodstock Link), at 7pm.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD !

Historic first as Sinn Féin councillor takes on Chair of East Belfast District Policing Partnership

In a historic first Sinn Féin Councillor Gerard O'Neill took up the position of Chairperson of the East Belfast District Policing Partnership. Gerard is a long-standing member of the Sinn Féin team in Belfast City Hall and represents the Upper Falls constituency.

Speaking about the opportunities and challenges ahead Gerard said, "As a Sinn Féin elected representative, I believe that policing with the community needs to be the core function of any civic policing service, and my aim as Chair of the East Belfast District Policing Partnership is to see that happen.

"I am determined to use this opportunity to bring about an impartial and effective, civic policing service which meets the needs of the whole community in which it serves.

"I want to see increased co-ordination and the development of a multi-agency approach working closely with the local community to address these problems once and for all. Community police should be utilised where intended and not re-deployed to other duties. More intensive community policing with increased patrols are required to target street drinkers, vandalism and drug dealers.

"There is also much work to be done on demilitarising the PSNI; nowhere is the need for this more evident than in this area where excessive amounts of money are continuing to be wasted on maintaining Mountpottinger Barracks, a militarised outpost that's only purpose is to act as a spy-post within this area.

"The PSNI are overstuffed as statistics prove. There are more police per head of population in the Six Counties than in any policing region within Britain or Ireland. If shift patterns were reviewed and bureaucracy curtailed, then personnel could be used to better effect - policing the community to whom they are responsible.

"I will be calling for the PSNI to engage with other agencies including the NIHE, Community Associations, Residents Groups and Community Safety Partnerships, to map out a workable action plan that will see all such agencies liaising closely to ensure the best possible results.

"All of this will only happen if people from this area play their role. Sinn Féin did not sign up to Policing to be cheerleaders for the PSNI. We signed up to critically engage

with the PSNI. This means changing the organisation from the unionist militia that they have been into a policing service that serves and represents the community. I would urge the public to attend the District Policing Partnership New East Belfast DPP Chair: Sinn Féin's Gerard O'Neill which take place in public. I would urge you to question the PSNI representatives at these meetings about the issues which are important to you. It is only by participating and making your voice heard that we will ensure that the PSNI never again reverts to the unionist militia that it was in the past.

Speaking about the need for a local Sinn Féin representative to sit on the DPP Gerard said, "It is essential that local representatives take



Partnership New East Belfast DPP Chair: Sinn Féin's Gerard O'Neill

ownership of this process. This will only happen when the Short Strand ensures that a local is elected as councillor. Sinn Féin is in the best position to achieve this. This puts an onus on the people of the Short Strand to return a Sinn Féin councillor at the next election, thereby ensuring that a local Sinn Féin councillor sits on the East Belfast DPP. I look forward to welcoming Niall Ó Donnghaile onto the East Belfast DPP after the next Council elections!"

Shaping policing in your local community: The East Belfast DPP

The District Policing Partnership (DPP) was created to consult with the public on policing and crime, to identify what issues the PSNI should be prioritising with local communities and to monitor the performance of the PSNI.

All of this gives you an opportunity to express whether you are satisfied with the performance of the PSNI within your community and to make suggestions about how policing

could be improved in your area.

The DPP holds four meetings in public per year and members of the public have the right to attend these meetings and may ask questions at the meeting and/or submit questions in written form (at least 10 working days before the meeting). Written questions are answered in written form and are public documents.

Sinn Féin now holds the post of Chairperson of the East

Belfast DPP. We are committed to ensuring that the public and local communities have the greatest possible input into the Policing service that exists to serve them and their community. This is an ideal opportunity for the people of the Short Strand to shape policing within their own community. We would encourage you to attend these meetings and put any questions or concerns which you may have about

Policing directly to the PSNI.

The next East Belfast DPP meeting will be held in the Mount Conference Centre (Woodstock Link/Albertbridge Rd) on Monday 16th February at 7pm.

Written questions can be submitted by email to: dpp@belfastcity.gov.uk

If you have any other questions you can contact Sinn Féin at (028) 90243194.

Pressure for social housing must be maintained

SDLP Minister must back words up with action in relation to Sirocco site

Niall Ó Donnghaile has called upon the SDLP's Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie to match her commitment to work to secure 20% social and affordable housing on East Belfast's Sirocco works site with actions.

Niall was speaking after meeting with representatives of developers, the Carvill Group, where it was revealed that despite repeated attempts to arrange a meeting with the Department of Social Development to discuss the Sirocco works development, they have been unable to secure such a meeting.

Niall said, "The development at the Sirocco works site must rank as one of the largest projects of its type in the area. It will provide much needed housing, including social housing, as well as economic investment and jobs for the area..

"Sinn Féin has been working with local community groups and the developers to ensure that the needs of the surrounding area are met in relation to this project. The need for social housing is particularly acute in the Short Strand area. We have pressed the need for social housing to be included on this site and we are continuing to work towards this end.

"Campaigners were given a boost when Minister Margaret Ritchie, in a reply to my Party colleague Alex Maskey, affirmed her commitment to securing 20% of the residential development on the Sirocco Works site for Social and Affordable Housing. At the time I welcomed this commitment.

"I am, however, dismayed to learn that the Carvill group, despite repeated attempts, have been unable to secure a meeting with the Department of Social Development to discuss this development".

"This development will have a significant impact upon, not only East Belfast, but Belfast as a whole. There is great potential for a positive social and economic impact on an area which traditionally rates amongst the most socially deprived areas in the Six Counties. In addition, the development offers a real opportunity to begin to tackle the shortage in social housing which exists in this area. It seems



Local Sinn Féin representative Niall Ó Donnghaile

incredible to me that with all of this potential the Department of Social Development have not been willing to meet with the developers. This is particularly worrying given that the Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie has committed her Department to working to ensure social housing on this site. I would call upon the Minister to back up her words with actions and to ensure that her Department meets with the Carvill Group and also to ensure that her Department, as she promised it would, works to securing 20% of the residential development on the former Sirocco Works site for developing Social and Affordable Housing".

City Council to increase dog warden patrols

Following numerous complaints regarding dog fouling in various areas of the district, Sinn Féin's Niall Ó Donnghaile immediately contacted Belfast City Council.

Speaking after reassurances that the Council's dog warden services will be increased in the area, Niall said, "Obviously dog fouling is a problem throughout the city and not just here in the Strand; after numerous complaints regarding dog fouling in the district I contacted Jim Ferguson, head of the Council's Cleansing Department. He has assured me that the Council is taking appropriate steps to monitor and remove any dog waste within the area.

"I would ask on dog owners to have consideration for other residents when walking their pets, many of them already do, but we can all help in making the area a cleaner and safer place."

Short Strand health day a success

Sinn Féin's Niall Ó Donnghaile has praised all those who made the recent health day in the Short Strand such a success. A number of services were on offer including blood pressure checks, blood sugar level checks as well as other alternative health opportunities.

Speaking after attending the event Niall said, "I want to congratulate the Short Strand Community Forum for the work they put in to making this event such a success. It was clear from the amount of groups taking part and the many residents who came to avail of the services that a lot of work was put in, so fair play to you all.

"I, despite a real fear of needles, bit the bullet and had a number of checks done and I'm still not as fit as Joe O'Donnell but I'm getting there."

Cás na Gaeilge tógtha ag Ó Donnghaile ag Coimisiún na dTeorainneacha

Bhí Sinn Féin ag tógáil ceist na Gaeilge agus iad ag cur a gcuid moltaí ar athruithe thoghcheantair Bhéal Feirste chuig Coimisiún na Teorainneacha.

Bhí 82% de na haighneachtaí ó Bhéal Feirste ag iarraidh aitheantais d'ainmneacha Gaelacha na dtoghcheantar úr, agus ní raibh oiread is aighneacht amháin ag cur ina éadán seo.

Labhair urlabhraithe de chuid an pháirtí Rosie McCorley agus Niall Ó Donnghaile (ionadaí an pháirtí in Oirthear Bhéal Feirste) leis an choimisiún trí mhéan na Gaeilge. Chomh maith leo siúd, labhair an Dr Pól Deeds ó An Droichead Teo i nDeisceart Bhéal Feirste, ar thábhacht na n-ainmneacha Gaeilge. Chuir an coimisiún

aistritheoir ar fáil ar mhaithe le cainteoirí Gaeilge.

Ag caint dó i ndiaidh an tseisiúin, dúirt Niall Ó Donnghaile,

"Is rud maith é go raibh cainteoirí Gaeilge ábalta cur i láthair a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge ag an seisiún tábhachtach seo inniu. Tógadh a lán ceisteanna agus pointí tábhachtacha agus ina measc luadh ceist fá ainmneacha dátheangacha a aithint do na toghcheantair sa chathair.

"Tá mé ag impí ar an choimisiún glacadh leis na moltaí ciallmhara i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge agus stair shaibhir logainmneacha na cathrach seo a aithint as seo amach."

Local fundraising for Gaza medical aid praised

The Seán Martin/Seán Treacy Sinn Féin cumann would like to thank all those who helped raise funds for the 'Irish Medical Aid for Palestine' charity, and of course, all those who made a donation.

Speaking on behalf of the cumann Niall Ó Donnghaile said,

"While the situation in Palestine has dropped off the news headlines, the hospitals in Gaza are still under enormous strain and there are shortages of medicine, bandages and medical equipment.

"Anyone who watched the news coverage over the past few weeks could see that hospitals in Palestine were finding it almost impossible to cope.

"The 'Irish Medical Aid for Palestine' charity has been highly active in fund raising across the country and their work will continue because of the huge amount of injured arising from the vicious Israeli attack on the Gaza strip.

"The unbridled aggression shown by Israel has horrified all of us here who know only too well the suffering that occupation brings."

Sinn Féin secure Short Strand input into Titanic Quarter development



Securing local input into Titanic Quarter development: Niall Ó Donnghaile and Alex Maskey MLA

Sinn Féin has secured a number of amendments which will ensure that the local Short Strand community has a strong input into the Titanic Quarter development.

The Party secured the amendments, ensuring that local input from the Short Strand is a condition of Belfast City Council investing £10 million in the development project.

Speaking about the

development East Belfast Sinn Féin representative Niall Ó Donnghaile welcomed Belfast City Council's move to invest £10 million into the Titanic Quarter as long as the conditions are met.

Niall Ó Donnghaile said, "Sinn Féin supports the £10 million investment into the Titanic Quarter by Belfast City Council. Undoubtedly, this project will have a massive

impact upon not only East Belfast, but Belfast as a whole.

"It is a project which should bring economic investment and jobs to the area on a huge scale.

"It is essential that the Short Strand benefits from this project. I welcome then, the call by the Council for community representatives from the Short Strand to be included on the advisory board of the project. I also welcome the condition attached to the funding that special focus will be placed on ensuring that those living in the local community are employed as part of this project and that local material will be used in the construction process.

"It is essential that local communities benefit from projects which occur on their doorstep, and I believe that the amendments which we have secured will ensure that this is the case".

Future of Bus Depot raised with Minister

Speaking after news reports carried recently in the Irish News, Sinn Féin's Niall Ó Donnghaile had this to say,

"Obviously people are curious about the future of the depot. I have been in contact with the Transport Minister Conor Murphy on the matter who assures me that he is seeking further clarification on the issue and I have also written to the Chief Executive of Translink, Catherin Mason, asking her to outline what lies ahead for the Depot.

"If it is the case that the Depot in

the Short Strand is amongst a number planned on being sold then we need to know; the reason we need to know is because this community has suffered the health damages associated with the pollution from the depot for long enough.

"I will be asking the Minister for Social Development Margaret Ritchie to intervene immediately should this land become available. This community needs to know what is happening and that is what Sinn Féin are committed to finding out".



Niall Ó Donnghaile and Regional Development Minister Conor Murphy MP

Join Sinn Féin

HELP SINN FÉIN TO BUILD AN IRELAND OF EQUALS

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:.....

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Tel/E-mail:.....

Age:.....

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 :

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