

LETTERKENNY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION 1985

it's time for a change

For effective
local
leadership!

I am your Sinn Féin Candidate for Letterkenny Urban in the forthcoming Local Government Elections to be held on 20th June, 1985.

In conjunction with putting forward a Candidate Sinn Féin are opening an ADVICE CENTRE in Lower Main Street, therefore we will be accessible to the public on a daily basis.

A vote for SEÁN GALLAGHER is a vote for true representation for the people in Local Government.



VOTE No 1
SEÁN GALLAGHER

SEÁN GALLAGHER, 28 years old and an electrician, is a full-time voluntary worker with Sinn Féin and AP/RN correspondent for Donegal. Through political involvement in resistance against British occupation in Co. Derry at the age of 17 he was forced to leave his home and took up residence in Dublin City. In 1977 he settled in Letterkenny and became active in the H-Block Relatives Action Committee and was a founder member of the H Block committee set up. Joining Sinn Féin in 1982 he has organised and worked exhaustively for Sinn Féin in Co Donegal. At present Seán is active in organising Youth against unemployment and agitating against the quality and lack of houses in Letterkenny. Indeed his main local concerns are unemployment and housing and the amount of taxpayers money being squandered on maintaining the Thatcher border. He has also been involved in Community Centre Work and having a strong interest in Irish neutrality is a founder member of C.N.D. in the town. He makes no wild promises but the "promise to work for the rights of the people to proper housing, jobs, health care and not for the interest of the profiteers or the speculators."

Having a strong opinion against sexism he will work to uphold women's rights and will work for the establishment of a Women's Aid Centre in Letterkenny.



UNEMPLOYMENT : Due to increased emigration and social problems this is the most urgent priority facing Letterkenny. Sinn Féin believes that local Government should and must play a more active role in creating employment. This should be done by promoting small local businesses co-operative ventures and self-help schemes. On the Ramelton Road large factories lie empty wherein people should be encouraged and helped to start workshops. We must create our own economy and not depend on the fickle sands of multi-nationals which only rob our money and labour

One of the main avenues for increased employment is the investment in the public sector thereby increasing public sector employment.

HOUSING : The right of the people, young and old to a home is a basic right. Today homes are increasingly becoming an expensive privilege. I want it regarded that people living in condemned and overcrowded conditions should be housed properly and immediately. The allocation system should make the financial position and length of time on the housing list equally important criteria. Sinn Féin are totally opposed to the building of overcrowded estates which is happening in Letterkenny today. This type of house building and the failure to provide the basic social amenities leads to social and mental problems which in the long run the community will pay a heavy price. Sinn Féin calls for a major building programme of publicly owned houses. This is an immediate priority in view of the housing crisis and the current high levels of unemployment especially in the building industry.

YOUTH.—Lacking any effective 'voice' within Letterkenny at a time of increasing numbers and spiralling unemployment, young people are being hardest hit. The tidal wave of cynicism and despair must be reversed. Amenities must be made available for young people to meet and express their creative abilities. Letterkenny at the moment only seems to provide, with the exception of the Community Centre and sporting organisations, endless gaming machines and over-priced entertainment which only destroys the talent of expression. The Council Chamber should also be used for debates and discussion between the youth and their representatives.

WATER RATES.—Sinn Féin are opposed to water rates on the grounds that they are another form of taxation on the already overburdened unemployed and P.A.Y.E. sectors. Water rates are double taxation whilst there is no proper wealth tax and the lowest capital taxes in the E.E.C. plus £500 million is spent annually defending British imposed partition.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE.—Over the past year there have been massive cutbacks in health and social welfare which mean unjustified hardships for those dependent on them. Sinn Féin will continue to fight cutbacks and we call for temporary jobs within the health service to be made permanent. We call for the end of having to wait two (2) years for treatment with a medical card.

WOMEN.—At present the sexist and patronising attitude of elected representatives are causing anxiety and problems. Sinn Féin will work against these attitudes and we will demand equal pay for women, the right of the unmarried mothers to housing, etc.

CULTURE.—The Urban Council should adopt policies to help promote the language. We will work for bi-lingual advertisements, signs and literature. There should be the sponsoring of local competitions for shops, schools, businesses, etc. who would actively encourage and promote the language. Also the Gaelicisation of street names. Letterkenny should have a proper museum so that people could learn of their heritage.

MAINTENANCE.—It has become common for people in Letterkenny to be injured due to un-maintained footpaths, bad lighting and unfinished development. The elderly are particularly at risk and this situation must not continue. Also the lack of proper house maintenance causes sickness and in some cases even death. It is not uncommon to find old people living in fear of electric wiring and not having the finance to rectify it. Sinn Féin will fight against this uncaring and negligent attitude.

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS.—No consideration has been given to pedestrians in Letterkenny. Sinn Féin will immediately call for zebra crossings, i.e. at the Post Office and the confusion at the roundabout on the Port Road must be rectified.

COMMUNICATIONS.—The public phones in Letterkenny and the lack of them are a continual frustration to the public. Sinn Féin will call for the increase of Public phones and publicly campaign against the vandalism of them. We believe that all old people living alone should have access to a phone.

TRAVELLERS.—Sinn Féin supports the right of travellers to live in accommodation of their choice. In Letterkenny the Urban Council have failed to provide a properly serviced halting site and comments from sitting Councillors can only be described as racist and unchristian.

EDUCATION.—In fighting cutbacks in the education I will call for a ratio of one teacher to 25 pupils and 1—20 in infant classes. The education system should instil a better sense of co-operativism. More emphasis should be put on culture and a pre-primary Irish playschool should be made available.

**Vótáil do phoblachtach
Vótáil Sinn Féin**