

# PRESS RELEASE

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# SINN FÉIN

June 24, 1975

## Meeting of Sinn Féin Councillors

Sinn Féin local councillors from nine counties attended a meeting at their Head Office in Kevin Steeet, Dublin on Sunday last, June 22. A meeting of local representatives is held every six months to review policies and decide on the strategies to be adopted at council meetings. Sinn Féin won 26 seats on local bodies in the 26-County Local Election in June, 1974.

The meeting was chaired by Niall Ó Faoigáin, Ard-Rúnaí and was also attended by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, as well as a small number of unsuccessful candidates in the 1974 elections and Sinn-Féin-nominated members of subsidiary local government committees.

On the question of the Chairmanship of Local bodies and subsidiary committees it was agreed that there should be a flexible attitude and that the councillors should be guided by the local Sinn Féin organisation. On many councils the one or two Sinn Féin members hold the balance of power and there was a strong opinion that they should vote for the rotation of the chair, provided chairmen were fair and allowed free speech to all.

It was decided to campaign strongly against Ground Rents, especially those payable to absentee landlords. Concern was expressed at the plight of small farmers faced with the EEC Farm Modernisation Scheme and Sinn Féin councillors and representatives on Agricultural Committees will oppose it. They will press for unilateral action to suit Irish interests, even in contravention of EEC rules, since other members of the EEC are already doing this.

It was agreed that Sinn Féin councillors will continue to press motions concerning the plight of political prisoners and prison conditions generally.

Mr. Gerry Ginty, Sinn Féin, has been elected Vice-Chairman of Ballina, Co. Mayo, Urban District Council.

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SINN FÉIN 2a SRÁID CHAOIMHÍN Íoch BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8

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