



ABAIR LEAT
HAVE YOUR SAY
HAE YER SPAKE
THE **NEW IRELAND** IS FOR EVERYONE



DONEGAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

**Report of the
Donegal People's Assembly,
13th February 2023**



Sinn Féin

www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

The Commission on the Future of Ireland was established by Sinn Féin in November 2021. Its remit is to undertake a grassroots consultation with the people of Ireland and internationally on the future of Ireland. This will be achieved in a number of ways: through the hosting of public People's Assemblies across the country and internationally; through the collection and collation of written submissions; through hosting sectoral meetings and through private engagements.

A final report will be compiled at the culmination of the project.

This is a report of the Donegal People's Assembly which took place in the Balor Arts Centre in Ballybofey on 13 February 2023.

The meeting was addressed by Sinn Féin's Finance spokesperson and local TD Pearse Doherty.

A video of the Donegal People's Assembly is available on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/OUmR_pPnVt8



Currently the Commission on the Future of Ireland has received almost 150 contributions from a broad range of interested individuals and groups.

It is important to note that contributions can still be made to the Commission at commission@sinnfein.ie or via the following webpage www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

The fourth People's Assembly took place in the Carrickdale Hotel on 30 March. It covered the Louth, Armagh and Down border region. A report will be published.

INTRODUCTION

"The need to create an island that is warm and welcoming for everyone, which protects public services, creates decent jobs and pay and establishes democratic arrangements and structures which leave no-one behind". This was how the Donegal Sinn Féin TD Pearse Doherty set the context for the third public meeting of the Commission on the Future of Ireland – the Donegal People's Assembly held in Ballybofey on 13 February.

The theme of the meeting was 'Have your say'. The independent chairperson was Micheál Ó hÉanaigh, former head of Údaras na Gaeltachta. He framed the meeting saying that 'the people here are on the coalface living this day to day'.

The panellists on the night were Professor Terri Scott, recently retired Pro Vice-Chancellor at Ulster University; Noelle Duddy, a former chair of Donegal Action for Cancer Care (DACC) and spokesperson for Co-operating for Cancer Care North West, CCC(NW); Paul Hannigan, Head of College at Atlantic Technology University Donegal. Paul is a member of the Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the North West Regional Executive of IBEC; Toni Forrester, Chief Executive of Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce, and Seamus Neely, former Chief Executive of Donegal County Council.



Declan Kearney MLA is
Chairperson of the Commission.

Senator Lynn Boylan is Deputy
Chairperson of the Commission

THE KEY THEMES OF THE DONEGAL DISCUSSIONS WERE:

- ➞ The infrastructural deficit in the North West
- ➞ Linked educational policies are key to the future of the region
- ➞ The challenges in engaging political unionism on the future of Ireland
- ➞ The idea of community in all its forms in the new Ireland

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DONEGAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

**BALOR ARTS CENTRE, BALLYBOFEY
MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 7PM**

THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

Sinn Féin

www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

Opening Address from Pearse Doherty TD

In his opening address, Pearse Doherty TD outlined the significant disadvantages faced by the people of Donegal including: ongoing cost of living crisis; marginalisation and economic disadvantage; failures to invest in critical infrastructure such as roads, public transport and broadband; emigration due to lack of jobs, opportunities and housing; underinvestment in healthcare services and the defective concrete scandal affecting hundreds of households across the county.

Deputy Doherty highlighted the impact of partition, which cuts Donegal off from our natural hinterland of the North West. He stated that: "Partition and unequal development across the 26 Counties has led to marginalisation, isolation, low employment and poverty." However, the Donegal TD also



pointed to success stories in Donegal and the members of the panel, who will attest to the hard work and success that has been achieved despite challenges.

Pearse highlighted the potential for further development for the county in a United Ireland and the discussions that are now taking place in households, workplaces, school gates in relation to the political future of the Island. He outlined the political context in which these are taking place – Brexit; electoral realignment; opinion polls and recent census results.

Pearse stated that the purpose of the People's Assembly is to allow grassroots and ordinary people to have their say on our shared future, irrespective of their political opinion or outlook. He emphasised the importance of the establishment of a Citizen's Assembly on constitutional change in preparing the groundwork in advance of a referendum.

He reflected on the need to create an island that is warm and welcoming for everyone, which protects public services, creates decent jobs and pay and establishes democratic arrangements and structures which leave no-one behind. He highlighted the responsibility to reach out to unionism and the need to include them in the debate.



OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS FROM PANEL



Independent chairperson Micheál Ó hÉanaigh introduced the panel. He told the audience that he was aware that “we have an attendance this evening of from people from a wide variety of backgrounds, from business to academia to community development and sectoral organisations – you are all very welcome”.

Micheál highlighted that the Commission is still accepting written submissions and that to date “there have been over 130 submissions made to the Commission and they focus on a wide range of themes – people have given their opinions on how public services could be arranged in a new Ireland, how governance structures might work, how partition is affecting them and how they feel

life could be better in a different constitutional framework. Many people believe that now is the time to plan for a new, shared future."

Seamus Neely, former Chief Executive of Donegal County Council.

Seamus spoke of the limitations that currently exist as a result of Donegal being partitioned from its natural hinterland. Examples include the lack of joined up thinking regarding planning and infrastructure.

He also remarked that a limitation is how regions on either side of the border are constantly in competition, rather than attempting to work together. This is something he tried to correct when working for the council.

He encouraged an integrated approach to doing things, stating that "Most people shop in the North and similarly people in the North come across the border. There are 30-35% northern registrations in employee carparks all over Letterkenny, and similarly, there are southern registrations in employee carparks in Derry."

Toni Forrester, CEO Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce

Toni highlighted how businesses in the North West try to not see a border and attempt to create avenues to work together. She outlined some examples of businesses working together successfully while admitting that partition has caused limitations such as those spoken of earlier.

Forrester said: "We don't see the border in our head, but we do have to deal with it". She also explained how it isn't just business that is in competition with each other but agencies also have different rules and are at times in competition with each other.



Paul Hannigan, Head of College, ATU Donegal

Paul stressed how education is key to the future of the region and desired a sustainable education model.

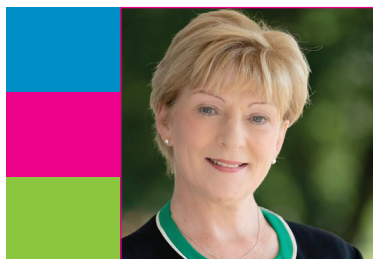
He outlined the example of 2007 National Development Plan between LYIT (Letterkenny Institute of Technology) and UU (Ulster University) and how

after this, when the recession hit, cross-border issues disappeared from all programmes from government.

Paul also explained how progress has been made despite this. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2018 with UU, NWRC (North West Regional College) and Donegal ETB (Education and Training Board).

He said: "We intend to use this development within the North West City region to show what can happen if people work together."

Paul also explained how Brexit has brought the political focus back on the north and how he hopes we can take advantage of this.



Professor Terri Scott, former Pro Vice-Chancellor at Ulster University

Professor Scott highlighted the fact that we have the skills here that others are envious of. She gave examples of companies such as Fintra in Letterkenny announcing 200 jobs. She said "this demonstrates that we can attract and attain jobs here in Donegal. She also highlighted other examples such as KN Network, Opium, Pramerica

and E&I, based in Donegal.

She also highlighted the importance of realising how much the world has changed and that the pandemic and climate change have altered it.



Noelle Duddy, Cancer Campaigner

Noelle stated that she always thought Donegal was lucky as it was outside the North. She associated the county with peace and quiet and had a romantic notion of what it was and did not appreciate what partition meant. Her views changed when she was diagnosed with cancer in 2005 and was required to go to Dublin for treatment. She questions why Donegal people cannot access treatment in Belfast rather than be required to travel to Dublin.

Noelle highlighted the fact that, due to partition, Letterkenny hospital does not have a critical mass to have a radiotherapy unit. She told the story of a chance encounter she had with William Hay of the DUP on an airplane, where she took the opportunity to outline to him the need for the North West to have a critical mass to allow for better health care and that joined up thinking across the border was necessary. Noelle reported that William Hay took her email address and later set up a meeting with Health Minister in 2008. This resulted in the Irish government contributing €20 million euro to the unit in Altnagelvin. Noelle added that this is “not enough”. Donegal patients are still travelling to Galway and Dublin.



MAIN DISCUSSION

A significant amount of the main discussion at the Donegal People's Assembly was in Irish. Contributions from the audience in response to panellists' remarks:

Challenges in creating a New Ireland

John T. Quinn of the Save Lifford Hospital campaign felt that one of the challenges in developing the future is that elected representatives are not in touch and listening to people on the ground. He has previously sat on a Citizen's Assembly and supports the idea of a Citizen's Assembly to discuss the future.

James Woods highlighted the difficulty in persuading unionism, particularly the DUP, to become involved in the conversation and questioned how we could improve this. Seán McBride, a retired judge, suggested engaging with civic unionism and groups like Ulster Farmer's Union rather than focusing solely on the DUP.

An audience member outlined the challenge of incorporating 1 million people who class themselves as British and how the PSNI would be incorporated – will there be retraining, new uniforms, new approach?

Protecting Rights and Services

Seán McBride spoke of his desire to see education for all, a public health system, and people treated on the basis of human need a society built on respect and human rights.

Paul Kernan, Intercultural Platform wanted equity added to any mention of the term equality and spoke of how when it comes to integrating communities in a new Ireland, communities do things in very creative ways. Communities of interests, faiths etc. show innovative ways of bringing people together.

He also wanted to see a health care system that made decisions close to where they are needed and stressed how important participatory democracy such as this event is to the commission's work.

Effect of Partition

Seán McBride described an iron curtain that existed from Dundalk to Galway.

Another contributor stressed how Donegal is forgotten about in policy planning. He described being told by a senior Minister to contact an agency in the North to get an issue addressed. He believed that the Minister in question believed that Donegal was in the north.

Policy considerations

Another contributor supported an integrated approach to looking at different areas of policy. He commented on the fact that the DUP stopped going to the North-South Ministerial Council." He also claimed that this made the need for a Citizen's Assembly even more apparent.

Mairéad from Falcarragh who has a background in law spoke of her belief that we are facing into a crisis in the time ahead. She believes that we need to embrace a circular economy and our current approach to climate change has been much too slow.

Question from the chair: What would the benefits of Irish Unity be?

Toni Forrester talked of the success in cross border co-operation in the North West Region and that businesses were "way ahead" of the Good Friday Agreement. She believes the "Irish government need to be pushed to put in place what a United Ireland might look like. The border has been there for too long."

Paul Hannigan echoed the remarks in relation to cross border co-operation in the north west region, commenting on his experience that it was much further ahead than Dundalk, where he worked for 10 years.

He also said momentum is gathering. He has accepted an invitation from Sinn Féin TD Rose Conway Walsh and will be in the Dáil next week to talk about cross border student mobility. Also at the North South Ministerial Council, four educational institutions from both sides of the border will be there: NWRC, Donegal ETB, ATU and UU.

Contributions from the floor in response to the chair's question:

The Fishing Sector – Aodh O'Donnell of the Irish Fish Producers Organisation spoke on behalf of the fishing community in Donegal. He said that 62% of all fish landed in Ireland comes through Donegal. Aodh outlined some excellent support from some politicians but said 'official Ireland does not support us'. He said that the fishing community works across the border but that Brexit has put an additional layer of bureaucracy in place. He stated that there is a massive opportunity for Irish fishing and vowed to fight for its future.

Young People

Lorraine, who has worked in Donegal Youth Services for 25 years, highlighted the funding that the organisation has received from the Peace and Reconciliation Fund, which "bolsters the services and brings young people together". She stated that despite initial reluctance on the part of young people to engage with the reconciliation aspects, once they meet with others from different backgrounds they embraced it and saw great value in it.

She stated that they work hard to provide opportunities for young people to be heard, especially as "we are so far away from Dublin", and states that they engage with the various bodies such as ETB, ATU and North West Regional College to get education and training opportunities for young people in Donegal.

Climate Change, Infrastructure and modernisation

A contributor called Eithne stressed the importance of retrofitting and reaching our climate targets. Stated that we are currently failing and don't know how to reach them, that we need the national grid upgraded, to look to communities to offset selling electricity and to address the need for rural regeneration. She also stressed that these problems may not be adequately addressed by politicians alone.

John T. Quinn from Save Lifford Hospital suggested that changing aspects of the Irish constitution was necessary to reflect a modern Ireland and the

values of modern citizens.

A representative from Into the West Railway Campaign group stressed the importance of linking infrastructure together cross-border and spoke of how this will bring communities together.

Another contributor from a fishing background spoke the need for people to know what they are voting on in the event of a Referendum on unity and about the natural resources in the northwest in terms of wind and renewable energy. He urged that these resources must not be 'given away' like our fishing quota to the EU and housing to vulture funds – again on video but not in report.

Ceist ón chathaoirleach maidir le cearta agus céannacht a chosaint.

Daoine óga

Terri Scott stressed the importance of bringing young people along with us and that they care about climate change and the environment.

She also spoke about how lucky she was to have done cross community activities all across the country when she was young. She claimed the conversation needs to be on a "unity of purpose".

Paul Hannigan praised the ATU Student Union, members of which were in the audience, and described them as exemplifying the idea of making things happen regarding community despite challenges.

A representative from ATU students union spoke about how it's important to look after students in the North West as many are choosing to go to college here due to not being able to get accommodation elsewhere.

Protecting communities and vulnerable citizens

Siobhan McLaughlin from the Donegal Traveller's Project stated that it was important to address inequality and provide more opportunities to young people. She also argued for improved equality legislation and for anti-poverty and community development programmes to be embedded in legislation. She stressed the need to talk about all communities and make sure that we are bringing everybody with us based on "trust, fairness,

social justice and anti-racism”.

Mo Farah stated that he had a background in human rights. He identified the lack of accessibility for disabled people as a major issue in Ireland during the 5 years he has been living here. He explained that 12% of people in Ireland have some sort of disability and that transportation and infrastructure is not good enough for them. He said, “A united Ireland needs to remove the barriers to people with disability and make the country inclusive for all people.”

Mo also spoke about his own experiences as being disabled and as a migrant. He fled war in Somalia to start a new life. He wants to make sure that everyone has equal access and opportunity in a united Ireland. He said that he is positive about the future in this regard, and the fact that he was invited here tonight suggests that this can be achieved.

The chair asked what the panel’s vision for the future would be and how it could be brought forward

Noelle Duddy highlighted the importance of enshrining the right to a home in the constitution, including for new communities and the travelling community. She also highlighted the need for proper housing standards, reminding people that tenement style living arrangements are returning to Dublin.

She highlighted the need for social justice: “A new Ireland needs to be built on equality and a good health care system, not like what is happening in the UK with the privatisation of the NHS”, adding that “we need to tax the rich more”.

She spoke of the different perceptions of the education system north and south, highlighting the fact that her children, in attending school in Donegal, were not required to sit the 11+ and were provided with rich opportunities through the transition year programme.

Professor Terri Scott explained that we are generally punching above our weight but stressed that we must continue to work at reconciliation and make it work in the border regions. She stated: “We are doing well and need to think positive. We need to throw our cap over the wall and go for it”.

Paul Hannigan told everyone that when he first moved to Letterkenny it was just before the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. He says he has been able to identify the progress that has been made during that time and it is important to think about how we have progressed since that time. He stated: "The momentum is building; I am optimistic for the future."

Toni Forrester spoke of how she doesn't want young people to identify as either orange or green, and we fought for the Good Friday Agreement so that young people would not have to deal with sectarianism ever again. She wants them to have opportunities at home and abroad.



THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

REPORT OF THE DONEGAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2023





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17



TAN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHÁI NA hÉIREANN
TIONÓL POBAIL, DÚN NA hGALL, 13 FEABHRA 2023





Mhíng an tOllamh Terri Scott go bhfuilimid ag dul i ngleic go mór leis an méid atá againn i gcoitinne ach chuir sé béim ar nach mór dúinn leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair ar an athmhuintearas agus é a chur ag obair i réigiúin na teorann. Dúirt sí: "Tá ag éirí go maith linn agus caitheimid a bheith ag smaoinéamh go dearfach. Caitheimid tabhairt faoi seo a dhéanamh".

Dúirt Paul Hannigan le gach duine nuair a d'aistrigh sé go Leitir Ceanainn ar dtús go raibh sé díreach roimh Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta i 1998. Deir sé go bhfuil sé in ann an dul chun cinn atá déanta i rith an ama sin a aithint agus go bhfuil sé tabhachtach smaoinéamh ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta againn. ón am sin. Dúirt sé: "Tá an móiminteam ag méadú. Táim dóchasach don todhchaí."

Labhair Toni Forrester faoin dóigh nach bhfuil sí ag iarraidh go n-amharctaidh daoine óga orthu fein mar oráiste nó glas, agus gur throid muid ar son Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta ionas nach mbeadh ar dhaoine óga déileáil leis an seiceachas go deo arís. Ba mhaith léi go mbeadh deiseanna acu sa bhaile agus thar lear.



**D'fhiafraigh an cathaoirleach cén fhís a bhíodh ag an
phainéal don todhchaí agus an dóigh bhféadfaí í a
thabhairt chun cinn**

Leag Noelle Duddy béim ar a thabhairt ar fáil ar an cearc chun í a bheith sa bhunreacht, lena n-áirítear pobail nua agus an lucht síu. Leag sí béim freisin ar an gha le caighdeán chuí tithíochta, ag meabhrú do dhaoine go bhfuil socruithe maireachtála ar nós tionóntaín ag filleadh ar Bhaile Atha Cliath.

Leirigh sí an ga atá le ceartas sóisialta: "Ní mór Éire nua a thógáil ar chomhionannas agus ar chóras dea-chúraim sláinte, ní cosúil leis an méid atá ag tarlú sa RA le príobháidí an NHS", ag cur leis "go gcaithfimid cáin bheise a ghearradh ar lucht an rachmais".

Labhair sí ar na tuairimí éagsúla ar an chóras oideachais thuaidh agus theas, ag cur in iúl nach raibh ar a gcuid páistí, agus iad ag freastal ar scoil i nDún na nGall, an 1 + a dhéanamh agus cuireadh deiseanna fiontacha ar fáil dóibh trí chlár na hidirbhliana.

reachtíocht chomhionannais feabhsaíthe agus go ndéanfaí clár si béim ar an gha atá le tabhairt faoi gach pobal agus a chinníú go bhfuil muid ag tabhairt gach duine linn bunaithe ar "mhúinín, cothroime, ceartas sóisialta agus frithchinníochas".

Dúirt Mo Farah go raibh cúlra aige i gcearta daonna. D'aithin sé an easpa inrochtaineachta do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas mar cheist mhór in Éirinn le linn na 5 bliana a bhfuil sé ina chónaí anseo. Mhínigh sé go bhfuil míchumas de chineál éigin ag 12% de dhaoine in Éirinn agus nach bhfuil cúrsaí iompar agus inftrastruchtúir maith go leor dóibh. Dúirt sé, "Ní mór d'Éire aontaithe na baccainní atá roimh dhaoine faoi mhíchumas a bhaint agus an t-ir a dhéanamh cuimsitheach do gach duine."

Labhair Mo Freisin faoina thairtí féin mar dhúine faoi mhíchumas agus mar imirceach. Theith sé cogadh sa tSomáil chun tús a chur le saol nua. Tá sé ag iarraidh a chinníú go bhfuil rochtain agus comhdheiseanna ag gach duine in Éirinn aontaithe. Dúirt sé go bhfuil sé dearfach faoin todhchaí maidir leis seo, is léir é an cuireadh a tugadh do anseo anoch gur feidir é sin a bhaint amach.



Dúirt Síobhan McLaughlin ón Donegal Traveller's Project go raibh sé tábhairneachtach aghaidh a thabhairt ar neamhionannas agus níos mó deiseanna a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga. D'áitigh sí freisin ar son

Pobail agus saoránach leachailéacha a chosaint

stad in ann loistín a fháil in aon áit eile. go bhfuil go leor ag roghnú dul chuig an cholaiste anseo toisc nach bhfuil tábhairneachtach is áta sé aire a thabhairt do mhic léinn san iarthuaisceart mar Labhair ionadaí ó cheardchumann na mac léinn ATU faoi cé chomh chur i gcrích maidir le pobail in ainneoin na ndúshlán. féachana, agus chuir sé síos orthu mar eiseamláir den smaoineamh rudaí a Mhol Paul Hannigan Aontas na Mac Léinn ATU, a raibh baill de sa lucht dhéanamh ar fud na tíre nuair a bhí sí óg. Mhaigh sí gur gá "aontacht cuspóra" a bheith sa chomhrá. Labhair sí fosta faoin ádh a bhí uirthi gníomhaíochtaí trasphobail a agus go bhfuil imní orthu faoin aeriáide agus faoin timpeallacht. Leag Terri Scott béim ar a thábhachtait áta sé daoine óga a thabhairt linn

Daoine óga

Geist ón chathaoirleach maidir le cearta agus céannacht a chosaint.

mhúchadh – arís ar fhíséad ach ní sa tuarascáil. shiúl' ar nós ár gcuóta iascaireachta don AE agus tithíocht chun cisti a in-athnuaithe de. D'áitigh sé nár cheart na hacmhainní seo a 'thabhairt ar hacmhainní nádúrtha san iarthuaisceart ó thaobh fuinneamh gaoithe agus ag daoine cad áta ar bun acu i gcás Reifreann ar aontacht agus faoi na Dúirt rannpháirtí eile ó chúla iascaireachta gur gá go mbeadh a fhios se faoin dóigh a dtábhairfaidh sé seo pobail le chéile. thábhachtait áta sé bonneagar a nascaidh le chéile trasteorann agus labhair Leag ionadaí ón ghruapa Into the West Railway Campaigh béim ar a luachanna na saoránach nua-aimseartha a leiriú. gnéithe de bhunreacht na hÉireann a aithriú chun Éire nua-aimseartha agus Mhol John T. Quinn ó Ospidéal Save Lifford go raibh sé riachtanach mb'fhéidir nach ndéileálfadh polaitioirí amháin na fadhbanna seo go cuí.



Leag rannpháirtí darb ainm Eithne béim ar a thábhachtaí atá sé ár spriocanna aerdáide a iarrtheistiú agus a bhaint amach. Dúirt sí nach bhfuil ag éirí linn faoi láthair agus nach bhfuil a fhios againn an dóigh le h-aid a bhaint amach, go bhfuil gá againn leis an eangach náisiúnta a uasghrúdd, feachaint le pobail chun díol leictreachais a fhritháireamh agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar an ghá atá le hathghiniúint tuaithe. Chuir sí in iúl fosta go

Athru Aeráide, Bonneagar agus Nuachóiriú

Chuir Lorraine, atá ag obair i Seirbhísí Óige Dhún na nGall le 25 bliain, béim ar an mhaoiniú atá faighte ag an eagraíocht ón Chiste Stochána agus Athmhuintearais, “a neartaíonn na seirbhísí agus a thugann daoine óga le chéile”. Dúirt sí, ainneoin drogall ar dtús ar thabhairt na ndaoine óga dul i ngleic le gnéithe an athmhuintearais, nuair a bhuaíl síad le daoine eile ó chúlraí éagsúla ghlac síad leis agus go bhfaca síad luach an-mhór ann. Dúirt sí go n-oibríonn síad go dían chun deiseanna a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga a bheith le cloistéal, go háirithe “táimid chomh fada ar shuíl ó Bhaile Átha Cliath”, agus luann sí go mbíonn síad i dteagmháil le comhlachtaí éagsúla mar ETB, ATU agus Coláiste Réigiúnach an Iarthuaiscirt chun oideachas a fháil. agus deiseanna ollúna do dhaoine óga i nDún na nGall.

Daoine óga

Earnáil na hiascaireachta – Labhair Aodh O'Donnell ó Eagraíocht Táirgeoirí Eisc na hÉireann ar son phobal iascaireachta Dhún na nGall. Dúirt sé go dtógann 62% de na héisc go léir a thugtar i dtír in Éirinn trí Dhún na nGall. Thug Aodh breac-chuntas ar thacaíocht iontach ó roinnt polaitíoirí ach dúirt ‘ní thacaíonn Éire oifigiúil linn’. Dúirt sé go bhfuil pobal na hiascaireachta ag obair trasna na teorann ach go bhfuil maorlathais bhreise curtha i bhfeidhm mar thoradh ar Bhreathimeacht. Dúirt sé go bhfuil deis ollmhór ann d'iascaireacht na hÉireann agus gheall sé troid ar son a todhchait.

Tuairimí ón urlár mar fhreagra ar cheist an chathaoirleigh:

institiúid oideachais ón da thabhairt den teorainn ann: NWRC, BOO Dhún na nGall, ATU agus UU.





Ceist ón chathaoir:
Cad iad na buntáistí a bhainfeadh le hAontas na hÉireann?

Labhair Toni Forrester faoin rath a bhí ar chomhoibriú trasteorann i Réigiún an Iarthuaiscirt agus go raibh gnólachtaí “i bhfad chun tosaigh” ar Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta. Creideann sí “Ní mór rialtas na hÉireann a bhrú chun an chuma a bheadh ar Éire Aontaithe a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá an teorainn ann le fada an lá.”

Luaigh Paul Hannigan an méid céanna in iúl maidir le comhoibriú trasteorann i réigiún an iarthuaiscirt, gur luaign sé gurbh í an tuairim a bhí aige go raibh sé i bhfad níos faide chun tosaigh ná Dun Dealgan, áit ar oibrigh sé ar feadh 10 mbliana.

Dúirt sé fosta go bhfuil móiminteam ag bailiú. Ghlac sé le cuirteadh ó TD Shinn Féin Rose Conway Walsh agus beidh sé sa Dáil an tseachtain seo chugainn chun labhairt faoi shoghluaisisteacht mac léinn trasteorann. Chomh maith leis sin ag an Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas, beidh ceithre

Breithnithe beartaís

Thacaigh rannpháirtí eile le cur chuige comhtháite le breathnú ar réimsí éagsúla beartaís. Dúirt sé gur stop an DUP ag dul go dtí an Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas. “Mhaigh sé freisin go ndearna sé seo an gá le Tionól Saoránach níos soiléire fós.

Labhair Mairead ón bhFál Carrach, a bhfuil cúlra aici sa dlí, go gcreideann sí go bhfuil gearcheim romhainn san am atá le teacht. Creideann sí go gcaithfidh glacadh le géilleagar ciorclach agus tá an cur chuige atá againn faoi láthair i leith athrú aeráide i bhfad ró-mhall.

Tionchar na Críochdheighilí

Rinne Seán McBride cur síos ar chúirtín iarrainn a bhí ann ó Dhún Dealgan go Gaillimh.

Chuir rannpháirtí eile béim ar an dóigh a ndéantar dearmad ar Dhún na nGall i bpleanáil polasat. Chuir sé síos ar an Aire sinsearach a mhol dó dul i dteagmháil le gníomhaireacht sa Tuaisceart le réiteach a fháil ar cheist. Chreid sé gur chreid an Aire atá i gceist go raibh Dhún na nGall ó thuaidh





PRÍOMHPHLE

Tuairimí ón lucht féachana mar fhreagra ar thuairimí an phainéil:

Dúshláin maidir le héire Nua a chruthú

Shíl John T. Quinn ón fheachtas Save Lifford Hospital gurb é ceann de na dúshláin a bhaineann le forbairt na toadhchái ná nach mbíonn ionadaithe tofa i dteagmháil agus ag éisteacht le daoine ar an talamh. Bhí sé mar chuid de Thionól Saoránach roimhe seo agus tacaíonn sé leis an smaoineach Tionól Saoránach leis an todhchái a phlé.

Leag James Woods béim ar an deacracht a bhaineann le haontachtachas a chur ina lú, go háirithe an DUP, páirt a ghlacadh sa chomhrá agus cheistigh sé an dóigh bhfeadfaimis é sin a fheabhsú. Mhol Seán McBride, breithneamh ar scor, dul i ngleic leis an aontachtachas sibhialta agus le grúpaí mar Aontas Feirmeoirí Uladh seachas diríú ar an DUP amháin.

Thug ball den lucht éisteachta cuntas ar an dúshlán a bhaineann le 1 mhilliún duine a rangaíonn iad féin mar Bhriotánaigh a thabhairt isteach agus an dóigh a ndéanfaí an PSNI a ionchorprú – an mbeidh athoiliviúint, éidí nua, cur chuíge nua ann?

Gearta agus Seirbhísí a Chosaint

Labhair Seán McBride faoin mhian a bhí aige oideachas do chách, córas sláinte poiblí, a fheiceáil agus caithneamh le daoine ar bhonn riachtanas daonna, sochaí atá bunaithe ar mheas agus ar chearta daonna. Theastaigh ó Paul Kernan, Ardán Idirchultúrtha, go gcuirfi cothromas le haon tagairt don téarma comhionannas agus labhair sé faoin dóigh a ndéanann pobail rudaí ar bhealaí cruithaitheacha maidir le pobail a imeascadh in Éire Nua. Léiríonn pobail leasanna, creidimh agus eile bealaí nualacha le daoine a thabhairt le chéile. Bhí sé ag iarraidh córas cúraim shláinte a fheiceáil a dhéanfaidh cinnti gar don áit a bhfuil gá leo agus ina leagfaí béim ar a thabachtait atá daonlathas rannpháirtíochta ar nós an imeachta seo d'obair an choimisiúin.

lonnaíthe i nDún na nGall.
Leag sí béim freisin ar a thábhachtai atá sé a thuiscint go bhfuil athrú mór tagtha ar an domhan agus gur athraigh an phaindéim agus an t-athrú aeráide é.

Noelle Duddy, Feachtasóir Ailse

Dúirt Noelle gur shíl sí i gcónaí go raibh an t-ádh ar Dhún na nGall mar go raibh sé taobh amuigh den Tuaisceart. Cheangail sí an comtáil le síocháin agus cúnas agus bhí tuairim rómánsúil aici faoina raibh ann agus níor thug sí cad é a bhí i gceist leis an chrochdhéighnilt. Tháinig athrú ar a tuairim nuair a diagnóisíodh go raibh ailse uirthi in 2005 agus b'éigean di dul go Baile Átha Cliath le haghaidh cóireála.

Ceistíonn sí cén fáth nach féidir le muintir Dhún na nGall teacht ar chóireáil i mBéal Feirste seachas go gcaithfidh siad a bheith ag taisteal go Baile Átha Cliath.

Leirigh Noelle nach bhfuil mais chriticiúil ag otharlann Leitrí Ceanainn chun aonad radaitéiripe a bheith ann de bharr na críochdhéighnilt. D'inis sí an scéal faoi theagmháil de sheans a bhí aici le William Hay ón DUP ar eithead, áit ar thapaigh sí an deis a chur in iúl dó go raibh gá le mais chriticiúil a bheith ag an lathnuaisceart le go bhféadfaí cúram sláinte níos fearr a chur ar fáil. agus go raibh gá le smaoineamh trasna na teorann. Thuaireascigh Noelle gur ghliac William Hay a seoladh ríomhphhoist agus gur shocraigh sé crúinniú níos déanaí leis an Aire Sláinte in 2008. Mar thoradh air sin chuir rialtas na hÉireann €20 milliún euro leis an aonad in Ait Uí Dhoibhleacháin. Dúirt Noelle fosta nach leor é seo. Tá othair Dhún na nGall go fóill ag taisteal go Gaillimh agus Baile Átha Cliath.





Chuir an tOllamh Scott in iúl go bhfuil na scileanna againn anseo a bhfuil éad ar dhaoine eile linn ina leith. Thug sí samplaí de chomhlachtaí ar nós Fintira i Leitir Ceannainn ag fogairt 200 post. Dúirt sí “léiríonn sé seo gur féidir linn poist a mhealladh agus a fháil anseo i nDún na nGall. Thug sí suntas freisin do shamplaí eile ar nós KN Network, Opium, Pramerica agus E&I, atá

An tOllamh Terri Scott, iar-Leas-Sheansailéir ag Ollscoil Uladh



Mhínigh Pól fosta mar a leagadh fócas polaitiúil ar ais ar an tuaisceart mar thoradh ar Bhreathimeacht agus an dóigh a bhfuil súil aige gur féidir linn leas a bhaint as seo. Dúirt sé: “Tá sé ar intinn againn an fhorbairt seo a úsáid taobh istigh de réigiún Iarthuaisceart na Cathrach leis na feidearthachtaí a thaispeáint ach daoine a bheith ag obair le chéile.” Meabhraínn Tuiscama in 2018 le UU, NWRRC (Coláiste Réigiúnach an Iarthuaisceirt) agus BOO Dhún na nGall (An Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna). Mhínigh Pól fosta an dul chun cinn atá déanta ina ainneoin seo. Siníodh

Leag Pól béim ar an dóigh a bhfuil oideachas rithbhachtach do ríodhchait ar réigiúin chomh maith le múnla oideachais inbhuanaithe. Thug sé breac-chuntas ar shampla de Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2007 idir LYIT (Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceannainn) agus UU (Ollscoil Uladh) agus an dóigh ina dhiaidh sin, nuair a tháinig an cúil eacnamaíoch isteach isteach, gur imigh sainchéisteanna trasteorann ó gach clár rialtais.



Paul Hannigan, Ceann an Cholaíste, ATU Dhún na nGall

Dúirt Forrester: “Ní fheicimid an teorainn inár gceann, ach caithfimid déileáil le”. Mhínigh sí freisin nach gnó amháin atá in iomaíocht lena chéile ach go bhfuil rialacha difriúla ag gníomhaireachtaí fosta agus go mbíonn síad in iomaíocht lena chéile uaireanta.



Chuir Toni in iúl an ndóigh a ndéanann gnólaigh san Iarthuaisceart iarracht gan teorainn a fheiceáil agus go ndéanann siad iarracht bealaí a chruthú le bheith ag obair le chéile. Thug sí breac-chuntas ar roinnt samplaí de ghnólaigh ag obair le chéile go rathúil agus i ag admháil gur chuir críochdheighnilt teorainneacha ar nós na gceann a labhraíodh roimhe seo.

Toni Forrester, Príomhfheidhmeannach Chumann Tráchtála Leitir Ceanainn



Dúirt sé freisin gur teorainn é an dóigh a mbíonn na réigiúin ar an dá thaobh den teorainn i gcónaí in iomaíocht, seachas a bheith ag iarracht oibriú le chéile. Seo rud a rinne sé iarracht a chur ina cheart agus é ag obair don chomhairle. Spreag sé cur chunige imeachta maidir le rudaí a dhéanamh, ag rá go bhfuil “an chuid is mó de dhaoine ag siopadóireacht sa Tuaisceart agus mar an gcéanna tagann daoine ón Tuaisceart trasna na teorainn. Bíonn 30-35% clárúimhreacha ón tuaisceart i gcarraíocht na bhfostaithe ar fud Leitir Ceanainn, agus mar an gcéanna, bíonn clárúimhreacha ó dheas i gcarraíochtí fostaíthe i nDoire.”

Seamus Neely, Iar-Príomhfheidhmeannach Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall. Labhair Seamus faoi na constaicí atá ann faoi láthair mar gheall ar Dhún na nGall a bheith deighnilt óna chúlchrioch nádúrtha. I measc na samplaí tá an easpa smaointeoireachta comhcheangailte maidir le pleanáil agus bonneagar.

Seamus Neely, Iar-Príomhfheidhmeannach Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.

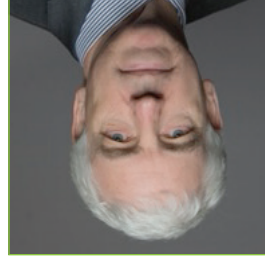


a dtéann críochdheighnilt i bhfeidhm orthu agus an dóigh a mtháionn siad go bhfeadfaidh an saol a bheith níos fearr i gcreat bunreachtúil eile. Creideann go leor daoine gurb é seo an t-am le pleanáil do thodhchaí nua chomhroinnte.”



7

inBa é an cathaoirleach neamhspleách **Michéal Ó hÉanaigh** a chuir an painéal i láthair. Dúirt sé lena raibh i láthair go raibh a fhios aige “go bhfuil tinnreamh againn tráthóna inniu ó dhaoine ó raon leathan cultair, ó earnaí an ghno go dtí an saol acadúil go forbairt phobail agus eagraíochtaí earnaíla – tá fáilte mhór romhaibh ar fad”.
Chuir Michéal in iúl go bhfuil an Coimisiún go fóill ag glacadh le haighneachtaí i scríbhinn agus go bhfuil “os cionn 130 aighneacht curtha faoi bhráid an Choimisiúin go dtí seo agus díronn síad ar raon leathan téarmaí – tá a gcuid tuairimí tugtha ag daoine ar an dóigh a bhfeadfaí seirbhísí poiblí a eagrú in Éire Nua, an dóigh a bhfeadfaidh struchtúir rialachais oibriú, an dóigh



TUAIRIMÍ TOSAIGH AGUS CUIR IN AITHNE AG AN PHÁINEÁL



TAN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHÁI NA hÉIREANN
TIONÓL POBAIL, DÚN NA hGALL, 13 FEABHRA 2023





bochtaineacht mar thoradh ar chriochdheighilt agus forbairt mhíchothrom ar fud na 26 Chontae. Luaigh TD Dhún na nGall, áfach, scéalta ratha i nDún na nGall agus baill an phainéil, a dheimhneoidh an obair chrua agus an rath atá bainte amach in ainneoin na ndúshlán.

Tharraing Piaras aird ar na feidearthachtaí le haghaidh tuilleadh forbairtha don chontae in Éirinn Aontaithe agus ar na cainteanna atá ar siúl anois i dteaghlaigh, in ionaid oibre agus geataí scoile maidir le todhchaí pholaitiúil an Oileáin. Thug sé breac-chuntas ar an chomhthéacs pholaitiúil ina bhfuil siad seo ar siúl – Breatimeacht; athallíniú toghcháin; pobalbhreitheanna agus torthaí daonáirimh le déanaí.

Dúirt Piaras gurb é cuspóir an Tionóil Phobail ná ligean do ghnáthdhaoine a dtuairimí a chur in iúl faoinár dtodhchaí chomhroinnte, beag beann ar a dtuairim nó ar a ndearcadh polaitiúchá. Leag sé béim ar a thábhachtaí atá sé Tionól Saoránach a bhunú ar athrú bunreachtúil agus an bhunobair a ullmhú roimh reitream.

Chuir sé in iúl an gá atá le hoileán a chruthú ina mbeidh fáilte roimh chách, ina gcosnófar seirbhísí poiblí, ina gcruithófar poist agus pá riasunta agus ina mbunófar socrúithe agus struchtúir dhaoilathacha nach bhfágann éinne taobh thiar de. Chuir sé béim ar an fheagracht atá ann teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an aontachtachas agus an gá iad a bheith mar chuid den phlé.

Aitheasc Tosaigh ó Phiaras Ó Dochartaigh TD

Ina aitheasc tosaigh, thug Píaras Ó Dochartaigh TD breac-chuntas ar na mibhuntaísi suntasacha atá roimh mhuintir Dhún na nGall, lena n-áirítear: géarchéim costais mhairreachtála leanúnach; imedlú agus mibhuntaíste

teipeanna infheistíocht a dhéanamh i mbonneagar rithabhachtach amhail bóithre, iompar poiblí agus leathabhandá; eisimírce mar gheall ar easpa post, deiseanna agus tithíocht; tearc-infheistíocht i seirbhísí cúram sláinte agus an scannal lochtach coincréite a théann i bhfeidhm ar na céadta teaghlaigh ar fud an chontae. Tharraing an Teachta Ó Dochartaigh aird ar thionchar na críochdheighilte, rud a dhéanann Dún na nGall a dheighilt ónár gcúlchrioch nádúrtha san iarthuaisceart. Dúirt sé: "Tá imedlú, aonru, fostaíocht iseaí agus





4

BEALACH FÉICH AR 13 FEABHRA

TIONÓL AN PHOBAIL I NDÚN NA nGALL



THE NEW IRELAND IS FOR EVERYONE

- An t-easpa bonneagair san lathuaisceart
- Tá polasaithe oideachais nasctha rithábachtach do thodhchaí an réigiúin
- Na dúshláin a bhaineann le dul i mbun plé le haontachtachas polaiteirí ar thodhchaí na hÉireann
- An coinceap maidir le gach cineál pobail san Éirinn nua

PRÍOMHTHEAMAÍ:

TAN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN
TIONÓL POBAIL, DÚN NA nGALL, 13 FEABHRA 2023



RÉAMHRA

TAN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN
TIONÓL POBAIL, DÚN NA nGALL, 13 FEABHRA 2023

“An gá atá le hoileán a chruthú ina gcuirfead roimh chách, ina ndéantar cosaint ar sheirbhísí poiblí, ina gcruthófar poist agus pá réasúnta agus ina mbunófar sócrúithe agus struchtúir dhaonlathacha nach bhféigánn éinne ar gcúl”. Seo mar a leag TD Shinn Féin Dhún na nGall Piaras Ó Dochartaigh an comhthéacs don tríú crúinniú poiblí den Choimisiún ar Thodhchaí na hÉireann – Tionól Pobail Dhún na nGall a tionóladh i mBealach Féich ar 13 Feabhra.

Ba é téama an chrúinnithe ná ‘Abair Lear’. Ba é Micheál Ó hÉanaigh, iar-cheannaire Uddaras na Gaeltachta, an cathaoirleach neamhspleách. Chuir sé an crúinniú i gcomhthéacs ag rá go bhfuil ‘na daoine anseo ag ple leis seo ó lá go lá’.

Ba iad na painéalaithe ar an oíche ná an tOllamh Terri Scott, Leas-Seansailéir ar scor le déanaí in Ollscoil Uladh; Noelle Duddy, iar-chathaoirleach ar Action for Cancer Care Dhún na nGall (DACC) agus urlabhraí ar Chomhoibriú do Chúram Aise an Iarthuaiscirt, CCC(NW); Paul Hannigan, Ceann an Chólaiste ag Ollscoil Teicneolaíocht an Áilantaigh, Dún na nGall. Is ball é Paul de Choiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Dhún na nGall (LCDC) agus d’Fheidhmeannas Réigiúnach an Iarthuaiscirt de IBEC; Toni Forrester, Príomhfhidhmeannach Chomhlachas Tráchtála Leitir Ceanainn, agus Seamus Neely, Iar-Phríomhfhidhmeannach Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.

Ceapadh Cathaoirleach
Shinn Féin, Declan Kearney,
mar Chathaoirleach ar an
Choimisiún.
Beidh an Seanadóir Lynn Boylan
ina Leas-Chathaoirleach.



Chuir Sinn Féin an Coimisiún um Thodhcháí na hÉireann ar bun i mí na Samhna 2021. Is é a shainchuram dúl i mbun comhairliúcháin póbail le muintir na hÉireann agus go hidirnáisiúnta ar thodhcháí na hÉireann. Bainfead é seo amach ar bhealaí éagsúla: trí Thionóil Phobail a eagrú ar fud na tíre agus go hidirnáisiúnta; trí aighneachtaí scríofa a bhailiú agus a chur le chéile; trí chruinnithe earrnála a eagrú agus trí rannpháirtíocht phríobháideach.

Cuirfead tuarascáil deiridh le chéile ag deireadh an tionscadail.

Seo tuairisc ón Tionól Pobail i nDún na nGall a tharla in Ionad Ealaíon Balor i mBealach Féich ar 13 Feabhra 2023.

Thug urlabhraí Airgeadais Shinn Féin agus an TD áitiúil Pearse Doherty aitheasc ag an chruinniú.

Tá físeán den Tionól Pobail i nDún na nGall ar fáil ar YouTube:
https://youtu.be/OUmR_pNv18



Faoi láthair tá béagnach 150 ionchur faighte ag an Choimisiún um Thodhcháí na hÉireann ó raon leathan daoine aonair agus grúpaí leasmhara.

Is tábhachtach a thabhairt faoi deara gur feidir ionchur a dhéanamh leis an Choimisiún fós ag commission@sinnfein.ie nó tríd an leathanach gréasáin seo a leanas www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

Bhí an ceathrú Tionól Pobail ar siúl in Ostan an Carrickdale ar 30 Márta. Clúdaiodh ann réigiún teorann Lú, Ard Mhacha agus an Dúin. Foilseofar tuarascáil.



**Tuarscail ó
Thionól Saoránach i ndún na ngall,
13 Feabhra 2023**

TIONÓL AN PHOBAIL I NDÚN NA NGALL

