Local Elections ‘99

Report by Marie Hobbs

MANY NEW CANDIDATES TO SEEK YOUR VOTE IN JUNE

WITH a total, final count of candidates for Limerick East going forward to contest the local elections in June not yet available, the Limerick Post this week and next will introduce to its readers the identity of INDEPENDENTS

WARD 1

Kathleen Leddin
North Circular Road resi- dent, Kathleen Leddin, wife of Cllr Tom Leddin who will run as an independent candidate. Particularly interested in maintaining a sharp eye on planning applications that in any way impinge on a nega- tive way in the environment, Kathleen is actively concerned about all aspects of life for citizens on the Northside.

WARD 2

PEACE Commissioner and chairman of the Ballysillan Road Residents’ Association, Jim Hickey has vigorously campaigned against planning and development, which in his opinion, was contrary to the proper planning and development in the Ballysillan Road area. Subsequently an order was made by An Bord Pleanála determining the refusal of this development, which overhauled Limerick Corporation’s decision to grant same. Mr Hickey is also concerned about the environment, speed on our roads and wandering horses.

WARD 3

Independent candidate, Noel Hannah of Aspen garden centre will run as an independent candidate. Calling on the electorate to erect security fences on the rail line between Limerick Park and Granville and at the rear of houses off Hillcrest close, Mr Hannah says these security measures will safeguarde children in the area and deter break-ins to houses.

Kathleen Leddin, Ald. Sean Griffin, Ind.

Independent candidates

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Peacemaker and chairman of the Ballysillan Road Residents’ Association, Jim Hickey

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Independent candidate, Noel Hannah of Aspen garden centre

ALTHOUGH not yet confirmed, it is assumed that Cllr Judy O’Regan will run as an independent candidate for Ward 2, with Alderman Sean Griffin for Ward 4 and Alderman John Gilligan for Ward 2.

LABOUR

John Boland, Labour

Joe Leddin, first-time candidate for Labour will run for Ward 4. Joe is a member of the well-known political family, the Leddins under, Frank Leddin (Labour) and Tom Leddin, are city councillors. Also running for this Ward is Liz Cremmins of Respect.

WARD 3

First elected to City Council last year, following the death of Jim Kenny, Cllr Semius Husham of Neyes Park is particularly involved with local community mat- ters and is a champion of the rights for the elderly in our communities. Sensibly tipped for this Ward John Boland is calling attention to the poor state of roads, footpaths and front walls in the Ballysillan road and is also critical of Limerick Corporation’s decision to grant same.

FINE FAIL

Selinah O’Hanlon, Labour

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Eddie Butler, FG

General Election campaigns.

WARD 3

Ger Fahy and Diamuid Scully are contesting this Ward.
A former city councillor, Ger feels the problems that need urgent attention in the different estates in his Ward are the reinstatement of roads and footpaths, the replacement of the old lead pipes to improve water pres- sure: an increase in the number of noise repairs and the upgrading of open spaces and amenities. He is also involved with community groups and is a founder member of the Limerick River Search and Rescue. Diamuid Scully is a gradu- ate of the University of Limerick and currently rep- resents the interests of his 18,000 graduates on the university’s governing authority. A top internation- al debater, Diamuid feels he can articulate the needs of the community. He has lived in Ward 3 all his life.

WARD 4

Marie Byrne and Pat Kennedy interested in local affairs and involved in polit- ics for many years, Marie is daughter of outgoing Cllr. Continued on page 11
Local Elections '99

CONTINUING our coverage of the candidates who will contest the upcoming local elections, this week our list is predominantly made up of first-time contenders. There are also a number of candidates who are returning to the political arena after an absence of some years. It is clear, however, that all of the candidates have been actively involved in one way or another with local community issues.

INDEPENDENTS

Mary Collins: Ward 1

A long-term resident of Ward 1, Mary says that through her previous work in pharmacies she has considerable experience of dealing with personal and general problems in the area of health and welfare.

Mary Collins, Ind

“I have been politically active for many years and I would now like to serve the people of Ward 1 as an elected community councillor. My motto is People Before Parties. Among the issues that concern me are road safety (including the provision of speed ramps), property security for house-holders, especially those living alone and care of the elderly. Also of importance are crime, vandalism, drugs and the provision of adequate recreational facilities for young and old alike.

Mary is also opposed to the reintroduction of rates and water rates on private houses and pledges that if elected, she will give full-time attention to working on behalf of all the residents of Ward 1.

Win Harrington: Ward 4

A FORMER member of Limerick City Council for 11 years, Win Harrington is returning to political life. Always deeply involved in community matters and a keen political observer, Win is a former chairman of the Health Advisory Committee.

Billy Morgan, Ind

controversy.

He is also adamant that people who stand for Ward 2 should live in the Ward. Billy feels strongly that local government should have more power, will fight for protection for the elderly and for property and is "totally dedicated to fight the drug battle. I believe that Independents can police the system," he adds.

Billy Morgan was elected in 1991 as an Anti-Water Tax candidate, John Gilligan's candidate, John Gilligan, Ind

PETER Power, FF Ward 1

John Cronin, FF Ward 1

and as one of the founding directors of Fairbank.

Patricia Keays Bevan, Lab

LIVING in Raheen Heights, Patricia who is a teacher has been an active member of the Limerick Labour Party for many years. She is representative on the party's women's National Council and has held various positions at branch and constituency level.

A grand-daughter of Michael Keays who was the first Labour Minister from Limerick and a member of Limerick City Council for 24 years (Mayor of Limerick on two occasions), Patricia believes that more women should be involved in politics at local and national level.

Among her election issues are lack of affordable housing, bus lanes and light rail system to link suburban areas to the city centre: recreational and play facilities for suburban areas: adequate traffic-calming measures for housing estates.

Natural Law Party

Raymond McLernon: Ward 3

LIVING in Carear Park, Raymond aims to address "lack of work hours by employees in local companies, due to stress and byness by introducing Stress Management Techniques."

"I will also aim to address the problem of pupils disturbing the teacher and other pupils by helping them to become more relaxed within themselves."

Tel: 44672.

ONE of the founders of the Institute of European Affairs, Niall is also a member of its executive and chairman of its EU/US Working Group. Described by Fergus Fiesta in his book Snakes and Ladders as "a person who, despite being a successful businessman, was respected on all sides of the party as a person of long experience and commitment." Niall has served in the state sector with An Taoiseach, as chief executive of the Youth Employment Agency, and as chairman of ANCO, the Industrial Training Authority.

Niall Greene, Lab

FINE GAEL

Comoran Hurley, FF

Living in Caherdavin for 30 years, recently retired member of the Garda and local FF, Comoran has been highly active in projecting a positive image of Limerick and has supported many local causes, for the past 20 years he has organized a Social Club at St Vincent's in Limerick and taken part in eight international fundraising walks for the Irish phlebiscite Association and Comhaltas. Comoran also organized a fundraising walk for Fr Gerry Daly's Food For The Poor Campaign.

"Knowing Limerick as I do, will be a great asset and I will be able to monitor any problems or difficulties that face the people in the third electoral area and set about resolving them."

Labour

Niall Greene: Caherdavin

A PEACEFUL, calm, man, Billy Morgan is a former member of the Flann Fair Party but resigned because he felt there was too much interference from headquarters in Dublin into the local selection process. The last to be eliminated in the local election of 1994, Billy is a former chairman of the Garryowen Residents' Association and is proud that they successfully prevented Limerick Corporation from building a block of flats for housing.

A community activist, he says: "People know I'm not afraid of a challenge or of killing on the Meekick Road."

Damiens O'Dwyer: Castleconnell

"The recent difficulties Ireland has had with Europe in relation to obstacle to the Objective One Status for half the country highlights the need for real regionalisation of the country, insists Raymond O'Meara.

Essentially, everything we do is controlled from Dublin on our level of school funding, the road improvement programmes, allocation of money to the health service and a whole host of services that affect the daily lives of people."

"Why Do It?" is held in 10 groups of people, 120 miles away to decide how we conduct our business here in Limerick when it is the people of Limerick city and county who know best what their city and county needs," he argues.

FIanna Fail

Eamon O'Brien: Ward 1

A QUOTA by profession, Eamon O'Brien is also concerned for Limerick city. An active member of Limerick Chamber of Commerce from 1980, Eamon was born and educated in Ward 1, his late parents being residents of Fairmount. Married to Dr Eleanor Holroyd O'Brien for 20 years, the couple have three children.

Eamon has served on the Council of the Law Society from December 1995 as provincial delegate for Munster.

He was appointed commissioner for the city in 1994 by the former city manager, Jack Higgins on the recommendation of the Local Appointments Commission. Eamon lectured in Law at the University of Limerick in the 80s.

Eamon O'Brien FF Ward 1 - 067 253221

FINE GAEL
Local Elections '99

HARD-WORKING ACTIVISTS MOVE INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

This week a number of former members of City Council have emerged to announce their intention to go forward again. It is also apparent that a number of first-time candidates have been extremely active at parish and community level for many years. There are as well, candidates who at present form part of the existing City Council.

Even as we go to press new names and faces are presenting themselves and these we will bring to you next week.

FIANNA FAIL
John Cronin: Ward I
An employee at St Camillus Hospital, John who was born in An Inny Park, Killteely, where his mother, Ita Cronin still lives, has been involved in various community groups in the Northside for most of his life.

Currently president of St Monica's Youth Exchange and a member of the Thornite Cumann of Flannagh Fail, he is also a member of Limerick City Comhaltas Ceannais, and Limerick East Comhaltas, Deant Ceantair.

Larry Crosse, FF Ward 2

Larry was a member of Limerick City Council for six years and hopes to regain a seat in the coming election.

"I have lived in Lower Park all my life and will be on hand to deal with any problems that may arise in Ward 2," he says.

Cllr Dick Saddler: Ward 4

FORMER Mayor and member of the current City Council, Cllr Saddler, who has returned to the Flannagh Fail Party after resigning from the PDs recently accompanied Taoisigh Bertie Ahern on a tour of Greenpark Racecourse, during his visit to Limerick.

John O'Connor, FF Ward 4

John represents FF on the National Executive and is a former secretary of the Anarchist Neighbours. "It is the people who voted against service charges and I still hold up," said John who would make care and welfare of the elderly a prime issue, if elected.

"The Taoiseach has promised that senior citizens will receive a pension of €200 within a year or two," the said.

Eamonn Lawlor: Castletownneen
CHAIRMAN of the Ahane Cumann and member of Flannagh Fail for 35 years, Eamonn who is from Limerick was nominated last year's Flannagh Con- vention in Carramore to contest the upcoming election for the Castletownneen ward.

Chairman of the Ahane GAA Club and also of Ahane GAA Group Scheme is a former member of the Constitution Federation of Limerick born.

"Being politically active for the past number of years I would now like to serve the people of the Castletownneen electoral area as an elected councillor," said Eamonn.

SEAN FLANNAGH: Ward I
LIVING in Moyross since 1977, Sean has been a community activist since then and was secretary of the building committee and currently chairman of the Board of Directors of the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre.

Sean Flanagan, Lab. Ward 1

He was also involved in securing a creche for Moyross. He is a founder member of the Corpus Christi PTL Limerick Sci, a unit of the Moyross Adult Education Group, member of the Moyross Residents Forum and is very active in the Moyross Development Co. Ltd as a director. He is also treasurer of the Moyross United AFC, member of the Corpus Christi Parish Board, vice-chairman of Labour Party East Limerick Constituency Council and is the health, safety and welfare officer for the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre, as well as being a safety consultant for the Moyross Development Company. He is also a member of the Limerick City Sports & Recreational advisory committee.

Michael Hartnett: Ward 3

A MEMBER of the Labour Party for 20 years, Michael has been involved with the Holy Family Parish and though he is now a resident of Jackman Park, he lived in Southill for over 20 years.

"I am acutely aware of the needs and problems facing the people," said Michael whose slogan is "Vote for a Caring Council.

He has served as a member of the Holy Family con-

REFERENCES OF THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL for 15 years and was president for six years.

A founder member of Age Concern in John's Carew Park, involved in the Southill community council and currently chairman of the Friends of the Elderly, Prospect and PRD for the Limerick Over 40s Soccer Tournament for Charity, which raises funds for Bawmore and Linsagary Schools for Special Children, Michael is also a committee member of Prospect United AFC and has served as a voluntary community officer for 25 years.

Employed as caretaker at the Salesian convent Ferrabank, he is a former employee of Rankis.

"My aim is to improve the quality of life for our senior citizens and to help those less well off in our community, which is what I have strived to do for some 25 years," the said.

INDEPENDENT
Aidan Griffin: Ward 1
RUNNING as an independent, since he resigned from the Labour Party last year, Aidan Griffin, a member of the present City Council since its formation has been making representations to the corporation for almost a year regarding the need for new railings and gates to form a secure entrance area to both the ground and first floor apartments in Meagher Close.

Aidan Griffin, Ind. Ward 1

The Corporation has now come up with a proposal and have asked Derek Horo, community liaison officer to discuss the proposal with the residents, said Aidan who told the Limerick Post this week.

"The proposal is subject to agreement with the resi- dents who have suffered encroachment into their property and who have had no clothing stolen.

"I believe that the Corporation's proposal will now go a long way towards eliminating the problems that exist in the Meagher Close complex," said Sean who adds: "There are a number of seniors living in the complex and it will give them a greater sense of security and enhance the ambience of the community.

Mary Collins: Ward 1

A long-time resident of Shanowen, Mary puts People Before Politcs and is seeking election as an independent community councillor for the Ward.

"My main concerns are the welfare of the young and elderly, the city and quality of life for all the residents in this multi-ethnic community is a priority of mine," she says.

Mary who says "Cities are about people" is also concerned about employment, education and maintaining Shannon Airport's status, which, she says are at the top of her list of priorities.

Other special concerns of Mary's this year are for householders, particularly those living alone, road safety, the provision of speed ramps in residential areas and opposition to the imposition of house rates and water rates on private homes. Tel: 30482

"Local election coverage will continue right up to the election"
CANDIDATES LIST GROWS AS ELECTION DAY NEARS

Experience and a record of involvement in community matters are characteristics of the candidates that are presented this week. It is also very evident that they have a commitment to strenuous participation in civic development, aspiration and in planning.

FIANNA GAEL

Annette Burke - McGreen Ward 2

Annette Burke-McGreen, candidate for Ward 2 is a resident of the Mill Road Corbally, a secondary school teacher at Ard Scoil Mhuire, Bruff and was re-elected as FG party vice president at the recent Ard Fheis. She is also current chairperson of the National Women's Group and a previous chairperson of the FG Munster Regional Council. Annette has been an elected member of Kilkee Town Commissioners and was chairperson of that body for the first FG person in 35 years to hold that position.

Leo Walsh, FG, Castleconnell

those who care for the elderly at home.

Leo says he supports the call by the FG party for the introduction of a Severe Dependency Allowance on top of existing payments for carers who are caring for persons on the verge of full-time residential care.

Born in Boher, Leo is now living in Ballyneety, was educated at Limerick CBS and is area manager for Sutton's Solid Fuels.

"My vast knowledge in the fields of agriculture and rural affairs makes me the ideal candidate to represent you in Limerick County Council," he says.

FIANNA FAIL

Tim O'Driscoll, Ward 1

Father of six, Tim O'Driscoll who lives with his wife Helen in Moyross, was elected to Limerick City Council in 1985 and served for Ward 1 until 1993 when he contested the local election unsuccessfully, securing 796 votes. A member of the Board of Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross and the board of management St Nessan's Community College, Moylish, Tim has also served on the Limerick Harbour Commissioners.

He continues to highlight the issues that affect the Moyross community and the Ward 1 area in general.

Eamon O'Brien, Ward 1

Principal of Eamon O'Brien, Solicitors, Hartstone Street, corner for Limerick City, Vice-President of Limerick Chamber of Commerce, Eamon O'Brien was born, educated and lives in Ward 1.

A community activist, he puts the security of people as one of his main objectives.

GREEN PARTY

Eric Sheppard Ward 2

Eric Sheppard, Ward 2

With an impressive record in environmental activity and community building, Eric has also been involved in his local community for over 15 years. He spearheaded the fundraising that allowed building of 10 new classrooms in Ard Scoil Mhuire's Secondary School, Corbally and has been chairman on the Board of Management for years. He is also involved in St Mary's Nicholas Street Community Games and is a founder member of Parish Awareness and Development Group, PAG.

Drugs Strategy Group.

"There are not enough women involved in politics and I feel that more women and more young people on Limerick City Council would be a great start to the new millennium," he says.

Peggie maintains that as a working mother of three she knows the issues that face people in their daily lives and says she would relish the opportunity to represent people on the Council. Key issues with her include: a community centre for the Garryowen area; the provision of school transport for all schools in the Limerick area to ease traffic congestion; additional facilities and support for women, particularly mothers diagnosed with a serious illness in the Mid-West.
HARD-WORKING ACTIVISTS MOVE INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

THIS week we bring to our readers the latest names and faces of those going forward for election in June.

The general consensus among the candidates is that the campaign tempo is heating up just now and they are gearing up to target each metre of their respective Wards over the next three weeks, leading up to election day on Friday, June 2.

FIANNA FAIL
JJ McGrath

Ward 4

A RESIDENT of Rosbrien for 25 years, JJ who is employed as a clerical officer to the Minister of State for Education and Youth Affairs, Willie O'Dea, is the only FF candidate living in Ward 4.

"I will be on hand all times to deal with issues that arise in the Ward. I am well known to people from my work in the area as a former fuel merchant and milk agent for many years," says JJ, who is a current member of the Limerick City Council's chairman of the De Valera O'Donoghue Cumann and delegate to the Limerick City Corannbaili Centrair.

FINE GAEL
Mary Harty: Castletroy

"Limerick public representatives should come together and lead a united campaign to raise funds for Kosovan refugees as well as extending an invitation to accommodate some victims of the Kosovan crisis. FG candidates, Mary Harty recommends.

"This is a question of priority," she insists.

"While there are numerous issues that require funding in County Limerick, no issue is as immediate and life threatening as that facing our European neighbours.

"I propose that Limerick County Council re-examine its budget in an effort to allocate a donation to Paul Boettig and also contested two local elections for the Greens in England. A member of the Limerick County Planning Board and Munster GAA Club he is a former professional actor and has appeared in theatre, television and films.

"I am calling for a more inclusive form of local government, with power devolved to the lowest practical level and an end to divisive political infighting and point scoring in Council Chambers.

"We aim to build bridges and to show that local and national politics can be non-confrontational and that partnerships can work for the benefit of the whole community," he declares.

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS
Brigíd Jeffey: Castleconnell

"An acknowledged candidate of experience and integrity, Brigíd has been actively involved in politics for local, national and European levels for over 25 years and in this time has shown herself to be capable in dealing with a wide variety of matters, while also obtaining a thorough knowledge and insight into issues of concern to the people of Limerick.

"The Irish National Teachers' Organisation. Mary is a past president of Junior Chamber Limerick and was constituency chairperson for Fine Gael in Limerick East in 1989-90.

GREEN PARTY
Dave Elder: Bruff

A sales and marketing manager with Trinity Advertising in William Street, Dave is a former British Labour Party member and a committed trade unionist. He left the Labour Party, having become disillusioned with the direction that Tony Blair was taking. In 1997 he stood in the British general election for the Green Party in the Brent South Constituency, losing to Paul Boettig and also contested two local elections for the Greens in England. A member of the Limerick County Planning Board and Munster GAA Club he is a former professional actor and has appeared in theatre, television and films.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE: RPO for Babyfrock G.M. Club, chairperson of Parents Council and Board of Management of QBS, Sexton Street; Board of Management member of John the Baptist School and member of the Board of Limerick Institute of Technology as well as being on the board of Shannon Development.

LABOUR
Seamus Houlihan: Ward 4

"A VOTE for me is a vote for honesty and integrity," is the promise of Cllr. Seamus Houlihan who was elected to the outgoing City Council to fill the seat left vacant on the death of Jim Kenny.

"Then there is a worker driving an elderly car and it costs too much to bring it up to the required standard but if he goes to purchase a newer model it will cost him more than twice as much and so pressures will be put on employers through the trade unions to grant more wage increases and this at the time when the government will be trying to keep the rate of wage increases to a minimum.

"Yes, we need to make our roads safer but we also need to introduce a scheme to take account of the issues raised here."

SINN FEIN
Padraig Malone: Ward 1

FROM Delmez Park, Paddy, who is a native of Fedamore and has lived in the city for over 20 years, during which time he has been active in Republican politics, the trade unions movement and community affairs.

An assistant director of the Limerick Centre for the Unemployed, a member of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions, he is also a trade union representative on the national executive committee of the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed and is chairperson of the MEO Jobs Club.

INDEPENDENT
Michael Kelly: Ward 3

LONG-TIME resident of Southill, Michael Kelly who runs a Security Firm in Limerick is concerned about the government's introduction of testing for old vehicles, commencing in the year 2,000. "While this testing is laudable and we need to get unroadworthy bangers off our roads and the number of road fatalities down, there are a number of points that I would like to make."

"Most of the cars that will be rejected will be driven by drivers from the working classes or lower middle class who, in the summer months take their families to the seaside in these cars and so relieve the pressure that builds up in many of our sprawling housing estates."

REPUBLICAN
Sinn Fein
Des Long: Ward 4

If elected to Limerick Corporation, Mr Long says he would propose that no planning permission be given to the new owners of the now defunct Greenpark Racecourse unless a substantial portion of the land is donated to Limerick Corporation as a sports and recreational area.

"I would prefer to see Limerick Corporation purchase the land themselves but we all know that this is not a practical idea."

FINE GAEL
Michael Hourigan: Ward 4

BUK, canvassing at the moment, Michael believes in personally approaching the electorate to hear their particular grievances or concerns for the city, is critical of the interim state of Limerick's secondary roads.

"Most secondary roads in Ward 4 have reached a state of disrepair due to years of neglect. While money is provided to improve the quality of many of the city's primary roads, there is no consideration for secondary roads. As a result many roads in such areas as Clareview, Greystones and Brookville are severely cracked and patched, making them hazardous for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians," Michael points out.