

Ballymun Concrete News

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News letter

We Have The Power To Change Policy?. By: Seamus Kelly

From Social Welfare payments being withdrawn to Government Policy on various issues, these and other policies can affect all of us at some time in our lives. Whatever the area, there's always a policy which contains guidelines, sets of rules or regulations surrounding the particular project. There may be occasions when policy can undermine the individual or group simply because they don't fit into a certain category. The question here is where does one draw the boundary line. Whatever the argument, there will always be a plus and minus in all policies. Some people will benefit, others less fortunate will lose out. At the end of the day, the current policy in place decides the outcome.

What is policy?, How does it affect me?, How can I influence policy?. These are just some of the questions to be addressed at a one day seminar on 'Influencing Policy' to be held at Stormanstown House this month. The one day seminar is a joint project put together by the Ballymun Partnership and CAP, (Community Action Project) to create a greater understanding of policy issues. Mr. Daithi Doolan of CAP, said it is within our grasp to alter policy. "We have the power to influence policy. If a shops policy is to stock only imported goods, a person can ask the shopkeeper why don't they stock Irish products. This would result in more Irish jobs being created," he said.

The seminar takes place at Stormanstown House (old ESB offices) on Wednesday October 14th. Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm Crèche facilities, lunch provided and free to anyone based in Ballymun.

Highlights of the day include: Guest speakers, Activities, Policy Brothers, and

Workshops. You are advised to book early by contacting: Colm Hackett Tel: 8620600.

Ballymun Activist Becomes City Councillor.

Long time community activist from Thomas Mc Donagh tower in Ballymun Mr. Sean O' Cionnaith has won another victory for Ballymun by becoming a City Councillor. Not long ago Mr. O' Cionnaith led the Ballymun Better Lift Service Campaign to victory over the lifts issue.

Councillor O' Cionnaith was coopted on to the City Council after Councillor Lucia O' Neil resigned her seat in Finglas for family reasons. He is Vice Chairman of the Workers Party in Dublin North West and an active member of the party for a number of years. Among the number of community activities he is involved in, councillor O' Cionnaith is also a honorary director of the Ballymun Partnership, Chairperson of the Ballymun Drugs Task Force, Chairperson of the Shangan Estate Forum and a well known anti- drug activist.

Editorial

Congratulations to Mr. Sean O' Cionnaith on his becoming a City Councillor, this is indeed another victory for Ballymun. I would hope Sean will continue to work hard as he has in the past representing the residents of Ballymun. I have known Sean for some years now and not only is he a good community activist but he knows his stuff when it comes to getting the attention of the media.

Whatever the newspaper, you would regularly see the quotes from Mr. O' Cionnaith. He is a campaigner for Ballymun, always he speaks out about the anti-social behaviour from whatever quarter. Dublin Corporation doesn't escape his comments either, they have often come in for criticism from Sean's sharp tongue. It's a gift he has for attracting the media, reporters love his quotes as this makes their work look more interesting.

I hope he will exercise this expertise in City Hall and not lose his vitality and community spirit many of us have come to respect. Of course there will be those who will say it's all about politics. So bloody what, as long as he gets the job done in the best interests of Ballymun residents that's what counts at the end of the day. Best of luck Councillor O' Cionnaith.

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