



AONTAS LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2004

Summary Report

Introduction

In Spring 2004 AONTAS organised a local election campaign **Your Education Your Vote!** to encourage our members to participate in the local elections and to ensure that the development of the Adult Education service remains high on the political agenda. This report provides an overview of the campaign and records the views of those participating at our regional meetings during the campaign in April and May 2004.

In recent years, AONTAS has used the opportunity provided by elections to ensure political commitment to the development of the Adult Education Service. In 1997 a very successful campaign was staged with NALA in the run up to the General Elections in order to put lifelong learning on the political agenda. This campaign was very effective and lifelong learning became part of the manifestoes of the main political parties for the first time ever. This demonstrated the impact that a sustained lobby campaign can have.

Following the General Elections in 1997, much was achieved in the Adult Education sector. The setting up of a Ministry of State for Adult Education in the Department of Education and Science was a key factor in developing the sector and ensured that political commitment to the sector was strengthened. Significant investment followed, with huge increases in the Adult Literacy budget allowing the literacy service to flourish. The publication of a Green Paper on Adult Education in 1998 and then a White Paper *Learning for Life* in 2000 provided the sector with a policy framework in which to develop. New initiatives such as the *Back to Education Initiative*, the *Adult Education Guidance Initiative* and the *Education Equality Initiative* also developed and have been welcome additions to the Adult Education Service.

However, since the most recent General Elections in 2002, AONTAS has been increasingly concerned that Adult Education has slipped off the top of the political agenda. In what we are told is a much harsher economic environment, investment in the expansion of Adult Education opportunities no longer appears to be a priority. While the key initiatives like Adult Literacy and Back to Education continue to operate, other initiatives have been delayed or halted. Of particular concern to AONTAS has been:

- The review of the National Adult Learning Council
- The lack of movement on developing Local Adult Learning Boards
- The lack of movement in addressing professional issues in the sector
- The reduction of childcare support to the VEC system by 37% in 2003
- The 'pause' in expanding the NDP-funded Adult Guidance Initiative
- The move in 2004 to 'freeze' the number of places in PLC colleges

On the basis that there are approximately 300,000 adults in education and training in Ireland in 2004, all of whom are affected to some extent by these 'cutbacks,' AONTAS decided that a strong campaign in advance of the June 11 local elections was a priority for the organisation. This would ensure that at local level, learners and workers in the sector could make their voices heard, and that at national level, AONTAS could bring these issues to the attention of the political parties as they compiled their Local Election manifestoes.

The Role of Local Government in Adult Education

At local level, much of the Adult Education Service is delivered through the VEC system, or through community groups which receive funding from local VECs, Partnership Companies and other statutory agencies. Local Councillors take an active role in local decision making

through the VEC committees, Partnership Companies, County Development Boards and other bodies which have a remit in the area of lifelong learning. It is very important therefore that those who are active on the ground in Adult and Community Education are able to connect with their local representatives, inform them of their work and their concerns, and be assured that the growth of the service remains a priority at local level.

Vocational Education Committees (VECs)

Local Authorities usually elect nine Councillors onto to the local VEC, along with representatives of staff, parents and community groups. VECs are the main statutory providers of the Adult Education Service locally. Among the functions of the VECs carried out on behalf of the Department of Education & Science are:

- Provision of a range of schemes such as the Back To Education Initiative (BTEI), Post Leaving Cert courses (PLCs), Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS), Youthreach and Adult Basic Education.
- Administration of the childcare budget for learners in VEC Schemes.
- Administration of the Adult Literacy and Community Education Scheme (ALCES) budget locally.
- Employment of key staff in the Adult Education Service such as Adult Education Organisers, Adult Literacy Organisers, Community Education Facilitators, Adult Guidance Officers and Scheme Coordinators.

Some VECs have *ad hoc* Adult Education Boards to oversee the Adult Education Service. Under the VEC Amendment Act (2001) each VEC has been given responsibility to develop and implement a service plan so the strategic importance of the VEC in Adult Education is growing.

As well as the local VEC, Councillors are also represented on other key decision making bodies at local level impacting on adult learners and providers. Most relevant among these decision-making bodies are:

City and County Development Boards (CDBs)

City and County Development Boards were set up in 1999 and 2000 with the aim of integrating the delivery of both State and local development services on the ground. CDBs do not have executive functions, but they are strategy bodies, designed to bring agencies together and foster joint approaches. Each CDB is responsible for overseeing the implementation of a 10-year Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural development guiding public services and local development activities. Community and local development groups are now obliged to have their plans endorsed by the local CDB. Typically seven Councillors will be part of the City or County Development Board.

Local Area-based Partnerships

Partnerships were set up in 1991 and are independent companies with a mandate to address the problems of disadvantage, poor economy and social exclusion in their areas. Partnerships may employ Education Coordinators who identify priority needs in education, training or skills development at local level and work to meet those needs. Partnerships have a board of directors comprising Councillors, state agencies and community and voluntary organisations active in economic and social development.

City and County Childcare Committees

City and County Childcare Committees were set up to coordinate childcare at local level as part of the 1999 National Childcare Strategy. The main functions of the County Childcare Committees are to develop a coordinated strategy for childcare provision in the area where they are based; to monitor the implementation of this strategy; to increase the supply of childcare services and facilities locally and to establish effective links with appropriate county structures. While Councillors do not themselves have places on these Committees, the Director of Community and Enterprise at the County or City Development Board is a member, and represents the views of all members of the Development Board which includes Councillors.

The various roles of Councillors are allocated in the very early stages following the local elections. It is therefore important that candidates have a good understanding of local issues in Adult Education in advance of the elections so they can have an impact on the development of the service from the outset.

Campaign Strategy

The AONTAS **Your Education Your Vote!** Campaign had four main strands:

1. Information dissemination
2. Media and publicity work
3. Political lobbying nationally
4. Networking and discussion locally

Information

An information pack was compiled and distributed to all of the AONTAS membership to raise awareness of the upcoming elections. The pack contained

- A **Your Education Your Vote!** banner for use in centres to promote awareness of the elections
- Information on the role of local government in Adult Education
- Postcards outlining six priority local demands for adult learners (local learning opportunities, childcare and eldercare, funding, premises, guidance and progression opportunities)
- A list of national policy issues to provide a context for the campaign

This information pack was distributed to all sitting local Councillors through the Council Offices at local level. Multiples were also distributed to organisations who sought the pack having heard about the campaign, and who wanted to use the material. Several Campaign Managers among the political parties also asked for copies of the material for inclusion in local manifestoes.

Media and Publicity Work

A key part of the campaign was to raise the profile of AONTAS and Adult Education through the local and national media. At national level coverage of the AONTAS AGM and of the local election strategy was achieved which helped draw attention to our key issues. There was particular interest in the PLC capping issue throughout the course of the campaign.

At local level, a significant amount of coverage was achieved by targeting local press and radio in advance of our regional meetings in April and May. The meetings were publicly

advertised in the local press to raise the profile of Adult Education locally and to attract public interest in our campaign. This proved very successful particularly in drawing the attention of local candidates to the meetings and to the issues. Local radio was also used to highlight our issues and a large number of interviews were carried out around the regional meetings which helped to keep the interest high at local level.

Political Lobbying Nationally

Local elections provide a real opportunity to focus attention locally on the development of the Adult Education Service and on local concerns and problems. However, it is also important to use the opportunity to lobby political parties at national level to ensure continued commitment to the sector at that level.

AONTAS staff and Executive have been in contact with the Education spokespeople from the main political parties, profiling our campaign and making sure that the importance of supporting Adult Education is reinforced at party level. We hope that following an initial series of meetings with the parties, that the contact can be continued and developed through until the next General Election. This will help ensure that Adult Education is again given priority.

Networking and Discussion Locally

The most important aspect of the local election campaign was providing a forum for those working and participating in the Adult Education Service at local level to come together, identify their priorities and present these to local election candidates in their own locality. A series of five regional meetings was organised during April and May to which the public, AONTAS members and local candidates were invited. The meetings provided a forum for discussion and a networking opportunity for those involved in Adult Education and local politics.

The meeting in Galway on April 21 launched the **Your Education Your Vote!** campaign, and was followed by meetings in Limerick, Letterkenny, Portlaoise and Dublin. Over 200 people attended the meetings, and more than 30 local election candidates from across the political parties were also able to attend. At each of the meetings, John Ryan AONTAS President gave an overview of the role of local government in Adult Education (in Galway this role was taken by Tom Hussey Vice-President) to start the discussion. Local adult learners in each region told their own stories to provide an insight into the highs and lows of adult learning and to help bring issues to the attention of local candidates. This proved to be a very powerful way of getting the issues across and the learners were widely praised for their contributions. There was also an open forum for debate, and local candidates had an opportunity to respond to the concerns raised.

The issues raised at the meetings are highlighted briefly below. What was perhaps most striking was the level of energy and enthusiasm they generated. Having a focus on an upcoming election, and providing people with an opportunity to speak directly to those running for election was useful to participants, who could see ways in which they could continue the campaign in their own group or centre. Feedback from the evaluation forms has been positive.

Open Discussion: Issues Raised at the Regional Meetings

Quality Local Representation

The issue of quality local representation was an over-arching one discussed at all of the meetings. The content of the AONTAS campaign allowed people to focus in on the role of local government in areas beyond those of housing, planning and infrastructure that many people associate with local government. It was useful to explore the expanding role of local decision-making bodies in driving the lifelong learning agenda, in countering social exclusion

and in influencing developments in a growing number of areas beyond traditional public services.

Those involved in the Adult Education Service locally were concerned about the capacity of Local Councillors to effectively represent their views. It was pointed out that there is no training or significant support available to Councillors to help them carry out their work. Although they are now expected to participate in a whole range of bodies making important decisions, there are no guidelines on how to perform within these roles and Councillors are expected to learn by experience. This is something that should be a cause for concern. Councillors and election candidates themselves valued the opportunity provided by the meetings to look at their roles and to hear the views of a cross-section of people, which can be a rare opportunity.

There were interesting discussions about how local representatives and bodies can be made truly accountable to those who elect them. Councillors present at the meetings recommended that people keep in contact with them and keep them informed about issues because they welcome this contact. They advised constituents to monitor their work and decide whether or not commitments are being met. People were invited to follow up with the candidates present to ensure the profile of their work in Adult and Community Education was maintained.

A key point underlined at the meetings was that groups can participate themselves in local decision-making, and were advised to pursue this where possible. Attention was drawn to the role of the Community Forum within the City and County Development Board system. This is one way in which groups can feed their issues into local development strategies and monitor their implementation. The VEC Amendment Act 2001 also provides for a more accountable local VEC system, with spaces available on VECs for community representatives. Adult Education groups were urged to explore all the local possibilities for representation in their own right.

Local groups were also advised to get copies of the plans of the VEC and the City or County Development Board, to try to influence these plans and to hold representatives to account on delivering them. Community groups, Partnerships and other groups will now have their work mapped against the County or City Development Strategy. The importance of local groups being aware of what is included in this Strategy is therefore more important than ever.

Access to Education in Rural Communities

Rural disadvantage was an issue raised across the country, but in particular at the Galway meeting. Those living in west-Galway outlined clearly how inaccessible further and higher education is for so many, particularly those unable to travel. Even where centres are available, getting to them is very hard. Examples were given of young people having to hitch-hike to their Youthreach centre to take up a course due to a lack of alternative transport.

Education for women was particularly an issue, as was education for isolated single men and people with disabilities. What was particularly disappointing was that a number of successful pilot initiatives had been organised in recent times, which had allowed people to access education opportunities. For example outreach courses had been provided through NUI Galway. But these programmes, though effective, have been discontinued. Around the country, there was agreement that once-off pilot projects were of no benefit long term because they created false hope for learners, they created instability for people trying to work in Adult Education and the good practice was never mainstreamed.

It was also pointed out that those in rural areas are disadvantaged in other ways. IT facilities, which would help with access to a whole range of opportunities for adults, are unavailable or unaffordable. Having open IT centres in the community was a suggested solution. It was also

noted that supports needed for adults in Gaeltacht areas, such as materials in Irish, are not widely available.

Education for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

At the Galway meeting the issue of education for refugees and asylum seekers was highlighted as two of the adult learners who gave an input were African women living now in Longford. They were unable to progress with their education through the VEC system beyond basic levels. However, it seems that a key access point has been in the Community Education sector, where provision is relevant to immigrants and is also free and therefore accessible. Local Community groups also provide childcare and other supports which women in particular need. Expanding the funding and support to these groups in order to support their work with refugees and other groups would therefore be useful.

Progression Routes and Post Leaving Cert Courses (PLC)

The cap on PLC places was a major issue at all of the regional meetings. All participants strongly criticised the proposed freezing of numbers in the sector, pointing to the huge successes of the PLC sector in catering for adults seeking to access low-cost education opportunities at local level. A number of the learners who contributed to the regional meetings were in the PLC system and were able to demonstrate its value first hand.

At the Laois meeting for example, it was pointed out that there are few progression options in the Laois area beyond Leaving Cert other than the PLC colleges. Commuting to Carlow or Athlone IT would be the only viable alternative, and this does not suit all of the adults in the area. Other adult learning schemes have criteria attached such as the requirement to be long-term unemployed, which not everyone is. Some of the Laois learners were trying to get into third level from PLC but this involved travel to Dublin.

It was felt very strongly that capping the PLC places would take away the *only real local option* for adults in the midlands and other areas at the present time.

There was also debate about higher education and its culture, and whether or not it is sufficiently geared towards adults. The PLC colleges have proved successful in providing an adult-friendly environment where people can learn comfortably. It was therefore suggested that third level institutes might learn a lot from the PLC sector in this regard.

Investment in the Sector

The fact that VTOS funding has not increased for many years was highlighted. Yet this programme is very successful, particularly in targeting men, and should be expanded and developed further. The very current issue of the *Back to Education Initiative* and the delay in processing funding was also raised at a number of the meetings. Within the Community Strand there have been difficulties with the 2004 allocation, which was released late. The overall spend also seems to have been reduced. There was also some concern that the ethos of Community Education was being restricted somewhat by the BTEI.

Supports for Adult Learners

The learner inputs at the meetings provided a real sense of what the practical issues are in terms of supports for learners. The *Back to Education Allowance* and other social welfare entitlements for adult students were discussed. There appears to be a difficulty in having the summer period covered by the allowance. Fees, particularly those for self-financing or part

time students, was also identified as a major problem locally. AONTAS is in the early stages of developing proposals for the abolition of part-time fees for certain learner groups.

The anomalies associated with the *Millennium Partnership Fund* were discussed in Limerick. Only those living in Partnership areas can access the fund and this creates further inequality in the education system. In the interest of equity of access and in the context of the wider social justice agenda, this very narrow targeting of funds on a geographic basis doesn't seem to make a lot of sense.

Guidance and information supports are needed especially out in the community and this is something that could really benefit from Councillors' support. There are real difficulties in reaching isolated communities and building relationships with potential learners in those communities which no amount of programme availability will solve. Only really intensive ground work will help. Community education and its models are particularly effective in larger counties like Donegal in reaching those most isolated. Funding for outreach work and intensive pre-development work is needed to reach those most excluded from education.

As is always the case, the huge problems faced by adult learners in accessing childcare were highlighted across the country. The effect of the cutbacks in VEC childcare funding in 2003 was named as a particular blow to the sector. Adults were said to be declining places on courses due to lack of childcare places. Another problem, and raised not for the first time, is the lack of childcare attached to the *Back to Education Initiative*. Although it is meant as a flexible programme, learners still need childcare to access it. The fact that only registered childminders can be used in order to claim a childcare allowance is also an issue.

Linking Adult Education to Other Local Government Services

Those attending the regional meetings identified Local Councillors as being in a unique position to knit the issues of Adult and Community Education into the provision of other local services. Councillors can influence the development of integrated services where other groups might only be able to progress an individual agenda. In this sense, it was seen as vitally important that local representatives not only understood the Adult Education agenda, but that they clearly see the links to other aspects of local public and social services.

As an example, the growing number of un-serviced housing estates emerging around the country was discussed. The fact that few education or childcare facilities are provided for the residents of these estates was seen as a major problem. Councillors had a real role to play in addressing this lack of services and in ensuring education and childcare facilities were integral to all future developments. Part of the work of local Adult Education providers must be to bring such issues to the attention of politicians on a continuous basis.

AONTAS is urging all local Councillors, including those who attended these meetings, to bring these issues to the attention of their parties and to support the Adult Education agenda. This report will be sent to all Councillors who supported the campaign, some of whom were unable to attend the meetings in person.

Local Election Campaign Follow Up: What Next?

At the close of each regional meeting, participants were urged to take away the campaign material and use it to the full extent possible. AONTAS is now urging its members to use the *Your Education Your Vote!* Campaign as a starting point from which to develop a strong local Adult Education lobby. It is vital that we continue to strengthen our profile in the run up to the next General Election to ensure a continued political commitment to the Adult Education Agenda.

Actions that we recommend our members now take are:

- Identify your Local Councillors, contact them and build a picture of their interests and roles. Maintain this contact as regularly as possible.
- Inform your Local Councillors about Adult Education issues, about your work and about your service users. Invite Councillors to your Centre to engage with your work.
- Encourage Councillors to feed your issues up through their party structures so that Adult Education is knitted into policy development. Monitor progress on this.
- Get copies of your Local County or City Development Board Ten Year Strategy and see where Lifelong Learning and Education fit in. Consider where the work of your group or Centre fits in with this Strategy.
- Identify the key workers in the County or City Development Board structure and make contact with them. Check to see that actions in Board Strategies are carried through.
- Explore all the options for you and your group in terms of participating in VEC structures, County Development Board Learning Forums and other local representative bodies.
- Use the opportunity provided by **European Year of Citizenship through Education 2005** to examine the role of Adult Education in promoting local democracy. Start exploring possible projects now.
- Raise the profile of your Centre and work by engaging with local media.

The importance of getting a real commitment from politicians, especially at local level, to the development of Adult and Community Education should not be underestimated. AONTAS continues to do this at national level, but we need groups to lobby at local level also. In this way we can build a really effective lobby.

Participants at the Regional Meetings

Contributing Learners

Mary Kirby	Forum Connemara
Noel Maher	VTOS Galway City VEC
Linda Mensah	Longford Women's Link
Edith Durojaiye	Longford Women's Link
Martina Tuite	City of Limerick VEC
Willie Henihan	University of Limerick
Anita Liston	Southill Family Resource Centre
Rosemary Gibson	Letterkenny IT
Michael Costello	Co. Donegal VEC
Veronica Curran	Co. Donegal VEC
Gareth Jenkins	Abbeyleix FE Centre
Caitriona Ryan	Abbeyleix FE Centre
Catherine Delaney	Go Leir Women's Group Co Carlow

Marie O'Shaughnessy
Annette Lalor
Olga Collins
Rita Sweeney
Christina Maloney

Mountmellick FE Centre
Mountmellick FE Centre
Trinity Access Programme
Clondalkin Women's Community Education Forum
Inchicore FE College

Participant List

Galway 21 April

Trisha Venegas
Patricia Kirwan Doyle
Anne Moran
Noel Maher
Mary Kirby
Pauline McDermott
Breda Brennan
Linda Mensah
Edith Durojaiye
Patricia Roullier
Mary Toher
Eleanor Fitzmaurice
Breda Lymer
John Gilligan
Micheal O hUiginn
Sean Conlon
Declan Renbey
Donal Walsh
Maire Ui Ghiobuin
Maire Brookfield
Breda Cahill
Eleanor Hough
Teresa Conneely
Imelda Byrne
Pat Higgins
Mary McGrath
Sheila Donnellan
Frank Scott
Naula McGuinn
Ursula McMorro Clarke
Eithne NicDhonnachada
Mary Quinn

NUIG Student
Maam Women's group
Maam Women's Group
VTOS Learner
Forum Letterfrack
CEF Co. Mayo VEC
Galway City Partnership
Longford Women's Centre
Longford Women's Centre
Longford Women's Centre
Co. Longford VEC
Sligo IT
West Training and Development

Galway City Council
Co. Clare VEC
City of Galway VEC
City of Galway VEC
Cumas Teo Pairtiocht Chonamara & Arainn
Community Workers Cooperative
Western Women's Link

Lisdoonvarna Secondary School
Access Officer NUI Galway
Co. Mayo VEC
Mercy Secondary School Galway
Co. Galway VEC
Co. Mayo VEC
NUI Galway
Western Health Board
Co. Galway VEC

Election Candidates and

Val Hanly

Councillors

Fianna Fail

Kieran Cunnane
Eoin Brady
Ann Marie Carroll
Colette Connolly

Green Party
Sinn Fein
Sinn Fein
Labour Party

Limerick 22 April

Josephine Sheedy
William Henihan
Rosemarie Fitzgerald
Joanna Wagstaff
Raymond Fahy
Mary Flannery
Eithne Cunneen
Sean O' Connor
Julie Barkman
Martina Tuite
Ruth Smith
Breda English
Maire Kerrane
Catherine Alymer
Willie Crowe
Brenda McKenna
Martina Byrne
Paul Patton
Joly Batley
Waishine Cross
Mary Fitzpatrick
Anita Liston
Dermot Mahon
Sean Treacy
Eamon Clancy
Anne Cahill
Antoinette Coffey
Patrick O Riordan
Catherine Flanagan

Limerick Community Education Network / Moyross
Learner UL
Suaimhneas Moyross

Presentation Family Centre
City of Limerick VEC
City of Limerick VEC
Co. Cork VEC
LES
City of Limerick VEC
Tipperary Women's Network
Tipperary Women's Network
City of Limerick VEC
LCEN / Our Lady of Lourdes CDP
Co. Limerick VEC
City of Limerick VEC
Eiri Corca Baiscinn Ltd. Kilkee
Limerick Senior College
PAUL Partnership
Limerick Women's Network
Southill Family Resource Centre
Southill Family resource Centre
Galway Co. Council
City of Limerick VEC
LIT Students Union
Southill Family Resource Centre
North Tipperary VEC

Our Lady of Lourdes CDP

Therese O Shaughnessy	Youthreach
Carmel Stokes	Home School Liaison Galrone NS
Thomas Griffin	Learner
Loretta O Brien	Ballynanty Resource Centre
Carmel Sheridan	City of Limerick VEC

Election Candidates and Councillors

Trish Forde-Brennan	Green Party
Ursula B. Stokes	Fianna Fail
Maurice Quinlivan	Sinn Fein
Diarmuid Scully	Fine Gael
Mary Jackman	Fine Gael
John Ryan	Labour Party

Donegal 5 May

Michael McElhinney	----
Joyce Burns	Co. Donegal VEC
Dolores Mhic Geidigh	Co. Donegal VEC
Caroline O Rourke	Co. Donegal VEC
Finola Brennan	Donegal Women's Network
Michael Costello	VEC student
Phil Coyne	----
Noel Bradley	Mevagh Resource Centre
Meabh MhicGairbheith	Co. Donegal VEC
Martina Needham	Co. Donegal VEC
Sean O'Connor	Cobh Town Council
Helen McHugh	Co. Donegal VEC
Marietta Herraghty	Mevagh Resource Centre
Marion Buchanan	Mevagh Resource Centre
Josephine McGready	Co. Sligo VEC
Crona Gallagher	Co. Donegal VEC
Sean Debney	Donegal Adult Guidance Service
Anne McCaughan	VTOS
Veronica Curran	VTOS
Brid McIntyre	Co. Donegal VEC
Eileen Stevens	----
Norah Collins	----
Monica Brown	----
Ann Kavanagh	----
Caitriona NiCheallaigh	Lifford Women's Centre
Terri Campbell	----
Christine McHegarty	----
Glynis Duncan	----
Paul Carberry	----

Pat Corcoran	----
Pauline Whoriskey	----
Mary English	Second Chance Education Project
Martin Gormley	Co. Donegal VEC
Kathleen Bonner	Second Chance Education Project
Manus Brennan	Donegal Education Centre
Claire Gallin	Donegal Travellers project
Nora Newell	Letterkenny Women's Centre

Election Candidates and

Councillors

Sean Reilly	Labour Party
Marie Hainsworth	Ind. Women's Human Rights (European Candidate)
Francis Conaghan	Fianna Fail
Khris Veldman	Progressive Democrats
Frank Gallagher	Green Party
Neil Clarke	Green Party
David Alcorn	Fianna Fail
Marian Metcalfe	Fine Gael
Paddy Gildea	Fine Gael

Laois 12 May

Martha Bolger	Co. Kilkenny VEC
Caitriona Ryan	Abbeyleix FE Centre
Susan Dunne	Co. Kildare VEC
Pauline Hooks	Portarlinton
Bridie McNulty	Portarlinton
Gareth Jenkins	Abbeyleix FE Centre
Helen Flynn	Waterford City Adult Education Centre
Maureen Brennan	Ballyroon
Peggy Byrne	Arles Community Group
Mary Fenlon	Arles Art Group
Kit Farrell	Ballylinan CC
Mary Daly	Ballylinan CC
Ann McNamara	Manor Road Mountmellick
Marian Duffy	Co. Carlow VEC
Marie O'Shaughnessy	Mountmellick FE Centre
Rosemary Fox	Tullamore College
Toni Deegan	Stradbally Flower Club
Jackie Stapleton	Laois Youth Services
Annette Lalor	Mountmellick FE
Teresa McEvoy	Co. Laois VEC
Vera Donohoe	Stradbally Flower Club
Catherine Delaney	Go Leir Women's Group

Germaine Cahill	Co. Laois VEC
Anne O Keeffe	Co. Laois VEC
Deborah Ryan	North Tipperary VEC
Ann Whelan	Waterford County VEC
Helen Rafferty	Waterford City VEC
E. Kinch	Co. Louth VEC
Elizabeth Quinn	NAPS
Lindsey Butler	Co. Kilkenny Council
Jackie Carter	Abbeyleix FE Centre

Election Candidates and	Councillors
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Matt Diskin	Green Party
Ray Cribben	Fianna Fail
Larry Kavanagh	Labour Party
Mary Sweeney	Fine Gael
Catherine Fitzgerald	Fianna Fail
Michael Lalor	Fine Gael
Helen Kelly	Progressive Democrats
Brian Stanley	Sinn Fein
James Deegan	Fine Gael
Caroline Fitzpatrick Mulhall	Progressive Democrats

Dublin 13 May

Tom Hussey	Co. Galway VEC
Brid Connolly	NUI Maynooth
Valerie O'Carroll	Clondalkin Women's Centre
Celia O'Shaughnessy	Clondalkin Women's Community Education Forum
Margaret Hessian	Clondalkin Women's Community Education Forum
Maria O'Donoghue	Women Together Tallaght Network
Mary Faughnan	Co. Kildare VEC
Avril Lynch	Carlow Youth Training
Catherine McInerney	Ballymun Men's Centre

Jennifer Flynn	The Shanty
Yves Chavanne	Blanchardstown Men's Group
Rosie McDonnell	Finglas Arts Squad
Grainne Whitty	Finglas Arts Squad
Michelle Culligan	Finglas Artsquad
Fionnuala Richardson	People's College
Sinead Howard	Board Iascaigh Mhara
Maura	Catholic Youth Care
Maire Bergin	DCU PhD
Megan van Geldara	Co. Dublin VEC
Mary	Cork County VEC
Katherine Donnelly	Irish Independent
Noel Connor	----
Annie Dillon	NWCI
Margaret Carty	----
Brendan Carty	----
Sonia Kadima	Fingal Adult Literacy Centre
Vivienne Glanville	Clondalkin Women's Community Education Forum
Rita Sweeney	Clondalkin Women's Community Education Forum
Emily Smartt	Bawnogue Women's Group
Betty Watson	St. Andrew's Adult Education
Christina Maloney	Inchicore FE College
Paula Faller	Inchicore FE College
Stephen McCarthy	CDVEC
Carmel O'Grady	Co. Monaghan Partnership
Olga Collins	Trinity Access Programme
Wendy Delaney	Clondalkin Women's Study Group
N O'Driscoll	----
Rhona Sleater	Dochas for Women Monaghan
June Tinsley	INOU
Kay Bailey	Ruhama
Annette Ennis	Women Together Tallaght Network
Helen Murray	Women Together Tallaght Network
J O' Reilly	Home Schools Community Liaison
Liz Cleves	Dublin City University
Olive Dixon	Little Bray Family Resource Centre

Election Candidates and

Daithi Doolan
Chris O' Malley
Kristina McElroy

Councillors

Sinn Fein
Labour Party
Green Party