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# Roscommon people

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02 July 2010



**Dermot Earley laid to rest**  
SEE INSIDE

The Local Paper

Volume: 174



James Hussey was pictured at Ballinlough Festival last weekend. Pic: Mick McCormack.

# CHAOS IN THE CHAMBER AS MING ELECTED MAYOR

■ Seamus Duke

Amid chaotic scenes, much bitterness and several of the most heated rows witnessed in the Council chamber for many years, Castlereagh/Ballaghaderreen area Independent councillor Luke 'Ming' Flanagan was elected Mayor of Roscommon County Council on Monday last.

His election followed the demise of the Fianna Fáil/Independents/Sinn Féin alliance, which was exclusively revealed in last week's Roscommon People. In its place now is a Fine Gael/HAC/Sinn Féin/Cllr. Flanagan coalition that came about after the HAC contacted all Independent councillors on



Mayor Luke Ming Flanagan

the hospital issue over the course of recent weeks.

The most heated exchanges in many years

were witnessed in the chamber on Monday, as the recriminations spilled over. To the forefront were Councillors Paddy Kilduff, Orla Leyden and Rachel Doherty (Fianna Fail) and HAC Councillors Paula McNamara and Valerie Byrne.

Cllr. Flanagan, on his election as Mayor, pledged to be fair to all – but was quick to turn his ire on the HSE and Minister Michael Finneran.

"I wouldn't believe a word out of the HSE. I saw it at first-hand when my mother was in a hospital in Galway recently. The conditions were a disgrace. The quicker that the HSE are gone the better," he said, while also accusing Minister Finneran of

ignoring the plight of turf-cutters. *We have full coverage on pages 12 & 13.*

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