

When is the madness going to stop? – Feighan

The 'Centre of Excellence' in University College Hospital Galway is in total chaos, with 29 patients on trolleys on Tuesday afternoon and a nine to 12 month waiting list for surgical tooth extraction, according to Deputy Frank Feighan.

Deputy Frank Feighan called on Mary Harney TD, Minister for Health, and Professor Brendan Drumm, to arrange a visit to University College Hospital, Galway immediately and see at first hand the chaos and despair prevailing in this so-called 'Centre of Excellence'.

"Today while 29 patients wait on trolleys for admission

in UCHG seriously ill patients awaiting heart surgery and other types of major surgery wait in desperation at home while admissions are cancelled every single day

"The explanation from the hospital re recent cancellations is 'it is unfortunate but these people are 'bumped' by patients who presented themselves at A&E and have managed to slot in for surgery instead of the scheduled admissions'.

"Our health service is so chaotic sick patients realise the only way forward is to present at A&E; very often when these patients are seen by medical staff alarm bells begin to ring,

their health has deteriorated so badly while on waiting lists emergency surgery/treatment has to be immediately put in place, thus resulting in cancellations for scheduled admissions.

"I have been in touch with Minister Harney's office this afternoon in relation to a seriously ill patient who is awaiting heart surgery and whose admission has been cancelled twice in the last week.

"Following contact with Minister Harney's office I was informed that hospital admissions have nothing to do with the Dept. of Health, it is a HSE problem and it was recom-



Deputy Frank Feighan.

mended I should contact Prof. Drumm's Office. On making contact with Mr. Drumm's office I was informed they do not deal with any of these queries

and said it was a query for the Regional Director of HSE Operations for the West who was not in his office.

"Finally I was informed by a Manager in UCHG that today's surgery had to be cancelled due to the fact there was no ICU bed available for recovery in this 'Centre of Excellence'. Today's scheduled surgery is re-arranged for Thursday, thus resulting in cancellation for Thursday's patients.

"UCHG Centre of Excellence has a nine-month waiting list for the extraction of a tooth under anaesthetic due to the fact there is only one oral dental surgeon in the West while Lim-

erick have two such surgeons. Recently I was informed by the hospital that a person with an infection in her wisdom tooth who was in constant pain and her GP had refused to give any more antibiotics, would have to wait nine months from the date of the initial appointment when it was decided surgical extraction was necessary. Despite the seriousness of the case there was nothing that could be done to relieve the pain or provide assistance.

"When is all this madness going to stop and someone take responsibility for our Health Services?" asks Deputy Feighan.

Free wine talk at Gleeson's

On Wednesday next, July 7th, Hugh Murray, Sales Director of Classic Drinks will do a wine talk at Gleeson's Townhouse & Restaurant and his topic for the evening will be 'Summer time and the living is easy'.

He will focus on wines that are suitable for drinking on these lovely long summer days. The focus will not be on the usual culprits but more on the lesser-known grape varieties such as muscato, torrentes, and sangiovese. He always believes that wine is for communication and having fun and learning about what life has got to offer. It's not about getting serious and having to know what side of the hill the grapes were grown or how long it was fermenting. The event is free and is taking place in Gleeson's Townhouse at 8 pm on Wednesday 7th July. All the wines that are showcased and tasted on the night will be available to purchase. For further details contact Gleeson's Townhouse on (090) 66 26954.

Summer works scheme welcomed

Work will be conducted on 19 of the county's schools over the summer months, a fact welcomed this week by both Minister Michael Finneran and Senator Terry Leyden. The following work is to be undertaken: Structural improvements at Cloonfour NS, Rooskey; work on the external environment at Tarmon NS, Castlereagh; new windows at SN Naomh Padraig, Ballyfarnon; new toilets at Kiltewan NS; roof work at St. Padraig's NS, Beal Atha na mBuilli; roof work at St. Mary's Convent NS, Roscommon; new windows at Tibohine NS, work on the external environment at St. Joseph's BNS, Boyle; roof work at Carrick NS, Ballinlough; mechanical work at Abbey Boys NS, Roscommon; windows at Strokes-town NS, new toilets at Brusna NS, mechanical work at St. Attracta's NS, Kingsland; new toilets at St. John's NS, Lecarrow; roof work at St. Teresa's NS, Corrigeanroe; new toilets at St. Ciaran's NS, electrical work at Abbeycartron NS, Elphin; roof work at Elphin Community College and curricular requirements at Roscommon Community School, Lisnamult.



Burst pipe causes damage to school

A burst water pipe at Convent of Mercy NS in Roscommon caused extensive damage to the school this week.

The damage was discovered on Monday morning and pupils at the school received their summer holidays two days early as a result. Classrooms and the staff room were damaged by flooding.

Parents of pupils at the school were on hand on Monday and Tuesday to move items of furniture and it is understood that the school will be ready to re-open on August 31st.



Ballymurray NS wins Cycle to School competition

85 percent of the pupils at Ballymurray NS cycled to school on Friday, 18th of June, winning the county prize offered by Roscommon Sports Partnership to mark National Bike Week.

Over the course of Bike Week, hundreds of local people took part in the events such as cycle safety training, a family fun cycle, a 100 km cycle, and cycle to work and cycle to

school. 140 children participated in cycle safety training and 410 pupils from schools throughout the county took part in the cycle to school competition, which was won by Ballymurray NS,

where 85 percent of the pupils cycled to school on Friday, 18th June.

In total over 700 people of all ages took part in the Bike Week events.

Council pays tribute to Dermot Earley

■ Seamus Duke

Warm tributes to the late Dermot Earley were paid at the start of this week's annual general meeting of Roscommon County Council.

Outgoing Mayor Cllr. Tony Ward said that he knew Dermot Earley since 1970. "What struck me about Dermot Earley was his honesty and decency as a person. He reached the very top in his sporting and army career and it is a tragedy that he has passed away at such a young age because he had so much more to offer. He is a huge loss to Roscommon to the GAA and to Ireland."

Fine Gael Cllr. Michael Creaton said that he had played with Dermot Earley many years ago when he played with Michael Glavey's. "He was a superb man in every walk of life. He was a frequent visitor to the parish and he never forgot his roots," he said.

Fianna Fáil Cllr. Eugene Murphy said that Dermot Earley was Roscommon's greatest ever person. "Everything he did on and off the field was done in a respectful and dignified way. He was the most helpful man you

could meet and I want to send my deepest sympathy to his family."

Independent Cllr. Tom Crosby said that Dermot Earley was a superb ambassador for County Roscommon. "I'm thrilled that he was the first man that we conferred the honour of freeman of the county. There was no-one more deserving," he said.

Sinn Féin Cllr. Michael Mulligan said that he was friends with the late Dermot Earley since their school days. "We played football together in St. Nathy's and we remained friends over the years. He always found the time to call in to me over the years and although we wouldn't agree on everything we always remained friends. He was one gentleman," he said.

HAC Cllr. Valerie Byrne said that she was delighted that Roscommon County Council had conferred the freedom of Roscommon on him. "He was a great ambassador for County Roscommon and for Ireland.

He was a man that spanned the generations. He was equally at home with young children or people his own age. He could get on with anyone. He was also a great family

man and his wife Mary was always by his side," she said.

Fine Gael Cllr. Michael McGreal said that the death of Dermot Earley was very sad for County Roscommon. He proposed that the County Council set up a bursary or scholarship in memory of the late Dermot Earley. The proposal was supported unanimously.

Independent Cllr. Luke 'Ming' Flanagan said that as a child he remembered being at Dermot's last game for Roscommon in 1985. "To children like us, we thought it was the end of the world that Dermot Earley would not be playing again. He was one of my heroes. We were lucky to have had him."

Labour Cllr. John Kelly said that Dermot Earley was a massive loss to Roscommon and to Ireland. "He would have made a brilliant President of Ireland. He had all the attributes," he said.

County Manager Mr. Frank Dawson offered his sympathy and that of the staff of the county council staff to the family of the late Dermot Earley and the meeting was adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect.

'We all mourn his passing' – Supporters Club

Roscommon GAA Supporters Club in Dublin this week expressed members' deepest sympathy to the family of the late Dermot Earley and to fellow Roscommon supporters everywhere.

"We all mourn his passing. Members of the club attended his funeral and participated

in the GAA Guard of Honour. The Supporters Club in Dublin, since its foundation in 1980, constantly received every encouragement and practical assistance from Dermot. The club honoured Dermot on a number of occasions over the years, including his presence, along with his wife Mary, as guests of

honour at the club's annual Roscommon Dinner in Dublin. He was also honoured by the club on a number of occasions as a member of various Roscommon football panels, including the 1980 Senior Football team and the 1966 Under 21 All-Ireland champions. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.