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advertising@roscommonpeople.ie

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SOCIAL PEOPLE
PAGE 34

MINISTER TO BACK MINERS?

■ Paul Healy
Fine Gael Deputy Frank Feighan believes a major breakthrough may have been achieved yesterday (Wednesday) in the campaign to gain compensation for former Arigna miners. Deputy Feighan met with Minister Eamonn O'Cuiv in Dublin on Wednesday and later that evening told the Roscommon People that he is confident that a more equitable approach to the issue of miners' compensation will result.

"We have been seeking to have a redress board set up that will address miners' compensation...we don't have a commitment on that (yet) but we did have a very good meeting with the Minister and I believe

the issue of disablement pension payments will be more equitable going forward.

"There are over 100 miners and miners' widows who are associated with the Arigna Mines affected by this. The social welfare process has not served many of these people well. I am confident now that people with disabilities-related issues will be dealt with more sympathetically within the law going forward."

A public meeting which will be attended by representatives of the National Coalminers Group will be held in Flynn's of Arigna tonight (Thursday, June 3rd) at which those present will be updated on the ongoing campaign.



Amongst the local well-wishers giving Roscommon Rose of Tralee Deirdre Lenehan an enthusiastic send-off ahead of her participation in the regional finals in Portlaoise this weekend was publican Seamus Hayden, who greeted her on a visit to 'Down the Hatch' on Saturday night last. Deirdre will be joined in this weekend's regional finals by Liverpool Rose Aine Shine, who is a Ballymurray native. The Roscommon People wishes both ladies the very best of luck! Pic: www.hursonphotography.com.

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