



FITNESS THROUGH DANCE

## Athlone

**Wednesday April 21st**  
The Athlone Springs Hotel,  
Athlone

6.30-7.30 Salsa Fit  
7.30-8.30 Zumba Fitness  
8.30-9.30 Hip Hop Fit

€80 for gym members

## Roscommon

**Thursday April 22nd**  
BG Designs Dance Studio,  
Racecourse rd.  
Roscommon

6.30-7.30 Salsa Fit  
7.30-8.30 Zumba Fitness  
8.30-9.30 Hip Hop Fit

10 week course for €110

**Early Bird**  
Book in advance & get

**€20**  
Discount

Tel: 091 867821

Email: info@dancefusion.ie

www.dancefusion.ie



Fiona and Niamh Madden from Roscommon heading off to the sun on the inaugural flight to Faro-Algarve from Ireland West Airport Knock. Photo: Mick McCormack.

## Feighan, Naughten call for action on turf cutting

Local Fine Gael TDs Denis Naughten and Frank Feighan have both spoken out this week on the turf cutting controversy.

The Government must allow turf cutting to continue on all designated bogs this year to at least allow local communities to consider the report which was presented to the Minister for the Environment last Friday, claims Denis Naughten TD.

"The Department of the Environment has stated that this report has to go to Government and it will then be published, yet it seems to be proceeding with its ban on turf cutting on the 32 designated bogs in the interim," stated Denis Naughten.

"This is just not acceptable and I'm calling on Minister Finneran, the Senior Fianna Fail Minister in the Department of the Environment, to at least ensure that implementation of the recommendations of the turf cutting working group is postponed until full consideration is given to the report by the communities affected.

"It is totally unacceptable that the report can be presented to the Department of the Environment, and that it will proceed with its ban before the report is considered by Cabinet.

Fine Gael Roscommon/South Leitrim TD Frank Feighan challenged Environment Minister John Gormley in the Dáil to extend turf-cutting rights.

Speaking after he debated the matter with the Minister, Deputy Feighan said, "Minister Gormley told me he expects to see the report and recommendations of the group set up to look at the cessation of turf cutting on 32 raised bogs in the coming days. He will then conclude his considerations on the matter as quickly as possible with

a view to making his proposals available to Government without delay.

"The country is in a state of emergency. Turf cutting is a European issue, an economic issue, and a national issue. Minister Gormley should now extend the turf cutting derogations in view of the difficult times we are living in. It mainly affects rural families who have the opportunity to provide for their own fuel. They could essentially be denied the right to cut turf to heat their homes.

"I have asked Minister Gormley to work with the people involved to try to get a situation where people can continue to cut turf for domestic purposes. There is no scientific evidence to show that turf cutting would affect the bogs concerned.

"Why should people have to pay a carbon tax, and then be denied the right to carry on a centuries old tradition? The areas of conservation were determined many years ago. For almost two years now the turf cutters and many politicians have asked the Department of the Environment to produce these maps. The Department refused. The Minister claims the maps have now been made available to the Oireachtas Environment Committee. This comes as a considerable surprise. Why did the Department refuse to produce the maps in the last year and a half?

"Minister Gormley should look at ways to facilitate turf cutters for domestic purposes. I have asked them to work with the people affected. He should also compensate commercial turf cutters whose businesses have been affected. There is so much anger about this matter, it could boil over if it goes unaddressed."