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European Transplant and Dialysis games fundraiser

A bowling night will take place this Friday night, 9th July in Roscommon Leisure Zone at 7pm in aid of Roscommon athletes participating in the European Transplant and Dialysis Games which will be held in August. Team of 4 are €60. For more information contact Monica on (086) 1556608 or Pat on (086) 8210333. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



The new Fine Gael front bench.

Feighan ready for place at the Cabinet Table

Even if a general election is precipitated in the coming months, Deputy Frank Feighan said that he hopes to be ready for the challenge of sitting at the Cabinet Table.

This follows his elevation last week to the ranks of the Fine Gael front bench, as front bench spokesperson on community, equality and Gaeltacht affairs. Deputy Feighan's rise through the ranks in Fianna Fáil has been steady. Just eleven years ago, in 1999, he was first elected to Roscommon County Council. Three years later, in 2002, he was elected to the Seanad, spending five years in the house before being elected as Dáil Deputy for Roscommon/South Leitrim in 2007. Active in Roscommon GAA Supporters Club, he is also a former officer with Roscommon Soccer League and was a member of a cup-winning team with Boyle Celtic. Prior to his full-time involvement in politics, he was actively involved in running newsagents, pubs and a restaurant, employing up to 30 people, business experience which he says he will now bring to his political role. In terms of political background, both of Deputy Feighan's grandfathers, James Feely and Felix Feighan, were

Naughten congratulates colleague Feighan

Speaking following Frank Feighan's appointment as Fine Gael Spokesperson on Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Roscommon South Leitrim TD Denis Naughten, *right*, warmly congratulated Frank Feighan on his elevation.

"It is always an honour for a constituency to have one of its own TDs hold a key appointment on the shadow benches and I know that the people of Roscommon/South Leitrim will be well represented in Fine Gael's policy development," stated Denis Naughten.

"This is a great honour for Frank, and I want to take this opportunity to extend my good wishes to him in this new and challenging role. I look forward to working with Deputy Feighan in the interests of the people of both Roscommon and South Leitrim."



imprisoned during the War of Independence and he cites Garret FitzGerald as the person who drew him towards Fine Gael.

"While the odds are still long as to when a General Election might come about, Fine Gael are ready to take office and take the country out of recession," said Deputy Feighan.

"Fine Gael is ready for a general election; we have a good team, front bench and backbench in place and we have our policies out there. I think we need to provide an alternative, people are looking for an alternative, and I'd like to think that people are now

looking at Fine Gael as that alternative to lead the country out of recession."

"We face challenging times but under Fine Gael I hope to use my position at the Cabinet Table to first of all, do the right thing for the country and secondly, not to forget the burning issues in counties such as Roscommon and Leitrim, issues like unemployment and to make sure that the constituency will not be forgotten.

"I have been asked many times if I had predicted such a swift elevation on being elected to the Dáil in 2007. I approach life with an open view, it

is like a roller coaster with many ups and downs and this is an opportunity, that without me even looking for it, has happened and I will grasp it with vigour and enthusiasm.

Deputy Feighan says the Party has remained united and "didn't self-destruct" following the recent leadership challenge which, he says was dealt with maturely by all involved and saw the party and its leader emerge in a stronger position.

"Since my appointment I have already met with a number of agencies and I am already prioritising the creation of jobs in

rural communities and the need to support the small business sector."

"I have a concern over the withdrawal of funding for community development groups and agencies, which are the backbone of community development and this will be one of the first things that I will be raising with Minister Pat Carey, whom I have already had discussions with.

"Securing improved infrastructure, such as broadband in rural areas, is key to creating jobs in rural communities and will be one of the issues of priority for me."

"We need to attract new jobs to rural communities and certainly the rollout of broadband needs to be accelerated to support the small businesses and cottage industries already in place and to encourage other to relocate to our communities and create new jobs," declared Deputy Feighan.

Deputy Feighan will also assume responsibility for community and rural development, equality issues, tackling drug misuse, the development of the Gaeltacht and islands, the promotion and maintenance of the Irish language and north/south co-operation.

Progress on Clonark Garda Station

It is anticipated that tenders for the Garda station in Clonark are to be placed within the coming weeks, according to local TD Denis Naughten.

"I understand that tenders for construction and refurbishment works at Clonark Garda Station have been received and are currently being evaluated by the Office of Public Works," stated Denis Naughten.

"This project has already been subject to numerous delays, most recently with the delay in seeking tenders. The local community is anxious that this project would proceed without any further delays as it will increase the Garda availability in the area, something that will be welcomed by those who are elderly and vulnerable," stated Deputy Naughten.