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Roscommon people

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ROSE LAUNCH!
SEE PAGE 25

The Local Paper

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'Mast critics wrong' – Naughten



Daniel's a winner

Five-year-old Daniel Henry pictured with his painting entitled 'Watermelon Delight' which won him second prize and a cheque for €125 in the six years and under age category in this year's 56th Texaco Children's Art Competition. Daniel (centre) who lives in Clonown is pictured with (left to right) his sister Gemma, father Patrick, mother Paula and brother Patrick Jr. at a reception to announce the winners held in Dublin Castle recently.

■ Paul Healy

A local TD has delivered a firm rebuke this week to a community group's ongoing criticism of his response to a mast controversy.

In an interview with the Roscommon People this week (see pages 20 & 21), both Michael Hussey and Michael Lambert of the Oran Donamon Action Group have repeated previous claims that both Deputy Naughten and Minister Michael Finneran have not been supportive enough of their campaign against the siting of an Eircom mast just thirty metres from the home of Michael and Claire Hussey. Roscommon County Council refused planning for the mast but this decision was overturned by An Bord Pleanala.

Deputy Naughten, who said he was disappointed



Denis Naughten, TD, posing for the Roscommon Lamb Festival Cook-off.

to hear of the latest comments, strongly rejected the criticism when he spoke to the Roscommon People on Wednesday night. Minister Finneran was unavailable for comment.

Deputy Naughten said he has been making representations on the issue for over two years. Most recently, he met with rep-

resentatives of the community on 16th March in Ballydooley. "At that meeting I was requested to have the Bord Pleanala decision reviewed in light of serious concerns raised by the committee. I pointed out that it was my understanding that the Minister for the Environment was prohibited from interfering in a decision of the Bord but that I would be in the Dáil on 18th March and would confirm the legal situation.

"That evening, on my way home from Dublin, I left a message for the committee chairperson pointing out that the legal situation was that the Minister could not interfere in the decision of the Bord.

"As a member of Dáil Eireann for the past 13 years I have always made it my policy to be honest with any person who sought my help. If I could provide assistance I tried to do my best

and if it was not possible to do so, for legal or other reasons, I was upfront and pointed this fact out.

"I will make no apology for telling people the factual situation and not just what they want to hear.... I don't make fools out of anyone and I have no wish to make fools out of anyone on the committee."

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