

Finneran rejects Feighan's criticism on jobs

"Fine Gael has once again chosen to ignore the many initiatives introduced by the Government to create and support employment," according to Fianna Fáil TD for Roscommon-South Leitrim and Minister for Housing and Local Services, Michael Finneran.

Responding to Deputy Frank Feighan's comments that the Government lacks a jobs strategy Minister Finneran said: "The Government has introduced an array of measures aimed at getting people back to work. Clearly, it suits the Fine Gael party's agenda to simply ignore these initiatives."

Minister Finneran said: "Over the past 18 months we have introduced a number of significant training and labour supports. These include the Employment Subsidy Scheme, which is expected to safeguard 80,000 jobs and the Enterprise Stabilisation Fund, which supported over 7,500 jobs last year alone. We are also investing almost €40 billion over the next six years in labour intensive projects, providing up to 70 thousand jobs."

"In order to help people who wish to retrain and up-skill, we have increased the number of activation places from 66,000 in 2008 to 157,

000 this year. Some 230 civil service jobs are moving to Roscommon via the decentralisation of the Property Registration Authority offices, a process that Fine Gael has opposed.

"The Fine Gael party is in no position to lecture Fianna Fáil on its jobs strategy given the numerous flaws in their own New-Era document. In what can only be described as 'bad economics' Fine Gael has proposed raiding the National Pension Reserve Fund, increasing borrowing, creating four new quangos and selling state assets at a time when prices are depressed.

"It has also emerged that there is much un-

certainty surrounding Fine Gael's plans to fund New-Era. The architect of this strategy, Deputy Simon Coveney, has recently admitted that he has no idea how much the state assets he proposes selling will fetch on the open market.

"It is clear from the broad range of enterprise and employment supports on offer that Fianna Fáil in Government remains fully committed to tackling unemployment head on. This pro-active approach contrasts starkly with the flawed proposals of Fine Gael," Minister Finneran concluded.



Shane and Dominic Regan of Regan's Bar, The Square, Roscommon, who were sponsors of best turned out horses in all races at Roscommon on Monday, presenting the cheque to Shane Fleming, Chairman Roscommon Race Committee.



Dermot Hughes presenting the Dermot Hughes Toyota Car Sales Novice trophy to Pat Fahey, winner of the fifth race at Roscommon on Sunday. Also in picture are Charlie Swan, John Fordham, John Hughes, Nuala Hughes, Michael O'Grady and Bernard Gillane.

Sadness follows death of Mick Quigley

There was widespread sadness over a wide area last weekend at news of the death of one of the best-known and best-loved characters in the Roscommon Town area Michael (Mick) Quigley of Lanesboro Street.

Aged in his mid fifties, and a butcher by trade, Michael Quigley had battled illness for over a decade yet he was

a very well known for his love of outdoor pursuits like shooting and fishing and he was involved in local shooting, fishing and conservation clubs over many years.

Michael was the recipient of a Roscommon People of the Year award for his achievements some years ago and he was one of the popular people in the town and

further afield.

The huge crowds that attended the removal, funeral Mass and burial was a mark of the esteem in which the late Michael Quigley was held. Michael is survived by his wife Marian by his brothers JJ, James, Tom, Gerard, and Anthony and sisters Maura, Francie and Regina and relatives and friends.

Medieval Midsummer Festival in Tulsk

Cruachan Aí Heritage Centre will again this year celebrate the history and heritage of the Medieval village of Tulsk, situated in the Rathcroghan Royal Complex (nominated last month for inclusion on

the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage Status, along with other provincial royal sites such as Tara). A weekend of talks, tours, and family fun is planned for Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th June.

Tibohine Action Group vow not to give up

Members of Tibohine Action Group have vowed to fight plans for a biopark in the Tibohine area and are set to meet on the issue on Friday night next.

The action group was formed in response to a plan by Bio Power Ltd. to locate a biopark at Ballinaphuill, Tibohine. A tense and sometimes heated meeting was held in Tibohine Parish Hall on Saturday last, attended by approximately 240 people. Speaking at the meeting, Tony Dineen of Bio Power said that the quantities of waste involved had been blown out of proportion and he

said that there would be 12 traffic movements per day to the property, six in and six out.

Landowner Kevin Flynn refuted any suggestion that he was being greedy and said that bio gas is the way to go. He said that the new plant would create jobs and sustainable small industries.

Chairperson of Tibohine Action Group, Verone Donohue, told Roscommon People, "There is a lot of support for the group since the meeting. People weren't aware of what was going in there, they thought it was just rape seed, barley and

oats. They didn't realise that an application was being made for a waste licence.

"We are still doing our homework. We have an action group meeting on Friday night to see where we go from here. A lot of submissions are going in to the EPA from people in the area and we will have to see what the EPA decide.

Ms. Donohue also said that the company now has to apply for planning permission in relation to the project, which will cause further delay. She also refuted any suggestion that the group is open to talks.

"We are not open to talks," said Ms. Donohue, who pointed out that the company said previously that it would go ahead even with local opposition.

"The company has to go back to the Council for planning and have to wait for the EPA to give a decision on an application, so we have to wait and see what comes back from that. As we speak people are putting in submissions, so it could take a while.

"We are not going to give up on this, people didn't know what waste was proposed to come in here,"

Health Commission satisfied with local psychiatric unit

■ Seamus Duke

The Mental Health Commission annual report for 2009 has found that in general facilities at the psychiatric unit at Roscommon County Hospital was working satisfactorily although there are a number of issues that need to be addressed.

The main conclusions in the report are: The Department of Psychiatry provided acute admissions from the Roscommon catchment area. It appeared to the Inspectorate team on the day of inspection that a number of residents seemed to be without

activities and were lying on their beds or sitting around.

Whilst it was acknowledged that an occupational therapy assistant worked in the unit, the lack of an on-site occupational therapist contributed to the absence of a needs-based therapeutic environment.

It was of concern to the Inspectorate that children continued to be admitted to this adult unit. It was reported that all requests for admission to St. Anne's Child and Adolescent Unit in Galway were refused due to lack of vacancies there.

There was a reduction in the

number of beds in the unit from 30 to 22 and on the day of the inspection there were 12 residents there. The report notes that the unit is bright clean and well maintained and that the toilet facilities were clean and well kept.

This service had suffered a reduction in staff numbers during the year. This was probably related to the reduction in beds. However, staff reported that those who had left tended to be the more experienced people and the expectation was that this would impact on service delivery in the future.