

## Kelly: Denis has let down the West

Labour Party Councillor John Kelly (*below*), who will contest the next general election, has strongly criticised Denis Naughten's decision to withdraw his support for Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny.

Cllr. Kelly told the Roscommon People: "I am shocked that Denis Naughten would vote against a potential Fine Gael West of Ireland Taoiseach. I don't know how Deputy Naughten has got it so wrong.

"For the benefit of the West of Ireland you need as many people in high places as possible. Denis has let down the West of Ireland. Our only hope of a West of Ireland Taoiseach now is Eamon Gilmore (the Labour leader, who was born in Ahascragh, Co. Galway).

"Unless Denis has done some deal with Richard Bruton on some very important issues – such as Roscommon Hospital – then I believe the stance he has taken was a mistaken one.

"Fine Gael people I have spoken to in Ballaghaderreen are not happy and will vote accordingly. I hope Deputy Naughten's position isn't a response to a Sunday newspaper article which suggested his seat might be under threat from Labour.

"I would like to compliment Frank Feighan, who has stood by the West of Ireland. I am very disappointed in Deputy Naughten."

Asked by the Roscommon People if he is targeting Denis Naughten's seat, Cllr. Kelly responded: "I am targeting a seat."



# Feighan, O'Mahony back Kenny

■ Paul Healy

Roscommon/South Leitrim TD Frank Feighan has appealed for Fine Gael to unite behind their leader – whoever that may be – in the wake of Thursday's Parliamentary Party meeting.

"My position remains that I am supporting Enda Kenny" Deputy Feighan told the Roscommon People on Wednesday. "He's from a neighbouring county. He's a West of Ireland man and I have huge admiration for the job he has done. I like his integrity. I made my position clear early in the day. When Richard (Bruton) contacted me I told him I was supportive of Enda Kenny but that I had huge respect for Richard. I am staying loyal. Should Richard prevail I will support him 100%.

"In relation to Denis

Naughten's stance I respect his view entirely. I respect the views of others. What I would like to see after the vote is Fine Gael uniting. Cool heads should be the order of the day and we need to then take the fight to Fianna Fail."

Meanwhile Ballaghaderreen-based Mayo Fine Gael Deputy John O'Mahony has stated that to fight the next election as a united Party, Fine Gael needs to back Enda Kenny as a proven election winner and a person who rescued the Party from the brink of extinction.

"It is in the clear interests of the country that Fine Gael backs proven election winner Enda Kenny TD to ensure that the current Fianna Fáil Government is banished to the opposition benches for their gross mismanagement of the economy.

"Enda Kenny's achievements in heading up the Party are unmatched by any other Fine Gael leader. In every election Fine Gael has contested under his leadership the Party has increased its vote. Fine Gael

would not be the force it is if were not for Enda Kenny's ability to get the job done on election day, the only day that matters.

"Fine Gael is the largest European Party in Ireland and have more local authority seats than

Fianna Fáil for the first time in the history of the State and that is down to Enda Kenny's leadership. Enda Kenny can do for the country what he did for his Party and lead this country back from the brink."



Deputy Frank Feighan (centre) pictured with Enda Kenny and Denis Naughten in Roscommon town a few months ago.

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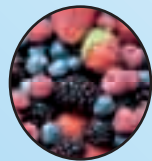


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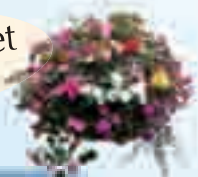


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