

YES, MINISTER:

Thanks for picking my brains – Councillor Kelly

Labour Party councillor John Kelly has warmly welcomed news that the Government is considering major changes to the social welfare system that will allow jobseekers to continue to receive full benefits and work in the private sector, provided that they also carry out community work.

The proposed move has been suggested by Éamon Ó Cuív, the Minister for Social Protection, at the weekend.

The Minister, in an interview with the Sunday Business Post, said he is to roll out a new 'hybrid' social welfare scheme where jobseekers who do 19.5 hours community work per week will be allowed to work legitimately in the private sector.

Cllr. Kelly said: "I said as recently as last week, at the Labour Party meeting in Monksland, Athlone, that some way must be found for the recipients of social welfare to be allowed work.

"There is nothing more demoralising than



Cllr. John Kelly



Minister Eamon O Cuiv

sitting at home, receiving payments and not having the opportunity to go out and work. A person's dignity would be restored immediately by such a move suggested by Minister Ó Cuív and it is something that I have been arguing for, for some considerable time.

"I'm delighted that Minister Ó Cuív is finally realising that there are better ways of doing things and it's great to see the Minister taking on board my ideas on social welfare reform."

Social and Environmental Panel



As part of Coillte's ongoing consultation programme, which forms part of its sustainable forest management initiative, the company is currently establishing a fourth series of Social and Environmental panels, on a district basis. Coillte currently has 13 districts around the country and this district spans East Galway and Roscommon. These panels are intended to provide a consultation forum whereby environmental, social and community groups can provide information and promote their interests in co-operation with Coillte management.

Panels will have six to eight people and will meet at least twice a year. In order to have as broad a representation as possible we are inviting stakeholders to put forward their nominations by 4th June 2010. Panels will be selected by two independent people along with a Coillte staff member.

The Nomination Form is set out below. Self nomination is also allowed.

Gerry Gavin
District Team Leader

NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate _____

of _____ for _____

Signed: _____

Organisation (if appropriate): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Please return to: Gerry Gavin, District Manager, Coillte Teo, Mountbellew, Co. Galway



Tuam Road, Mountbellew, Co. Galway
T. 090 967 9616. F. 090 967 9845

Email: milandsgc@eircom.net



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