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23 April 2010

The Local Paper

Volume: 164

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Rossies are out!
SEE PAGES 53, 54, 55

GAS CALL FUELS KELLY ANGER AT GOVERNMENT

■ Seamus Duke

The Government is neglecting rural Ireland and the latest example is 'evidence' that towns in County Roscommon are not in line to be connected to the national grid to receive natural gas. That's the view of Labour Party Councillor John Kelly who made a barely veiled criticism of local Minister Michael Finneran in the course of lamenting what he said was "very disappointing" news for towns like Ballaghaderreen, Roscommon and Strokestown. An Bord Gais conducted a cost analysis of 29 towns around the country – on whether it would be viable to connect them to the national grid – but only four were identified as being suitable in Phase 3 of the plan.

Cllr. Kelly said that the four towns deemed eligible all have ministers in their area. Referring to Minister Michael Finneran, he added: "There is no political power in Roscommon, it's as simple as that."

See page 19.

And so after the extraordinary wait and some heart-rending stories, some of the many folk who have been stranded abroad since the volcanic ash halted flights across Europe last week, finally began to make their return journeys yesterday (Wednesday). Those who were stranded included local Minister Michael Finneran. Our picture shows Tom and Nancy Tighe from Ballymote, arriving back into Ireland West Airport Knock on Wednesday afternoon on the first flight to arrive into Ireland West Airport Knock for six days, an Aer Lingus flight from London/Gatwick which was the last leg of their journey from Mexico and (right) Marjory Lynott, London and Maura Tansey, Ballaghaderreen. Pic: Mick McCormack.

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