

Kelly slams gas decision

■ Seamus Duke

Roscommon Labour Party Councillor John Kelly says that the chances of any town in County Roscommon being connected to the national grid to receive natural gas are now "almost nil" after An Bord Gais revealed the outcome of Phase 3 of its 'Towns Analysis'.

Cllr. Kelly says that the news that towns like Ballaghaderreen, Strokestown and Roscommon will not be connected to the national grid is a further sign of the "neglect of rural Ireland by the Government".

The An Bord Gais website reveals that following a cost analysis of 29 towns around the country – on whether it would be viable to connect them to the national grid – only four were identified as being suitable in Phase 3 of the plan. They are Tipperary Town, Inishannon (Co. Cork), Kinsale and Kells.

Cllr. Kelly says that the news is very disappointing for towns like Ballaghaderreen. "We had a task force here in Ballaghaderreen trying to get a natural gas supply to the town. We had bodies like the BMW and the Western Development Commission backing us, but to no avail. It would seem that unless a town has a huge population



Cllr. John Kelly and Dr. Jerry Cowley, Labour's two new recruits in the West, pictured at the party's conference last weekend. it is not even considered" he said.

"We pointed out to the authorities that we have a local industry in Ballaghaderreen – Shannonside Co-Op – which uses a massive amount of electricity and that for that industry alone it would be viable to have natural gas here, but they have ignored us again. Remember that there will be huge carbon taxes on the way and a company like Shannonside Co-Op will be paying a high carbon tax if they have to continue using electricity. It is completely unfair" he said.

"I said at the Labour Party conference in Galway at the weekend that this uncaring government has completely neglected rural Ireland and I stand by that. Towns like Ballaghaderreen, Charlestown, Swinford and other towns including those in County Roscommon are being ignored" he said.

"It's the same old story. Look at the four towns that have been accepted under this programme. All have ministers there. There is no political power in Roscommon and it is as simple as that" he concluded.



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Leyden, Fitzmaurice welcome Summer Works Scheme

Senator Terry Leyden has welcomed the announcement by the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Ms. Mary Coughlan, TD of the Summer Works Scheme for the following schools in County Roscommon; Kiltewan NS; Cloonfour NS, Rooskey; Tarmon NS Castlereagh; SN Naomh Padraig, Beal Atha na mbuillí; SN Naomh Padraig, Beal Atha Fearnan; St. Mary's Convent NS, Roscommon; Tibohine NS, Castlereagh; St. Joseph's BNS, Boyle; Carrick Mixed NS, Ballinlough; Scoil na Mainistreach an Ciar Bhothar, Strokestown; Convent NS, Strokestown; SN Brushna; Naomh Atrachta, Kingsland; SN Naomh Eoin, Lecarrow; SN Naomh Treasa, Carraigin Rua; SN Naomh Ciaran; Abbeycarton NS, Elphin; Elphin Community College, Elphin; Roscommon Community School, Lisnamult, Roscommon.

"The Summer Works Scheme covers projects in school buildings such as gas, electrical and mechanical works, roof replacements and repairs, window replacement, toilet upgrades, structural improvements and access works." Senator Leyden welcomed the Tánaiste's record level of in-



Cllr. Pascal Fitzmaurice

vestment through the Summer Works Scheme, which he said had the potential to generate work for over 4,400 trades people across the country during the summer period.

Funding for three national schools in west Roscommon under the Summer Works Scheme 2010, was welcomed this week by Cllr. Pascal Fitzmaurice.

Under the scheme, external work is to be carried out at Tarmon NS; new windows are to be installed at Tibohine NS and a new roof is to be provided for Carrick NS, Ballinlough.

Cllr. Fitzmaurice said that the allocation was especially



Senator Terry Leyden

welcome in these tough economic times and shows a continued commitment to upgrading schools by Fianna Fáil.

"Minister Michael Finneran has said the planning and building unit of the Department of Education and Skills will shortly contact all the schools for grant aid under the summer work scheme with further instructions on how to proceed.

Cllr. Fitzmaurice also welcomed funding for the West Roscommon Regional Water Supply Scheme and an allocation of €1.9 million for Granlahan sewerage scheme announced this week by Minister Michael Finneran TD.

Tragic local deaths mourned

Former publican Michael O'Callaghan (63) died when he was struck by a car close to his home at Springfield, on the main Elphin to Strokestown Road.

The incident happened at 3 am on Sunday morning and Mr. O'Callaghan was declared dead at the scene. The late Mr. O'Callaghan was a keen GAA follower and earlier in the evening he had attended the All-Ireland U21 semi-final between Roscommon and Dublin in Cavan.

Mr. O'Callaghan was proprietor of the well-known Callaghan's Bar in Elphin until recent years. His son Rossa is a prominent GAA player who plays for Elphin and formerly played at all levels for Roscommon, including at senior level.

Huge crowds attended Mr. O'Callaghan's funeral, which took place in Elphin earlier this week. Mr. O'Callaghan is survived by his wife Stephanie, sons Rossa, John and Michael, daughters Tara and Niamh, relatives and friends. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Meanwhile there was widespread shock and sadness in the Kilmore and north

Roscommon areas at the weekend, following the sudden and untimely death of well-known 32-year-old local man John Glancy.

Mr. Glancy accidentally fell into the River Shannon in the early hours of Saturday morning and his body was recovered later on Saturday. Mr. Glancy worked as an engineer with Leitrim County Council and was a well-known GAA player and golfer and a very popular member of the local community.

The offices of Leitrim County Council closed on Wednesday morning as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Glancy and Kilmore GAA club formed a guard of honour at the removal and as the remains were taken to their final resting place on Wednesday.

Mr. Glancy is survived by his mother Imelda, sisters Mairead and Breege and brother Padraig and also by his grandmother and numerous other relatives and friends. Huge crowds attended the funeral services, removal, Mass and burial, which took place yesterday (Wednesday). Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.