

ORAN MAST ROW

Leydens angry at go-ahead for mast

Cllr. Orla Leyden is outraged at the go-ahead given to Threefold who applied for planning permission on behalf of Eircom to proceed with the construction of a 15 metre support pole to carry three radio aerials at the Eircom Exchange, Gorticmeelra, Dunamon.

This planning application was originally refused planning permission by Roscommon County Council in July 2008, a decision that was subsequently overturned by An Bord Pleanála. "This is a flagrant disregard for the people of Oran, Dunamon and the people of County Roscommon as it disregards our interests as set out in our County Development Plan."

Cllr. Leyden said that it is outrageous that Threefold have been granted permission to erect this mast despite Michael and Claire Hussey and their three children under the age of six living within 30 metres

of the proposed mast. Cllr. Leyden said that it is ludicrous that An Bord Pleanála can overrule the Roscommon County Development Plan, which protects the interests of the community by prohibiting the construction of mobile communication masts within 100 metres of a residence. "Surely an alternative site can be found away from residences if Threefold and Eircom have the will," said Cllr. Leyden.

"I am asking Minister Gormley to curtail the power of An Bord Pleanála, which has in this case overruled Roscommon's County Development Plan and I am also as a public representative serving in this area, asking eircom to come forward now and to make it clear to the people of Oran, Dunamon that they will not facilitate the erection of this mast."

Senator Terry Leyden blasted the decision as "a disgrace and a scandal". The mast in question is

due to be erected within 30 metres of a family residence, with three children under the age of five.

On examination of the case, Senator Leyden has been informed of amendments made by the Bord to the Plan, which were only alerted to Roscommon County Council as accompanying letters, as opposed to the use of formal orders, as is required. An Bord Pleanála have replied that it is owing to a 'clerical error' that the final location of the mast has been moved, and that it is not a 'material alteration', as understood by the Roscommon Development Plan.

Speaking on Wednesday, Senator Leyden stated: "At a time where there is such talk about empowering local government, and where local government is a reflection of the democratic and elected will of the Roscommon people, here we have an outside body steamrolling its way through the system, with-



Michael Lambert, John F Hanley and Michael Hussey pictured at the site of the proposed telecommunications mast in Donamon last week. Pic: Andrew Fox.

out any regard to proper procedures and the position on the ground.

"We have a Roscommon County Development plan for a reason, which has been moulded by, and shaped for the community. We have policies in respect of clustering and co-location, we have Land Character Assessments

and we have guidelines in relation to 'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures', we have a petition of over 500 people in the area, and Bord Pleanála can ignore it all? Something stinks in the state of Denmark. I will be bringing all of this to Minister Gormley's attention."

Connaughton backs families in fight against mast

Cllr. Martin Connaughton this week said that he is backing families in the Donamon and Clooneycolgan areas to the hilt in their fight against the erection of a mast for telecommunications company eircom.

"I am totally, totally against that mast. It's a shame for those people. It's not just one family that is affected, there are a lot more families involved and they are in such a state of distress over this.

"This is a serious issue in relation to people's health. The mast will be located only a short distance from Lisanskey NS. I was born in that area and know all the people in that area and they have always been exemplary in terms of their farming and environmental practice and for this to come into the area is totally objectionable to them.

"The County Council didn't grant planning permission for this mast and their decision was appealed to An Bord Pleanála who gave the go-ahead to the mast. An Bord Pleanála isn't answerable to anybody. They won't talk to anybody. What I would do is call on eircom to go to a different location and not to place this mast in a location against the wishes of the people. These people have put up a long hard battle and I will continue to monitor this issue.

"There is plenty of land, bog land and land that is not near 62 homes. I cannot understand eircom spending so much money on advertising and then setting up this mast against people's wishes. I have never seen so many people so angry. Every householder in the area is backing this campaign," concluded Cllr. Connaughton.

Rose of Roscommon to be chosen in Kilronan Castle this Friday night

The many businesses that have supported and sponsored prizes for this year's Rose of Roscommon event, which takes place this Friday night in Kilronan Castle, were

this week thanked by members of the organising committee.

The following are sponsors of the event: Hamper-it, Strokestown, Texas Department Store,

Roscommon; Louise's Beauty Studio, Roscommon; Aphrodite's Hair Salon, Roscommon; Miss Mandy Ladies Fashion, Roscommon; Time Pieces, Roscommon; Hurson Photography, Roscommon; Duane Bridal, Ballinasloe; Ruby King Restaurant, Roscommon; Calla Floral Design, Strokestown; Creative Freedom, Roscommon; Newbridge Jewellery; Carlton Hotel Group; Kilronan Castle; Regan's Bar, Roscommon and Charlie O'Brien's Perpetual Trophy.

Organisers also issued a big thank to John Ward Menswear, Roscommon who kindly sponsored the black tie suit hire for all Escorts.

"Without the support of these businesses it would be very difficult to put on our event each

year," said a committee spokesperson.

The following are the Roses and escorts for this Friday night's event: Sara Tarabulsi, Curves Carrick on Shannon and Escort Johnny Morelli; Sandra Burke, Galway Hand Therapy Clinic and Escort Donal Gill; Deirdre Devine, Roscommon Ploughing Association and Escort James Burke; Fiona Cuddy, McGuinness Pharmacy and Escort Mark Finneran; Jacqueline Dowd, Strokestown Agricultural Show and Escort Aidan Weir; Róisín Ní Dhonncha, Roscommon Ladies County Board GAA and Escort John Comiskey; Grace Morris, Gaelscoil de hÍde Roscommon and Escort Alex Hark; Sinead Diffley, Hanly Motors, Roscommon and Escort Padraig

McKeon; Fiona Regan, Regan's Bar, Roscommon and Escort Barry Garvin; Claire Gallagher, Galaxy Hair & Beauty and Escort Donal McDermott; Ezara Regan, Rockfords Nightclub and Escort Kevin O'Gara; Deirdre Lenehan, Mater Hospital Pharmacy dept and Escort Tony Diskin; Clíodhna Thompson, St. Faithleach's GAA and Escort Brian Scally.



Helen Earley, ADON, making a presentation to Margaret McDermott who retired recently from HSE. West.



The wedding took place in Melbourne on January 9th last of Sharon Reilly, daughter of Aidan and Margaret Reilly, Castlecoote, who married Graham Lamb, son of Dallas and David Lamb, Coffs Harbour, NSW. We wish them long life and happiness.

