

# Anti-Head Shop Group in appeal to Gardai and landlord

■ Paul Healy

The Roscommon Anti-Head Shop Committee has called on the landlord who owns the premises in which 'High Times', pictured right, is located to agree to meet with committee members "face to face."

In a statement issued to the *Roscommon People* on Tuesday, the committee said that their campaign is continuing and they remain determined to see the permanent closure of 'High Times.'

"We had a meeting earlier this week and there are a number of points which we would like to bring to the attention of the public. Firstly there has been some speculation that an attempt could be made to have an injunction granted against us continuing our protest. We have sought legal advice on this and are satisfied that we are within our rights once we conduct a peaceful protest and are not obstructing the doorway or preventing people from entering the premises.



"In relation to the fact that the shop re-opened (after its recent high profile closure on foot of a new Government directive) we have to question what is going on here. What products are on sale? Will the Gardai conduct regular searches of the premises?"

In the statement to the *Roscommon People* the committee say that they are not satisfied with their communications to date with the landlord. "We have never been shown the lease and would like to see it. We think the question of insurance needs to be addressed. How do owners and tenants of neighbouring premises feel on the issue of insurance, given that some of the head shops

have been attacked, something which we would not condone? In relation to the landlord, we call on him to meet us face-to-face as a committee. Other landlords in other towns have co-operated with the public outcry and in some cases actually closed the head shops."

The group also allege that some instances of anti-social behaviour in the Castle Street area are directly linked to usage of the head shop by young males. "We received a report from a local resident who told us of fights which have occurred in the middle of the street late at night and which have involved men who are known to frequent the head shop."

The committee say they hope that the new legislation, when enacted in June, will lead to closure of the head shop. "Once the legislation is in and we have further clarity about what products are banned, we will be demanding that the Gardai in Roscommon enforce the law on this issue."

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Oliver and Eileen Gannon pictured with their sons and daughters Evelyn, Olivia, Declan, Darach, Kieran and Jason at the opening of Gannon's Furniture in Roscommon on Friday. Pic: [www.hursonphotography.com](http://www.hursonphotography.com).



Evelyn Gannon, Eileen Gannon, Sandra Respondeck and Aisling Dermody (Youth worker with MDI), pictured at the opening of Gannon's Furniture in Roscommon on Friday. Pic: [www.hursonphotography.com](http://www.hursonphotography.com).



Tom Quigley and Fintan Coyle pictured at the opening of Gannon's Furniture in Roscommon on Friday. Pic: [www.hursonphotography.com](http://www.hursonphotography.com).



Oliver Gannon pictured with his sons Declan, Darach, Kieran and Jason at the opening of Gannon's Furniture in Roscommon on Friday. Pic: [www.hursonphotography.com](http://www.hursonphotography.com).



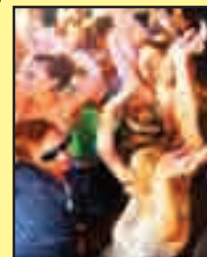
Staff at Gannon's Furniture, Kevin O'Beirne and Greg McGrath with Kelly O'Beirne at the opening of Gannon's Furniture in Roscommon on Friday. Pic: [www.hursonphotography.com](http://www.hursonphotography.com).

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