

Mulligan blasts Kenny and Gilmore's 'hypocrisy'

Fine Gael's Enda Kenny and Labour's Eamon Gilmore, were proponents of the Lisbon Treaty and claimed it would not undermine the economic sovereignty of this State, Sinn Féin councillor Michael Mulligan pointed out this week.

"They stated that there were no provisions under which the European Union could commandeer further fiscal powers from member states. However, the European Commission proposals to peer-review national budgets, exploiting provisions of the Lisbon Treaty itself to adopt measures specific to those Member States in the euro. Several months on, the hypocrisy of Fine Gael and Labour in saying that the sovereignty of member state's fiscal powers would be retained post-Lisbon has been exposed.

"Sinn Féin was the only party who highlighted that Article 115A would strengthen the powers of the Commission to police what they call 'excessive budget deficits' by member states and would give it increased powers to limit government deficits to three percent of GDP. But we were ridiculed by all the pro-Lisbon campaigners. We warned that



Pearse Doherty, Michael Mulligan and Martin Kenny.

the Lisbon Treaty would not allow Ireland to deal with the economic problems facing us as increased European interference would cripple the real economy rather than help it.

"What the people of this State need to remember as we

hold our breaths to see if these Commission proposals will get passed by Member States is that Fine Gael and Labour stood behind the Treaty to allow this to happen, that they vigorously campaigned for the implementation of the Treaty

that is facilitating this usurpation of national economic sovereignty and that no matter how much Enda Kenny or Eamon Gilmore condemn the Government for letting this happen, they are equally guilty for the loss of Irish sovereignty."

New product aims to revolutionise flood prevention

A new product which aims to revolutionise flood prevention and defence systems in Ireland will be launched by Minister for Housing and Local Services Michael Finneran in the Hodson Bay Hotel on Monday, May 31st at 11.30 am.

The images of the utter devastation caused in Roscommon, Athlone, Galway and across the country by the flooding crisis are still very fresh in the mind. Just a few short months ago, floodwaters destroyed homes and businesses and ravaged

communities across Ireland, causing millions of euros worth of damage. The mop-up operation involving local authorities, emergency personnel, thousands of volunteers and those affected by the floods was on a massive scale and cost millions.

According to the Irish Insurance Federation, Roscommon homeowners received more than €2.3 million euro and 64 businesses in the county awarded €7.9 million euro as a result of the flood damage.

Some communities and businesses are still counting the cost of the damage caused by the unprecedented weather conditions and the big question is can we prepare ourselves more effectively if such a flooding crisis hits this country again? In answer to this question two Roscommon entrepreneurs believe they have a cost-saving flood solution, which is set to revolutionise how homes, businesses and other agencies can counteract the ravages of flooding.

Roscommon natives Shane Curran and Gerard Brennan have recently established Global Flood Solutions – a 100 percent Irish owned company that specialises in proven and cost-effective flood defence products. Global Flood Solutions have now become exclusive Irish and UK agents for the Big Bag System that has been extensively used and proven in the USA, Europe and Asia for fighting back large water masses in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

The flagship product is called the Big Bag System, a German-designed innovation which can be assembled in minutes and provide an environmentally friendly full flood defence system for homes and businesses. One system, which can be attached to a series of systems depending on the scale, is 4.5m metres long and is 900m x 900m x 900m. On the outside of the system is a robust cover, made of polypropylene and a waterproof membrane with a U-shaped timber set. From an accordion-styled storage position, it can be assembled and filled with sand within minutes and can also be removed within minutes. One 4.5m system fully expanded is equivalent to the use of 670 sandbags.



Cllr Martin Connaughton (FF) gives the thumbs up to the innovative 'Big Bag System' with Shane Curran and Gerard Brennan of Global Flood Solutions, Roscommon on a recent visit to Athleague village, Co. Roscommon, which was hugely affected by flooding in 2009. Inset is Tony Ward, Mayor of Roscommon.

news at a glance

Secretarial service at Cáit in Drumboylan

The Cáit programme, based in the IT Learning Centre in Drumboylan, is now offering a secretarial service.

Cáit Roscomáin Ltd. is a community-based programme funded by the Department of Community Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs through POBAL.

A typing service is available for curriculum vitae, theses and projects and photocopying, scanning and printing services are also available.

An internet service is also available and you can book holidays, ferry and airplane tickets, hotels, football match and concert tickets online. For further information contact (071) 96 50704 or (086) 7919108.

Work on the Red Bridge to commence

Strokestown area Councillor Tom Crosby has been informed by Roscommon County Council that the new bridge over the River Fourish known as the Red Bridge just off the N5 near Tarmobarney is now ready to commence with land agreements in place with the local landowners.

Cllr. Crosby would like to thank the local landowners for their co-operation with the Council to enable this work to get underway. Cllr. Crosby is delighted that work will commence in the very near future. The Bridge, which gives access to the villages of Derryhane, Erra and Drinagh has been closed to vehicle traffic for the past two and a half years and caused major inconvenience to the residents in these villages.

Seamus Dalby Memorial Cup

Ballinlough and District Angling Association will host the Seamus Dalby Memorial Cup Fishing Competition on Lake O'Flynn on Sunday next starting at 11 am. The Cup will be awarded for the heaviest trout. There will also be valuable prizes for the best junior and the best bag. Weigh-in will take place at 6 pm at the lake shore and prizes will be presented in Campbell afterwards. All anglers are welcome.

Ballinlough and District Angling Association held its AGM in Campbell's lounge recently. The meeting was very well attended and what was particularly pleasing was the number of junior anglers who attended. Their contribution to the meeting was very welcome and we will do our best to meet their needs over the coming year.

The chairman, Gerry Markham reflected on a very successful 2009 season and thanked his fellow officers for their help and co-operation. Officers elected for 2010 were Gerry Markham, Chairman; John Connolly, Vice Chairman; Padraig Campbell, President; Yvonne Ryan, Secretary; PJ Conneely and Michael Patrick Egan, Treasurers; David Quinn, Youth Liaison Officer. Competition dates were arranged for the coming season and preparations are well advanced for these competitions. New members are always welcome.

Flag day thanks

The County Roscommon branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association this week thanked the people of Roscommon, Boyle and Castlerea for their generous response to a recent flag day.

The money collected will enable the Association to bring 20 wheelchair members and 20 helpers for a week-long holiday to Waterford in June. The Association has been doing this for 20 years, so your money has been well spent.

Fashion show raises €5,063 for Sacred Heart

The Friends of the Sacred Heart Hospital this week thanked all who supported the Carmel McLoughlin night and the fashion show from which €5,063 was raised. The Friends also thanked Roscommon Hunt and Lecarrow Benevolent Fund who donated €3000 from their charity ride and auction.

Knockcroghery Tidy Towns meeting

A meeting of Knockcroghery Tidy Towns will take place in the Community Centre on Monday night 31st May at 9 o'clock. Among the issues to be discussed will be a pathway connecting to Green Hills from the Community Centre. The committee are inviting members of all the estates and also people who would like to volunteer some of their time to help out with grass mowing, weeding and other work around the village. We look forward to seeing you there. Members of Roscommon County Council and local councillors will be in attendance.