

# 'The people have spoken'

## SERIOUS Probe into leak of AG's advice

SEAMUSENRIGHT

"THE people have spoken," said Minister Heather Humphreys in a statement to *The Anglo-Celt* in the wake of last weekend's emphatic referendum outcomes, noting that the government would "take learnings" from what occurred.

The Cavan-Monaghan TD was appointed Director of Elections for the Referendums on family and care by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar last January, and like her party and cabinet colleagues passionately campaigned for a 'yes' vote on both.

Locally, the 39th Amendment on family was defeated 78.08% (37,649) against and 21.92% (10,569).

The result in the 40th Amendment on Care was equally chastening, ending

"An opportunity to deliver a more modern and inclusive Society and a constitution that reflects the Ireland of today, not the past," said Minister Humphreys in a post on social media on polling day.



81.25% (39,166) voting no and 18.75% (9,038), the second highest marginal difference in the history of this constituency.

In her statement, the Minister for Social Protection and Rural and Community Development said: "The people have spoken, they've made their decision, we acknowledge that and will take learnings from it."

"As Minister for Social Protection, I want to reiterate my strong commitment to continuing to deliver for our Carers."

She said she was pleased recently to announce the establishment of an Interdepartmental Group to examine the supports provided to Carers. "Among the issues that I've asked the Group to examine is the Carer's Means Test. I was the first Minister to introduce changes to the means test since 2007."

This has been increased twice in the past three years, and Minister Humphreys said she looks forward to receiving the Group's report "and I am open to introducing further improvements to benefit our carers". She also addressed

the apparent "leaking" of the Attorney General's advice the night before polling day.

Investigative site *The Ditch* published an article publishing what they claimed to be leaked advice from AG Rossa Fanning on the proposed care and family amendments.

In the past, summaries of the AG advice has been made public.

In his advice, dated December 8, Mr Fanning said there was a risk the phrase 'durable relationships' could be "distorted".

The advice from Mr Fanning to Children's Minister Roderic

O'Gorman also stated there was a "lack of guidance from the courts" on how the word "strive" could or would be interpreted.

Minister Humphreys did not comment on whether she felt the leaking of the advice played a role in swaying voter sentiment, but did say it was a "serious matter" and expects there to be a "full investigation".

"The leaking of the Attorney General's advice the day before polling is a very serious matter and I have no doubt there will be a full investigation."

### RESULT OF THE 39TH REFERENDUM ON FAMILY

Electorate: 108,812	
Turnout	48,761 44.81%
Spoilt	545 1.12%
Valid	48,218 44.31%
For	10,569 21.92%
Against	37,649 78.08%
Margin	27,080 56.16%

### RESULTS OF THE 40TH REFERENDUM ON CARE

Electorate: 108,812	
Turnout	48,761 44.81%
Spoilt	557 1.14%
Valid	48,204 44.30%
For	9,038 18.75%
Against	39,166 81.25%
Margin	30,128 62.50%

## Comhairle Contae an Chabháin (Cavan County Council)

### Notice under Planning & Development Regulations 2001- 2018 Article 81 - Part 8

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given that Cavan County Council proposes to undertake the following works at **Market Square / Preaching House Lane, Ballyconnell**. The proposal is for the following: **Demolition of Existing Derelict House and associated sheds and Development of a new Community, space and gardens and realignment / widening of Preaching House Lane (L-50532)**. The works include demolition works and road realignment and widening of Preaching House Lane and

#### The proposed development will consist of:

- Existing Derelict House: Demolition of existing House and associated sheds / outhouses, to provide community spaces and realignment of Preaching House Lane
- Site Works: Site development works, including landscaping, kerbing, drainage, footpaths, road carriageway works, lighting, bicycle parking and all associated site services above and below ground.

Any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during office hours at the Planning Office, Farnham Centre Cavan Town and the Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Office, Church Street, Ballyconnell, **by appointment only**, up to and including the **12th of April 2024**. Details of the proposed development are also available for inspection at [www.cavancoco.ie/part-8](http://www.cavancoco.ie/part-8)

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be made in writing to Forward Planning Section, Farnham Centre, Farnham Street Cavan or by email to [plan@cavancoco.ie](mailto:plan@cavancoco.ie) up to 4pm on **26th April 2024**.

The Development has been subject to an An Appropriate Assessment Screening and Ecological Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report, Archaeological Impact Report and drainage of the proposed development in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Planning and Development Acts 2000. In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Cavan County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination, that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. And

The proposed development is not of a class set out under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and does not require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Signed: Brendan Jennings  
Director of Services, Cavan County Council  
Courthouse, Cavan

Date: 11th March 2024



Comhairle Contae an Chabháin  
Cavan County Council

### HIGHEST MARGINS TO DATE IN CAVAN-MONAGHAN CONSTITUENCY

19th Northern Ireland 1998	Cav-Mon 87.17%	Monaghan 59.25%
27th Irish Citizenship 2004	Cavan 61.53%	
29th Judges' Remuneration 2011	Cav-Mon 60.50%	
20th Local Government 1999	Cavan 57.39%	Monaghan 53.55%
38th Divorce 2019	Cavan-Mon 55.94%	

## Deiseanna Gnó ag Muiríne Chluain Eois

Tá Uiscebhealaí Éireann ag cur fáilte roimh thairiscintí d'oisríocht dheonaíochtaí ag Muiríne Chanáil Uladh, Cluain Eois, Co. Mhuineacháin.

Tá na deonaíochtaí in 2 mhír:  
Mír 1: Deonaíocht Gníomhaíochtaí Lasmuigh  
Mír 2: Deonaíocht Lónadóireachta

Tá na pacáistí deonaíochta ar fáil ó [concession@waterwaysireland.org](mailto:concession@waterwaysireland.org).

Is é an 8 Aibreán 2024 an spriocdháta do dheonaíochtaí.

