

PRESS RELEASE

'Tomorrows Government Today'

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg/Fingal Youth Council Consultation/Elections 2010- 2012

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg/Fingal Youth Council held a Consultation/Election event on the 20th October 2010 in the Carnegie Court Hotel, North Street Swords.

24 of the 26 Post Primary Schools and Youth Services in Fingal nominated 112 young people between the ages of 12 to 17 to participate in the event. This was the biggest turnout of young people in the history of the Fingal Comhairle na nÓg and was heart warming to witness particularly in the current climate of doom and gloom. Delegates heard from the Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Ken Farrell, the Chair of the Fingal County Development Board, Councillor Tom Kelleher, County Manager, David O'Connor and outgoing Vice-Chair of Fingal Comhairle na nÓg, Owen Costello, all of whom actively encouraged the young people present to get involved in Fingal Comhairle na nÓg particularly if they wanted to have a say or make a difference in matters of concern to them.

Following the speeches, Youth Development Workers from around the county facilitated groups to highlight issues of particular concern to young people, these issues were then fed back to the larger group for discussion. The issues included some of the following; Recreational Facilities for Young People in Fingal, Age Discrimination, and the Cost of Education etc

The event was a huge success with many of the delegates putting their names forward as candidates for election. In the interest of true democracy a PR Electoral System was used to elect the new Comhairle members all of which took a few hours to complete.

Finally, 24 Youth Councillors were elected on the day to represent the voice of young people across the County. These Youth Councillors will serve in office for 2 years and will have an opportunity to develop their own programme of work dealing with the issues that were highlighted as part of the consultation day. Youth Councillors will use the Fingal Comhairle na nÓg website www.fcnn.ie and the FCNN Newsletter to keep their peers informed of progress. They will also represent their peers at National and European level during their term in office.

The ethos of Fingal Comhairle na nÓg is “Tomorrows Government Today” The young people who participated in the Consultation/Election day proved that they are very serious about youth participation and intend to be very active during their time in office.

For further information please contact: Eithne Mallin on 01 890 6233 or email eithne.mallin@fingalcoco.ie

ENDS 28/10/2010