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### 'Blayney road accident claims life of Donegal businessman

A Co Donegal businessman died suddenly on Sunday evening last in a mishap in

# CARRICK **CRIME ISSUES** Page 19 UNDER SPOTLIGHT Gardaí in relation to the assault

By Veronica Corr

Superintendent Alan Cunningham addressed a special meeting Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District on Monday morning last to discuss crime at a local level in light of recent incidents of a serious nature. After the meeting which took place in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Superintendent Cunningham told The Northern Standard that a file was being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) reparding Public Prosecutions (DPP) regarding the recent death of a 61-year-old man at the town's St. Macartan's Villas which is being treated as suspicious. He confirmed that two people, one of which was a juvenile, had been arrested in connection with the incident, detained for questioning and released without

charge. Subsequently, a stabbing occurred in Carrickmacross and two people were interviewed by

and released after questioning. A juvenile was charged and a file has been sent to the Director of minor to very serious. The public representative said Public Prosecutions. Cathaoirleach of the Municipal that he found it hard understand the differen between burglary and robbery. District PJ O'Hanlon said that the The Superintendent explained that burglary involved trespassing with intent, while robbery involved taking something from someone's person, which could also be a form of accoult Bobhowy he said meeting had been called because a number of incidents had been raised by members, which they felt warranted a meeting with gardaí. Superintendent Cunningham furnished the meeting with figures for the Carrickmacross form of assault. Robbery, he said, was more serious, adding that thankfully there were very few

District, which also took in incidents. Councillor McNally went on to Castleblayney, Rockcorry and Ballybay. The report showed statistics state: "Drugs are the greatest scourge of the country as a

over three years, from May 2013, right up until May 2016. Superintendent Cunningham whole He observed that thefts often explained that there was an increase in the number of assaults from 107 in 2013-14, to 111 in went unreported because it was felt that gardaí didn't have the resources. He also wanted to know how someone could be caught when the victim wasn't 2014-15, to 148 in 2015-16. sure when an incident e.g. theft,

One of the reasons for this, he said, was the teenage disco in Castleblayney, which saw 800-1,200 young people descend on the town in buses.

said that he was sure that the He said that quite a number of assaults had taken place as a result. However, the Superintendent went on to comment that gardaí had met with the promoter, who had made gardaí were doing their very best with the resources they had, further enquiring how things were in terms of resourcing. He also observed that the absence of the border had made room for a contribution to the policing of other types of crime. He observed that people were the event.

The Superintendent said that becoming conscious with doors barred and windows locked. Therefore, he asked if there was any common the upsurge in domestic violence incidents, from 34 in 2013-14, to 43 in 2014-15, to 50 in 2015-16, was also linked into assaults. He sense tips that could be imparted cited one of the causes of this to be excessive alcohol consumption in to the public to prevent them becoming victims of crime. In conclusion, Clir. McNally thanked Superintendent Cunningham for the work that he the home, as a result of the availability of cheap alcohol. There had been a decrease in

burglaries over the past three years, from 84 in 2013-14, to 77 in 2014-15, to 65 in 2015-16. and the gardaí do. "I would urge the public to report incidents of all kinds

recorded in 2014-15 and 23 were

is

DON'T SUFFER IN

reducing,

recorded in 2015-16.

in assaults was a worrying trend, since these could range from gardaí, we are glad to get calls, we are here to serve. We are here to catch criminals, so we urge people to contact us, no matter how it hard to e difference trivial they think something

"We are getting great use out of Text Alert. Small things are very important and every phone call makes a difference."

Cllr. Colm Carthy observed that some members of the public were some members of the public members worried about their own safety.

He strongly advocated the Community Alert scheme, encouraging people to sign up, expressing the hope that it would continue to grow. He also hailed the tagging of property as a great idea idea. The Sinn Féin representative

thanked the Superintendent for having met him on an individual basis, as did other members of the Municipal District.

Stating that he looked forward to seeing more gardaí in the area in the future, he asked if there was anything they, as a local authority, could do.

He also asked if Carrickmacross Festival could have an increased garda presence this year, to give those in attendance peace of mind

Superintendent Cunningham said that there were things everyone could do to reduce crime He said that CCTV in towns was

a major advantage, welcoming the fact the Castleblayney's CCTV monitor was moving to the local barracks. CCTV was of major benefit in solving assaults and thefts, he added.

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inexpensively.

problem.

on the beat.

on those.

and solver.

social behaviour.

evening. Ms Sinnott said that the Heart In light of Monaghan Municipal District looking at funding avenues with a view to getting CCTV in Monaghan Town, the senior garda suggested that Carrickmacross should do similar.

In response to Cllr. Carthv's

request for an increased garda

presence at the upcoming Carrickmacross Festival,

Carrickmacross Festival, Superintendent Cunningham

confirmed that it would not be a

Cllr. Noel Keelan, who sits on

the county JPC, thanked the garda

representative for his frankness in

addressing issues raised at the

meeting. The Sinn Féin councillor was

also of the opinion that a visible

garda presence gave confidence to the community. He recalled that, when he was growing up, there seemed to be more gardaí

As a long-standing public representative, he urged people to take responsibility by locking up their sheds and equipment. Cllr. Keelan observed that there had been a spike in thefts of high

had been a spike in thefts of high value vehicles, farm equipment and trailers, adding the he would

be interested to see some statistics

In the beginning, he confessed

that he was not a fan of CCTV, because he felt that it was an

invasion of people's privacy. However, he had come around to

see its merits, as a crime deterrent

He observed that there was

great co-operation between the

business owners on Main Street if

access to their CCTV systems was

could be done about vacant buildings, which had no obvious

owner, and which attracted anti-

Superintendent Cunningham on

the great work the gardaí did under difficult circumstances.

The Superintendent acknowledged that creeper

Finally, he congratulated

## **Heart Foundation lauds** St Louis life-savers



· Bridget Sinnott, centre, BLS Co-ordinator with the Irish Heart Foundation, with St Louis Secondary School Sixth Year pupils Emer McNally (left) and Ciara Murray. Ms Sinnott made a presentation to the girls on behalf of her Foundation at the school's end of term Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday evening in recognition of their use of CPR to deal with a medical emergency in their school last week.

© Rory Geary/The Northern Standard

in welcoming Brigid Sinnott said she had travelled from Wexford to Heart Foundation CPR initiative Heart Foundation CPR initiative for schools as something that would enable young people to implement life-saving skills if the need arose. Sometimes older people might shy away from such training, she remarked, but young people were without fear and embraced it be present, as the school had made her aware of the heroic act that Ciara and Emer had carried out the previous week, and Ms Sinnott had wanted to salute that. Ms Conlon said that as Ciara

Her parting advice to the students was: "Don't ever be life.

and Emer prepared to leave St Louis after six years, the school could not let the night go by without recognising their efforts and thanking them for what they had done the previous week. As the students received a presentation from the Irish Heart Foundation representative, their classmates and assembled parents and friends of the school stood to hail them with a ringing ovation of applause. Ms Sinnott told the

congregation how impressed she had been by the school on arrival, and described the Mass of and described the Mass of Thanksgiving ceremony as "absolutely gorgeous". She told the Leaving Certificate students that they were "a very well-rounded bunch of young ladies going out into the world." She praised Ciara and Emer for stepping up to the mark when an them.

Foundation planned to roll out CPR training to second-level schools in September and appealed for schools to take this stepping up to the mark when an emergency situation had confronted them, advising them on board and make it part of their and their classmates that they would all face future challenges in their lives, but she was confident that they would be able to step up to them and take their place in the world, as the education they had received at St Louis had made them a bunch of leaders. Ms Sinnott described the Irish

embraced it.

afraid in your journey through "My shoes, my footprints, my journey" was the theme of Tuesday's Mass. In her welcome, Principal Vera O'Brien described the 2016 Leaving Certificate

students as "young adults ready to move on to the next stage of their lives" and praised their parents for the role they had played in their children's development and for the support they would continue to extend to

Fr Joyce in his homily said the school had encouraged the class of 2016 "not to have a lid on anything you thought, imagined, dreamed or believed". He added: 'We encouraged you in your learning to be exceptional, tangential, to look at the impossible, to explore." Vice-Principal Ms Conlon

which his car crashed at a roundabout while he was driving on the Dublin/Derry N2 at the roundabout at Drumcrew

outside Castleblayney. A pharmacist in Falcarragh, Mr Gerry Flynn was aged 57. He was pronounced dead following the crash at fencing at the N2 Castleblayney Bypass junction. He was a hugely respected member of the community in Dunfanaghy where he lived with his wife Roisin, nee -Harte. The accident happened at

approximately 4 pm on Sunday. He was pronounced dead at the scene and his body was taken to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda. It was thought Mr. Flynn might have suffered a cardiac arrest while driving. A female passenger in the car was uninjured.

The stretch of road where the

fatality occurred was closed temporarily, pending the completion of an examination by Garda forensic collision investigators and local diversions were introduced.

Gardaí have appealed for any witnesses to the accident to contact Castleblayney Garda Station on 042-9740668, or the Garda Confidential Telephone

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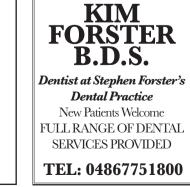


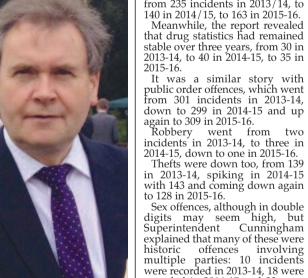
Line, 1800 666 111 or any Garda Station. SYMPATHY VOTE

At the meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District on Monday last, Cathaoirleach PJ O'Hanlon

roundabout going towards Castleblavnev. On the morning of the meeting,

which took place in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross, few details on the accident were available



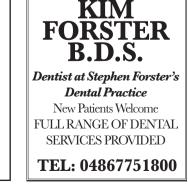


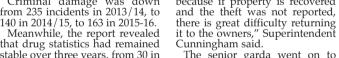
Gerry Flynn...road death

report. The Superintendent stated that these figures fluctuated and often involved offenders cashing cheques and using cards. He said that of using cards. He said that sometimes there were multiple cases involving a sole offender. There were 15 cases of fraud in

minor.

proposed a vote of sympathy with the family of the Donegal man who lost his life at the 2013-14, 28 in 2014-15 and 10 in 2015-16 "Overall, the figures show that crime Superintendent Cunningham was Cllr. Pádraig McNally thanked him for the presentation, stating that the public would be reassured by it.





The senior garda went on to explain that they were working on a new innovative scheme with Muintir na Tíre, who were trying to gain some government funding towards the purchase of a property marking machine for the Carrickmacross District.

took place. The Fianna Fáil representative

more

security

This is an innovative idea because it uses postcodes, which are individual to each household. These items and codes will also be stored on a database, so if stolen, no matter where they are recovered, it will be clear where the ownership lies. "This is a new initiative," the

Superintendent explained, "and I'm hoping Carrickmacross District will get to pilot it." New signposts have also been ordered for the district and a

Community Alert groups. With regard to resources, Superintendent Cunningham

Fraud was the last section on the said: "I would be delighted to have more gardaí, but there was no recruitment over two , which has affected us. Recruitment has started again, two a slow process. The resources we have are working extremely hard."

Following on from an earlier comment made by Cllr. McNally regarding an incident in Dundalk, the Superintendent said that there were plenty of gardaí who could drive the patrol cars within the district.

He also observed that having two 24-hour stations was of great required. Cllr. Keelan also asked what benefit to the district.

The Fianna Fáil representative Cllr. McNally then asked a question specific to attempted creeper burglaries, regarding what people should do with their recognised that public buy-in to the countywide Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was relatively He commented that the upsurge keys and property. "People should lock their keys

away somewhere safe in the house... Go the extra mile to secure your home, with lighting at the front of your house. "Criminals don't like light, so

burglaries were a problem. However, strides had been made. the more visibility there is outside your house, the better," Superintendent Cunningham Towards the end of last year some vehicles had been recovered and advised, before going on to state: the PSNI worked in co-operation "We ask people who see suspicious activity to call the with the gardaí in their recovery. Some arrests had been made too.

The gardaí had also taken the precaution of contacting the owners of sought after vehicles within the district. There had been a reduction in these type of thefts, he said, but cautioned that gangs were still in operation.

Time was of the essence in detecting these types of crimes, he continued, explaining that vehicles were being stolen so that they could be stripped down for parts parts.

He advised people to make things as difficult as possible for thieves by locking their keys away and locking their vehicles in the garage etc.

. Continued on page 2

curriculum. were more difficult to detect because of the lack of CCTV, the Ciara and Emer's actions were formally acknowledged by their school following Tuesday's Thanksgiving Mass, which was Superintendent added that domestic CCTV and sensor light kits could be purchased fairly celebrated by chaplain Fr Stephen

Vice-Principal Margaret Conlon

The prompt reaction by two Sixth Year pupils of the St Louis Secondary School in Monaghan

Town to a medical emergency

that occurred in a classroom was

lauded as a life-saving act by a representative of the Irish Heart

Leaving Certificate students Ciara Murray and Emer McNally rendered CPR (cardiopulmonary

resuscitation) to a stricken staff member who was subsequently

recovering. Brigid Sinnott, Basic Life

Support or BLS Co-ordinator with the Irish Heart Foundation,

praised the girls for putting their

life-saving skills into operation until teachers came along and an

She was speaking at the conclusion of the school's end of

term Mass of Thanksgiving for its

2016 Leaving Certificate students, which took place in the St Louis Convent Chapel on Tuesday

ambulance was called.

by ambulance to They are now

Foundation this week.

conveyed

hospiťal.

The Gospel told us stated tonight that the time will come when you will be scattered, each going your own journey, but we want to assure you that you will not be alone – you are part of our community, your are Louis girls and always will be."

# **Eirgrid accused** of bullying as interconnector hearing ends

BORD PLEANÁLA WILL DECIDE ON PLAN FOR 300 PYLONS AND POWER LINES

#### MICHAEL FISHER

An oral hearing that began in Carrickmacross in March into the proposed North/South electricity inteconnector finished on Monday after 35 days of submissions from objectors and the developer. EirGrid said the plan was critically necessary. It was a project the company believed could only be sustainably developed in the manner proposed, as an overhead 400kV alternating current (AC) power line and pylons.

In a closing submission, a lawyer for EirGrid explained why undergrounding would not be suitable. This was the option that dozens of landowners and residents along with public representatives had favoured in their oral and written submissions. But EirGrid did not written put forward any alternative apart from the overhead line.

The company was accused of 'corporate bullying' by Sinn Féin deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin. Government Chief Whip Regina Doherty TD said EirGrid had behaved with arrogance and had shown little respect for the public

during the hearing. EIRGRID claimed the project would minimise adverse impacts to the greatest extent possible along the proposed route from Woodland in Co. Meath through Cavan and Monaghan to Co. Tyrone. A lawyer for the semistate company Brian Murray SC told the two inspectors from An Bord Pleanála the second interconnector was necessary to overcome the risk of system



DEPUTY Ó CAOLÁIN

separation and to increase transfer capacity between the two electricity transmission systems on the island. It was required to achieve the objectives of improving market competition in the context of the Single Electricity Market, to support the development of renewable power generation and to improve ecurity of supply. BRIAN MURRAY SC said the

project had been the subject of exhaustive consultation. It is not and never was a 'box ticking' exercise, he added. The lawyer also addressed the issue temporary access routes, which had been raised on several

occasions during the hearing. "The access routes do not form part of the development. Therefore, no part of the development has changed in any way in the course of the hearing. The access routes are included as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). For that reason, Eirgrid has quite properly taken

account of information gathered in the course of that process", he said. Where modifications had been proposed to access routes, the affected landowners had beer advised.

CAOIMHGHÍN Ó CAOLÁIN TD, Sinn Féin deputy for Cavan-Monaghan, said the lives, hopes, plans and ambitions of people had been suspended in midair for the past nine years as a result of the application. If EirGrid thought the repeated statements that had been made favouring an underground route were a bluff, then let them call their bluff and they would see how strong the support was for undergrounding

the interconnector. He said the health risks from the proposed interconnector were real, as were the fears of local people. Over the past nine years plans had caused stress on individuals, families and communities. He again raised concerns about the impact on the environment, on agriculture, on property and land valuation, as well as the effects it would have on tourism in the five coubnties affected.

He said his party was just one of the many political voices that had unanimously opposed the overhead lines. The EirGrid plan was also collectively challenged by the three County Councils in Monaghan, Cavan and Meath. An Bord must take note of their written and oral presentations on the project, he said. In 31 years as an elected representative he had rarely seen such a crass example of corporate bullying than had been demonstrated by EirGrid. Continued on page 2

SILENCE If you are experiencing abuse in your relationship **Contact Tearmann on** 047 72311 Mon. - Fri. 9.am - 4.pm www.tearmann.net tearmanndvs@eircom.net **KITCHEN AID** 

DEMONSTRATION

in our Euronics Electrical Shop

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