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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 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 Roslin, 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

# CARRICK CRIME ISSUES UNDER SPOTLIGHT

By Veronica Corr  
Superintendent Alan Cunningham addressed a special meeting of 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) 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

Gardaí in relation to the assault and released after questioning. A juvenile was charged and a file has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District PJ O'Hanlon said that the 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 District, which also took in Castleblayney, Rockcorry and Ballybay. The report showed statistics over three years, from May 2013, right up until May 2016.

Superintendent Cunningham explained that there was an increase in the number of assaults from 107 in 2013-14, to 111 in 2014-15, to 148 in 2015-16. 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. 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 a contribution to the policing of the event.

The Superintendent said that 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 cited one of the causes of this to be excessive alcohol consumption in 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. Criminal damage was down from 235 incidents in 2013/14, to 140 in 2014/15, to 163 in 2015-16. Meanwhile, the report revealed that drug statistics had remained stable over three years, from 30 in 2013-14, to 40 in 2014-15, to 35 in 2015-16. It was a similar story with public order offences, which went from 301 incidents in 2013-14, down to 299 in 2014-15 and up again to 309 in 2015-16. Robbery went from two incidents in 2013-14, to three in 2014-15, down to one in 2015-16. Thefts were down too, from 139 in 2013-14, spiking in 2014-15 with 143 and coming down again to 128 in 2015-16. Sex offences, although in double digits may seem high, but Superintendent Cunningham explained that many of these were historic offences involving multiple parties: 10 incidents were recorded in 2013-14, 18 were recorded in 2014-15 and 23 were recorded in 2015-16. Fraud was the last section on the report. The Superintendent stated that these figures fluctuated and often involved offenders cashing cheques and using cards. He said that sometimes there were multiple cases involving a sole offender. There were 15 cases of fraud in 2013-14, 28 in 2014-15 and 10 in 2015-16. "Overall, the figures show that crime is reducing," Superintendent Cunningham was pleased to report. Cllr. Pádraig McNally thanked him for the presentation, stating that the public would be reassured by it. The Fianna Fáil representative recognised that public buy-in to the countywide Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was relatively minor. He commented that the upsurge

in assaults was a worrying trend, since these could range from minor to very serious. The public representative said that he found it hard to understand the difference between burglary and robbery.

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 assault. Robbery, he said, was more serious, adding that thankfully there were very few incidents. Councillor McNally went on to state: "Drugs are the greatest scourge of the country as a whole." He observed that thefts often 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 sure when an incident e.g. theft, took place. The Fianna Fáil representative said that he was sure that the 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 other types of crime. He observed that people were becoming more security conscious with doors barred and windows locked. Therefore, he asked if there was any common sense tips that could be imparted to the public to prevent them becoming victims of crime. In conclusion, Cllr. McNally thanked Superintendent Cunningham for the work that he and the gardaí do. "I would urge the public to report incidents of all kinds because if property is recovered and the theft was not reported, there is great difficulty returning it to the owners," Superintendent Cunningham said. 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. 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 launch is planned through Community Alert groups. With regard to resources, Superintendent Cunningham said: "I would be delighted to have more gardaí, but there was no recruitment over five years, which has affected us. Recruitment has started again, but it's 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 benefit to the district. Cllr. McNally then asked a question specific to attempted creper burglaries, regarding what people should do with their 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 the more visibility there is outside your house, the better," Superintendent Cunningham advised, before going on to state: "We ask people who see suspicious activity to call the

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 trivial they think something might be. "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 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. 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. 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 rural areas. Stating that crimes in similar areas were more difficult to detect because of the lack of CCTV, the Superintendent added that domestic CCTV and sensor light kits could be purchased fairly inexpensively. In response to Cllr. Carthy's request for an increased garda presence at the upcoming Carrickmacross Festival, Superintendent Cunningham confirmed that it would not be a problem. 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 on the beat. 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 value vehicles, farm equipment and trailers, adding that he would be interested to see some statistics on those. 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 and solver. He observed that there was great co-operation between the business owners on Main Street if access to their CCTV systems was required. Cllr. Keelan also asked what could be done about vacant buildings, which had no obvious owner, and which attracted anti-social behaviour. Finally, he congratulated Superintendent Cunningham on the great work the gardaí did under difficult circumstances. The Superintendent acknowledged that creper burglaries were a problem. However, strides had been made. Towards the end of last year some vehicles had been recovered and the PSNI worked in co-operation 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 types 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. 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.

## 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.

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 Foundation this week. Leaving Certificate students Ciara Murray and Emer McNally rendered CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) to a stricken staff member who was subsequently conveyed by ambulance to hospital. They are now recovering. Bridget 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 ambulance was called. 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 evening.

Ms Sinnott said that the Heart Foundation planned to roll out CPR training to second-level schools in September and appealed for schools to take this on board and make it part of their curriculum. Ciara and Emer's actions were formally acknowledged by their school following Tuesday's Thanksgiving Mass, which was celebrated by chaplain Fr Stephen Joyce. Vice-Principal Margaret Conlon

in welcoming Bridget Sinnott said she had travelled from Wexford to 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 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 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 emergency situation had confronted them, advising them 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

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. Her parting advice to the students was: "Don't ever be afraid in your journey through life."

"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 them. 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 stated: "The Gospel told us 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, you 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 interconnector 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 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 semi-state 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 security 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 of 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 been 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 the 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 counties 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 cross example of corporate bullying than had been demonstrated by EirGrid.

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Gerry Flynn...road death

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 proposed a vote of sympathy with the family of the Donegal man who lost his life at the roundabout going towards Castleblayney.

On the morning of the meeting, which took place in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross, few details on the accident were available.

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**KITCHENAD DEMONSTRATION**  
in our Euronics Electrical Shop  
Friday 27th May 2016 from 11-4pm

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