



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

AJ Cahill Independent Election Candidate Meath East

A NEW DEAL FOR MEATH EAST



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As an Independent you need to know why I am standing and what my vision is for Meath East and its people. The policies and ideas I am bringing forward if implemented will significantly change the way we all live. In the next 5 years if we do not implement solutions of this type then we will condemn ourselves as a society and many individuals particularly our Children to paths filled with pain and sadness. These policies are available to be used by any other party or individual. It will be these policies and ideas I will work to have implemented if elected to Dáil Éireann by you the people of Meath East.

If you want these issues to be fought for on your behalf then **Give your Vote a Voice**, make **AJ Cahill your No. 1 choice**. If you want to campaign for change call me on 087 2506444 as I need your help to get elected.

Enough is Enough

Government and politicians should work in the best interests of the people who elected them. We empower our elected representatives to organize local and national government and services any way they deem fit. It is now obvious that they have failed us in nearly every aspect of service from transport to health, schools to crime. The reason this has happened is not because the country did not have enough money, it happened because many of our politicians are not good at what they do. Yet we continue to re-elect them. They don't have ideas or solutions and most of them do not live the lives we live. The FF/PD government have had 10 years to get things right and the FG/Labour opposition have had 10 years to come up with a better plan. Both have failed because they don't have any real ideas or vision. The people know this, they know the problems and many of the answers but no one is listening.

We are constantly being told that "we never had it so good" and "the country is awash with money", yet there are no proper school or play facilities for our children and we spend up to 4 hours a day commuting to work. Before it is too late we need to put the basics right and then begin to create not just an OK society but a great society in which we can be proud to live and bring up our families.

I am ready to provide the leadership, vision and determination to start putting things right and then making things great. I will work with other Independent TDs to deliver a deal for Meath East by aiming to hold the balance of power in the formation of the next government.

Don't let this election come and go. I am offering you the choice of a fresh start where we can begin to build a better society. This is what I, **AJ Cahill**, am about.

Meath East

I am asking you, the people of Meath East to give me a mandate to begin to put things right and build a better society. Listed below is where I want to begin.

- Basic Facilities for our children starting with sufficient schools & classrooms, safe and local properly maintained playgrounds, playing pitches and community centres.
- Primary health care centres in all major population areas and an immediate decision on plans for delivering a regional hospital that is accessible to and sufficient for the planned population of Meath East.
- More Gardaí on the beat and permanent stations in all major population centres.
- A road and rail transport network that reduces commuting times and gives TIME back to families and communities.
- An end to the isolation of our elderly and housebound.
- Alcohol and drug treatment services for those who need and want treatment.
- Vision and respect to build a society worth living in and to be proud of.
- Protection and support for our most marginalized citizens children, elderly, mentally ill, distressed, special needs, gay, travellers.
- Basic sewerage and water supplies to be upgraded to meet the demand needs for our rapidly growing constituency.

What is going on, what I stand for, my election objectives and my stance on policies follow. If this appeals to you then **Give your Vote a Voice**. Make **AJ Cahill your No. 1 choice**. Thank You.

What is going on ?

Stroke Politics

Irish politics for too long has been dominated by stroke politics. Getting something for the community; a classroom or clean water; shouldn't depend on political patronage or having a local minister. It should be a right of all citizens equally.

The traditional stroke politician unfortunately still thrives but what is actually becoming more invidious is the elevation of the stroke to formal government policy. This stroke is the stroke of a pen.

Here, the only vision or leadership we are offered involves a simple taxation rate change or the promise of a higher percentage spend on something. No real work or plan involved, simply the stroke of a pen.

In my adult lifetime I struggle to remember a solid social, infrastructural or economic policy that had a comprehensive plan, timescale and budget that was even remotely achieved. The extended government apparatus seems fundamentally incapable of delivering a plan.

Why ?

What is going on ?

Water, water everywhere & not a drop to drink.

In one of the wettest countries in the world almost half the country is without a safe water supply while the other half is under constant threat of drought. The debacle in Clare & Galway, two areas of enormous rainfall is indicative of the total incompetence of the state apparatus to do even the most fundamental things.

Locally, Ashbourne lacks sufficient water supplies yet we continue to build. It illustrates the disjoint between central and local government with blame flowing more freely than the water.

It also illustrates the priorities of government and the fact again that no-one is in charge, responsible or accountable. How have we not the best and most abundant water supply in the world ?

What is going on ?

Infrastructure

Ireland is one now one big housing estate. Accompanying schools, playgrounds, medical facilities, sewerage or water are forgotten. Whatever their motivation, Local Authorities rezone the nation then blame the Departments of Education, Health, Transport and Environment for not providing the infrastructure. These departments are constantly surprised when areas appear with massive new populations. With three detailed censuses in the last decade and huge revenue and social welfare databases the have collected more information than they know what to do with. The real surprise is how they completely ignore this information. If a shopping centre is to be built legislation can be changed but if a school is needed you'll be lucky to get a temporary structure as good as the tent in Galway where policy is dictated.

What is happening now in Ireland is that roads are built along routes that open up huge tracts of developers land and huge residential rezoning is granted under the guise that developers will provide much needed infrastructure.

What happens then is the bare minimum is provided – a few more secondary access roads – and the situation snowballs. To attempt to redress the situation more zoning is granted and on it goes getting worse. This developer led infrastructure just doesn't work.

We need to move from a focus on Property Developers to one of Proper Development.

Our policies of rural resettlement and decentralization have been confused with huge numbers of people being resettled without relocating any of the jobs. Then to add insult to injury tolls are built to force these people to pay to travel back to their workplaces.

What is going on?

The numbers don't add up.

The increased demand for services in education, health, transport, waste management, sewerage, clean water is largely a function of increased population. Where the problems are most severe the warning signs were also most evident. Huge rezoning and building normally leads to more people and makes the complete lack of foresight or planning for the provision of basic services all the more incredible.

A lot of the problems are basic. If there is a 20% population increase there will be approximately 20% more people who get sick and needing houses and education. The fact that nothing was built to cope with increased numbers is simply unfathomable. Why don't the numbers add up? If our leaders can't handle simple maths how can they possibly be trusted with the complexities of running a country ?.

What is going on ?

Wealth and Stealth

We keep being told how wealthy we all are. Isn't it great ?. I see a lot of ostentatious wealth, but I also see scandalous levels of poverty. Massive inequities are something government should redress.

Wealth is defined as assets minus debt. It is now easier than ever to get into debt and acquire lifestyle assets. So while people appear wealthier they are actually poorer. A more expensive house is quite often a lesser house than a cheap one bought in the good old days. This time-bomb of inflated asset values and debt levels has been set mainly by the property market – banks, builders and their solicitor and auctioneer cronies - supported by government policies.

Corrupt and insufficient planning has inflated the cost of land owned by the elite few and paid for by you, the hard pressed citizen, with your inflated mortgage in an area far from where you once called home.

A law of economics states that super-profits can only be made in a distorted market or a monopoly situation. Our laws have greatly facilitated continued market distortion and banks have recklessly facilitated the transfer of wealth to themselves, the developers and their cronies while that stealth tax known as stamp duty gives the state a cut and justification for protecting the root source of political party funding.

This massive transfer of wealth from the many to the few and of debt in the other direction is already having long term repercussions.

Capital is leaving the country en masse as developers look elsewhere to make super-profits and hide their assets while the burden of high mortgages or rents means families can barely make ends meet

Meanwhile our government with unprecedented surpluses earned on the back of the inflated property market is planning on squandering our money on election bribes rather than tackling the many problems that a government is supposed to handle – clean water, hospitals, schools, crime etc.

How can they advise us to be prudent with our SSIA windfalls on the one hand while on the other hand they throw it away.

It is very much, *do as we say, not as we do.*

That other definition that *Your health is your Wealth* will soon show you how poor you really are if ever you fall ill.

What is going on ?

Stranded

Many people constantly feel stranded and unable to move. All government policies conspire to make movement of people as difficult as possible. The last decade has seen the creation of a long distance commuter society around Dublin and the total lack of co-ordinated planning sees a daily car race by most of these people to travel back from whence they came and into gridlock.

We do build roads, but then after paying for them hand over a monopoly to private operators so we can pay for them again. Tolls, no trains or buses and more importantly no movement of jobs to the new centres of population have led to commuter chaos.

Every attempt to address a major infrastructure deficit is so late arriving that it is already obsolete.

Schools officially open with pre-fabs already on site to cater for extra pupils; water, sewerage and roads are planned for volumes that are exceeded before they even get planning approval. Nothing is ever pre-emptively planned, it always needs retrospective fixing.

If you want to work from home in our "Knowledge Society" try getting a broadband connection. If you are lucky enough to ever get connected. Again, super-profits have been earned from our telecoms infrastructure – now in the ownership of the fourth monopoly in a decade.

And what if you want to move house to a new job or to get out of the rat race ? Stamp Duty on the roof over your head restricts you as you're immediately down €40K simply for moving house.

The EU brought free movement of labour; not in Ireland if you aspire to owning a house.

Everything stops people from moving. People are paralysed on the road to nowhere.

What is going on ?

If you want someone to critically question and find out **What is going on ?** from a state apparatus that is out of control then why not **Vote 1 A.J. Cahill, INDEPENDENT** and **Give your Vote a Voice.**

Vote No 1 A.J. Cahill, INDEPENDENT

A vote for Independence

It is over almost a century since Ireland secured Independence. The Civil War that followed divided the state based on territorial claims creating two factions whose policies, outlook and approach are now indistinguishable from each other save for their historical background.

True Independence of thought, word and deed has been eroded ever since. My Independence is independence from vested interests and outdated or failed policies of the past.

We remain divided on territorial lines, between the few who control vast swathes of territory and those who cannot afford a small plot of land on which to house their family. We are divided by systems created by successive governments that now deny many people access to many basic rights: a home, health, proper education, safety, clean water, basic recreational amenities.

I am entering politics solely to fix things that are WRONG. These are not just small fringe issues but the BIG basics – things to which all citizens have a RIGHT : Access to basic Education & Health, Safety from Crime, Respect for the Elderly & Minorities, Affordable Housing, proper Water, Sanitation & Infrastructure.

Far from the simplistic media image of an Independent being alone and to the Left I stand together with you the people for what is RIGHT

21st Century Ireland has also moved on from the mono-cultural, monochrome idyll of comely maidens dancing at the crossroads to one where our crossroads are more likely to be the scene of a high speed car crash or the only place available for our abandoned youth to loiter menacingly.

We are now a multi-cultural, colourful and vibrant society with a complexity of issues that need balanced resolution and which will only be addressed through proper representation focused on keeping them high on the political agenda. I will do this.

Over the past 15 years Ireland has built a very successful economy, on paper the envy of Europe and the world. The country is awash with money but the lives of the children of the nation are becoming poorer : time poor, health poor and in very many cases wealth poor.

Stressed parents are stuck on congested roads from before dawn 'til dusk because of failed transport and housing policies - policies that have evolved with no regard to the interests of our children who are often home alone without the support of extended family. Grandparents aren't around to support their grandchildren, children aren't around to support these grandparents in their old age. Policies that have driven up house prices at the expense of society have driven families apart.

Now is the time to put the children first, to build a society where all the children of the nation are cherished and the interests of the people are put first.

I firmly believe in trying to return Ireland to a proper Independent democracy where all citizens are equal and have the right to representation.

I stand for particular issues in which I passionately believe. I seek election to stand up against state insult, inaction and indifference – and to make a difference.

My mission in the Dáil will be to improve the lives of my constituents in Meath East, and of all citizens of Ireland, while seeking to be a voice for the Elderly, Autistic children, Drug addicts, disadvantaged communities and other people whose voice is unheard by the state apparatus which is too busy pandering to itself and its political paymasters.

I am not a career politician inheriting a dynastic seat; I have given up a previous life to fight for something I passionately believe in.

I speak from the heart not from the party manual. I will never defend the indefensible, I will strive to defend the individual.

I will speak for YOU.



AJ's Manifesto launch with Independent TDs

If the issues that effect you are poor educational facilities, no proper health access, unaffordable housing, no playgrounds for your children, commuter hell or general government neglect and inaction you should consider **Voting 1 A.J. Cahill, INDEPENDENT.**

When you are offered two versions of the same old thing you feel "why bother, that's no choice", then why not **Vote 1 A.J. Cahill, INDEPENDENT** and **Give your Vote a Voice.**

My Election Objectives

I want to work for the people of Meath East and Ireland to highlight and question all anti citizen policies. I am not alone and will work with all TD's from all parties and none in working to improve the lot of the people of Ireland.

I will fight cronyism, patronage and vested interests for the good of all with an overarching goal to increase the quality of life for individuals, families and communities across the country in a real and tangible way following the formation of the next government.

My aspirations are :

- To provide leadership and respect for every citizen, not the chosen few.
• To provide a voice and agenda that puts the people first and reflects the will of the people.

The short and simple vision I have that encapsulates a lot of what I stand for is to serve properly the needs of the Irish CHILD.

My Vision : The Irish CHILD.

Nearly every issue needing addressing in post Celtic Tiger Ireland can be summarized by CHILD. My fundamental belief for good government policy is that if the answer to the simple question : " Is this in the best interest of ALL the children of the nation ?" is YES then it will be right for society as a whole. The reason I am seeking election is simply to serve properly the needs of the Irish CHILD.

Compassion - Hope - Integrity - Leadership - Democracy

This is what I as an Independent will bring to YOU. I am motivated by personal and community plights and strive primarily for justice and equity in the dealings of big government with each and every citizen.

I do not chant a party mantra simply to attain power and I will always act as the conscience of those in authority.

I believe in "Cherishing all the Children Equally" and with this as an underlying principle I will fight for Compassion and Hope to be brought to those the system fails, I will do it with Integrity and I will provide real Leadership on neglected issues as should happen in a true Democracy where everyone's voice should be heard.

I will "Give your Vote a Voice"

Community - Health - Infrastructure - Learning - Diversity

The foundations for the health & wellbeing of the nation are built upon early and equal access to a safe and supportive community, proper access to health & education and the proper physical and human infrastructure required to deliver this. I believe in promoting diversity in all its forms - multi-cultural acceptance, diversity of choice in education, recreation & access to services.

If we provide proper education, recreation and basic health facilities to children they will thrive and fulfill their potential as citizens of the state. If we fail, anti-social behaviour, delinquency, crime, social unrest, drugs and personal health problems are the future we create for them.

Commuter Hell - Infrastructure - Local Development [Cars - Houses - Inflation - Land - Dublin]

An ever increasing proportion of our citizens are directly affected by failed and corrupt planning processes which have created long distance lifestyles. People commute long hours over long distances to pay for their over-priced home in a once small village or a new suburb.

Children suffer overcrowded schools with no local recreational facilities or immediate extended family support. They live in areas chronically over-developed with little health, sewerage or water facilities. Community volunteers live in their cars and the traditional fabric of rural & urban Ireland is disintegrating in the face of forced migration.

I aim to pay attention, not lip-service, to the very real and increasing plight of the displaced by matching Local Development to the needs of old and new communities with a focus on supporting Children, building community and improving the planning process.

I will fight to resolve the connected problems of affordable housing, sensible transport solutions and spiraling inflation in land prices and the cost of living.

This is my "CHILD" focused agenda which I offer to you the people of Meath East and which I will work towards with any and every party that supports or promotes a CHILD focused policy.



KEY POLICY ISSUES

The following are my positions on key policy issues.

My life as a TD will be guided by these principles but I will also support all other citizen friendly initiatives from any other TD or party.

BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A fundamental problem with the provision of any infrastructure in Ireland is that in real life there is no overall system for its planning or delivery. There is a complete lack of joined up thinking and an avoidance of responsibility and accountability. How else could you end up with whole communities consistently without adequate water, sewerage, schools, open spaces, public transport, basic roads, gardaí or health facilities. Not just isolated instances but again and again and again.

The Meath East coastal area is now widely quoted as the benchmark for how not to plan a community.

Central government abdicates responsibility to Local Authorities without either funding or controlling them. Local vested interests fight to split the limited pot and end up completing nothing and ignoring even more. Technically bankrupt they are forced to look for developer led infrastructure where they sell their citizens short by granting ridiculous levels of housing development in return for minimal infrastructure such as a road. There is very little enforcement of any planning conditions which continually leads to greater problems and very unhealthy levels of increasing interdependency with developers. And as soon as the citizens realise there is a crisis there is no-one to blame or hold accountable.

My main mission as a TD will be to seek radical reform of how we run the infrastructure in Ireland. Meath East is an extreme example of exactly what needs to be sorted out.

HOUSING

- On granting of planning permissions community zoned land should be transferred in trust to the state (Local authority or relevant Dept - Education / Health), not simply earmarked and re-zoned residential in the future.
- Large scale planning permissions to be subject to full compliance with previous permissions and satisfactory completion of estates for all developers. Tax clearance mandatory for all developers, their beneficial owners, their previous companies and any vendor of lands..
- Private estates to be immediately taken in charge by local authority if requested by residents and a ban on "IN FILL" re-zoning and development in existing estates where green areas and parking places are lost.
- End to the building of council or corporation only estates - necessary to facilitate social inclusion and integration.
- Permanent re-introduction of 20% social housing for all developments without exception and a diversion of rent supplement payments to part fund 20% social housing within existing or new housing stock.
- Specific legislation to govern the duties and enforcement of responsibilities for now common shared housing "management committees".
- Stamp Duty on principle private residences to be reviewed as it restricts freedom of movement of citizens.

Meath East

- Estates must be completed and taken over by council.
- IN FILL to be banned.
- Full implementation of part 5 20% social housing
- No planning permission granted unless infrastructure commitment is in place.
- End to developer provision of large infrastructure projects.
- The role of the council to be radically reviewed for responsibility and accountability.

EDUCATION

- Department of Education to be fully responsible for the provision and delivery of school infrastructure triggered by demand metrics based on census / local authority planning data.
- Planning permission for large residential developments to be subject to availability of school places signed off by the Department of Education or subject to the prior provision of school(s) or site(s) directly by developer.
- To promote a Knowledge economy, best practice in terms of funding, facilities, pupil teacher ratio's, early start programmes to become a reality.
- School Funding should reflect the actual costs of running a school which are not linear based on numbers. Many are fixed based on bureaucratic workload, insurance, rates etc. The current simplistic approach does not work.
- The archaic patronage legislation to be reviewed to avoid volunteers being responsible for founding schools and held liable for operational problems.
- Responsible citizen programme – all children should understand : Basic Irish legal principles & rights of individuals; basic health & nutrition (capable of cooking a meal); basic computers & information technology; basic taxation, employment rights, credit & mortgage issues; Drug and alcohol education ; Diversity training to promote multi-culturism and tolerance; Driver education and what it means to be a member of a community and a responsible citizen.

Meath East

To secure adequate primary and secondary school sites and classrooms to cater for the already known rapid growth in school going population.

HEALTH

- Hospitals and primary health facilities to match population. Irelands population has increased by 20% in the past decade, concentrated in certain areas yet additional hospital beds and capacity have ignored this. While there are other complexities, basic maths is a major cause of the crisis in health.
- Address the imbalance between administration and medical staffing in the health system to ensure some value for money.
- Regional access to services or guaranteed access to national specialist treatments at a minimum.
- Universal health insurance and equal and more equitable access to treatment particularly where GP fees impact on child health.
- Access on demand to corrective teeth treatments for all children under the national treatment purchase fund.
- Rapid in-take to Drug and Alcohol detoxification and residential addiction treatment within 24 hours of seeking help.
- Independent review of the capacity of senior civil servants to understand, facilitate and successfully lead implementation of government health policy.

Meath East

- To secure access to adequate regional hospital services.
 - To increase health centres in line with population and to secure access to national treatments if not available locally.
 - To prevent the building and operation of the planned incinerator in Co Meath.
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TRANSPORT

- Secondary road system to be funded directly by central government, not devolved to bankrupt Local Authorities who delegate to builders in return for massive planning permissions. Developer led infrastructure just leads to more houses, more congestion and more problems.
- Establishment of a National Transport Authority (NTA) and a Dublin Mass Transit Authority (DMTA).
- Abandonment of road tolling policy.
- Affordable pricing of bus & rail tickets to apply within 50 km of cities.
- Independent review of the capacity of senior civil servants to understand, facilitate and successfully lead implementation of government transport policy.

The majority of journeys to work in Ireland are made by private car. In urban commuter belts journey times of 2 hours each way are not uncommon. Many parents leave home before children get up and return after they are in bed with children only seeing them at weekends despite living in the same house. It is critical to the development of society that some of this wasted journey time is returned to families. Journey times can be reduced greatly by a change of focus from cars to Mass transit solutions i.e. metro, trains, park and ride, buses etc AND/OR the relocation of places of work to where people live.

Meath East

- Immediate provision of rail line to Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin & Navan and removal of inter-county fare structure for all Meath commuter stations.
 - Local feeder buses that work in tandem with connecting bus & train time tables
 - Completion of the M3, bypasses and an upgrade of secondary road system under the NRA.
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

- The powers and proper funding of Local Authorities to be overhauled to properly provide basic amenities and facilities to citizens – water, sewerage, playgrounds and community facilities for children. Rates paid by business fund local government but do not reflect where people live or the services they require. Particularly in areas of rapid growth the mistakes of the past in creating ghettos and urban wastelands should not be repeated simply because the wrong method of funding or bad short term politicized decision making takes place. Priorities must be formally set out and adhered to.
- The Department of Environment to take full responsibility for the proper running of local government and exercise its veto and power of final approval over all local area plans and infrastructure or capital spending.
- Restriction of executive powers of local representatives over transport and community infrastructure to ensure they at least try to comply with minimum standards per head of population. They should all be answerable and accountable to national guidelines and comply with best practices .
- Independent review of the capacity of senior civil servants, councillors & planners to understand, facilitate and lead implementation of government policies.

Meath East

Meath County Council is operationally bankrupt. A complete review of how our local authority has allowed the over-development of Meath East and inflicted such environmental and social chaos on its citizens is a priority.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

FAMILY

- o Elderly - extension of the "Good Morning Blanchardstown" phone service on a national basis to reduce isolation and co-ordinate delivery of services to the elderly and house bound.
- o Children - implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of the Child.
- o Constitutional change to protect children
- o Constitutional change to protect involvement of both parents in their lives of their children.

Meath East

The launch of "Good Morning Meath" and the demanding of family friendly planning from our local authority.

COMMUNITY

- o Provision of social infrastructure (see below) to be triggered by demand metrics based on census data.
 - Schools
 - Playgrounds
 - Community centers
 - Playing pitches
 - Health / Medical centres
- o No residential zoning or construction can take place in any areas without social infrastructure being in place unless the developer plans to put the infrastructure in place before any houses are occupied.
- o Social responsibility to be included as a formal part of the school curriculum.
- o Independent review of the capacity of senior civil servants to successfully understand, facilitate and lead implementations of social infrastructure.

Meath East

Ensure the local authority takes responsibility for social infrastructure and the wellbeing of its' citizens.

JUSTICE & CRIME

- o Recruitment of sufficient Gardai as required in urban and rural areas of the state based again on demand metrics, census data and crime hotspots.
- o Patton style review of the Gardai to restore confidence in the force and the creation of Gardai ombudsman office as per NI
- o Government drug policy to be based on evidence based harm reduction - National Drug Strategy Taskforce expertise to be used to develop policy.
- o Removal of mentally ill offenders from prison to secure mental health facilities
- o Independent review of the capacity of senior civil servants to understand, facilitate and successfully lead implementation of government drug policy.
- o Implementation of the law reform commissions recommendation that District Judges give written reasons before making custodial sentence.
- o Implementation of non-custodial alternatives for non-violent offenders and the extension of pilot restorative justice schemes nation-wide.
- o Parental responsibility for the misbehaviour & the control of juveniles to be adopted into law.
- o Reform the prohibitive practices and cost structure of the legal system which allows access only to the small number who can afford it. All should be equal in the eyes of the law not just those who can pay for representation.
- o Serious white collar crime to be pursued as vigorously as all other crimes particularly where public representatives are involved.

The media and political debate in Ireland on crime revolves around sound bites such as "ASBOs" and "Electronic Tagging" combined with the use of other failed policies from the UK and USA. Despite Ireland having the strongest laws in Europe [e.g. for countering drugs] even our drugs strategy is a failure. Prisons should be places of detention and rehabilitation for persons who are a danger to society i.e. sex offenders, violent criminals, drug dealers and traffickers etc. However in Ireland the criminal justice system and in particular the prison system is also used extensively as "dustbin" for drug addicts, alcoholics, the mentally ill, homeless and disadvantaged. By criminalizing these groups of people we condemn them to a life of crime and in the process make our society a more dangerous place for all our children. We need urgently to adopt another approach using evidence-based policies that work, such as those used in Finland and Germany.

If we as a society really want to make our "streets safer" for our children then we must look inside the "dustbin" that has become our criminal justice system and begin removing those who should not be there to treatment. In doing this we will enable the criminal justice system to focus on serious criminals. The benefits to society of doing this are enormous; we will reduce crime and the cost of crime while making our streets safer and society better. It costs €1,600 per week to keep a person in prison yet in 2001 25% of people sent to prison in Ireland were sent for non-payment of fines less than €400. What is needed is a root and branch review followed by reform of the criminal justice system.

Meath East

There is only one permanently manned Garda station in Ashbourne protecting the 87,000 people of Meath East. Drogheda, Balbriggan and Navan also serve the area – if they're not busy on their own patch. 999 response times are criminally slow and non emergency calls worse still. Meath East is becoming a great place to do business if you are a criminal, but not so good if you are in business or live here.

We immediately need :

- Additional permanent gardaí in line with actual population and crime growth
- Local facilities for drug treatment and community service.

ECONOMY & TAXATION

- The promotion of a Knowledge Economy must be backed by the resources and skills that will make this a reality now that Ireland is no longer low cost .
- When the residential building boom subsides I would use the surpluses of recent years to fund infrastructural projects – schools, hospitals, water treatment etc and employ unemployed builders. At liquidation prices large stocks of unsold houses could be bought to meet social housing obligations.
- Increased equity in the taxation system in areas where the extremely wealthy avoid taxes, mainly property profit taxes. Stamp duty shouldn't be a disincentive to mobility – maybe no charge or exemption up to € 500K on main home as with capital gains tax. No exemption on second homes or for companies or investors.

- Family focussed taxation : The removal of individualisation to place some value on the rearing of children should be prioritised. The PAYE allowance already rewards both parents working. This could be through use of a “family” allowance if a family has children, elderly parents living at home, or if one person is unable to work for health reasons.
- Benchmarking and public service staffing to be fully reviewed. Benchmarking was supposed to match local with best international practice & pay levels, not to follow the leader. It has vastly increased the cost of doing business in Ireland and completely divorced itself from private sector wages which it was originally set up to match. Security of tenure, holidays, working hours and guaranteed pensions all need to be considered.
- The waste of tax revenues on politically motivated and / or uncontrolled projects to be assessed and prioritised in terms of whether this is the best and most urgent use of scarce resources and is in the best interest of ALL the children of the nation, present or future.
- Incentivise good social and environmental behaviour – tax breaks for renewable energy initiatives – hybrid cars, solar energy, recycling.

Meath East

Ensure that local taxes make their way back in the form of local services – schools, health, water etc.

ENVIRONMENT

- To protect our environment & heritage by promoting renewable energy sources and waste recycling.
- To position Ireland to cope with the effects of global warming. With higher rainfall than almost anywhere on the planet we still can't provide sufficient quantity or quality of water to a large number of our citizens. We should be capable of capturing, storing and transporting water so that the West doesn't constantly flood in Winter while the East suffers drought in Summer.
- To ensure respect for our environment is part of the social responsibility curriculum in schools.

Meath East

Basic sewerage and water infrastructure to be put in place and planned for any future developments.

NATURAL & NATIONAL RESOURCES

- Ensure that water supplies are never transferred from state ownership and that they are invested in and managed correctly as a national priority.
- Ensure that key infrastructure such as roads, rail, power generation is not sold off cheaply resulting in increased costs in the future and hostage taking as happened with the sale of our national telecommunications core infrastructure and the M50 and other toll roads.
- Review of licence terms and taxation for oil and gas exploration with the state to retain a significant stake in any explorations

EQUALITY

- o Diversity education to be included in the curriculum for to increase understanding and reduce prejudice towards citizens who may be gay, non-white, emigrants, travellers, aged.
- o Reform of the senate to provide for representation of minority groups, Irish people living overseas and in NI.
- o Irish Travellers to be designated as a distinct ethnic group.

CULTURE

- o Irish and EU flags to be displayed in every primary school classroom and on the grounds of every secondary school.
- o Active measures to increase the use of the Irish language particularly the spoken word and electronic display systems (ATMs, parking machines etc.)
- o Content and scope of Irish history syllabus to be reviewed by the director of national museum for both primary and secondary level.
- o Irish folklore and mythology to be taught at primary school level
- o New housing estate names to be subject to approval of heritage council

PROTECTION OF DEMOCRACY

- o Introduction of legislation to ban the concentration of media ownership.
- o All income / donations totalling €10K per year must be declared publicly by all TDs, councillors and political parties. Failure to do so will deem the payment as a corrupt payment and both the giver and receiver will be liable to criminal prosecution for corruption.



I am 39 years old, a self-employed engineer, married with two children, and living in Laytown. As a seasoned community campaigner I am only too well aware of the issues facing Meath East. And just like you, I am experiencing the continuous neglect of our communities by our elected representatives and how it impacts on our lives.

This neglect must be stopped

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Meath East's 3 Dáil seats do not belong to Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael or Labour. They belong to **YOU** the people of Meath East.

On Election Day you have a choice, you can let the neglect of Meath East continue for another 5 years or you can **GO OUT AND VOTE**.

From Ashbourne to Slane, from Nobber to Dunshaughlin, from Duleek to Bettystown the choice is yours. I'm asking you to choose to **"Give Your Vote a Voice"** by voting for **Independent Candidate A.J. Cahill** so we can begin to claim back what rightfully belongs to all of us, young and old, **representation and respect for the people of Meath East**.

We have had 10 years of a government without vision or respect for the people they were elected to represent, while the so-called opposition had 10 years to come up with solutions and failed.

Don't reward them, use your vote to give Meath East a voice and the opportunity to make a deal after the election. Vote 1 A.J. Cahill

PLEASE HELP ME TO HELP YOU AND YOURS

If you would like to help my campaign in any way please contact me by email : aj@ajcahill.com or directly on 087 2506444. Thank You.

For an update on my campaign or to find out more about the issues that are effecting the people of Meath East and for which I wish to fight on your behalf see my election blog at www.ajcahill.com

