



# AONTÚ

Gerard Sheehan is married to Sinead and they have five children. He has been involved in local issues for many years with a view to improving the area and helping to grow a more inclusive community.

Gerard helped set up the Ongar Tidy Towns group, Ongar Community Garden and is a Director of the Shared Facilities Executive of Ongar Community Centre and St. Benedicts National School.

Gerard is also on the School board of St. Philip the Apostle NS in Mountview as well as the Parish Pastoral Council which deals with churches in Huntstown, Littlepace, Blakestown, Hartstown and Mountview. He is a founding member and coach of the NAC Sharks Special Olympics Club. Gerard and his family have a long-time involvement with Erin Go Bragh GAA Club, Ongar Chasers Basketball club and Coolmine Swimming club.

## Gerard SHEEHAN

## Ongar

### HEALTH

Aontú worked successfully to ensure the provision of a second CT scanner in Connolly Hospital. This will ensure diagnostic capabilities appropriate for the growing local population.

As a member of the National Hospital Campaign, Gerard Sheehan continues to highlight the need for better primary and secondary healthcare services and to pursue the critical issue of ever-increasing hospital waiting lists. Our health system is broken with a new approach urgently needed.

Aontú will tackle this crisis head on. We spend over €21 billion a year on health, but we don't get value for money. We have a €2 billion hole in the ground for a Children's Hospital while 1 million people are on waiting lists. Aontú calls for less managers on six-figures and more front-line medical staff, with better pay & conditions. Ireland has just 2.9 hospital beds per 1,000 people, one of the lowest in Europe.

In 20 years, our hospital bed capacity has dropped by 40% to just 14,213 beds, while our population grew by 30%! The blame lies with the four previous Health Ministers now in this Government.

### CRIME

Many citizens live in fear of crime daily. Lanes off main streets are off limits due to open drinking and drug taking. The murder rate in Ireland has doubled this year alone. Rape and sexual assaults have doubled in the past decade.

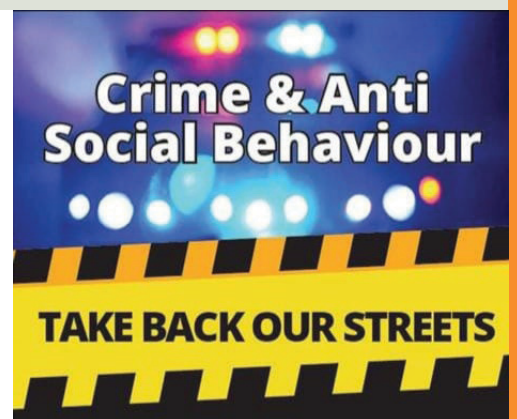


**Aontú Leader  
PEADAR TÓIBÍN TD**

CSO data shows a significant increase in violent crime, robbery and theft. All this while Fine Gael's Justice Minister pursues "hate-speech" legislation which will limit legitimate forms of free speech rather than protecting the lives of law-abiding citizens.

We have one of the lowest numbers of police per capita in Europe. More Gardaí are retiring than are being replaced. Gardaí are being assaulted in their work, often by criminals with multiple previous convictions.

Aontú will support and empower the Gardaí to increase recruitment. We will place more Garda patrols on our streets and local communities to keep you safe. A new Garda Station is required and until then Mobile units are needed in Ongar.



For assistance on local issues, contact Gerard: Tel 089 437 5144 Email [gerardfsheehanaontu@gmail.com](mailto:gerardfsheehanaontu@gmail.com)

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## HOUSING

This housing crisis has been caused by decades of Government inaction. The chronic lack of supply is causing high prices and rents and forcing many to depend on limited Social Housing or risk becoming homeless. At present there are 10,000 people on Fingal County Council's waiting list with waiting times up to 8 years. Due to the current housing crisis many families have adult children still living at home. Our youth are shut out of the housing market, unable to save a deposit and facing emigration.

Latest figures show that 68pc of Irish adults between the ages 25 - 29 still live at home, the EU average is 42pc. This Government has failed them. Aontú's Peadar Tóibín TD has found that there are over 3,544 local authority homes throughout the country that are boarded up. This is a national scandal. Gerard Sheehan will work to ensure the rapid turnaround of any vacant homes for use by the local community.

Aontú will increase housing supply and end the tax advantages given to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT's) by Fine Gael which allows them tax relief while bulk-buying residential homes for the "build to rent market" pushing young people & families from the market. We have serious supply & demand issues and a rapidly growing population; urgent action is needed to fix this.



Gerard & his litter-picking squad

The Work Life Balance Bill sought to remove the terms 'women', 'female' and 'mother' from maternity legislation. Aontú vigorously opposed this and will do so for any future attempts.

## CULTURE WARS

Gerard strongly believes that parents must have the final say when it comes to their children's education and he believes that it is totally inappropriate for the government to be pushing political ideology into SPHE programmes in schools. Such programmes should be based entirely on biological science and fact.

Aontú notes the severe recruitment & retention crisis in teaching and calls on the Government to provide more resources for schools to allow more full-time teacher recruitment.

## COST OF LIVING

Nearly 20% of people are living in poverty due to rising housing costs and increasing prices from fuel to groceries. Inflation has risen sharply, and interest rates are following, impacting mortgages and loans.

Home energy prices have increased by 50% and utility bills are crippling households. Families need to find €2,500 more this year to heat their homes, to buy food and fuel their cars. Over 50% of the price of fuel is Government taxes making Irish electricity prices the highest in Europe, yet they have increased carbon taxes several times, worsening the cost-of-living crisis.

The Government has jacked up the price of petrol and diesel multiple times this year. None of this is an accident. These are deliberate attacks on drivers and commuters many of whom have no alternative mode of transport.

Aontú has consistently lobbied for a cancellation of energy excise rate increases by this Government and the abolition of M1 tolls which are an added burden for commuters and benefit only Government coffers.

## GOVERNMENT INCREASING ENERGY COSTS

**AONTÚ**  
LIFE | UNITY | ECONOMIC JUSTICE

1 Jun 2023

**Petrol +6c**  
**Diesel +5c**

1 Sep 2023

**Petrol +7c**  
**Diesel +5c**

11 Oct 2023

**Petrol +3c**  
**Diesel +3c**



## TRANSPORT

As Dublin 15 has grown rapidly in the last two decades, Gerard Sheehan knows that public transport issues and persistent traffic congestion are now a daily reality for many residents. While the train and bus service to Dublin 15 has improved in recent years, some key areas still need urgent attention. Traffic congestion black spots such as access points to the N3 (Navan Road) are a contributing factor to extended commuting times for many people who live in Dublin 15. The LUAS needs to be expanded to Dublin 15.



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