

Mona STROMSOE | Midleton

Living in Midleton for the past 30 years, Mona Stromsoe is running for election because, through her volunteer work offering practical support to young families, she has seen first-hand the lack of resources for some in our society.

Mona believes in an Ireland where human rights and equality are respected and protected for all. She joined Aontú because she wants to bring politics back to grassroots where local issues are as important as national issues.

In Cork, Aontú have been involved in many campaigns to save local services including fishing, health, fire and garda services, we have also been involved in the national Save Our Hospital's campaign.



EAST CORK NEEDS AMENITIES

In the greater Midleton local electoral area we have serious problems with traffic congestion, flooding and lack of forward planning for parking. There are many hundreds of houses being built but there are no plans for further infrastructure, for example sports centres, youth facilities and medical centres.

In Youghal, the old St Raphael's Hospital lies empty and could be repurposed for local disability or homeless services, with community consultation. We need a public swimming pool for East Cork. Mona Stromsoe will be a champion for change in these and other areas impacting our community.

HEALTH

"Your health is your wealth" but, here in Ireland, the healthcare system is in crisis and has been for a very long time. We have a shortage of medical staff in all fields in our hospitals and a shortage of GP's in the community.

In 1980 in Ireland, there were 9 hospital beds per 1000 people, in May 2023 the Chair of the Consultant Committee of the IMO stated that this has plummeted to merely 2.7 beds per 1,000 of the population and that there is an acute need for 5,000 additional beds if we are to provide adequate care for the population. The dire shortage of beds adds to overcrowding in hospitals and EDs, longer waiting lists and poorer patient outcomes. The Covid 19 crisis further highlighted this mismanagement.

Only Aontu has been consistently highlighting these issues and holding incompetent Ministers to account. Mona recognises the need to address the acute weaknesses in our health service due to mismanagement and neglect by the current Government and will fight for your community to ensure services are staffed, accessible and sustainable.

CHILDCARE COSTS HAMMERING THE PEOPLE OF CORK

There is a serious lack of services for children with special needs in this area, beginning with the delay in assessments. Under the Disability Act the HSE is supposed to complete the assessment within 6 months this target is not being met. Mona is calling for the HSE to step up and keep the promises which were made. There is also a serious need for a school for children pre-school and primary school age with severe developmental disorders in Midleton.

This is a large town with a huge catchment area and no school suitable for children with profound learning disabilities. Providers of Early Childhood Education are facing serious difficulty where a significant number of providers have advised the Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman of their intention to close their doors and go on a three-day strike.

Smaller businesses are reporting high levels of stress and burnout due to high costs, and the pressure of maintaining ratios. Many are closing their doors permanently as the mounting pressures make it impossible to continue. Small services are struggling more than larger corporate providers and Mona will continue to defend them.



Aontú Leader
PEADAR TÓIBÍN TD



For assistance on local issues, contact Mona: Tel 087 977 1176 Email m_stromsoe@hotmail.com

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HOUSING

Our young people cannot afford to buy their own home and are now emigrating in large numbers to Australia and Canada. There's hardly a family in East Cork who won't have an empty seat around their table this Christmas.

Government policies facilitated a housing bubble followed by a housing shortage. We now have exorbitant prices to purchase or rent. Over 12,500 people in Ireland are homeless over 3,700 of whom are children. This national shame is a far cry from our 1916 proclamation to "cherish all the children equally".

All this is happening while there are vacant properties across the county owned by Cork City and County councils.

Cork City Council currently own 350 houses which are vacant. Cork County Council own a further 184 vacant houses. These should immediately be brought back into use given the scale of the crisis we are currently facing. The greatest hoarder of vacant properties in this country is the State itself.

One of the primary solutions to the housing crisis is not near as complex as some politicians make out – and that is to build more houses. We need to urgently elect politicians who are not afraid of concrete. Mona will fight tooth and nail to ensure houses are turned around as quickly as possible and made available for applicants so we can begin to address this national outrage.

GOVERNMENT COST OF LIVING CRISIS WORSE

The cost-of-living crisis is causing huge distress and suffering throughout the country. Nearly 20% of our population is now living on the margins. We have the highest energy costs in Europe at double the per unit rate of the EU average.

The Greens are happy to keep prices high to reduce consumption, but they are not providing alternatives for struggling families. Statistics released to Aontú shows that last year more money was taken in on tax on fuel than ever before.

Mona, working with colleagues across the country will stand up for residents and businesses affected by the inertia at the heart of this Government when it comes to ensuring a decent standard of living for our communities.

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE OWENACURRA CENTRE

Here in Midleton, the HSE are closing the only residential mental health facility in all of East Cork, the Owenacurra Mental Health facility.

Owenacurra has been home to some long-time care patients for 20 years. It is in an ideal location in the centre of the town with easy access to the main street and 24-hour care for the residents. Owenacurra should be refurbished and retained in Midleton.



Once again, the most vulnerable in our society are being let down. Some residents have been moved to more isolated settings away from the community in contravention of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Government policy and HSE policy. A day centre service is also located within the premises and is available to non-residents from the local community.

Mona Stromsoe has been campaigning to keep services across Cork that benefit our people, open and can be counted upon to leave no stone unturned in standing up for your community.



Patrick Murphy is the Aontú EU Election Candidate. He is also CEO of the Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation. He negotiates at European level to protect the interests of Irish Fishers.

The damage done to the fishing industry is now being repeated in farming. Patrick helped organise the Irish fishing flotilla that moved the Russian warships from our waters. He will fight your corner in Europe.

GOVERNMENT INCREASING ENERGY COSTS



1 Jun 2023
Petrol +6c
Diesel +5c

1 Sep 2023
Petrol +7c
Diesel +5c

11 Oct 2023
Petrol +3c
Diesel +3c



For assistance on local issues, contact Mona: **Tel** 087 977 1176 **Email** m_stromsoe@hotmail.com

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