



AONTÚ

Una O'CONNOR

Clane

Una O'Connor is your Aontú candidate in the Clane Local Electoral Area. Una began her career in the Department of Foreign Affairs before joining An Garda Síochána where she worked until her recent retirement and is now a carer.

Committed to local community volunteerism, Una has secured over €20,000 in grants for her home community of Prosperous. She has served on the committees of Prosperous Community Association, Prosperous Pitch and Putt Club and Prosperous Tidy Towns.

More recently she established Blackwood Residents Action Group in an ongoing effort to make safe a local traffic blackspot at Dag Weld's Cross. She cares deeply for the marginalised and for those who have a mental or intellectual disability and has raised money for Kare. She is also on Clane Festival committee and is currently on the Board of Management of Prosperous Area Community Employment Scheme.

FIGHTING FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE

Una has been at the forefront of demanding more resources for healthcare to meet the

increasing demand for services in, amongst other facilities, Naas Hospital which is under growing pressure of an increasing local population. Together with local Aontú cumann members she has lobbied for better resources at Naas Hospital and against unfair hospital parking fees.

Last year nearly 500 people were waiting on trolleys for care during the month of August alone – the worst ever recorded in Naas General. Lakeview Psychiatric Unit has been described as “not fit for purpose” yet little investment has taken place to ensure vulnerable patients using the facility receive the level of care they deserve. As someone who has served the public with distinction, Una understands the need for these services to be correctly funded and run.

CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Communities feel under siege due to the increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. We have one of the lowest numbers of police per capita in the EU.

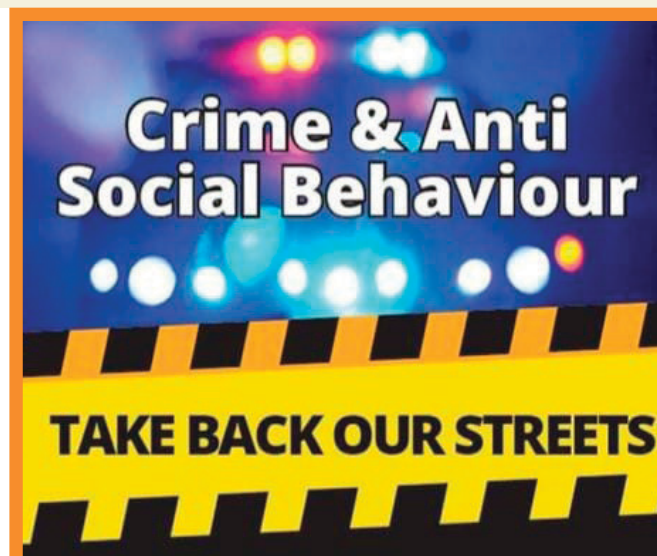


**Aontú Leader
PEADAR TÓIBÍN TD**

Every week Gardai are being attacked and new recruits are resigning and retiring – this is unprecedented.

Recruitment to Templemore is not keeping up with retirements and resignations.

Aontú has introduced a Bill to ensure a custodial sentence for anyone who intentionally injures a Garda, a Fireman or woman and a medical professional in our hospitals.



For assistance on local issues, contact the Aontú Office: **Tel** 046 948 4962 **Email** una.oconnor@aontu.ie

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TRANSPORT

Far too many of our local roads that don't lead to Dublin are poorly maintained. Almost half of new cars purchased now are electric or hybrid. Public Charge Points must be included in all new developments.

Public transport has focused on connection to large urban areas rather than on the needs of rural communities to be able to travel within the county. The bus service is inconsistent and our rail network is barely adequate to serve access to Dublin while connectivity throughout the county is still insufficient.

Outsourcing of public transport is proving problematic. Bus shelters and stop signs are in a bad state of repair due to apparent reluctance to take ownership of infrastructure. Una is committed to improving connectivity throughout Kildare, connecting local communities as well as serving commuters.

EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Through her involvement in Prosperous Area Community Employment, Una understands that empowering our youth is vital for the future of Kildare. Una will work to enhance educational facilities, providing access to quality education and skills development programs. By nurturing the talents of our young generation, we can create a skilled workforce that contributes to the economic growth of our communities.

WORKING FOR SAFER ROADS

Una has highlighted a number of dangerous junctions in the locality which need realignment. Maintenance of our roads and their markings has not been good enough. In many roads, markings are badly faded or completely obliterated.

Many residents that Una engages with have raised concerns about overgrown hedgerows covering road signage. These have not been trimmed in prolonged periods of time, adding to the feeling of neglect.

The cost of maintenance is negligible for our roads. The collapse in Garda numbers under this government has also led to lower enforcement. Aontú has worked hard to bring this to light.



QUALITY EMPLOYMENT IN KILDARE

Kildare is increasingly becoming a commuter county. More initiatives similar to Clane Business Park and ACDAL in Allenwood are needed to encourage local industry. Kildare County Council has a role to play in zoning land for such developments.

The opportunity of remote working has brought welcome relief to commuters and working parents facing childcare costs. Parts of North-West Kildare are still broadband black spots. Continued pressure needs to be applied to rectify this in order to facilitate increased demand for remote working and Small and Medium Industry.

Una sees North-West Kildare as having enormous potential in terms of entrepreneurship and small industry.

TIME FOR COMMON SENSE ON HOUSING

Aontú has highlighted the appalling length of time that Local Authority properties are laying empty despite increasing demand. In Kildare 126 Local Authority houses, including seven in Prosperous, are currently vacant with some boarded up for over a year. Aontú has highlighted the unacceptable delay in local authorities turning around houses which become vacant. Local farm families are being refused planning permission at a time when housing is scarce – this is unreasonable when people are willing to provide homes for themselves.

If elected, the community can count on Una to be determined in her resolve to tackle these housing issues as a matter of urgency.



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