

**PUTTING  
PEOPLE FIRST**

**INDEPENDENT VOICE  
YOUR CHOICE**

**FOR THE  
COMMON GOOD**

## **INDEPENDENT VOICE - YOUR CHOICE**

Given my experience on the City Council and on a range of committees - it is clear to me that there are more positive solutions that in the long term will actually save money and benefit the economy.

In this regard, I have signed up to the 'Hands Up for Children Campaign' by the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

This campaign highlights key facts including:

'Children were the group most affected by the recession in Ireland',  
'70,000 children live in consistent poverty'  
'one in five children go to school hungry'  
and  
'75% of the first onset of poor mental health occurs under the age of 25'.

It also sets out that 'Early Intervention makes sense on every level and costs a fraction of current expenditure' and I fully agree.

Similarly, early intervention, support and properly funded services for victims of Domestic Violence is also essential.

With your Vote and support I will continue to highlight these issues and work with you and like-minded public representatives to force change.

**Your vote is vital to achieve these goals.**

## **PERSONAL DETAILS**

Originally from Shantalla, Catherine has lived in the Claddagh since 1988. She is married with two children. A practising Barrister, Catherine previously worked as a Clinical Psychologist with what was the Western Health Board in Ballinasloe, Galway City and Conamara. Her experience as a Psychologist with the Health Board has led to a life long and passionate interest in public health issues.  
Bhain sí Diplóma amach sa Ghaeilge i 2013 agus faoi láthair tá sí ar ais arís san Ollscoil i mbun cúrsa aistriúcháin.

### **Current Committee Membership:**

Corrib Navigation Trustees  
Environment/Recreation and Amenity SPC  
Regional Health Forum  
Joint Policing Committee

### **Former Committee Membership**

VEC  
Housing SPC  
Arts funding Committee  
Galway Civic Trust  
Chairwoman of Galway Technical Institute  
Board of Management, Coláiste na Coiribe  
Chairwoman of the Corrib Navigation Trustees  
Vice Chairwoman of the Regional Health Forum.

### **Contact Details**

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*Mayor of Galway 2004 - 2005*



**Councillor Catherine Connolly**

### **A Chara**

Since my election as a City Councillor in 1999 I have consistently worked with you in an open and accountable manner with the common good to the fore of all my decisions.

**I am now asking for the privilege to represent you at national level as the first Independent Female TD from Galway West.**

The ongoing crises in Health, Housing and Transport together with the problems arising from climate change are not inevitable but are consequent on bad decisions or indeed the failure to make them.

Similarly, the unacceptable decision to close rural Garda Stations and Post Offices along with cuts to rural transport schemes has undermined the viability of community life and does not represent fair and balanced development.

I firmly believe that there are more sustainable solutions that put people and communities first but only if the economy is used appropriately for the benefit of all.

**Táim ag brath ar do chuid tacaíochta fíís eile a chur chun cinn agus ag obair as lámh a chéile is féidir linn é sin a dhéanamh.**

**Vote No. 1  
Catherine Connolly**

**FOR HONESTY  
AND INTEGRITY**

**Vótáil Uimhir 1  
Catherine Connolly**

## IARRTHÓIR NEAMHSPLEÁCH

## FOR THE COMMON GOOD

## PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

### POLASÁÍ GAEILGE AGUS GAELTACHTA

Creidim go láidir go bhfuil tábhacht faoi leith ag baint leis an nGaeilge.

Ó toghadh mé don chéad uair i 1999, rinne me iarracht speisialta feabhas a chur ar mo chuid Ghaeilge féin agus bíonn bród orm i gcónaí í a chur chun cinn go poiblí.

Ar chuid de na tograí ar leith a raibh baint agam leo bhí:

- Scoil nua do Choláiste na Coiribe
- An Taibhdhearc a choinneáil i gcroílár na Cathrach
- Oifigeach Gaeilge sa gComhairle Cathrach.
- Tacaíocht leanúnach do 'Gallimh le Gaeilge'

Maidir leis an nGaeltacht is duine de bhunú Conamara mé. B'as Maínis, as Roisín na Mainiach agus as Inis Bearachain an dream a tháinig romham.

I measc na bhfeachtas a raibh agus a bhfuil bród orm a bheith páirteach iontu tá:

- Tithe Altranais ar fud na Gaeltachta a choinneáil oscailte
- Tuilleadh cumhachtaí d'Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Briogáid dóiteán do dheisceart Conamara agus lonnaithe anois ar an gCeathrú Rua
- Calafort nua-aimseartha i Ros a'Mhil
- Cúrsa ceart do bhothar nua Chonamara
- Tacaíocht do na hiascairí beaga
- Scéim réigiúnach uisce Chasla
- Seirbhís Aeir agus Farantóireachta a choinneáil d'Árainn
- Feachtas in aghaidh Feirm Mhór Éisc a lonnú i gCuan na Gaillimhe
- Seirbhís Otharcarr níos éifeachtaí do Chonamara
- Stádas Dátheangach do Chathair na Gaillimhe



### HOUSING

The current crisis in housing is a direct result of the failure to build social housing-not one single social house has been built since 2009-resulting in 5,000 households, that is approximately 15,000 people on the waiting list-moreover the complete reliance on the private rental market through the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is intensifying the crisis

### HEALTH

As a member of the Regional Health Forum since 2006, I have used my position to table questions/motions at each meeting to improve the health service and to force change in relation to the scandalous waiting lists and the HSE West policy of renting buildings.

### TRANSPORT

I have consistently campaigned for an integrated public transport system built around a light rail and bus service together with park and ride facilities as the most sustainable solution to Galway's traffic congestion.

### BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Since 1999, I have worked with you on a range of projects including:

- **Community Centres at Cappagh Park and Headford Rd:** - ongoing campaign to ensure that they are kept in **public ownership**
- First rate recreational facilities at **Westside** including the **retention of the running track and the basketball courts**
- Working with residents and local area Councillors to **improve residential areas**
- Designation of **South Park** as a '**Special Amenity Area**'
- Master Plans for South Park and Kingston in progress
- **Fisheries Watch Tower** open to the public after 7 year battle
- **Preservation** of existing path in **Merlin Woods** for pedestrian/cycle use only and commitment to Master Plan
- **Retention of the piers at Kilbeg and Knockferry** in **public ownership** and the ongoing maintenance of these piers together with Lisloughrey, Oughterard and Woodquay
- Oral/written submission to Bord Pleanála hearing re **sustainable extension** for **Galway Docks** along with **Rossaveel**
- Commitment to **new public Library Building instead of renting premises**
- **Sexual Assault Unit - permanent building still awaited**

### POLICIES AND PRIORITIES

I am committed to:

- **Public Health Service with Public Nursing Home Beds and an improved ambulance service**
- **Implementation of the Primary Care Strategy**
- **Comprehensive services for people with special needs based on a rights-based agenda**
- **Public Housing Construction Program and development of housing co-operatives**
- **Integrated Public Transport System - the provision of Light Rail with efficient Bus Services including a direct service across the Centenary Bridge along with Park and Ride facilities East/ West of the City and a broader school transport system**
- **Provision of clean water as a basic human right**
- **Support for small businesses as an integral part of our economy**
- **Balanced Development between the City and County of Galway**
- **An end to the use of our Airports and Airspace by foreign military forces**
- **Renewable Energy Projects as the key to our future development as per Paris-COP21**

## GUTH NA nDAOINE

## AR SON AN PHOBAIL

## PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST