

Fictitious Candidate Profile – Local Councillor – Seamus Smith



My name is Seamus Smith and I have been a Councillor with Kildare County Council since 2014.

I am married to Mary, who is a primary school teacher, and we have two children: Brian age 12 and Aoife age six. Both children are very active in sport and cultural activities. Mary, my wife, is a member of the Board of Management for the local football club and is chairperson of the local youth club. My family are very supportive of my work as County Councillor because they know that Councillors have a lot of responsibility, for the quality of life in their local area.

As a Councillor, I am a member of the Housing and Building committee and the Road Transport and Safety Strategic Policy committee. One of my key priorities is to increase the stock of social housing in my area. I'm also aware of the need for culturally appropriate and traveller specific accommodation locally. I am a member of Party A, which has a highly respected record for its contribution to the development of these areas.

The life of a Councillor is extremely busy. I own a small garden centre so I have a lot of flexibility regarding my work. My phone rings 24/7 with people who want help with planning issues, or who urgently need a house or are trying to get a public playground. As Councillor, I do my best to help these people.

The County Council meets at least once a month, and all the Councillors are present. There are many other meetings that Councillors attend (e.g. County Development Board), so a lot of time is spent going to meetings. I also meet regularly with community groups and organisations. I am available as a public representative and have a good record for speaking out on behalf of the people of the area at council meetings.

When the time comes for Local Elections, we cannot put enough focus on the importance of voting. People must use their vote if they want Councillors to be elected who will represent their voices and interests.

The following are the core policies of Party A for Local Government in Kildare:

Housing and building

- **To provide 250 new social housing units**
- **To provide additional funding for management and improvement schemes for existing social housing projects.**

Road Transport and Safety

- **To improve the secondary roads approaching the Town.**
- **To introduce new traffic management facilities in the centre and on the outskirts of the town.**

Environmental Protection

- **Develop a programme to promote environmental improvement.**
- **Initiate an educational programme for young people.**
- **Update the Fire Protection service.**
- **Provide state of the art recycling facilities and waste collection.**

Recreation and Amenity

- **Extend the existing swimming pool.**
- **Continue to develop the children's section in the local library.**
- **Provide a new playground for school children.**

Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare

- **Continue the land drainage scheme.**

Development Incentives and Controls

- **Introduce revised development plans for the area.**
- **Update the procedures for the management of industrial sites.**

Miscellaneous

- **Provide funding for programmes which encourage greater participation in elections.**