

## Candidate Profile – Local Councillor – Eileen McNamara



**My name is Eileen McNamara and I have been a Councillor with Kildare County Council since 2014.**

**I am married to Michael, who is an electrician, and we have two children: Ciara age 16 and Joseph age 12. Our children like to play sport and to read. They are members of their local GAA club and often visit the library together. Michael, my husband, and I are interested in improving access and safety for people with disabilities. Our daughter has a learning disability. My family are proud of my work as a County Councillor. They know that Councillors are responsible for representing voices within a community.**

**As a councillor, I am a member of the Local Disability Access Committee, whose goal is to ensure that all local services are accessible to people of all abilities. I am also a member of the Housing and Building Committee. I divide my time between these two key issues: disability services, and housing. I am a member of Party B which has a highly respected record for its contribution to developments in these areas.**

**In my time as Councillor, I visited the halting sites in my local area, to get to know the people living there, and to understand the needs of the travelling community. They need traveller specific and culturally appropriate homes. I have successfully lobbied on their behalf for the past 5 years, and now there is a new furnished site funded and under construction. This site will have improved amenities, and regular waste collections.**

**The life of a Councillor is extremely busy, I spend a lot of my time going to meetings. The County Council meets at least once a month, and all the Councillors are present. I also meet regularly with community & voluntary groups. I have worked closely with a voluntary group that aid in the integration of the settled and travelling community, while maintaining and respecting everyone's culture. 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 and other forums.**

**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 B for Local Government in Kildare:**

**Housing and Building:**

- **To provide 250 new social housing units.**
- **To ensure there is a continued commitment to, and investment in, the new resourced traveller specific accommodation, and that the travelling community continue to be consulted regularly.**
- **Provide financial assistance to those in need of improving their current dwelling, to make it safe and warm.**

**Road Transport and Safety:**

- **To improve the secondary roads approaching the Town.**
- **Improve the footpaths for all users, especially those with a disability. Widening, filling in potholes etc.**

**Environmental Protection**

- **Provide state of the art recycling facilities and waste collection.**
- **Initiate several educational programmes for young people and adults in pollution control.**
- **Update the Fire Protection service.**

**Recreation and Amenity**

- **Extend the local swimming pool and ensure access for people of all abilities.**
- **Expansion of the children's section at the local library, to include a section for young adults.**
- **Update the changing rooms at the sports field.**

**Development Incentives and Control**

- **Update procedures for the management of industrial sites.**

**Miscellaneous**

- **Provide funding for programmes which encourage greater participation in elections.**
- **Invest in local enterprise through grant schemes.**