

Integrity Ireland Spokesperson Stephen Manning ‘Excluded’ From ‘New Grassroots Political Process’

In an increasingly bizarre turn of events that raises fundamental questions about the credibility of the much-publicised ‘1st Independent MAYO’ political initiative, prospective candidate Stephen Manning of Ballhaunis, Co. Mayo was advised last Wednesday by project organiser Eddie Farrell that a decision had been made to exclude Mr Manning from participating in the process.

“I can’t believe they are doing this” said Mr Manning. “This decision has come out of nowhere. I wasn’t even consulted on the matter. Not only are some of the allegations completely untrue, but the other reasons given are downright ridiculous. They are basically saying that because of rumour and innuendo, and the fact that my lawful activities with *Integrity Ireland* are upsetting the status quo and getting some media attention – that this somehow renders me an unsuitable candidate?”



Stephen Manning
086 218 9229

“I was well in the lead as far as getting media attention as we prepared for our first town-hall debate in Belmullet next Thursday. So this decision doesn’t make any sense except in context of a hidden agenda on the part of the organisers. I would definitely be seen as a threat to certain vested interests because of my work with *Integrity Ireland*, which was set up in 2012 to promote justice and transparency; to challenge systemic corruption; and to help people with legitimate complaints about the authorities.”

“I have repeatedly asked the organisers Eddie Farrell and Martin Daly to contact me and clarify the situation, but they will not respond. I have emailed them letting them know that I do not accept this enforced exclusion and that I will be attending the meeting at the Broadhaven Bay Hotel in Belmullet to ask these questions again in public. It is a farcical situation that a political project that is selling itself to the public as a ‘new and innovative approach to grassroots democracy’ is already steeped in clandestine decision-making and the censorship and exclusion of the leading prospect.”

Eddie Farrell and Martin Daly are the Chairperson and the PRO respectively of the **Moy Valley Protection Group** which is opposed to pylons and wind farms. It is understood that the seed funding for the 1st Independent MAYO project has been provided in the form of an unsecured 'loan' from the MVPG. Another 1st Independent candidate, Liam Alex Heffron from Moygownagh, Co. Mayo resigned from the process last Tuesday. Mr Heffron is also on the committee of the **Moy Valley Protection Group** alongside his father Billy Heffron, a well known businessman, community leader and 2002 Dail candidate.

 




MOY VALLEY PROTECTION GROUP (MVPG) MOYVALLEYPG@GMAIL.COM

Roscommon and Mayo Protection Ltd T/A Moy Valley Protection Group C/o The Community Centre Moygownagh, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland Tel +353 87 9368213 Website : Liam Alex Heffron Social Media : Fiona Watts	Committee Eddie Farrell & Dermot McHale (joint chair) Stephanie Jennings & Liz McHale (joint sec) Martin Daly (PRO) Billy Heffron, Fiona Watts Elish Egan, Enda Flynn, PJ Kelly, Liam A Heffron.	Local Representatives: <i>Moygownagh: 086 1722743</i> PJ Kelly & David Finnerty <i>Ardagh: 086 1527833</i> Enda Flynn, Michael Flanagan <i>Knockmore: 086 3346700</i> Dermot McHale, Seamus Kelly	<i>Kilfian 087 0625253</i> Mark McLoughlin & Eamon Moore <i>Crossmolina-Ballina 087 9454705</i> Martin Daly, Enda Callaghan, Josephine Gallagher <i>Foxford: 087 6940411</i> Michael Lavin & Willie Hughes
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MANNING**

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-  *Derail the gravy train!*
-  *Protect rural Ireland..*
-  *Defend our Constitutional rights..*

Stephen may be contacted via the Integrity Ireland website, or on 086 218 9229



Prospects L-R: Dermot Rice, George O'Malley, Peter Jordan, Liam Alex Heffron, Stephen Manning, Richie O'Donnell.



Martin Daly, Dr Lucy Weir, Eddie Farrell.

Links: <http://www.checkpoint.ie/page8.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Independent-MAYO/1377809175851685>

<http://www.integrityireland.ie/index.html>

<http://www.checkpoint.ie/To%20candidates%20-%20June%209th%202015.pdf>

<http://www.checkpoint.ie/To%20candidates%20June%2015th%202015.pdf>

Articles and interviews of interest online

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0515/701294-mayo-independent-candidate/>

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/mayo-group-seeks-independent-candidate-for-general-election-677241.html>

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/mayo-group-seeks-independent-candidate-for-general-election-677241.html>

<http://www.midwestradio.ie/index.php/news/26471-first-independent-mayo-announce-7-applicants-to-contest-next-general-election>

<http://www.advertiser.ie/mayo/article/77746/first-independent-mayo-reveals-election-candidate-shortlist>

RTE, morning Ireland link

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0302/683783-mayo-politics/>

Castlebar Radio (Taoiseach's Town)

<https://www.mixcloud.com/TheGrapevine/martin-daly-of-the-1st-independent-mayo-campaign-talks-to-aidan-crowley-on-crcfm-mayo/>

Galway Bay FM

<http://galwaybayfm.ie/keith-finnegan-show-monday-march-2nd/>

Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/mayo-communities-seek-general-election-independent-candidate-31032604.html>

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/campaign-to-promote-community-based-politics-across-state-1.2123426>

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/1st-independent-mayo-campaign-tds-need-to-leave-the-ivory-tower-664392.html>

The Journal

<http://www.thejournal.ie/new-independent-group-mayo-1968134-Mar2015/>

Today FM

<http://www.todayfm.com/New-bid-to-turn-poll-support-into-Dail-seats-for-independents>

Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/kenny-plays-down-problems-for-fg-in-mayo-after--31035361.html>

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/is-this-the-dawn-of-a-new-independents-day-1.2123438#.VPVfmuBgK3Q.email>

Even though mainly about labour we co starred in Kathy Sheridan's article

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/kathy-sheridan-labour-pains-in-being-a-small-party-in-government-1.2125512>

Laois Nationalist

<http://www.laois-nationalist.ie/2015/03/02/1st-independent-mayo-campaign-tds-need-to-leave-the-ivory-tower/>

RTE News

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0302/683783-mayo-politics>

The Grapevine, Castlebar Radio

www.mixcloud.com/TheGrapevine/martin-daly-of-1st-independent-mayo-speaking-with-aiden-crowley-on-the-grapevine-24-03-15/