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Circulating throughout the County and City of Waterford, South Tipperary and South-East Cork

Vol. 45, No. 2304 FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1983 REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER PRICE 25p (inc. 4.6p VAT)

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PENSMAN TAKES YOU behind the SPOTLIGHT

BIG INCREASE IN DUNGARVAN TOWN RATE

Dungarvan Urban Council at their annual estimates meeting held last Monday night struck a rate of £18.19 in the E, an increase of £2.37 over last year's figure. This is a very hefty hike which the ratepaying residents of the town — those with business premises — will have to face and not only will they have to shoulder this huge increase but they will, together with the other householders in the urban who are at present exempted from rates, most probably have to face further "new charges" later in the year.

The Council members did not express any great concern about the big increase in the general rate at their meeting on Monday night and most of their worries centred on the "new charges" and the services for which they might possibly be made. It was because of the latter that the meeting dragged on for more than two-and-a-half hours before the Book of Estimates was finally approved and a rate was struck. Even at that, reservations were expressed up to the very end and even at the conclusion there were still some slight confusion as to the long-term effect of the approval and one member, not prepared to take any chances, dissented on the grounds that he would not now or at any future date agree to the introduction of "new charges" for such services as domestic water, use of sewers and scavenging and street cleaning.

There can be no doubt but that these "new charges" are in reality the reintroduction of rates on private dwellings and as in so many other issues since they took office, the Coalition government has chosen to lead from behind where this is concerned. The Minister for the Environment and Towns, Labour Party Leader, Dick Spring whose function it is to deal with Local Authority affairs has indicated to local authorities that such new charges may be introduced but he has so far failed to bring in the necessary legislation to define what charges are to be made and for what services. In this he has left the Local Authorities in the lurch and it is therefore only natural that public local representatives should have reservations as to what the future impact of such charges might be.

However the realism of the situation as far as the Dungarvan Urban budget for 1983 is concerned is that there is a gap of £50,000 between expenditure and income and this sum will have to be funded by these "new charges" — the only uncertain aspect of the matter being for what services or facilities will the charges be made. At best we can only wait and see!

At the same time it is easy to understand the reservations which most Councilors feel about the position and the stand most are taking in opposing their introduction. I think the most valid point in this regard was made by Cllr. Angela Creedon who said that while the charges might be comparatively low this year, a figure of £25 per house for the year was mentioned, there was nothing to stop them from rising steadily increased year after year, once they have been introduced at all. This puts me in mind of the T.O.T. (Turnover tax) which, when first introduced, stood at 2 1/2 per cent. Now under its modern guise of VAT (Value Added Tax) it has soared to 23 per cent and to 35 per cent!

It is obvious that the Government is now passing the buck in an ever-increasing manner to the local Councils to cover the cost of local services from their own resources and this can only mean one thing for the future — more

Who Will Take Up Tab For £50,000 Shortfall In Income?

URBAN ESTIMATES

A shortfall of approximately £50,000 in the overall estimates for urban services in 1983 and the manner in which it was to be provided was the main, if not the only, problem which occupied the minds of the members of Dungarvan Urban Council when they considered the Council's annual budget last Monday night.

The estimates, presented in book form, were accompanied by a Report by the County Manager, Mr. Dan Hurley which explained the expenditure and income requirements and the programme group listings for the coming year. Gross expenditure on all services reached a total of £54,474 and with income estimated at £29,479 and taking into account a County Demand of £155,000, the rate requirement of £212,024 called for a rate of £18.51 in the E as against a figure of £15.82 last year.

In his report the County Manager stated that on the basis of maintaining the Council's services at 1982 levels taking into account inflation only and the carry over of commitments already made would require additional finance in 1983 of £101,029. The shortfall would be considered by additional service was £19,004 while a sum of £30,000 also had to be provided to meet wage and salary increases in 1983 and the carry over of the wage agreements negotiated during 1982 — total £49,004.

The report went on to point out that the rate of £18.51 represented an increase of 47 per cent on the leviable ratepayers on last year's figure and the Manager stated: "This figure is based on the inflation rate of 17.1 per cent for 1982 and I was determined to do the best for the ratepayers concerned to the inflation increase."

Provision of new works within the limited budget available has been made as follows: In Progress — Sports Hall at Quinns; Marine Outfall at Abbeyside; Renewal of roof at Town Hall; new tractor; Office extension; Land purchase; Tennis Courts and pavilion at Causeway; Completion of water augmentation scheme at Abbeyside; Housing (phase 2) at Abbeyside; At Planning — Preparation of Development and Land Development of serviced sites; Provision of 11 Old People's Dwellings at Abbeyside and 24 houses at Abbeyside; Acquisition of Land — Cloughmore; Youghall Road; Land adjacent to Abbeyside Church; Sites for OPD's at Abbeyside; Also, Harbour Development; Survey of Swimming Pool; Co-operative Housing at Gallowhill and Sale of sites at Industrial Estate.

Under this heading the County Manager stated that the Council had been the most productive in many years. It added that the outdoor staff in the town which were paying rates were already under financial strain. At the same time they had to be buying and selling of properties by such concerns should be subject to a levy payable to the Council. I was looking to those areas to pick up the shortfall of £50,000 and not to the private dwellings in the town.



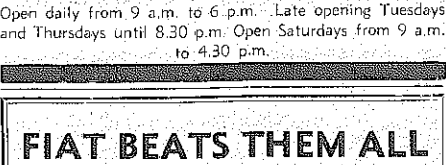
Married recently at Abbeyside Parish Church were Miss Carmel Durand, Strandside North, Abbeyside and Mr. Michael Phillips, Pearse Park, Waterford. (Photo: John Tynan)

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ITEMS OF INTEREST
At the recent Art Competition in Clonmel sponsored by the local AIB, the first prize was won by a painting of a landscape by a local artist. The prize was £100 and the painting will be displayed in the town hall.

(Continued on Page Eight)

G.A.A. Notes

Hurling Qualifiers Commence

NEXT WEEK-END
With nothing on the inter-county front to occupy our attention...

AT DUNGARVAN
There is an interesting double-header listed for the Frater field and the Invicta...

AT STRABALLY
Dungarvan will be the only other hurling side in action from the West...

AT PORTLAW
Ballinacorney disposed of Rathfriland with such ease last year...

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their elaborated upon by Padraig O'Flahin, chairman of the county centenary committee...

U21 F. BLITZ
A recommendation that the under 21 football divisional championships be run on 'blitz' arrangement...

MOSSIE O'CONNOR, R.I.P.
Gaeldom in West Waterford was shocked to hear of the rather sudden death of Mossie O'Connor...

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County Board meeting. Kilrossanty have now joined the big list of clubs engaged in major fundraising activities...

RESULTS
Ballinacorney 1-9, Ballyduff 1-1, Strabally 2-11, Nire 1-6, Clashmore 1-5, Roanone 0-3, Ferrisbank 2-6, Killara 0-1, Traamore 3-3, Kilmacshommas 3-5...

WESTERN BORD NA nOG
NO JOY FOR U16 HURLERS
Carberry 3-7 West Waterford 1-5

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Carberry 3-7 West Waterford 1-5

MINNIES SQUASH CLUB NOTES

MINNIES DO IT AGAIN!
Waterford League - For the second year in succession Minnies men have been successful in the Div. 11 section of the Waterford Squash Racquets Association League...

RESULTS
Ballinacorney 1-9, Ballyduff 1-1, Strabally 2-11, Nire 1-6, Clashmore 1-5, Roanone 0-3, Ferrisbank 2-6, Killara 0-1, Traamore 3-3, Kilmacshommas 3-5...

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NO JOY FOR U16 HURLERS
Carberry 3-7 West Waterford 1-5

DUNGARVAN GOLF CLUB NOTES

On the home front the Harp Lager is well underway, and the first round matches produced...

RESULTS
First Summer Alliance, Saturday, April 16: Category 1 - M. Walsh (6) 63 net, Category 2 - S. O'Connor (14) 65 net, Category 3 - B. O'Kennedy (11) 42 net...

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CONGRATULATIONS

We now turn our attention to golf and congratulations are extended to Pat Power on his magnificent win in the Vice-President's competition held last Sunday. Well done Pat.

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DUNGARVAN SCOUT NOTES

As 'Venturers' is one of the newest sections set up by CBSI in their promotion of scouting in Ireland, we have been invited to tell you about the origins of Venturing in CBSI, as well as this week's news from the local Venturers Group...

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