

Roscommon County Council will host an open meeting on **Wednesday 22nd April from 7pm to 10pm in The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon** for anyone interested in participating in the development and delivery of the Roscommon local programme, as part of Ireland 2016.

Ireland 2016 is a year-long programme of activity, in which everyone is invited to participate, to commemorate the events of the 1916 Rising, to reflect on our achievements as a democratic state over the last 100 years and to look towards Ireland's future.

The national programme, which was announced by the government on 31 March, includes seven strands; State Ceremonial; Historical Reflection; An Teanga Bheo/The Living Language; Youth and Imagination; Cultural Expression; Community Participation; Global and Diaspora.

The Community Participation strand is being led by local authorities across the country and Roscommon County Council has appointed Richie Farrell & Mary Mullins who

will be responsible for coordinating the local programme. Whether you are a member of a local historical society, sports club, amateur drama club or community group, or even if this is something that is purely a personal interest, this is an opportunity to share ideas, pool resources and be part of the creation of a unique and distinctive local programme to mark Ireland 2016.

Speaking at the announcement of the local meeting Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council, Cllr John Cummins said *"Ireland 2016, as a year of reflection and engagement for everyone on this island and I hope that as many people as possible in County Roscommon in all communities can become involved and engaged. It is a once-in-a-century invitation to people of all ages, at home and overseas, to shape and take part in a diverse range of historical, cultural and artistic activities, all designed to nurture reflection, commemoration, celebration and debate. There is a wealth of imagination, energy and vision available to us in County Roscommon and I want to encourage everyone to get involved in*

their own way so we can make Ireland 2016 a truly national event."

Chief Executive of Roscommon County Council Tommy Ryan added that *"Ireland 2016 is the centre piece of a wider decade of centenaries programme which the local authority will be actively engaged with over the coming years. Roscommon has a proud and rich history and it is important that we mark and celebrate our achievements. 100 years on from 1916 Rising, the opening of the new Civic Offices next year represents a symbolic development that will form part of a broad social, culture and community programme. We look forward to working with all partners in this programme"*.

Following a short presentation on the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, participants will be invited to partake in a facilitated session to share ideas, projects and initiatives of local interest.

Interested participants are kindly requested to register their interest to attend by emailing mmullins@roscommoncoco.ie before deadline of 5.00pm Tuesday 21st April.

POBLAcht NA H EIREANN, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE,
SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT,
JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.



L-R: Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council, Cllr John Cummins; Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys. TD; Mary Mullins, Arts Office, Roscommon County Council & Richie Farrell, County Librarian, Roscommon County Council.



Details of the Ireland 2016
Centenary Programme
are available at
www.ireland.ie.

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For further information on the
Roscommon Ireland 2016
Programme,

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mmullins@roscommoncoco.ie

www.roscommoncoco.ie