



Poblacht na nOibrithe

Béal Feirste, Feabhra 2011

John McCusker to Stand in Local Elections

As the countdown to the May 5 local elections continues, it has been confirmed that Falls resident John McCusker will be running for éirígí in the Lower Falls electoral area.

A lifelong socialist republican with a proven track record of standing up for his community, John has the right skills and experience to represent the hard-pressed communities of Beechmount, Clonard, the Upper Springfield, St James' and the rest of the Lower Falls.

éirígí's decision to contest the election was taken in the context of the deteriorating economic situation and the savage cutbacks being implemented by the Stormont regime. Unfortunately, there is nothing new about the current state of affairs. For as long as anyone can remember, West Belfast has been crippled by unemployment, discrimination and deprivation. The residents of this proud community have always been treated as suspect second class citizens by the British state, its police force and the Stormont regime.

Despite all the hype of the last 15 years there has been no 'new dawn' for West Belfast. Virtually all of the wealth generated by the 'peace dividend' has ended up elsewhere. Now, the public services that we all rely on in our daily lives – our schools, hospitals, libraries, public transport and a lot more are to be starved of investment by Stormont and the British government.

A Community Fight Back

Voting for John won't change the world, but it will challenge the political establishment that has failed West Belfast for decades. A vote for John will send a message that you've had enough of the tired politics and broken promises of the past and that we as a community are going to fight back against the cutbacks. If John is elected he will provide a tireless voice for that fight back, both inside of City Hall and, more importantly, on the streets.



Glór Nua

Beidh cónaitheoir Ard na bhFeá agus gníomhaíoch éirígí John McCusker ag seasamh i dtoghcheantar Íochtar na bhFál sna toghcháin áitiúla ar an 5ú Bealtaine. Caitheadh le muintir Iarthair Bhéal Feirste mar shaoránaigh ísealchéime le fada an lá ina dtír féin. D'ainneoin na bolscaireachta le cúig bliana déag anuas tá Iarthar Bhéal Feirste fós díothach ó thaobh acmhainní agus seirbhísí de, a bhfuil go mór mór de dhíth. Ní athróidh vótáil ar son John cúrsaí an domhain ach cuirfidh sé dúshlán faoin bhunaíocht pholaitiúil agus cuirfidh sé iallach orthu míniú a thabhairt dúinn ar an fháth go bhfuil ár bpobail i measc na bpobal is díothaí in Iarthar na hEorpa. Lé chéile is féidir linn pobal frithbheartaíochta a atógáil in aghaidh córais agus rialtais a d'oibrigh i gcónaí in aghaidh leas lucht oibre na hÉireann.

éirígí - for a socialist republic

John McCusker

John McCusker is a 33-year-old long-time Beechmount resident, with strong family ties to the Upper Springfield.

Active in socialist republican politics from the age of 16, John has been involved in many campaigns aimed at defending and securing the rights of the people of West Belfast and further afield.

These have included campaigns for adequate social housing, the rights of Irish language speakers and the rights of political prisoners and campaigns against sectarian marches and repressive legislation. John is a founding member of the *Stop the Sell Off* campaign, which successfully prevented the auctioning of public land on the Andersonstown Barracks site.

John has also been heavily involved in international solidarity work, most particularly in support of the Palestinian people. A member of the GAA locally and an active trade unionist, John currently works in the public sector. Over the coming months and years éirígí and John are committed to:

- Fighting the Stormont cutbacks to healthcare, education and other vital public services.
- Rebuilding a strong, vibrant and radical community of resistance in West Belfast.
- Working with communities to tackle the roots of crime and develop viable alternatives to the PSNI.



Do You Want to Help?

Handing out leaflets, putting up posters, canvassing and donating money are just some of the ways that you could help éirígí's election campaign. If you think it's time for a new socialist republican voice for West Belfast and you want to help phone 079 3595 0601 or email eirigibealfeirste@gmail.com



www.eirigi.org

Get Registered to Vote!

If you like what éirígí stands for and want to vote for John McCusker on May 5 you will need to be registered to vote. You can check if you are on the current electoral register by contacting the Electoral

Office by phone **0800 4320 712** or email info@eoni.org.uk with your name, address and date of birth. If you are not registered to vote, you can get on the register by contacting the Electoral Office.

Déan cinnte go gcluinfear thú ar an 5ú Bealtaine.

Make sure your voice is heard on May 5th.