



# Mayor James Collins

Working with **Willie O'Dea TD**

**General Election Candidate • Mayor of Limerick**

**FIANNA Fáil**  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

## Mungret Park

We all worked hard for Mungret Neighbourhood Park and playground. We've built new roads, new schools, and provided land for surrounding sports clubs to expand. Now we are planning a new neighbourhood and new community facilities. A master plan for the area will be finalised in october.



## New Secondary School

Limerick Council's Master Plan will comprise of several hundred houses; a new secondary school building for Mungret Community College, which is currently in temporary accommodation at Mungret College; a new athletics club; and possibly a new community centre serving the people of Mungret, Dooradoyle and Raheen.

We want to propose new bus route options linking Mungret to the city and UL. You can download an explanatory document on my website -[www.jamescollins.ie](http://www.jamescollins.ie). Or email me at [james@jamescollins.ie](mailto:james@jamescollins.ie) and I will send you a copy. See inside for more details.

## Roadworks in Raheen

Roadworks near the Quinn's Cross roundabout in Mungret are contributing to school run delays and adding to congestion at Raheen Business Park, on the Dock Road and Fr Russell Road. I have asked for the works - necessary to complete 200 new houses - to be done during the October mid-term break.

(061) 308 928 • [www.jamescollins.ie](http://www.jamescollins.ie) • [james@jamescollins.ie](mailto:james@jamescollins.ie)  
@jamesjcollins f Cllr James Collins @ James Collins



## Housing

The Government's inability to tackle the housing crisis is hugely frustrating for those on housing waiting lists; for first time private buyers trying to enter a market where the average new mortgage is now €210,000; and for those facing rising rent in Limerick. We simply have to solve this problem.

We need a national policy on housing to address what is quite simply a crisis. We should: increase the supply of land for development; increase funding to local authorities under the Local Infrastructure Housing Assistance Fund; and open up to new ideas. Mike Benn, a Limerick man who left Clare Street for New York when he was 15, has returned aged 69, to help solve the housing crisis. His company Clenn Construction has invested in a factory in Galvone and they hope to employ 200 people building precision engineered timber frame homes. They can build a three-bedroom semi-detached property in three weeks. I was delighted to launch their new show houses, and the Council is now in talks with Clenn about building houses in Limerick on a pilot basis.

## St Paul's National School

The pupils of St Paul's National School are temporarily housed in Scoil Carmel, while their new school is built. This is adding to the school run traffic along O'Connell Avenue, but construction is on schedule, and we will have superb new facilities in 15 months.

### 1 MUNGRET ST PAUL'S GAA

I was delighted to help Mungret St Paul's GAA club to secure new land to double the size of their sporting facilities. It is part of our master plan for developing new neighbourhood facilities in Mungret.

### 2 DOONEEN ATHLETICS CLUB

I proposed that we sell almost six acres of land to Dooneen Athletics Club. This club fundraised and they now will have enough land to build a running track. If you would like to help the club, contact fundraising@dooneenathleticclub.com.

### 3 MUNGRET COMMUNITY COLLEGE

One issue which I was determined to address when I entered local politics nine years ago was the lack of a community college in the Raheen, Dooradoyle and Mungret area. I am on the Board of Management of Mungret Community College which is in temporary facilities on the grounds. We are planning the new school building and the demand for places is such that the new community college will be designed to house an extra 200 students, bringing its overall student numbers to 800.

### 4 EDUCATE TOGETHER & GAELSCOIL AN RÁITHÍN NATIONAL SCHOOLS, MUNGRET

The 16-classroom Educate Together school was officially opened in May this year and now has 311 students and 35 staff. The multi-denominational school has three special classes for children on the autism spectrum. I'm working to get funding allocated towards the further development of the school's sensory garden for autistic children. Gaelscoil an Ráithín also now have state of the art facilities in Mungret Park, after years in prefabs at Garryowen Rugby Club. After all the campaigning, it's a source of great pride for all 20 staff, the 265 pupils, the board of management, parents, and those of us who lobbied on their behalf, to finally see children and teachers occupying the modern facilities they deserve.

### 5 ST GABRIEL'S RESPITE CENTRE

Limerick 2030, where I am a board member, is sponsoring new specialist equipment for this centre which needs to raise €1m to help 100 families in the region. Watch their video on [www.jamescollins.ie](http://www.jamescollins.ie)



## Transport

As Mayor of Limerick, I'm putting transport at the centre of the political agenda. We need a bus service that operates on time, is connected across the city and suburbs, and can transport people to and from the city centre in under 20 minutes. We need Park and Ride facilities at Coonagh; at the Mackey Roundabout on the Dublin Road; and in Raheen, where the park and ride could also serve those visiting University Hospital Limerick. We are spending €200m on the Northern Distributor Route, and €850m on the M20 Limerick to Cork motorway. We have to ensure that when traffic arrives from Galway, Ennis and Shannon at Coonagh, or from Tipperary and Dublin at the Mackey Roundabout, or from Cork at the Raheen side of the city, that this traffic doesn't clog our suburbs.

As I went door to door with the Fianna Fáil leader, Micheál Martin recently, it was clear that there is little point in us finally having good intercity connections and being the economic driver of the region if we can't get around our own city and suburbs in reasonable time. That is why I am making a radical re-imagining of our transport network in Limerick a key priority of my term as Mayor. We will hear submissions for Limerick's transport plan in the coming weeks. We should look at all options: light rail proposals as well as bus, cycle and pedestrian components. For example, we have a disused rail line in the Mungret, Dooradoyle and Raheen area, which could be put back in service connecting these suburbs to Colbert Station and out to UL. Or this rail line could be converted to a Greenway for walkers and cyclists. Limerick is attracting 3,000 new jobs a year. We must plan for the public services that we will need in five years time. For years, Limerick was ignored. We still have no direct rail link between Cork and Limerick. I'm standing in the next general election for a LIMERICK THAT WORKS FOR YOU.



## Anti-Social Behaviour

I've met with senior gardai about anti-social behaviour and the intimidation of some residents at Cluain Dubh on the Fr Russell Road. I asked Limerick Council to install CCTV cameras. I'm advised temporary cameras will be installed, and I have asked the gardai to monitor these.

## Connecting the M20 to Roxboro and the M7 to Castletroy

THE residents in Greenfields, Roundwood, Ballinacurra Gardens and Rosbrien have endured chaotic levels of traffic, particularly down the Rosbrien Road because of a short-sighted decision several years ago not to provide an exit off the M20 (Limerick to Cork road) to Southill and Ballinacurra Weston at the Maldron Hotel roundabout. Motorists can leave Roxboro and join the motorway, but they can't exit the motorway and enter Roxboro. Instead, they have to go along the M7 to the Dock Road and turn back the way they came. It makes no sense.

This decision has cut off a large part of the Southside of the city from motorway access. To avoid this detour motorists are diverting down the Rosbrien Road, which is not fit for this level of traffic. I know residents have been hugely frustrated about this issue. As Mayor, I'm working with our council engineers and the council executive to find a solution.

A John Carew Park to Castletroy link is one of a number of options included in a brief for consultants to link the M7 to the South of the City. I've met with Transport Infrastructure Ireland on this issue.

Influence your community by  
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(061) 308 928 • [www.jamescollins.ie](http://www.jamescollins.ie) • [james@jamescollins.ie](mailto:james@jamescollins.ie)

 @jamesjcollins  Cllr James Collins  James Collins

## Men's Shed

I was delighted to secure the funding and the site for the Dooradoyle & Raheen Men's Shed, which will be located between University Hospital Limerick and the Crescent Shopping Centre, on disused land beside the bus stop at Ballykeeffe.

The site has now been transferred by the Council and work will start soon. It was a privilege to introduce Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin to the men behind the Men's Shed on his recent trip to Limerick.



## Incineration

Twice last year, residents in Sli Na Manach, Mungret, had their cars and garden furniture covered in black, gritty dust. Irish Cement was prosecuted and fined €1,250. Irish Cement's owners made profits of €3.2bn. As Mayor, I've called for new laws, with fines based on a percentage of profits. The EPA should not grant a licence to Irish Cement to burn 90,000 tonnes of toxic waste in Mungret. We must protect the environment and residents' health. I drafted a four-page motion, which was agreed by Limerick Council, and is now being considered by the EPA. Let's continue the fight to protect the public's health, and everything we've worked so hard to build at Mungret Neighbourhood Park. Add your voice to the 4,000 objections to date. The deadline for submissions has been extended to November 4.



James Collins with members of Limerick Against Pollution addressing the media after Irish Cement was fined for dust emissions in Mungret.

## Mungret Post Office

An Post plans to close Mungret Post Office and more than 150 others nationwide. After years of advance planning and providing new services for Mungret, it is illogical to close the post office, especially with hundreds of new houses planned here. Just because a postmaster or postmistress retires, it shouldn't mean the post office automatically closes. The option should surely be there for others to apply to operate Mungret post office.

## Protests at University Hospital Limerick

I recently joined the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation on their protest march at University Hospital Limerick. The nurses are overworked and underpaid. They simply want safe working conditions for both themselves and their patients. Our nurses are emigrating because of their poor working conditions.

When nurses in Canada, for example, earn almost €20,000 a year more than here, you can see why. It now takes an average of six months to recruit a nurse in Ireland. The admission levels in August were unprecedented at UHL, compounding the inadequate staffing levels, and nurses fear that there is no appropriate winter management plan for when admissions traditionally spike. Our health service needs to address the imbalance between too many administrative HSE staff and not enough front-line health workers.

