

100% Support from Offaly Candidates for IWAI Canal Bill Pledge

THE Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI) are very pleased with the 100 per cent support received from the Offaly candidates for the IWAI Canal Bill Pledge which calls for provision to be made for new canal bye-laws via a dedicated Canal Bill during the next Dáil.

Offaly candidates supporting the IWAI Canal Pledge include, Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD Fine Gael, Deputy Barry Cowen TD

Fianna Fáil, Cllr John Foley Independent, Teresa Ryan Feehan Independent, Cllr. Joe Hannigan Independent, Christopher Fettes Green Party, Kate Bopp Independent, Ken Smollen Irish Democratic Party, Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick Fianna Fáil, Carol Nolan Sein Fein and Cllr John Leahy Renua.

Speaking on the matter, IWAI President Carmel Meegan stated: 'We are delighted with this significant support for the IWAI and the communities from the Offaly Candidates. The

canal bill pledge is receiving support from across the political spectrum and this is very encouraging. It indicates that there is recognition among politicians for the urgent need for a common sense approach by the new Government to the development of new legislation governing Ireland's canals. All the IWAI are asking for is meaningful consultation to help shape legislation that puts, canal users, communities and tourism at the centre of the regulations'.

The subject of canal bye-

laws and regulation changes was first raised back in 2013. Evidence of the concern of waterways communities is the consistent support of the IWAI campaign from TDs and Senators, all of whom are now currently supporting the Canal Bill Pledge.

Support for this on-line pledge will help ensure that adequate byelaws are legislated for that will encourage the use and growth of the canals and be centred on the communities, users and tourism.