



Créadúcháin 02 Nóimíad 2024



OUGHTERARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL CO-OP

Date:	Wednesday 11 June 2025	
Connemara Lake Hotel, Oughterard, Galway, Éire		
Attendees		
John D Flanagan (C-O/M)	John B Caulfield (PRO-O/M)	Tom Walsh (Sec-O)
Michael Bergin (VC-O)	Jamie Walsh (T-O)	Michael Walsh (O)
Mairead Welby (O)	Michael Welby (O)	Barry Culligan (O)
Jamie Lydon (O)	Derek Flanagan (O)	Kevin Joyce (O)
Ultan Curran (VC-M)	Lisa Curran (Sec-M)	Sarah Coleman (T-M)
Martha McTigue (M)	Ray Walsh (M)	Geraldine Kyne (M)
Stiophán Ó Gríofa (M)		
O = Oughterard; M = Moycullen; C = Chair; VC = Vice-Chair; PRO = Public Relations Officer; Sec = Secretary; T = Treasurer		

Also in attendance was Liam Costello from Westport Community Council and Co-Op, invited guests from Killannin and Councillor Noel Thomas

Oughterard and Moycullen Community Co-Op Information Evening

Start Time: 20:00 IRT / 20:25 GMT

Close Time: 21:17 IRT / 21:42 GMT

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Tom Walsh, Secretary of the Oughterard Community Council, welcomed all attendees, including guests from Moycullen. He introduced the evening's format as an information session followed by Q&A, and then introduced the keynote speaker, **John D. Flanagan**, Chairman of Éire Community Council and the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

John was greeted with applause and opened by emphasising the need to build collective knowledge to reclaim our communities for ourselves and future generations.

2. Recitation of the 1916 Proclamation / Declaration of Independence

With full consensus, **John B. Caulfield** recited the 1916 *Poblacht na hÉireann*. John D. Flanagan clarified that the document is, in fact, a **Declaration**—a statement of fact, not intent—asserting the people's **sovereign and infeasible** right to ownership of Ireland. He



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stressed that this document, if properly understood and applied, is enough to reclaim the people's authority.

3. History and Legacy of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB)

John spoke about the IRB's legacy, particularly focusing on **William James McQuire**, who for 50 years upheld a lawful claim to Ireland's territory through the annual **Turning of the Sovereign Seal** ceremony. This act embodies the legal maxim: *"He who fails to assert his rights has none."* The message: **If you don't claim your rights, they will take them from you.**

4. The Community Co-Op Model: Reclaiming Sovereignty Locally

John outlined the purpose of the Éire Community Co-Op model: to give **power and voice back to the people** through **local governance**. Members vote visibly through a **Sovereign Deed** bearing a thumbprint, not under the corporate state or Black's Law concept of a "person".

Key community thresholds:

- **100 members** = Council
- **300 members** = Community Court
- **600 members** = County/Country-level representation

The Co-Op operates using a **Proposition → Resolution → Sealed Conclusion** model and must be:

- **Authentic**
- **Authoritative**
- **Altruistic**
- Free from fiat currency reliance

John emphasised **bottom-up governance**, warning against trusting centralised systems built on assumptions, presumptions, and "putrid paper". Rights unclaimed are not recognised; communities must **claim and publish in the public domain**.



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5. Discussion Points from the Talk

A wide range of topics were covered in the main discussion, including:

- **Corporate Governance & Control:**
Governments act through statutes and ministries, often under corporate structures that serve shareholders, not people.
The difference between a **legal person** and a **living man/woman** was briefly noted but requires further clarification - on another day!
- **Illusion of Democracy:**
Many government processes are box-ticking exercises that bypass true public engagement. One example cited was the County Development Plan, often passed without scrutiny.
- **Community Authority:**
Local communities can draft **by-laws**, assert control over land/building use via public claims, and eventually form their own courts.
Local sovereignty = power to say **NO** with binding effect.
- **Opposition to Protest Culture:**
Protest is reactive and largely ineffective. Sovereignty provides **preventative power**, not just reactive resistance.
- **Problem–Reaction–Solution Framework:**
Used by “corporate stooges” to manufacture crises and steer public reaction toward pre-decided outcomes.
- **Alternative Legal Systems:**
Suggestion of **Community Courts**, **pure paper** (sovereign claims), and lawful independence from statutes.
The importance of “rejecting their assumptions and resetting presumptions” was reinforced.
- **Sovereign Living:**
Secure sovereignty via a **Deed of Acknowledgement and Confirmation** (thumbprint = Soul Seal).
Understand your status and how to “say no” effectively.
- **Healthcare and Education Autonomy:**
Opportunity for Co-Ops to reform healthcare and education locally. Mention made of **PPSN-based trust systems**, WHO Notices, and education access for minority communities such as Irish speakers.
- **Land, Property & Registry Issues:**
Topics included private property rights, mortgage concerns (legal vs beneficial ownership), property registration implications, and the Planning & Development Act. Questions were raised about inheritance tax, state-owned land, and sovereignty over registered land.



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Oughterard Community Council Co-Op

6. Community Strength and Local Examples

Oughterard's unity was praised as a successful model of local resistance and cohesion. Community Co-Op's are seen as a response to external pressures and "invasion"—offering structure and sovereignty as protective measures.

Noel Thomas, Galway County Councillor, delivered a passionate speech highlighting:

- The **illusion of democracy**
- His personal resistance to unreasonable planning decisions
- The erosion of local power by outside interests
- Support for Co-Op structures as real democratic alternatives

He concluded:

"If my community wants me to stand for something—I will."

7. Sovereign Solution Talks & Future Plans

The Sovereign Solution Talks—an initiative of John Flanagan—were discussed as workshops for those wishing to understand and apply these concepts.

Goals and Future Plans Include:

- Establishing **Community Courts** in all Counties across Ireland by 2030
- 1, 3, and 5-year planning models
- Establishing **Country Supreme Councils** with 5 regional councils
- Expansion of education, healthcare, and legal autonomy
- Further information evenings and online video resources

Closing Remarks

John D. Flanagan thanked the audience and expressed appreciation for the energy and participation. He endorsed Noel Thomas's contributions and stated there was nothing more to add—receiving enthusiastic applause.