

# Fracking Matters Newsletter <sup>(10)</sup> – 20 October 2011



Information letter for whom fracking does matter and (some) updates on the website [www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org), with links to other (Irish) fracking websites

## Upcoming events:

The two following meetings are organized by North West Alliance against Fracking (facebook page) (North Sligo)

- meeting in Kinlough this Wed 19 @ 8pm  
Community Centre  
[kinloughnofracking@gmail.com](mailto:kinloughnofracking@gmail.com),  
[paulgibson177@gmail.com](mailto:paulgibson177@gmail.com)
- Cliffony- 20 Oct, Thurs, O'Donnells Pub-  
meeting at 9pm  
info: [youthmardingo@gmail.com](mailto:youthmardingo@gmail.com) (Meg) or  
Magda  
or Ursula [islendviewridingstables@gmail.com](mailto:islendviewridingstables@gmail.com)
- Media training - organised by Leitrim  
Community Networks - will take place on  
Saturday 15th and Saturday 22nd Contact: Aedin  
[glenwood.research@gmail.com](mailto:glenwood.research@gmail.com);
- Bob Birtwhistle (Ardcarne Community Against  
Fracking) is having a screening  
of 'Gasland' in Beirnes pub, Battlebridge, (just  
outside Leitrim village) Sat 22nd @ 8.30pm.  
Open discussion after film
- Zeitgeist Media festival 22 October, see poster  
at the end of the letter (and to download at web FFI:  
upcoming events)
- **Clare:** We will be showing "Gasland" at East  
Clare Community Co- Op Film Club next  
Thursday (21 October) in Scariff.

## A glance in the future?

**Tara and the M3** motorway (web FFI food for thought/lessons from the past)  
The story of Tara and the M3 was to many Irish people a line in the sand, a real tragedy, not just for heritage but for the capacity of the ordinary citizen to have their voice heard. People from all around Ireland and indeed the world have asked

'how did it happen?': 'In the 21st century how could anyone think of running a motorway through such a unique archaeological landscape?' But happen it did. My experience as a member of a local group ( Bellinter Residents Association) may help to explain why. Read full story [http://www.livingdemocracy.ie/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=64&Itemid=106](http://www.livingdemocracy.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=64&Itemid=106)

## Local news

**Carrick Against Fracking – John Cronogue**  
[jcronogue@gmail.com](mailto:jcronogue@gmail.com)

1. Last Saturday we went by bus to Dublin to march from the Garden of Remembrance to Dame St. for a rally. Parents and their children, some as young as eight years carried Banners and we took the large No Fracking Ireland banner to the front of the march.  
Our group stood out from the rest by the amount of quality banners and costumes and masks that were worn.  
We handed out info leaflets and stickers and informed the public at every opportunity.  
We also collected a lot of signatures for the petition and recruited new members.  
As we suspected no one heard of Fracking.  
As we were at the head of the march we were exposed to dozens of photographers and thousands of photographs as well as foreign TV but alas and not surprisingly no Irish TV, notably RTE .  
We left Dublin confident that we had reached the people that mattered, ie the ordinary man and woman on the street, the people that will be most effected by Fracking.

This trip was a great testimony to peoples spirit both young and not so young and those who traveled from as far away a Donegal and Manorhamilton giving of their time and at their own expense to take the message to the City.

We will be running more trips to Dublin and other Cities in the future for as long as is necessary.

2. On Tuesday Presidential candidate Dana Rosemary Scallon was in Carrick on Shannon on a walkabout. She was met by a group from CAF who informed her and her entourage of the current Fracking situation.

She was oblivious to Fracking and promised to look at some of the information available on Google.

She signed the Petition and we took a photograph of this event which can be seen on Facebook. (sorry at present I can not join face book to add the picture, ineke)

3. Last week in Sligo we had a private meeting with Martin McGuinness who also signed the petition and promised to assist wherever possible.

Further meetings with these two people will be arranged in the future.

4. On Saturday next 22nd there will be a showing of Gas lands in Beirnes of Battlebridge near Leitrim Village with a discussion afterwards. All welcome.

Occupy dame street picture taken 19 October 2011 by Benjamin van de Wetering



**West Cavan: Shannon-Erne Protection-Alliance - Tom Hyde** [toseitheachain1@eircom.net](mailto:toseitheachain1@eircom.net)

1. The local group in west Cavan has adopted a positive name, 'We' are *The Shannon-Erne Protection Alliance* and meet on Wednesdays at 8pm, in Trivia House, Swanlinbar. To begin with we attracted people from the Fermanagh side of the same parish, but now they have set

up their own local group (don't know the name, yet!)

**For your diary:** (Web FFI upcoming events)

2. A group of us from Ballinamore/west Cavan, are organising a major **Fund Raising 'Concert'**, because we expect that ultimately the campaign might have to go through The Courts - maybe the European Courts. This would entail legal and Specialist Witnesses and costs. Hence the need to begin to fund-raise. The Event will take place from Noon to Mid-night on 12 Nov next, in McGirl's, Ballinamore. Numerous national artists are already agreed to perform. These include Eleanor Shanley, Charlie McGettigan, **members** of KILA, and at 3pm "The Kings of Comedy", i.e., Kevin McAleer, Barry Murphy and Joe Rooney. Other confirmations are confidently expected. Full details are planned to be revealed on the Fracking Free fringe Concert page on [leitrimfestival.com](http://leitrimfestival.com), but at this stage we would like fellow minded people to begin to know and promote this event. This campaign will need all the funds it can get!

#### **Love Leitrim – Manorhamilton meeting 18 Sept 2011 – by Ineke**

The meeting in the Bee park was well attended. A panel consisted of : Rob Doyle: Veterinarian, Fr. A O'Shea: Parish Priest, Soeey, Sean Wynn: Lough Allen Conservation Society, Nuala McNulty: Eco Tourism, Councillor Gerry Dolan: Farmer and was chaired by Mary Daly. The evening started with a welcome by Mary who outlined the aim of the evening: to get informed and share information about fracking and invited people to feel free to speak out and that every contribution, thought and every voice was important. Rob started with a Power Point Presentation of hydraulic fracturing, outlining the technique, licences, a brief history 12 wells were drilled between 1960 and 2001, but the technique was too limited to get the gas out. This all has changed due to improvement of fracking techniques (read: use of chemicals...) . Aedin – who attended later – showed us the 'fracking-spider-pictures' around the N16. (as on Monday in Ballyshannon) The view of the EU was outlined and the ban in France differs totally from the eager from the Polish government to start fracking.

Sean Wynn:

- stressed that we should leave the question about fracking for the future generation until the technique is safe.
- raised the issue of the royalties: 100% (?) of the gas is for Tamboran, the Irish government gets 25% of the profit.
- During the Oireachtas meeting no one of the department of the environment did attend (it was a jointed committee). They

questioned this but until now no answer is received.

- According to Pat Rabbitte no exploration licence was granted yet but Richard Moorman of Tamboran gives dates when will drilled.
- Coillte: is a semi state body (7%), department of Finance and Ministry for Agriculture. It is our land and they sale it (to the companies for fracking)
- Marian Harkin and Pat the coope Gallagher are against fracking: write letters to MEP's! (addresses can be found on the FFI web)
- Tourisme will fall
- There will be no massiv financial windfall.

Nuala who has a business in eco tourisme outlined that fracking will 'destroy' tourism, Gerry Dolan stressed in a passionate speech the impact on farmers: the dairy products, famous in the world and the risks of leasing your land. After the pad is left, the companies are gone, it is the farmer who is responsible for the contamination of the land... He warned that the companies promise a lease term for years (10-20) but it could be much shorter, only 2-4 ?) The last speaker was Father A O'Shea: Parish Priest, Sooeey. First he asked the people to write poems and songs, to write letters to the politicians etc. Then he lowered his voice – took the attention of all – and told us that he had met Richard Moorman, a very charming person, willing to listen to all of us, responding to questions, never lost his temper ... but.... He wants one thing: money! If you did not get the message by the former speaker, you really got it now. After a question and answer session, the meeting was closed. People could sing the petition, have a look at the exhibition, posters, flyers, power point presentations, maps, all printed out and stuck to the wall. A list of local groups was available and a lady (sorry I do not know her name) had printed out lots of letters (as to be found on the web) and asked people to sign. She collected the letters and they are sent in one big envelope to Pat Rabbitte. 10.15 pm the meeting was closed, a meeting which did load up my battery. Thanks to the organizers and speakers.

### **For the farmers:**

From the **Responsible Drilling Alliance** newsletter:

The story began when a flowback pit (called a "pond" by drilling companies, but full of fracking chemicals, heavy metals and salt not usually found in ponds) had leaked through its plastic liner and flowed into the cows' pasture.

The water the cows drank contained chloride, iron, sulfate, barium, magnesium, manganese, potassium, sodium, strontium and calcium. The spill killed all vegetation in an area 30 feet by 40

feet. In early May, Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture quarantined the cows, worried that the resulting beef could be tainted and make people sick. East Resources, the drilling company responsible for the violation, objected to the quarantine, saying it was "an unnecessary step to take." Full story:

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2011/09/27/burning-questions-quarantined-cows-give-birth-to-dead-calves/>

### **Added to the web FFI**

- Power Point Presentation from Sonya (pdf) (Web Ffi: handouts/Powerpoint presentation)

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/frackingconservation.pdf>

- <http://frackingfreeireland.org/info-to-download/power-point-presentation/>

(to be found under the 4 Power Point Presentations)

### **Request:**

**End articles** –this can only be read by people who are signed in. **I do not have a free trial, who is signed in and can provide me with the full text?** ([Ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:Ineke@frackingfreeireland.org))

- EC may propose green energy target for 2030 ENDS Europe- Tuesday 18 October 2011  
The European Commission is considering setting an EU renewable energy target for 2030, according to a leaked copy of its energy roadmap. All scenarios envisaged predict a share of about 30% that year.

*The full text of this article is only available to registered subscribers and free trialists. To login, please enter your email address and subscriber access code below.*

<http://www.endseurope.com/27361/ec-may-propose-green-energy-target-for-2030?referrer=bulletin&DCMP=EMC-ENDS-EUROPE-DAILY>

- Companies urged to phase out toxic chemicals ENDS Europe

Monday 17 October 2011

Swedish NGO ChemSec has called on 389 companies to phase out the production of dangerous chemicals, which it says are being produced in large amounts. These chemicals are likely to face restrictions under the REACH regime.

*The full text of this article is only available to registered subscribers and free trialists. To login, please enter your email address and subscriber access code below.*

<http://www.endseurope.com/27353/companies-urged-to-phase-out-toxic-chemicals>

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please contact: [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)

# ZEITGEIST

## MEDIA FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2011  
ROSETTA BAR, DOORS 7.30, ADM £2

Music from:  
Scream Blue Murrur  
Sinner Falls  
MC Dockers  
Drillmaster Konzept

Information stalls from:

THE ZEITGEIST MOVEMENT,  
LOVE MUSIC HATE RACISM,  
FIGHT THE FRACK  
TIR NA SAOR

In association with

the  
**welcome**  
organisation

We would ask all attendees where possible, to bring an  
item of warm clothing or toiletries, e.g. toothpaste  
For donation to the Welcome organisation