

## ***Ian Gallagher – With You In Control***

I know that many politicians before me have used the word ‘you’ in their electoral campaigns. I also know that what I am offering is truly revolutionary. I have provided a **dedicated website** which will allow constituents to vote on **every issue** their councillor fights for. And unlike most empty campaign promises, this one can be proved! Just go to **www.corkcity.tv** and see for yourself.

People are busy. Understandably, you don’t always have time to contact your local representative and make your voice heard about important civic issues. But imagine being able to check up on your councillor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and vote on what issues he should bring to council meetings, all from the comfort of your home or office!

Every week people can log on to **corkcity.tv**, view a simple video synopsis of the decisions up for debate, and vote yes or no about these decisions. I will then collate these results and present them to the council. (Needless to say I will also hold ‘traditional’ surgeries and be contactable in person and by phone.)

- Do you know what happens in your council meetings?
- Do you care that the majority of the work is achieved by only a few good councillors?
- Have you ever read through the minutes of a meeting?
- Do you know if the councillor you voted for last time even attends regularly?
- Do you feel you have any control over what happens in our city?

I’m guessing that you said ‘no’ to at least some of them. Well, I’m going to change that.

## ***The issues***

### **#1: Beyond the Ballot Box**

This is a first of its kind initiative. It is not available anywhere else in the country. You will have real control over the issues that impact your neighbourhood. This control will not begin and end at the ballot-box, as it usually does. When I am voted in, I will consider myself a transparent conduit for the voices of my constituents. Using the ubiquitous availability of the Internet, as well as more traditional modes of communication, I will do my utmost to channel the needs and desires of my voters directly to the council. There will be **total transparency** in all my political activities. Indeed, I invite and encourage constituents to ask (and receive prompt answers to) searching questions.

We live in a technological age where there is **no excuse** for a citizen being unable to participate in local government. And yet in the vast majority of constituencies, there is no regular dialogue between constituent and councillor. This must change.

### **#2: Recycling and bin collection charges**

- Reducing the cost of your annual fees
- Putting the control back in your hand
- Encouraging increased recycling

Cork has achieved an impressive degree of recycling – 29% in just eight years. But we can't stop there. The EU city average is 45%. We need to reward your efforts – incentivise recycling and also control the costs.

Every year you pay €290 in bin charges, whether or not you place any rubbish in your kerbside bins. On top of this is the €6 fee, every time your bin is collected. Over the course of a year, that equates to almost €600.

I am recommending a reform of this where the cost of each domestic bin tag is higher and the abolition of the fixed annual charge.

Recycling also has a cost – if this would be reflected in an appropriate charge for each recycling bag. You decide how much domestic waste you want collected – you control the cost. By recycling more, you are saving money and saving the environment.

This is about utilising current technologies to increase your level of participation in how our city is managed. This allows the participants to change not only how our city is run, but also our country – and you and your decision are central to this. This is real democracy. This is possible. A vote for Ian Gallagher will get it done.

### **#3: Redeveloping the Glen Park**

Parks have long been recognised as major contributors to the aesthetic and physical quality of urban neighbourhoods. In recent years a new, broader view of parks has been emerging. This new view goes well beyond the traditional value of parks as places of recreation and visual assets to communities, and focuses on how policymaker and the public can begin to think about parks as valuable contributors to larger urban policy objectives, such as public health, job opportunities, youth development, and community building.

The Glen is underutilised unlike any other areas of the city. Its size leads itself to being the leading public amenity area in the city, potentially encompassing such facilities as a running and cycling track, a climbing wall and a skate park. We also envisage a public bandstand (or an open air theatre), catering for outdoor concerts or plays. These will undoubtedly contribute to the quality of life in many ways. Besides the environmental and ecological importance, there are many psychological and social benefits to our area, which will enrich the lives of all Cork's residents at a local community and city level.

With the importance of parks growing in the public consciousness, parks help to define the identities of their cities and are of huge value to both locals and visitors. A vote for Ian Gallagher will mean The Glen Park will become the proud cultural amenity it should be.

### **About Ian Gallagher**

Why vote for me? I have worked and lived in Cork City for over 14 years. I can see great potential for enabling this city become a peoples city again. I am young, enthusiastic and motivated. I run a multimedia agency employing eight people. I know the realities and the challenges we face during this recessionary period, but believe that through resourcefulness we can overcome them. I think many of you are unhappy with how our city is run but feel powerless to do anything about it. I can help you change that – I want you to help me put people back at the heart of the peoples republic – for too long it has been the vested interest of a few – now it's your turn. Vote Ian Gallagher No1 in Cork North West.

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**[www.corkcity.tv](http://www.corkcity.tv)**