

## Fine Gael Top the Polls in Dungarvan / Lismore



Independent candidate Michael Wright with Sean Breanach.

Fourteen candidates were in the running for the 8 seats up for grabs in the Dungarvan/ Lismore area. This year's elections saw the two electoral areas of Lismore and Dungarvan joining as one. Four sitting Councillors Billy Kyne (LAB), Tom Higgins (FG) Nora Flynn (FG) and Brendan Mansfield (SF) recently retired from the Council. This resulted in new candidates running for the area such as Sinn Fein's Siobhan Whelan and Louise Brierley, and Independents Midi de Paor and Michael Wright. Fine Gael managed to retain their three seats in the Dungarvan/ Lismore area. Damien Geoghegan (FG) on the first count exceeded the quota of 1,312. Geoghegan was deemed elected with 1,337 of the votes. Pat Nugent (FG) followed and was elected on the 4th count with 1,315 of votes. Party colleague Declan Doocey (FG) was elected on the 8th count with 1,200 votes after transfers. "I am happy that Fine Gael has taken the three seats in the area. I am looking forward to working with them in the new amalgamated council" said Damien Geoghegan. The last local elections in 2009 saw Damien Geoghegan top the poll with 1,300 votes. Geoghegan speaking on his victory said "I did not expect to top the poll again especially with the new electoral areas, I'm privileged". "I am delighted with my performance and with the turnout of my constituency" said Geoghegan. At the end of day one, there were two seats filled for the Dungarvan/ Lismore electoral area. Michael Wright (IND) was the first candidate excluded after the first count polling low with 392 votes. Ann Marie Rossiter (FF) exited the race after the second count after receiving just 566 votes. Day two started with Fianna Fail's James Tobin, being elected on the fifth count, Tobin who topped the Lismore Electorate in 2009 nabbing 1,023 of the votes; saw an increase in votes this year reaching the 1,315 mark. Siobhán Whelan (SF) was deemed elected on the 7th count and will now serve the constituents of the Dungarvan/Lismore area on the new council. It also means Sinn Féin retain their seat in Dungarvan which was held by outgoing Cllr. Brendan Mansfield. The 8th and final count resulted in the last four seats being claimed by John Pratt (Lab), Tom Cronin (FF), Declan Doocey (FG) and Seamus O'Donnell (Ind) with Labour's Nicky Sheehan just missing out in the final hurdle. He was beaten to the post by Independent runner Seamus O' Donnell by 171 votes. The new Dungarvan/Lismore electorate is made up of three candidates from the Fine Gael party, one Labour, one Independent, and two Fianna Fail along with one Sinn Fein candidate.

Sarah Leahy