

Wyse relishing life in politics



Waterford City and County Councillor Adam Wyse, who is enjoying his life in politics.

"Jealous rivals or female fans? I'll leave you decide," boldly comments Waterford City East Councillor, Adam Wyse on the several posters that vanished during his local election campaign. From the outset, it seems that Ireland's youngest Councillor is providing a welcome freshness to an otherwise sombre political scene.

A brief of Adam's achievements makes for fascinating reading. After the sudden passing of his father, Gary, Adam succeeded unopposed to take his father's Council seat in November, before heading a successful local election campaign at the age of 19.

As our conversation begins, Adam moots his fresh approach by asserting that his father shouldn't not have been the primary reason why he was elected.

"I never felt it was my right to follow in my father's footsteps," he said. "To me it would have to be something that I would earn by gaining the support of Waterford City's people."

Now four months into his tenure, Cllr Wyse believes that while his opinion is respected among his peers, the age gap between Waterford City's Councillors is strength in implementing new measures, as opposed to a weakness.

"We all have been born into different eras of Waterford's past and therefore we all have different views on what path Waterford should take."

Furthering this, Adam noted: "The people we represent have changed and while this must be respected, some politicians have goals which never change- You can have 10, 20 or 30 years worth of experience, but if it's not put to use it's worth nothing to anybody."

Moving onto the people Cllr Wyse says that a major concern of is that many locals have lost faith in their hometown.

"If I could change one thing it would be that we don't take our frustration out on Waterford. We have everything from the amazing Viking Triangle to the picture-perfect Dunmore East - we must change this if we are to promote Waterford as a fascinating place to visit and live."

This desire for change translates into Adam's ability to think outside the box. While he is currently working on issues as diverse as youth unemployment and fishing protection, a motion passed at this year's Fianna Fáil's Ard Fheis has been identified by Adam as his proudest achievement thus far.

"I tabled a successful motion regarding the possibility of a tax free zone surrounding Waterford Airport to attract new industries," a possibility he wishes to progress through becoming a member of the Waterford Regional Airport Board.

While those who know him may be convinced of his capabilities, it has taken time for Adam to assure himself that he can balance both student and political life.

"Initially it took a while to get around to everything asked of me- the phone seemed to be constantly ringing; I just didn't realise how organised I had to be to make it in politics. Though now, I feel fully adjusted to the task at hand."

Success in politics is largely determined by hard honest work rather than adoring fans (!) so it seems appropriate that Cllr

Wyse signed off with what rests at core of his mantra, one that appropriately bellies his age.

“Your work ethic is not defined by your experience, but your drive. What the people need is a politician who will work for them whether it is their first or last day in office.”