

1975

Finance Plan : Dublin Comhairle Ceanntar

Sinn Fein

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Recommended Citation

Sinn Fein, "Finance Plan : Dublin Comhairle Ceanntar" (1975). *Materials*. 60.
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FINANCE PLAN

Some weeks ago at a meeting of Cumann treasurers in Dublin, it was decided to establish a committee to investigate the whole question of Finance in Sinn Feil in the Dublin area. This committee was also authorised to draw up an improved plan for the future financing of Sinn Feil, if possible. The committee and its terms of reference were subsequently ratified at a Comhairle Ceanntar meeting. The following is a copy of its report.

The general finance problems facing the organisation in Dublin may be stated briefly to be as follows :

- (a) Lack of funds for Emergency or Elections ;
- (b) Lack of money for day to day expenses of cumainn;
- (c) Devotion of too much time to collections etc. instead of hard work;
- (d) Failure to contribute a realistic sum of money for the upkeep of the Ard Comhairle and its secretariat;
- (e) Failure of the movement to implement the Constitutional requirement that all members contribute to the upkeep of the organisation.

Before explaining how these problems can be tackled, a number of basic points should be made clear. Firstly, the implementation of any plan designed to right our financial problems, must be based on a high level of enthusiasm and PRACTICAL work, among our members. Members must see the need for movement funds before they will contribute. Secondly, contributions should remain on the basis of a fixed weekly sum and not as a % of income. Thirdly, a major priority must be the establishment of an emergency election fund. This will enable us to avoid the type of situation which occurred this year, when all the fund raising carried out for the Local Government Elections was done at the last minute, taking from valuable canvassing time. Elections must be prepared for in advance, financially and otherwise. That better way than to have a sound fund behind us. Fourthly, the Comhairle Ceanntar should be able to conduct its day to day affairs on a reduced budget, if such an emergency fund is to be set up. Lastly, cumanns themselves are in need of more money to finance local agitations and other activities.

ANALYSIS OF PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION

1. Ard Comhairle

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------|
| (a) Affiliation | £10.00 per year | £200.00 |
| (b) Registration | £ 1.00 per year | £180.00 |
| (c) National Collection | | |
| (d) Specialist collections going to Ard Comhairle sub committees | | |

2. Comhairle Ceanntar Financial Sources

- (a) Dues £24.00 per year 6480.00
- (b) Levies in emergencies
- (c) Specific collections e.g. Local Government Elections
- (b) and (c) require a huge effort to realise, and could be replaced with an emergency fund in part.

3. Cumann Financial Sources

- (a) Paper sales
 - (b) Subscriptions
 - (c) Collections
 - (d) Socials
- (a) will remain; (b) will remain; (c) and (d) should become much less important due to the time and energy involved in organising in these fields.

This then is basically an analysis of the sources of funds for each level of Sinn Fein in Dublin. We hope to increase the amounts available to all three levels. To do this we must have both a financial plan and a system through which we can implement it.

CENTRALISED SYSTEM

A fully centralised fund raising system would entail a flow towards the Comhairle Ceanntar of all funds passing through a Cumann. The Comhairle Ceanntar finance section would re-direct this money into areas where it is required, and generally enforce all fund raising techniques. This type of system requires a tight, disciplined, centralised organisation. This is something we do not have here at the moment. Therefore the implementation of such a plan would at the moment, be impractical in the extreme.

ALTERNATIVE

This would be a simple and direct system of raising funds, and organising their distribution to solve our immediate problems. Such a system will now be described in outline. This system is being presented for full discussion by ALL members of Sinn Fein in Dublin, before discussion at Treasurer and Comhairle Ceanntar level. Following this detailed discussion it is hoped that this plan will be accepted in a democratic manner for prompt implementation. In addition, discussions are to be held with Donncha McRaghnaill and Mick Ryan, the joint treasurers of Sinn Fein, to determine their views on our problems and plans.

PLAN

This plan is simple in structure, will be easy to implement, and will raise and control our finances properly.

1. Cumann Level

Each member to pay a weekly contribution, whether he attends meetings or not. The cumann treasurer will be responsible for collecting this.

<u>Rates</u>	Employed	40 P	} Half remains in Cumann funds Half goes to Comhairle Ceanntar
	Students	20 P	
	Unemployed	10 P	

Collections : Apart from Easter Lilies and National Collections (Cabhair Et) these should be phased out.

Paper Money : To continue as before

Comhairle Ceanntar Dues : To be halved for each cumann to £12.00 per annum, or £1.00 per month.

Affiliation and Registration : As before but must be carried out by the end of MARCH each year.

eg. Distribution of Cumann Money (10 man cumann) :

to Ard Comhairle	£10.00	affiliation
	£10.00	registration (10 people)
to Comhairle Ceanntar	£12.00	dues
	£100.00	50% subs.
to Cumann	£68.00	50% subs. less dues and affiliation
		paper profit
		33% Lilies etc.

2. Comhairle Ceanntar Level

Day to day running : From £12.00 per cumann dues a total of £240.00 should be collected.

Distribution of Members subs. :

20 P per member	X 150	= £300.00 per week
	X 50 weeks	= £1500.00 per year
to Emergency Fund	£800.00	
to Ard Comhairle	£700.00	= £1500.00

(The purpose of the Emergency Fund is Elections, important areas or work, cumanns in difficulties etc.)

3. Ard Comhairle

Receives from Comhairle Ceanntar	£700.00
Receives from Affiliations	£200.00
Receives from Registrations	£150.00

40
52
80
200
372

INCREASES UNDER THIS PLAN

Cumann : Guaranteed £68.00 (in a 10 man cumann) per year after organisational obligations.

Comhairle Ceanntar : Income increase from £480.00 (approximate) to £1040.00

Ard Comhairle : Income increase from £350.00 to £1050.00 per annum.

Savings : Comhairle Ceanntar dues halved to £1.00 per month.

Time wasting collections and socials eliminated.

Such a plan for full and rigorous implementation requires a proper system.

CUMANN LEVEL

Member : The members card will become his receipt book. All collections are to be carried out by the cumann treasurer and filled into the membership card by him. Outstanding amounts are to be paid at the end of each month.

Proposed Card :

NAME		NO.			
MONTH	WEEK NUMBERS				OWES
	1	2	3	4	
Feb	40P	40P	0	40P	40P
Mar					
etc.					
TOTAL PAID 1974			TOTAL DUE 1974		

Treasurer : Will have a master card into which he will write amounts received from each member AFTER they have paid. He will have 24 marker cards, one for each month which he keeps, and one for each month to be sent to the Comhairle Ceanntar, with returns at the end of each month. Thus he will have a financial record of all members for the full year. These 24 cards will be contained in a book, the inside cover of which will carry full instructions.

Treasurers Cumann Card :

CUMANN	MONTH				
	WEEK NUMBER				
Member	1	2	3	4	DUE
J. Smith	40P	10P	0	10P	10P
etc.					
TOTAL PAID			TOTAL DUE		
SENT TO COMHAIRLE CEANNTAR					
RETAINED IN CUMANN FUND					

COMHAIRLE CEANNTAR LEVEL

A master card will be kept for each cumann. At one glance this card, like the others, will have all the relevant details regarding finances at all levels. A copy of this card will be sent to the Ard Comhairle at the end of each financial year (December).

CUMANN NAME													
MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	DUE
MEMBER													
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
⋮													
⋮													
⋮													
⋮													
⋮													
⋮													
TOTAL													
TO A/C													
TOTAL DUE FOR YEAR						TOTAL PAID							
TOTAL DUE TO A/C						TOTAL PAID TO A/C							

PRINTING

Following discussions with Tony Ebbs of Cló Naisiunta, it has been established that all cards can be printed at 'reasonable charges'. The plates for membership cards, could with the sanction of the Ard Comhairle, be modified for Dublin.

CONCLUSION

- (a) The success or failure of any streamlined financial system will depend on the ability and calibre of our Treasurers. Throughout the past year Treasurers in Dublin have been encouraged to adopt a more important role. This process must continue.
- (b) More important, our future financial plans depend on the recognition by every single party member, that
 - i. To survive and develop, the party needs funds;
 - ii. It is the duty of every member to contribute DIRECTLY to party funds.

Until this situation exists, we will continually be chasing loose pennies with empty cans.

- (c) This plan is not an underhanded attempt to fool cumainn into supplying the Ard Comhairle and the Comhairle Ceanntar with more money. We are stating openly, that to operate effectively, the central bodies of our organisation need a large increase in the amount of money at their disposal.
- (d) The foregoing document is the direct result of the past years work of the financial section of the Comhairle Ceanntar officer board. We would urge all members to study it carefully, bearing in mind that there is only one direction in which our party can move, and that is FORWARD.

Signed : Jim Sherry Finance Officer
 Dermot Nolan Treas rer