

THE LEFT FIELD

Labour

National Ploughing Championships 2023



For an Ireland that Works for all



Labour Leader Ivana Bacik, Senator Mark Wall and Alan Kelly TD at the Ploughing last year

It's great to be back at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska.

The Labour Party has the ideas and plans to deliver an Ireland that Works for All that will transform our rural communities and ensure resources are targeted where they are most needed.

The government is not doing enough to address the cost-of-living crisis and the chronic lack of affordable housing. It's why we are launching a national campaign on vacancy and dereliction. Too many children still can't get access to care or the disability services they need, or even access their local school bus service. Labour has proven plans that will deliver change.

The upcoming Budget must ensure families and carers are supported for the winter ahead, make the climate investments our country needs, and fully resource our schools, hospitals, Gardaí and other public services. Workers across Ireland need a pay rise, and the big energy companies, banks and supermarkets must be challenged on their profits and pricing.

Labour has a detailed plan to revitalise our small towns and villages, which provide essential supports to rural hinterlands, and in this year's Budget we are also calling for:

- Increased mental health supports for rural communities.
- Improved ambulance response times and resourcing of local hospitals and health centres.
- Faster rollout of broadband and rural remote working hubs.

In the months ahead our Councillors and new candidates will be calling to your door to outline our ambitious plans

on housing, climate, care and work. They will be asking for your support in the local and European elections next year to deliver on our core values of equality, solidarity and fairness.

Labour has the ambition, the energy and the commitment to deliver real change for an Ireland that works for all. Get in touch with your local representative to find out more.

LABOUR – PROUD OF OUR RURAL ROOTS

Founded in 1912 as the political wing of the Irish Trades Union Congress, throughout our history, the Labour Party had a strong presence in rural areas, particularly across Munster and parts of Leinster. These roots can be traced right back to the Irish Land and Labour Association (ILLA), founded in the 1890s, which itself grew out of the Tenant Right League. The ILLA would later amalgamate with the ITGWU which became SIPTU. The platform of the ILLA included demands for better houses, work and wages, education, and pensions for land labourers. These are core concerns on which the Labour Party continues to campaign for workers across the country today.





Ivana Bacik TD and Seán Sherlock visiting the BRIDE 'Biodiversity in a Dairying Environment' project in Castlelyons, Co. Cork.

TIME FOR A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Labour has called on the government to convene a Citizens' Assembly on the future of agriculture and food production in Ireland, to address the national debate on land use, sectoral emissions and the future of farming.

We know every sector will have to play a fair share in cutting emissions, but this is not an insurmountable challenge and not one that we should fear.

In reaching targets it can't be felt by any one sector that the targets are being foisted on them. The cost-of-living crisis impacts farmers also and we need specific programmes identified to support farm families.

That's why we believe we need to have a national conversation on what the future of agriculture would look like, free of political short-termism.

Such an assembly could consider everything, from our food strategy to innovative and green ways of farming. Forestry is still the poor relation and we are way off our afforestation targets. Our way of working needs to change and Government has a responsibility to deliver a Just Transition to our farming communities to lower emissions and protect livelihoods. That involves more farmers being paid to sequester carbon. A hands-off approach will not deliver sustainable agriculture and decent farm incomes.

GET IN TOUCH WITH LABOUR



Ivana Bacik TD
Party Leader

✉ ivana.bacik@oireachtas.ie
☎ 01 618 3136



Alan Kelly TD
Spokesperson on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

✉ alan@alanKelly.ie
☎ +353 61 34190



Seán Sherlock TD
Spokesperson on Rural and Community Development

✉ sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie
☎ +353 22 53523



Sen. Mark Wall
Kildare South

✉ mark.wall@oireachtas.ie
☎ +353 83 334 1488



Your Labour team in Laois for the June 2024 local elections (L->R)

- Eoin Barry for Graigecullen/Portarlinton LEA
- Cllr Marie Touhy for Portlaoise LEA
- Bryan Corrigan for Borris-in-Ossory/ Mountmellick LEA

A Citizens' Assembly must look at how we find solutions to these challenges by bringing a range of voices together from NGOs, environmental groups, industry, business, agriculture, and civil society. We have seen the benefits of having these hard conversations with each other in the past. We have found pathways to resolve difficult questions. We have reaped the rewards of hearing each other and listening to each other.

There is only one possible economy in the future. That is an economy that operates on a carbon-neutral basis.

SUPPORTING RURAL IRELAND AND FARMERS IN BUDGET 2024

To tackle the ever-growing cost of living, Labour is calling for an increased levy on the banks, and a windfall tax on energy companies. We need to see more once off measures to support households, and workers need a pay rise.

As part of our Budget proposals, we are calling for improved measures to support farmers and rural communities including increasing access and funding to ACRES, and ANCs. If farmers are to be empowered to meet climate targets additional supports are also needed for roof-top solar, and the anaerobic digestion support scheme must be advanced. Forestry must be made attractive as a long-term secure investment by addressing the problems caused by ash dieback.

