

# Tadhg Culbert plans a return to politics in next local elections

*He lost his seat after fourteen years on Town Council back in 1999*

BY CATRIONA GALLEN

SENIOR post office official Tadhg Culbert is planning a return to local politics in the 2009 Town Council elections. Mr Culbert declared his intention to run as a Fianna Fail candidate this week.

The former town Councillor was elected in 1985 as an Independent Fianna Fail candidate. He left the party in the lead up to the 1994 elections and served as an Independent Councillor for a year before he was elected to the Letterkenny Urban District Council in 1994 as a Fianna Fail candidate. He lost his seat in the 1999 local Government elections.

Mr Culbert said that joining Dr James McDaid TD, on the General election campaign trail earlier this year had re-fuelled his desire to return to local politics.

He said after serving the people for Letterkenny for 14 years he had given his role some consideration and decided to re-enter politics.

"I've received a positive response from lots of people in the Post Office, from councillors both past and present since I announced I intended to run in the next local elections," said Mr Culbert.

"I enjoyed my time in politics and have given it more thought over the last six months becoming more involved in local issues. I hear a lot about what is going on in and around Letterkenny and people's concerns through my work at the Post Office. It's also something I've been thinking about for two years and decided now the time is right," added Tadhg Culbert.

A native of Tipperary, Tadhg Culbert moved to Letterkenny in 1973 and is a Senior Clerk with An Post. He comes from a strong political background in Tipperary where his mother is still actively involved in local political life.

"Politics has been a way of life in my family. My grandfather Philip Culbert was a founder member of the Fianna Fail Party and even though my Mum's in her 86th year she's still involved in politics at home," said Mr Culbert.

Mr Culbert served on a number of committees during his 14 year tenure as a Letterkenny Councillor which included the VEC and Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

"Politics is in my blood and there's simply no escaping it," said Tadhg who is also a Peace Commissioner. "My mum is a peace commissioner, so was my Dad and so is my brother and my grandfather was one in his day too," said Tadhg.



Tadhg Culbert

As a resident of Beechwood, Mr Culbert feels very strongly about the over-development of residential areas and is one of a number of contentious issues locally which has led him to seek a nomination at the Fianna Fail convention.

"One issue I do feel strongly about is people building large buildings in residential areas. Everybody living in an area is entitled to object to building works. I think greater power

should be given to local authorities rather than allowing the planning laws of the country to over ride what the people want.

"In Letterkenny there are two contentious issues at present with plans for multi storey apartments in Beechwood and College Farm Road. The people living there know what is best and I think a Bye law could be introduced to ensure that residential areas remain residential," said Mr Culbert.