

MAYOR LAUNCHES SEAT FUNDRAISING DRIVE

The Mayor of Armagh City and District Council, Councillor Thomas O`Hanlon has helped local pressure group SEAT (Safe Electricity for Armagh and Tyrone) launch a major fundraising drive.

Speaking to a large crowd assembled in the Council Offices, Councillor O`Hanlon said, 'SEAT was formed to give a voice to the communities who are affected by proposals by NIE and Eirgrid to place overhead 400kv Powerline trough parts of this City and District. Tonight we gather tonight not only to launch the major fundraising campaign to help fund the expected legal battle, but we also gather to send a strong and clear message to NIE, Eirgrid and to both Governments on this island that message is "keep your pylons".'

'We are a progressive people, we do not want to stand in the way of progress, in fact we are supportive of North South Interconnection and the all island electricity market but this can be achieved by undergrounding the cables. NIE and Eirgrid have and continue to underestimate the people of our communities, we are a united community and we will fight these proposals and our voice will be heard.'

'It is only when NIE submit their planning application to build this interconnector that the battle lines will be drawn. Every single objection is needed, every voice must be heard right through to the expected public enquiry.'

'Our communities are anxious about this proposal, they are concerned for their communities, concerned for the environment, concerned for their families and most worryingly of all, they are concerned for their health.'

'SEAT has lead they way thus far but the fight must continue and tonight is about raising funds for that fight. When it comes to Public Enquiry, the top professionals and legal teams will be needed to fight our case and thats why funds are needed. In the coming weeks, more fundraising activities will be announced. It is imperative that we all support SEAT in every which way we can.'

'I am delighted to have been able to host this launch tonight and I thank all those who attended. I would also like to thank my colleagues from all the political parties for their continued support for SEAT and for attending the launch tonight.'

ENDS