

In  
brief**Judge seeks  
clarity over  
non Irish  
driving licences  
in payment  
of fines**

A MOTORIST who claims to have paid on the spot fines for a road traffic incident found himself before Tuam District Court last week as his payment has not been accepted.

Martin Donnellan from Beagh, Dunmore is facing charges connected to an incident in which he is accused of overtaking on a continuous white line and for excessive speed.

Garda Stan O'Grady gave evidence to the court regarding the incident that occurred at Rusheens on March 28 this year.

He told the court that fixed charge notices were issued to the defendant but were not paid.

However, defending solicitor Evan O'Dwyer said his client paid the fines but because he holds a UK driving licence his cheques were returned to him as he did not submit his licence with his payment.

Mr O'Dwyer said that there was no statutory obligation on him to submit a non-Irish driving licence when paying a fine.

Judge James Faughnan said that this was "a new one on me" and he asked that the matter be checked out.

He adjourned the case to the December 8 sitting of the court.

# Councillors tell MEPS to get back to basics

- European representatives need to be in contact with councillors more often, meeting told



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MEPS for the region need to get back to basics and be more in touch with their constituents and local representatives.

That's the view of one county councillor who is inviting the Midlands-Northwest MEPS to County Hall next month in order for them to be brought up to speed on what's happening around the county at ground level.

MEPS Luke Flanagan, Mairead McGuinness, Marian Harkin and Matt Carthy will be asked to come before Galway county councillors before the end of the year on foot of a motion by Independent Cllr Michael Fahy.

He told his fellow councillors that a few years ago the local MEPS were always in the paper or on the radio but now he says people don't hear anything from them.

He has invited the European Parliament representatives to a meeting in County Hall, not necessarily to address councillors but in order to be given information on the

biggest concerns to people living in the region.

Cllr Fahy feels that the MEPS have lost touch with local representatives and should be more proactive. "We never hear anything from them now," he remarked.

He was seconded by Cllr Michael Connolly who felt it was important for the region's MEPS to be in regular contact with councillors who want to impress the importance of securing funding for the area.



MEP Luke Flanagan is among the MEPS being invited to County Hall.



INDEPENDENT MEP Marian Harkin.



MEP Mairead McGuinness.

## Gaeilge from abroad will feature in Athenry school musical



By Tom Gilmore

WHEN Grease as Gaeilge takes to the stage of Athenry Town Hall this Thursday and Friday nights, the public will hear the hit songs in English but three of the teenagers doing the talking in Irish, in lead roles, are youngsters with their roots in London, New York and Cardiff, Wales.

Noah Dovell is from East

**LEFT: TAKING lead roles in the Athenry production of Grease as Gaeilge: Noah Dovell, Ciara Beth Ni Ghríofa and Michael Griffin.**

PHOTO: RAY RYAN

London, Ciara-Beth Ni Ghríofa spent the first four years of her life in New York, while Michael Griffin spent much of his childhood holidays in Wales where his mother is a native of Cardiff.

But all three have a love of the Irish language which has resulted in them being Transition Year students at Athenry's Coláiste an Eachréidh.

Indeed Noah Dovell, whose parents are both English, says he wants to become an Irish teacher.

"It was myself that decided to come to Coláiste an Eachréidh even though I am from East London and my parents are not Irish," says Noah.

The family moved to Baunmore in 2007 when his mother got a job in Galway and even though Noah didn't attend any Gaelscoil for his primary education he moved with ease into learning all subjects as Gaeilge since starting in the Athenry Coláiste.

Ciara-Beth Ní Ghríofa, who has a leading role opposite Noah, is equally enthusiastic about the Irish language even though her formative years were spent 3,000 miles away across the Atlantic.

"We lived in New York for four years when I was younger before coming to live in Galway and it is great to be able to be able to mix talking

in Irish with singing in English for this different version of Grease," says Ciara-Beth, who lives in Craughwell.

Meanwhile Michael Griffin who plays another lead role, that of Kenickie, in the show says Wales played a big part in his childhood years.

"I spent much of my holidays over there with my grandparents as my mother is Welsh and I can understand a lot of their language too," says Michael, who lives in Renmore and hopes to study Corporate Law as Gaeilge when he moves on to third level education.

• See also our schools pages 52-53.