

YFG GARRET FITZGERALD

# SUMMER *School*

30-31 JULY, 2022



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# House Rules

## Behaviours and Standards

Young Fine Gael members are required to behave in a way that does not bring themselves or the reputation of the Fine Gael party or YFG organisation into disrepute, whether online or offline.

While there is a possibility of alcohol consumption at the event and an element of fun is encouraged, there is **ZERO** tolerance for behaviour that is in any way abusive to other attendees, staff at the venue or the general public. Failure to meet standards may result in disciplinary action.

## Interaction and Questions

1. If you wish to make a contribution or raise a question during the event, please indicate to the Chair by raising your hand.
2. Wait until you are called on, and please include your first name, location and the subject matter of your question. (e.g. "My name is Alex from Dunmanway YFG and my question for the Minister is, - Is anything being done about Ireland's increasing national debt? What is Fine Gael's position and plans on this?"
3. Members' questions and observations will be taken in batches of three and the guest respond with answers. In the interest of fairness to all members and time keeping, we are asking contributions to be no longer than 60 seconds.
4. Your contributions during this event are very important and may form the basis of subsequent and further discussions within the party. Please note this event will be recorded. If we wish to use your contribution in wider media at a later time, we will be in touch to advise.



# Standing Orders

- 1** A motion may only be moved by the Unit or Organ of the Organisation.
- 2 Quorum:**
  - a) where fewer than 15% of registered delegates are present, a session shall be deemed to be inquorate and the Chairperson shall adjourn that Session until he deems that Session to be quorate.
  - b) any registered delegate may call a quorum count. Only one quorum count may be called at each Session
- 3** Speakers shall only be allowed speak for the duration as announced by the Chairperson
- 4** If any registered delegate or any other person is directed to cease speaking on the grounds of irrelevancy, disruption or being in excess of the allotted time, that registered delegate or person must do so forthwith.
- 5 Voting:**
  - a) The Chairperson of a Session shall appoint tellers for the duration of that Session.
  - b) Voting at any Session shall be by a show of hands, only votes from registered delegates (green and blue stickers) will be counted.
  - c) A motion will be deemed to have been carried when a simple majority of registered delegates present at the session vote in favour of the motion.
  - d) The Chairperson may order a re-vote where the outcome of a vote is unclear by a show of hands.
  - e) If the Chairperson orders a re-vote pursuant to subsection (d) of this part, then the tellers will count the votes and inform the Chairperson of the result of the vote.
  - f) In the event of a tie, a Motion shall not be deemed to have been carried, as a majority has not been attained.
  - g) Once a vote has been called and ruled by a Chairperson, and a result declared, no further requests for counts shall be considered.

# Programme of Events

SATURDAY	Event	Who	Where
9:30am	Registration Desk Open and Welcome Breakfast on Arrival		The Timberyard, Mayson Hotel
9:45am	President's Welcome	Art O'Mahony	
10:00am	Policy Motions	Senator Mary Seery Kearney Cllr Aoibhinn Tormey	
11:00am	Ice breaker session	Niamh Bakker	
11:15am	Shared Island session and Launch of Research Findings The Future of Northern Ireland	Darragh McMahon  Special guests include: Neale Richmond TD Dr Stephen Farry Prof Colin Harvey Northern Ireland Youth Forum Alliance Youth	
12:30pm	LUNCH		
1:00pm	Canvassing Training	Cllr Evie Sammon Ross Kelly	
2:00pm	Leadership and Accountability Workshop	Deirdre Campbell	
4:00pm	Coffee Break and Fruit Skewers		
4:15pm	Team Building	Niamh Bakker	
4:30pm	YFG Policy Kitchen Safer Nights Campaign (tie in with Stronger Safer Communities events & resources)	Dara Clooney & Rachel Kerley	
6			





5:15pm	Check in	<b>FREE TIME</b>	Generator Hostel, Smithfield
6:30pm	<b>MYSTERY EVENING</b>		The Bath Pub
11:00pm	Mini-bus back to hostel		Meet outside the Bath Pub

SUNDAY	ITEM		VENUE
10:00am	Check out		Generator Hostel, Smithfield
10:30am	<b>SCAVENGER HUNT</b>		Start point: Smithfield Square
2:30pm	Pizza in the Park		Mystery Meeting Point
4:00pm	<b>CLOSE</b>		



## YFG on Social Networks

[f youngfinegael](https://www.facebook.com/youngfinegael)
[yfg.ie](https://www.yfg.ie)
[yfg](https://twitter.com/yfg)
[@youngfinegael](https://www.instagram.com/youngfinegael)
[flickr.com/young-fine-gael](https://www.flickr.com/photos/young-fine-gael)

# #YFG22

# Motions

- 1** YFG calls for the removal of the triple-lock mechanism and its replacement with a double-lock mechanism, requiring only Oireachtas and Government approval for the deployment of more than 12 Irish troops overseas.

**Has the motion passed?**

**YES** ☐ The motion is carried    **NO** ☐ The motion is defeated

- 2** YFG supports Senator Micheal Carrigy's proposals for bars/nightclubs to introduce lids for drinks as another step in combatting spiking.

**Has the motion passed?**

**YES** ☐ The motion is carried    **NO** ☐ The motion is defeated

- 3** YFG calls for a sectoral target of no more than 22% for agriculture and calls for the department of environment to recognise farmers' contributions to reducing carbon in other sectors, especially energy.

**Has the motion passed?**

**YES** ☐ The motion is carried    **NO** ☐ The motion is defeated

- 4** YFG calls on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to provide increased funding in Budget 2023 for targeted supports in the education system, aimed at helping those with learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and ADHD, among others.

**Has the motion passed?**

**YES** ☐ The motion is carried    **NO** ☐ The motion is defeated

- 5** YFG supports the Ceann Comhairle's call to establish a second Dáil chamber in order to make politics more family friendly.

**Has the motion passed?**

**YES** ☐ The motion is carried    **NO** ☐ The motion is defeated

# Shared Island Survey – Findings

1

The aim of our initiative has been to provide a temperature check on attitudes surrounding our shared future and to learn more about how we can best foster constructive dialogue between our communities. We have also sought to explore the opportunities associated with delivering a united Ireland and expose the unanswered questions which require further consideration in advance of holding a border poll.

2

It is clear from our survey findings that the opportunities associated with further integration and even unification are plentiful. Respondents suggested that unification could be a catalyst for meaningful governmental reform on this island, empowering our regions and local authorities to gain more autonomy over how they serve their electorate. Other suggestions included the opportunities which arise from developing an all-island research strategy, further integrating our higher education systems and delivering a university for Derry City.

3

However, the project also unearthed several outstanding issues and concerns which must not go ignored. These challenges include, but are not limited to, concerns around the future of policing, the provision of universal healthcare, the role of symbols and differing traditions in a new state, the future of the Stormont Assembly and the short-term economic shock arising from reunification.

4

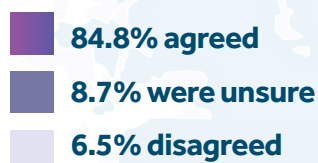
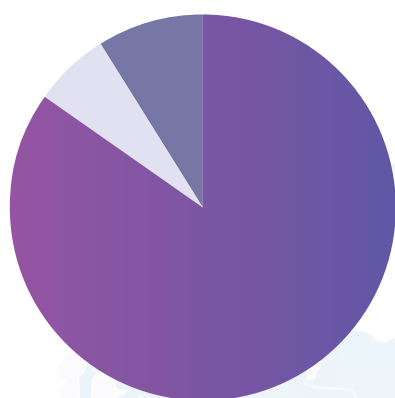
Fundamentally, our Shared Island research makes for fascinating reading, and we look forward to discussing these issues in more detail over the course of the weekend, and indeed in the months and years to come. It is my firm conviction as the President of Young Fine Gael that we can lead the conversation within our Party and influence our government to prepare a comprehensive and generous proposal aimed at uniting Ireland both constitutionally and socially, fulfilling the dream of Michael Collins.



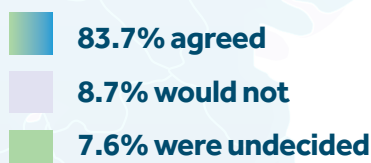
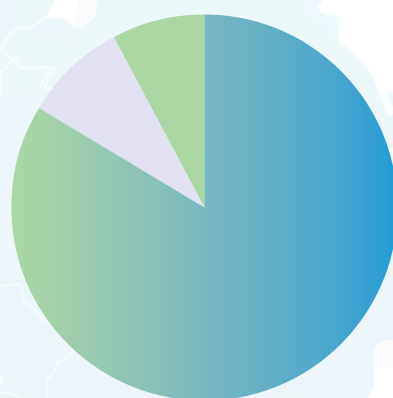
# Shared Island Survey – Findings

These are findings of a Shared Island Survey by Young Fine Gael with results being collected earlier this year. The survey is part of a pilot which is envisaged to take a snapshot of public mood, and given the interest generated by this initial future surveys may be conducted to track in what manner public mood moves.

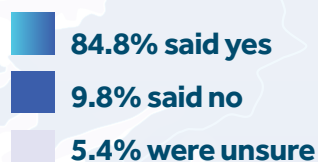
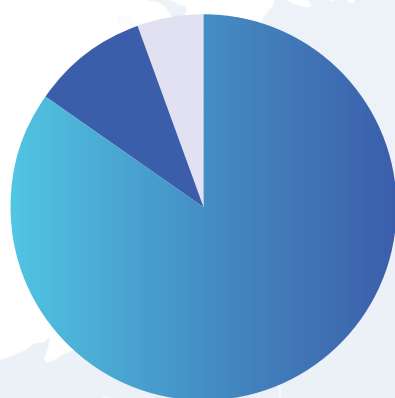
## Do you support Irish unification?



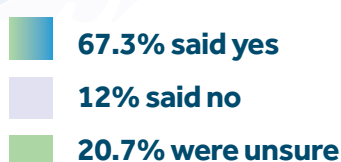
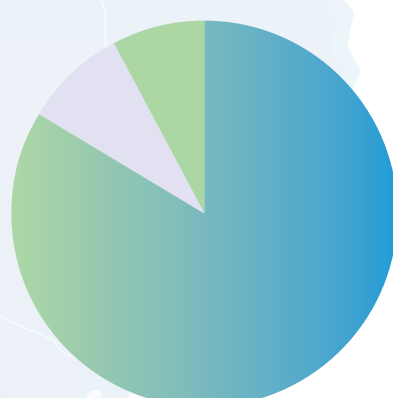
## Would you like to see a border poll in the next ten years?



## Should we hold a Citizens' Assembly on a united Ireland?



## Do you believe a United Ireland would require a new Constitution?



As the next section comprised of descriptive questions, responses have been condensed for clarity.

## **In your view, what are the significant barriers we need to overcome before holding a referendum?**



- The UK government need to clarify the criteria for a border poll
- The Unionist community must be invited to engage in further discussions and planning about our shared future
- A costed economic plan for how this transformation would work
- Clarity over the governance structures which would operate in a united Ireland
- Clarity over the future of policing on the island
- What we do about the NHS in Northern Ireland
- Who pays for historic pension entitlements?
- How we integrate two separate legal systems and harmonise legislation
- The role of symbolism and traditions in a new Ireland
- A view on Ireland's potential membership of the Commonwealth
- A view on Ireland's potential membership of NATO
- The role of Sinn Féin in a united Ireland
- Provision for unionist seats around the cabinet table



## **How can these barriers be resolved?**

- A multi-faceted Citizens' Assembly examining the constitutional, economic, political and cultural questions which require answering in advance of holding a referendum.
- A draft proposal agreed to by the entire Yes Campaign which would be put to the public, north and south, as our generous offer, similar to how draft legislation was used during the Eighth Amendment referendum campaign.
- Agreement between the UK government and Ireland that a transition period of at least two years would be ensured in order to provide the civil service time to establish the new state.
- Ireland should consider membership of the Commonwealth and NATO
- The Irish proposal should guarantee the future role of Stormont in a united Ireland and develop a federal system of government, provide unionists with certain autonomy.
- The rights of the unionist community should be entrenched in a new Irish Constitution, and the new State should consider allowing the 12th July be celebrated as a national holiday.
- Ireland should seek assurances from the European Union that a united Ireland would be provided with comprehensive grant relief to deal with the short-term economic shock of merging the two economies.
- The Department of Health would need to undertake comprehensive engagement with their counterparts in Northern Ireland to prepare for a merging of the two healthcare systems, and a universal healthcare system comparable to the NHS would need to be operational in the Republic.





## What changes should be made to the Irish Constitution

- A united Ireland should be established as a federal system, enabling the Northern Ireland Assembly to continue its role as a devolved government, and replacing the role of Westminster with Leinster House. This would mean that deference would be shown to Northern Ireland and attempts to legislate without consent would be rare.
- The constitutional limitation of fifteen cabinet seats would be removed in order to cater for added administrative duties which the Government would have to undertake.
- The primacy of the Irish language in the Constitution would need to be examined, and perhaps equated to the role of the English language.
- The provisions of the treaties governing the unification of Ireland and the future relationship between Ireland and Britain should be acknowledged in the new Constitution, including the role of the British Government as co-guarantor to peace on the island.
- Ireland's military neutrality should be removed as a constitutional provision.
- Additional rights for the unionist community should be reflected in the new Constitution, including recognition of Ulster Scots as a language.



# Take a Break

Unscramble the words above that are related to Irish politics and elections!

## Riddles

Two in a corner, one in a room, zero in a house, but one in a shelter. **What am I?**

A plane crashed between the border of France and Belgium. **Where were the survivors buried?**

Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. **What is it?**

What runs, but never walks. Murmurs, but never talks. Has a bed, but never sleeps. And has a mouth, but never eats?

I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. **What am I?**

You walk into a room that contains a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. **What would you light first?**



assinvgnCa  
rra lyterenceSaGe  
ITayl  
rteTusse  
Quato  
tiierrecDv  
meatermg ityeoCStt  
nMsooit  
Msap  
en QeoartGdu  
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# Report from YEPP Summer School

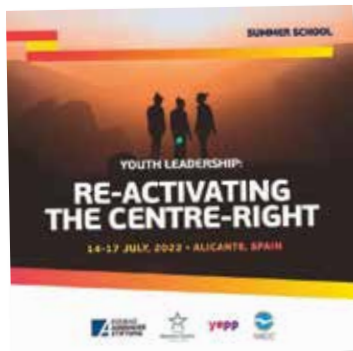
**By Shane Price,  
July 14th – 17th, Alicante Spain.**



*Shane Price, Deputy International Secretary of YFG*

From Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th of July Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) Summer School took place in Alicante, Spain. YFG was represented by Deputy International Secretary Shane Price and International Committee member Jamie Malone.

YFG and FG were also further represented by Paula Campbell in her capacity as YEPP Vice President and Neale Richmond TD as a panel speaker. This was the first YEPP summer school post-COVID, with the previous Summer School taking place in 2018 in Cascais,



Portugal. Unlike Council meetings, there are no formal resolutions or motions put forward and instead the weekend centred around more collaborative discussions, under the central theme of the Summer School, "Youth Leadership – Reactivating the Centre Right", acknowledging

that centre right parties are currently facing challenges and struggling to connect with voters across Europe.

Registration of delegates and a relaxed social event and dinner took place Thursday evening, with the full programme of events starting Friday morning. We were first visited Santa Barbara castle, a large fort overlooking Alicante with amazing views of the entire city and coast and given a tour of the castle, with included in-depth knowledge of the history of Alicante from its beginning to present day. We then transferred to Palacio del

Portalet – LAB15, which served as the venue for the debate and discussions over the weekend and listened to welcome speeches by YEPP President Lidia Pereira MEP, Edelmira Ferri, YEPP Vice President for our Spanish sister party (Nuevas Generaciones, NNGG), Dr Peter Hefele, Policy director, Wilfred Martens Centre and Martin Fridek, KAS Office for Spain and Portugal. The first panel was European Democracy through the Citizens Lens: Key takeaways from the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) with Lidia Pereira MEP, Francois Bellamy MEP, and Neale Richmond TD. The second on social anchors: Strengthening the link between values & activist behaviours with the head of the EPP Social Media team Raimonds Bricis and finally a speech and discussion



*The Irish delegation to YEPP Summer School (L-R): Jamie Malone (Trinity & Louth YFG), Deputy Neale Richmond, VP YEPP Paula Campbell (Meath YFG), Deputy International Secretary Shane Price (Meath YFG) and Jasmin Schweizer (YEPP Executive Officer).*



on Mediation and Negotiation skills with former EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso.

Saturday began with a tour of Museo del Agua, a museum focused on educating the importance of water specifically in Alicante. Discussions on Saturday centred on Redirecting the European Narrative: The priorities of the Centre-right with Lidia Pereira MEP and Esteban Gonzalez Pons MEP, fighting disinformation online with Neale Richmond TD and a resumption on European Democracy through the Citizens Lens: Key takeaways from the CoFoE with Lidia Pereira-MEP, Isabel Benjumea MEP and Kevin Maas-President of JONGCD&V, Secretary General of YEPP. Finally, the day ended with a formal farewell dinner and social, with a keynote address by former Spanish Prime Minister José Maria Aznar.



*Neale Richmond TD in full flow at the YEPP Summer School 2022.*

## Overall key takeaways from the discussions were:

- The centre right needs a "reset" and a back-to-basics mentality.
- Our political parties should not chase policy ideas from other parties and try to "outdo" them,
- The huge importance of diversifying our parties with ordinary people and interest groups and not "party hacks" to form better connections,
- To move away from simple left/right discussions and more towards better representation of social groups and stressing the importance of social media,
- To make meaningful engagement and accurately showing how policy benefits people and not to condense down to a photo or video or social media,
- To combat disinformation and misinformation online by not being reactive but proactive and positive and finally to focus on "social listening", i.e focusing on what people actually want to hear and not "just statistics".



*Delegates at this year's YEPP Summer School before parting ways for their respective home countries.*

**If you are interested in international affairs and European politics, contact our International Secretary Eoin Scarlett ([international@yfg.ie](mailto:international@yfg.ie)) to find out more about how you can get involved with the work and activities of the YFG International Committee.**

# Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

Online Information Session for Future Talent and Leadership Bootcamp	9th August
Pre-Budget Submission with Minister Paschal Donohoe	11th August
Launch of YFG Arena	12th August
Deadline for Fine Gael Future Talent and Leadership Bootcamp	15th August
Béal na Bláth Commemorations Weekend	20th– 21st August
Patrick Hogan Commemoration event with Minister Simon Coveney at Kilreckle Community Hall	12noon, 28th August
College Recruitment Season	September – October*
YFG & Fine Gael at the Ploughing Championships	20th – 22nd September**
Fine Gael Small Business and Enterprise Conference	24th September
Fine Gael Ard Fheis, TUS Athlone	19th November

\*Check with your nearest college branch when their Freshers Week is taking place



\*\*If you would like to volunteer at the YFG & Fine Gael tent at the Ploughing in Laois, contact [Aoife@finegael.com](mailto:Aoife@finegael.com) with your availability.

## Take a Break - Answers

### **Answer to riddles:**

The letter "R."

They weren't

Survivors don't need to be buried

Nothing

A river

A map

The match

Canvassing  
General Secretary  
Tally  
Trustees  
Quota  
Directive  
Strategy Committee  
Motions  
Maps  
Gender Quota  
Volunteers  
Leaflet  
Executive Council  
Fundraising  
Constitution  
Tánaiste  
Code of Conduct  
Taoiseach  
Constituency  
Party  
Local Area Representative  
Voter  
Candidate  
Register  
Campaign Manager  
Doorstep  
Director of Elections  
Polling Station  
General Election  
Returning Officer  
Referenda  
Count Staff  
Count Centre  
Local Government  
Local Election  
Preference



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