



## Communications E-zine April 2019

Dear Member,

As we were finalising this e-zine news came through that Paul Moynihan from Moynihan's Bar in Donard, Co. Wicklow was voted President Elect at a meeting of the NEC on Wednesday 10th April.

Everyone at the VFI would like to congratulate Paul on his successful campaign. We are all looking forward to working with Paul when he takes office in May 2020.



### Insurance Update

It's been a busy few weeks in the fight for fairer insurance. Together with our partners in the Alliance for Insurance Reform we have identified three main issues that require urgent attention:

- Establishment of the Garda Insurance Fraud Unit
- Recalibration of the Book of Quantum
- Schedule of forecast reductions from the Dept of Finance



Chairman of the Oireachtas Finance Committee John McGuinness stated that there would be "no more kicking the can down the road" on this issue and Michael McGrath stated that they would "hold the ministers' feet in the fire" on reforms. We will follow up on these commitments. You can read more about AIR's appearance before the Finance Committee in the news section of [vfipubs.ie](http://vfipubs.ie)



### Business Guide

All VFI members should by now have received a copy of our 44-page 'A Business Guide for Pub Owners'. A copy was sent to every member, along with the results from a member survey conducted last autumn. The guide outlines best practise guidelines for publicans on a range of issues, including viability, value proposition, quality & standards and marketing. If you have yet to receive your guide please call us on 01 492 3400.

## Connacht Vintners visit Leinster House

A delegation of vintners from Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim visited Leinster House on Wednesday 3rd April to meet with Oireachtas members from the Connacht region. The VFI members spoke to TDs and Senators about the current situation facing publicans, particularly the downturn in business since the introduction of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act last October.

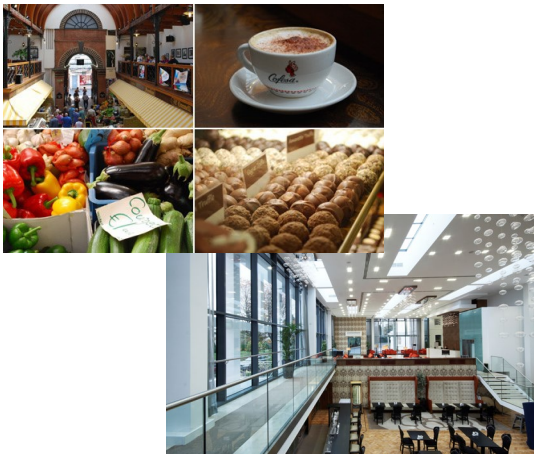
Rural transport, insurance and Public Health Alcohol Act were identified as the key issues that need to be addressed if the rural pub is to survive in the region. The commitments made by politicians at the meeting will be analysed and a future strategy will be mapped out to ensure momentum is maintained.



## 'Morning After' Remains A Major Issue

From talking with members around the country it is very clear the single biggest impact of the changes in drink driving laws and increase in checkpoints is the so-called 'morning after'. Due to a lack of understanding and mixed messages from the health lobby, people are unsure about when they can drive safely the morning after a night out. In response the VFI launched a major social media campaign aimed at informing the public about this issue. The video can be viewed in the news section of [vfipubs.ie](http://vfipubs.ie)

The campaign ran from 20th February to 13th March with over 900,000 views recorded. There is still much work to be done to inform the public about the 'morning after' facts but the level of engagement with the campaign is encouraging.



## AGM Coming Soon

The 46th Annual Conference of the VFI will take place in Cork from the 13th – 15th May in the Rochestown Park Hotel. There is a strong demand for rooms and we're at almost full capacity, so if you intend on travelling please contact head office urgently to secure accommodation. Please note that the online booking facility is no longer available. The AGM is scheduled to take place at 10am on Tuesday 14th May.

## Donegal Goodbye

Martin Gibbons, a stalwart of the VFI in Donegal, recently announced his retirement from his role as manager of the Glencar Inn, Letterkenny. A retirement party was held in his honour where family and friends from far and wide travelled to Letterkenny for the big send off, including VFI Chief Executive Pdraig Cribben, along with VFI staff Elaine Comerford & Paddy Brereton.



Signed:

Brian Foley  
VFI Communications & Public Affairs Manager