



## **New chairman calls for Government support for hospice ahead of fifth anniversary of Susie Long's death**

A TWELVE bed hospice to provide palliative care for the people of Carlow-Kilkenny is "achievable" in the short-term with political will, the new chairman of the Susie Long Hospice Fund (SLHF) has said.

"As we approach the fifth anniversary of Susie Long's death this October, it is important for us to keep our message high on the political agenda. Our original aim of securing a hospice for people in Carlow-Kilkenny in the grounds of St Luke's Hospital can be achieved in the short-term," said the new chairman of the SLHF, Tommy Roche.

Speaking following his election to the position at the recent AGM of the SLHF, Tommy Roche thanked outgoing chairman Malcolm Noonan for his work to date. "I would like to thank Malcolm for the tremendous contribution he has made and I'm delighted he will continue to serve as a volunteer on the committee," he said.

The SLHF has raised over €610,000 since 2007. "I'd like to thank everyone for donating to the fund and reassure them that the money will remain in a secure deposit account until the hospice is secured," Mr Roche added.

Fundraising efforts are continuing in Carlow and Kilkenny with the latest idea from BodyLight's Tom Brennan, raising thousands of euro for the charity. Tom, who lost his own dad to cancer 11 years ago, signed up dieters to a ten-week weight-loss challenge which started on February 2. He waived his fee - with 100pc of the proceeds going to the hospice fund.

Teams of couples, friends and work colleagues had shed a massive 270 pounds - or just over 19 stone between them - after five weeks of dieting. A finals night will be held in Ryan's Bar on Friary Street in Kilkenny on February 13 at 8pm when the "biggest losers" of the challenge will be announced.

### **ABOUT US**

The Susie Long Hospice Fund (SLHF) was set up in October 2007 to provide the highest possible quality of end-of-life care for patients and their families through the establishment of a 12-bed hospice in Kilkenny, for the people of Kilkenny and Carlow. The Fund is meeting this challenge through fundraising, increasing awareness of the need and benefits of local hospice care and by lobbying Government for support. Donations can be made directly to the fund at AIB, High St, Kilkenny, Account No: 3462705, Sort code: 93-31-98. The Susie Long Hospice Fund is a registered charity, number CHY17950. Further details from [www.susielonghospice.com](http://www.susielonghospice.com)