

WALK IN SUSIE'S MEMORY

Special guest Tommy Walsh to attend Third Annual Susie Long Memorial Walk

An inspirational mother who died after exposing horrific failings in our health system will be remembered at a special event in her community.

The third annual Susie Long Memorial Walk takes place in Kilkenny Castle Park on **Sunday, November 30 at 12 noon**. KCLR 96fm presenter Edwina Grace will be leading the walk in memory of courageous Susie Long, who died from bowel cancer in 2007.

Edwina, who has had personal experience of cancer in her family, described her admiration for Susie Long for speaking out about her struggles as a public patient.

"As soon as Susie picked up the phone and spoke on radio, hearing her human voice, changed everyone's perspective on waiting lists and statistics. We thought, 'here is a real person telling us our health system failed her'. By sharing her story, Susie achieved so much, and continues to do so, seven years on from her death with the recent opening of six new palliative care beds in her local hospital St Luke's," said Edwina Grace.

Edwina will be joined by her cousin, Kilkenny hurling legend Tommy Walsh, on the day. Fans will get the opportunity to wish Tommy well as he announced his retirement from intercounty hurling this morning (Thursday, Nov 20). Edwina is encouraging people, young and old, to turn out for the walk and enjoy the fresh air and to remember loved ones who have died through cancer.

"Whatever your fitness levels, it doesn't matter, just come out and walk two laps of the Castle Park with us. It's about remembering those who are important to us and whose lives have been affected by cancer. Bring your dogs, your buggies or prams and enjoy the beautiful surroundings," remarked Edwina.

Susie's family and friends, including her husband, Conor Mac Liam, will be attending the walk. Conor, who is a member of the Susie Long Hospice Fund, the group set up to lobby for a 12-bed hospice in Kilkenny said: "The walk is an opportunity to spread the word about what we do and to remember Susie in a sociable and fun way.

"The Susie Long Hospice Fund has already financed six state-of-the-art palliative care beds in St Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny to the tune of €50,000. That is thanks to the generosity of the public who got behind us from day one. We also look forward to providing a family room for relatives of palliative care patients. Our ultimate goal is to see the opening of a 12-bed hospice here in Kilkenny in the future."

Registration forms for the walk are available from Rollercoaster Records on Kieran Street, Kilkenny, or contact Eamonn on 085 1487736. Donations can be made on the day of the walk. Free t-shirt to everyone who contributes €5 or more. Water and lollipops will be provided for walkers.