

DEPUTY FIRST
MINISTER'S OFFICE
27 AUG 1998
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FAO MR GEOFF BEATTIE (Private Secretary, Deputy First Minister)

Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement I note that a Consultative Civic Forum is to be established. I would like to nominate myself as a candidate for this Forum.

I am a 36 year old married man with one son, a self-employed small businessman, living in the border town of Aughnacloy and a member of the local Development Association. I have 3 retail outlets, selling drapery and sportswear, situated in Aughnacloy, Enniskillen and Dungannon. Our shop stocks brands of clothing from all over Europe, and Ireland.

I take a very keen interest in my local community and am the leader of Loughans Youth and Recreation Club. Under its umbrella we have bowls, badminton, football, table tennis and music lessons. There is also a young wives group who use our facilities on a regular basis. The recreation side involves supervision and the organizing of matches, friendlies and competitive tournaments. Many of these matches involve the wider community and we encourage cross-border participation.

I am also involved very much in my Church, being the Superintendent of the Sunday School of 65 children. This work also involves organizing day trips and fun evenings. I am also a member of my Church Committee and Covenant Secretary.

My wife and myself are also leaders, along with a number of others, of an inter-denominational coffee-bar work which meets each Friday night from September to April. I enjoy very much my work with the many youth organisations that I am involved with, it is most rewarding.

I feel that the vast experience I have in dealing with the public every day in my employment and the many dealings with young people would stand me in good stead, as I am well used to solving problems and disagreements to which the best solution is always discussion and compromise. I feel that I could put this experience to good use in the proposed Civic Forum if I were chosen to be a representative.

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