

Coughlan joins Trump backer Pena's nursing home group

BY TOM LYONS

Former tánaiste Mary Coughlan has joined the board of Seneca Healthcare, a new nursing home group which plans to invest "tens of millions" in Ireland and is chaired by colourful investment guru and entrepreneur Dan Pena.

Pena, who lives in Guthrie Castle in Scotland and says he has advised the Vatican and Greek shipping billionaires the Onassis Group, is a serial investor who describes himself as a "financial magician with the Midas touch".

The board of Seneca also includes Michael Corless, a former partner with EY and chairman of Galway Airport, as well as Johnny Fortune, the former chief financial officer of Skillsoft and managing director of Pilot View Capital. Fortune is currently a director of corporate finance advisers Pegasus Capital.

Seneca was founded by Barry Kemp, previously group operations manager with the Cara Pharmacy chain and Adam Kemp, a former aeronautical engineer.

Seneca also lists Anne Carrigy, a former director of nursing and head of corporate affairs at the Mater Hospital, and Tim Kennelly, the former chief executive of St John's Hospital in Limerick.

Adam Kemp told *The Sunday*



Mary Coughlan

Business Post: "Seneca Healthcare aims to become the largest provider of care homes in Ireland over the next ten years and invest tens of millions into the sector." He said the group was funded by "various investors", including Pena.

"Seneca is currently working on three greenfield sites, all of which are 70-plus bed care homes, and in addition bringing essential new services to the local communities located in the northwest, southwest and east of Ireland," he said. "In parallel, we are looking to complete multiple acquisitions by year end."

Kemp said that "Mary [Coughlan] is a high-calibre business woman who is exceptionally strong in governance and is a great fit for Seneca's strong Board of Directors".

He said the Kemps got to

know Pena from an investment talk. "Dan was speaking at the Ritz hotel in London a number of years ago and we got talking, from there it started out as a business mentor relationship and in more recent years Dan has become a business partner," he said.

Pena, he added, had experience in the sector as he was "instrumental in the formation of Four Seasons Healthcare in the UK".

In a video recorded for business advice website the London Real Academy in March Pena advised viewers to "act as if you have no limits to your abilities".

He also predicted that if Donald Trump is elected president he is "going to rock the planet".

"I don't give a fuck if the peaheads watching this thing like me," he said.

"They are either going to love you or hate you. I knew which one it would be. All my life I've been this way. And all my life people love me and respect me," he said.

"If you are in a foxhole, who do you want in the fucking foxhole with you? You want some politically correct asshole or you want someone who is going to rip their head off and shit down their neck?"

"Trump is that kind of guy. I don't agree with everything he says, but he is that kind of guy."



Luke and Brian Comer, serial property developers

Inset: Kilternan, which will be transformed into an equine centre

Development a rare Comer gets OK on

BY BARRY J WHYTE

Luke Comer, the Galway property tycoon, has been granted planning permission to build an equine centre of excellence at the site of the former Kilternan sports hotel and golf club in south Dublin.

An Bord Pleanála last week granted Comer permission to develop 160 stables on two levels, a two-kilometre gallops, a swimming pool for horses to exercise in and track-viewing areas on the second floor of the stables.

The move is part of plans by Comer, along with his brother Brian, to develop a major racehorse breeding venture in the calibre of the famous Coolmore Stud.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) had initially refused permission for the giant project, but the decision was appealed to An Bord Pleanála by Luke Comer. The planning board said it "would contribute significantly to the development

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Movidius considered IPO before €3

BY RÓISÍN BURKE

Brian Long, the founder of to do a large funding round

Movidius and US corporates compliment very nice