

SAFFRON

BUSINESS FORUM

Growing the Economy Post Pandemic Panel and Host

Panel

Conal Henry, Executive Chair of Fibrus



Conal is a Dublin based Belfast man. He currently Chairs, Belfast based telco, Fibrus and the £500m HM Treasury backed National Digital Infrastructure Fund based in London. Prior to this Conal was CEO of enet taking it from start up to its £200m acquisition by the Irish Infrastructure Fund in 2017, as CEO of Enet, Conal also lead what is now known as NBI to become the winning bidder for the €2bn Irish National Broadband Plan.

Prior to enet Conal was Commercial Director at Ryanair having been Head of Finance for Non Food and George Clothing at Asda in the UK. Conal began his career at Procter & Gamble. He is also Vice Chair of An Cosán Ireland's leading Community Education Charity and sits on the Board of The Shannon Foynes Port Company. Conal graduated in Law from QUB in 1991 and is a Chartered Management Accountant.

Jim Frawley, Founder and CEO



Jim Frawley, Founder and CEO Jim Frawley is a Columbia University certified Executive Coach and the Founder of Bellwether, a company dedicated to helping organizations and people build resiliency, adapt to change and thrive in rapidly shifting contexts. Over his twenty-year career, he has internationally created and implemented corporate training programs, complex marketing and PR plans, business strategy and administrative plans and organizational re-designs. He has worked with clients in eight countries and thirtynine states to date. A few years ago, Jim came to the realization that he had a unique capability in getting people to do things they didn't think they could. After some experimentation on using this capability for good or evil, he decided on the good. (But not before convincing an Irish cousin to swim in the Hudson River.) He is the host of the Bellwether Hub podcast and author *Adapting in Motion: Finding Your Place in the New Economy*, a practical guide to managing multiple levels of macro change. Jim is a bigtime reader, a small-time triathlete and a full-time husband and father.

Jim's most recent book *Adapting In Motion: Finding Your Place In The New Economy* can be found here:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/JimFrawley/e/B08SYX1N93?ref=dbs_p_ebk_r00_abau_000000

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Kevin Walsh, Leading GAA Coach, Former All Star & Partner, Growcoach.ie



Kevin Walsh is a partner at Growcoach (coaching coaches) www.growcoach.ie. Before becoming a founding partner at Growcoach, Kevin's gained his experience across a number of different sectors. Kevin spent ten years in the construction business both as company director and developer. He worked for five years in CMCC financial services – QFA and was a member of An Garda Síochána for 15 years.

Kevin has had a successful career in Senior Football with five years as Galway senior football manager, five years Sligo senior football manager and one year Galway ladies football coach. Kevin is a two time All Ireland football champion with Galway Seniors 1998 and 2001 and one Minor All Ireland champion in 1986. He is a three time All Star 1998, 2001 and 2003. Kevin has also coached basketball for underage boys and girls for 15 years.

Kevin has been married to Mary for 25 years and has five children from 23 years to 16 years.

Kevin's biography The Invisible Game can be found here:

<https://www.kennys.ie/shop/The-Invisible-Game-Walsh-Kevin>

Host

Paul McErlean, Managing Director of MCE Public Relations



Paul McErlean is Managing Director and founder of MCE. He has over 25 years' experience in the public, private and voluntary sectors at all levels focusing on business to business, business to consumer, corporate, financial, political and crisis communications.

Paul previously was joint Managing Director of another major Northern Ireland PR agency, Stakeholder Communications, which MCE acquired in 2016. His career started in broadcasting research and news facilitation with leading independent television company, MacMillan Media and he also spent two years as Head of Communications for one of Northern Ireland's main political parties. He has degrees from Queen's and Cambridge Universities and completed an MBA from the Smurfit School of Business, University College Dublin, in 2002.

On a voluntary basis, Paul is the Chairman of the Destination Cathedral Quarter Business Improvement District, having spent six years as Chairman of the Cathedral Quarter Trust – a government and Belfast City Council backed stakeholder group charged with developing the regeneration strategy for Belfast's most vibrant and historic city centre district. In 2013 he was made a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations having served as its Northern Ireland Chairman in 2006. Paul also serves as the Parent Governor on the Board of Governors of his children's school in south Belfast, Rathmore Grammar School.

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In his younger days, Paul represented and captained the Antrim footballers at minor, u21 and senior levels and won two Railway Cups with Ulster. In 1986, Paul travelled with one of today's panellists, Kevin Walsh, to play for the Ireland U17 basketball team in the 'home' internationals. The boys got the better of Scotland and Wales but were beaten by the old enemy in the championship decider.