



Brockovich: Reroute Shell gas pipeline

by **Conor Kane**

ERIN BROCKOVICH, the campaigner immortalised in an Oscar-winning film, yesterday urged oil giant Shell to reroute a controversial gas pipeline in the west of Ireland.

The former legal clerk, who famously took on a

massive power company accused of toxic leaks, gave her support to the campaigners opposing the development in north Mayo.

Ms Brockovich said the pipeline must be relocated if it would negatively impact on local residents' health or property, which is denied by Shell.

"There is no compromise when it comes to health and safety, and Shell should

respect that," she said.

Ms Brockovich was portrayed by Hollywood actress Julia Roberts in the 2000 hit movie after she won a multimillion-dollar legal battle against energy firm PG&E for families affected by contaminated water in a Californian town.

However, the notoriously straight talker revealed she was confident a compromise could be reached between

campaigners and Shell after discussing the matter with the Environment Minister and Green Party leader, John Gormley.

She also said a 10-day hunger strike by leading campaigner, Maura Harrington, was not the most effective way to reach a resolution.

Ms Harrington, a retired school principal, called off her drastic action yesterday when the pipe-laying ship, Solitaire, left Irish waters.



Erin Brockovich in Dublin yesterday. She said Shell's gas pipeline must be relocated if it would negatively impact on local residents.

Picture: Billy Higgins