



People Before Profit Alliance

Councillor Gino Kenny

085 7211574. ginokenny@hotmail.com. www.ginokenny.org

Clondalkin Newsletter April 2011



Thank you to PBP voters

First of all I would like to thank all those people who voted for People Before Profit and myself.

We ran a very good campaign overall and we doubled our vote from the previous election. We received a very warm reception at the doors, and the work we had done previously was well acknowledged. We have definitely put a good marker down for the next election.

The 2011 election has been called by many a 'riot at the ballot box'. Fianna Fail, the main ruling party since the foundation of the state, was punished for their failure to address the economic crisis and their austerity politics. In Dublin they only managed to get one TD elected. But the new government of Fine Gael and Labour

have in the space of a few weeks proven that they will offer more of the same, despite their rhetoric of change and reform during the election campaign.

Their Programme for Government contains the same 4-year Plan that was drawn up by Fianna Fail and the Greens. Fine Gael have already stated that senior bondholders will not now share financial pain in relation to the banks.

Whatever deal they get from the ECB/IMF it will be largely cosmetic. The level of debt that Ireland will be exposed to is unsustainable in the long term, that's why Ireland will face a fiscal default in the coming years. The mantra is that financial fatalism is the only show in town. Workers will

have to take the pain, and our vital public services will be under the drip drip effect of cutbacks.

The keyword here is political choice. The FG/Lab have chosen to continue the same measures as Fianna Fail, they have chosen to continue the universal social charge, they have chosen to bail out the banks and they have chosen to tax workers rather than the Super rich.

They will keep making these choices so long as they are allowed to. A new force in Irish politics was born after the election that is the newly formed United Left Alliance. With 5 TD's elected to the Dail there is an opportunity for the Left to organise on a big scale against cuts, water charges and the property tax which will hit ordi-

nary people in the next while .

The key to all this is what we do outside the Dail. Over the next while the People Before Profit Alliance and the United Left Alliance will be championing the idea of calling for a referendum on the IMF/ECB deal so the people of Ireland can get a democratic mandate for this deal that will have enormous effect on future generations. Iceland had a similar referendum in 2009 and voted 95% in opposition to their terms of repayment.

The honeymoon for the coalition will be short lived, the nightmare of the banking bail will haunt working people for generations unless we say, as they did in Iceland: Enough is Enough!!

Clondalkin residents angry about Dublin Bus cuts

Before Christmas Dublin Bus announced the changes they are making to bus services in the Clondalkin area. Many were outraged by their proposals and their short consultation period.

About 200 people turned up to meetings held in Rathcoole and in various areas in Clondalkin. On the 2nd February a consultation was held in Clondalkin library and about 30 people attended a protest organised by Cllr Gino Kenny (People Before Profit Alliance).

Many more came to make objections to the plans and petitions with over 3000 signatures were handed in to Dublin Bus.

With no response

from Dublin Bus a second protest was held on the 1st April outside Dublin Bus headquarters on O'Connell

St with 50-60 people. We are planning further action and will keep residents up to date on the plans.



Protest against bus cuts held on the 1st April outside Dublin Bus headquarters on O'Connell St

IMPLICATIONS OF BUS CUTS FOR CLONDALKIN:

- Bus routes 68 & 69 will now terminate at the Red Cow Luas Station.
- No integrated ticketing system has yet been established so that could mean that passengers will have to buy two tickets.
- The 51b/c will be amalgamated with route 13 which goes to IKEA in Ballymun. Cross-city routes causes delays, are more crowded and will mean less busses on the road.
- 76 will no longer go through Ballyfermot.
- 210 will be scrapped.

They Shoot Horses, Don't They?



Young Protestors at SDCC

BY VANESSA O'SULLIVAN

A protest in March at South Dublin County Council (SDCC) by young horse owners demanded the return of their much loved animals.

These young men complained about the removal of their horses from Bawnogue by South Dublin County Council.

Disgracefully, the council issued a statement saying that all the horses that were impounded a few weeks ago from Bawnogue were 'put down'.

The council has repeatedly refused to give Clondalkin residents land for

horses.

There is an ongoing campaign, assisted by People Before Profit Cllr. Gino Kenny, to get the council to provide a safe place to put horses in the area.

Cllr Kenny who attended the protest said:

"All we usually hear about when it comes to young people is 'anti-social' behavior.

"Well this is pro-social behavior for these kids and it is being ignored".

Everyone on the protest was adamant that the campaign is only getting started.

Bin Workers Fight Privatisation

BY VANESSA O'SULLIVAN

Bin workers in South Dublin County Council organised a 'day of action' in March over attempts to privatise the bin service. The contract for services to 70,000 homes is set to go to private company, Greyhound.

The result of this decision saw the council produce a letter with an ultimatum on choices:

take the contract with Greyhound, be redeployed within SDCC or quit.

Because their pay increases have been paid as allowances, moving job will mean losing these and returning to a basic wage that is as much as €200 a week

less.

People Before Profit Cllr Gino Kenny said:

"The question of waste management was taken out of the hands of the elected representatives by the previous government but we are looking at invoking section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001 to force the manager's hand on this.

"At the very least we will find out if a majority of the elected reps really are against this."

More action, strikes and solidarity are needed to win.

Ireland's Coming Social Catastrophe

According to Central Bank data released this month, there are now 80,000 Irish mortgage accounts either in arrears greater than 90 days or have been restructured.

This is before the recent bouts of interest rate hikes announced by various mortgage lenders.

And now, the ECB has threatened to increase rates over the coming months, possibly as early as April. An ECB inspired 1% hike on a 300,000 euro mortgage would add another 200 euro per month on already hard-pressed mortgage holders, both variable and tracker.

The People Before Profit Alliance demands a freeze on interest rates: it is shameful and unjust that homeowners, forced to buy a house at inflated prices and without a credible social housing option, should be terrorised by interest hikes.

The growing menace of repossession must be **OUTLAWED** for the ENTIRE duration of the economic crisis.

The People Before Profit Alliance is calling for a reduction of total mortgage repayments to more affordable levels, reflecting the true cost of the property. We are also in favour of the introduction of U.S.-style Jingle Key legislation, allowing mortgage holders to hand back the keys of a property without incurring the burden of lifelong debt.

Also, the large number of vacant properties (estimated at 330,000) must be used to provide affordable homes for all, rent or buy.

Early indications are that the new government will follow the same destructive policies as their predecessor, to the letter.

Through a combination of popular democratic resistance and our new Dail TDs, the People Before Profit Alliance will fight to protect the hard-pressed mortgage holders.

The alternative is too grim to contemplate; a social catastrophe of epic proportions.

*MICHAEL WALLACE
CLONDALKIN BRANCH, SWP*