

**I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Dublin 12 and Dublin 6W a very happy and prosperous New Year.**

However, I know this year will be very difficult for the 200,000 people who have lost their jobs in this crisis. It will not be a good year for the tens of thousands who will unfortunately lose their jobs in 2010. It will not be a good year for those who face short-time working, wage cuts, cuts in the dole and other welfare benefits, or the loss of services which many depend upon.

We have a cruel and brutal government, determined to defend the wealthy elite who are responsible for the crisis by making ordinary working people and the poor pay. This government does not regard the explosion of unemployment, with one in every three young males on the dole, as a crisis.

It is not an accident that the government have not proposed a single measure to tackle the jobs crisis. The central plank of their policy, apart from the 80 billion bailout of the banks/developers, is to use mass unemployment to drive down wages and reduce the living standards of ordinary people.

The logic of their position, if it can be called that, is to reduce costs in the economy, to improve exports when and if the world economy recovers. This may work for the foreign owned multi-national sector, which accounts for less than 10% of economic activity, but it will mean years of severe deflation, and high unemployment for the domestic economy.

The more you cut jobs, wages and social spending, the less money people have to spend, the more the economy is deflated in a vicious cycle.. It is condemning yet another generation to either the dole or emigration.

It doesn't have to be like that. There is an alternative. The banks should be nationalised. A state banking sector could be at the heart of a national plan to create jobs and get the economy moving again. Just one example of what could be done is a national programme to insulate all housing, saving energy, taking workers off the dole, getting them to pay taxes, and reducing welfare spending. We need imaginative, creative thinking, and to not allow ourselves to be ruled by the dictates of the elite 5% who own 40% of the wealth, or the so called 'Masters of the universe', the spivs, speculators and criminals who control the world financial system.



Cllr Joan Collins

*Happy New year, Cllr Joan Collins.*

## **Council budget: Labour and Fine Gael implement cuts**

Labour and Fine Gael claim to be in opposition to the Fianna Fail/Green Party government, yet the Labour/Fine Gael majority on Dublin City Council have no problem in passing on these cuts at local authority level. The department of Environment cut funding to the council this year by 6.3%. Since 2008 this funding, to serve communities for the biggest Council in the state, has been cut by 20%.

**This gives councillors a choice, cut jobs, cut services, increase the bin tax and other charges, or stand up to the government. No prizes for guessing which choice is made.**

This year, the estimates included a cut in funding for our already stretched fire service. Fire fighters approached Cllr Joan Collins and Brid Smith, and the other political parties voicing their concern over the condition of the fire service. In 20 years, against a backdrop of an ever expanding city and higher buildings the fire service has had one additional fire engine and one additional ambulance.

They lost 104 fire service workers in the last year, due to a moratorium on recruitment. In the western world, comparing like with like city, we should have 500 to 600 more fire fighters and 20 extra fire engines. Fire brigade members say they are concerned lives are being endangered.

The estimates also included a second bail out for developers. The Government cut capital spending on the Councils social housing build and instead gave extra to the council to lease property from developers. It also included cuts in community projects, local services and a 2% increase in rents for subsidiary earners. The waiver on the bin tax has been effectively removed. (see article on back page)

Councillors Henry Upton, Labour, Eric Byrne, Labour, and Ruairi McGinley, Fine Gael, voted for the 2010 council budget. Opposition! What opposition?

Contact Joan Collins at 086 3888151 or email [cllrjoancollins2@dublincity.ie](mailto:cllrjoancollins2@dublincity.ie)

# Community Action Forces Council To Keep Local Swimming Pool Open

The community response to the proposed closure of Pearse Park Swimming Pool was a determined campaign to keep the pool open. In an effort to balance their budget Dublin City Council officials proposed closing three swimming pools in the city including our local pool.

In response Cllr. Joan Collins and a number of People before Profit members and supporters alerted the various clubs and schools using the pool and other local community groups. Following a quickly convened public meeting it was decided to put pressure on the council and politicians. Hundreds of parents and children protested outside the Council Offices in Crumlin Village.



A broad based campaign group was formed and it met with Council Officials and Councillors. The group expressed the local anger over the proposed closure and came up with many ideas including the involvement of the local community in the management of the pool and how to keep the pool open for longer hours and have it more widely used.

The pressure paid off and on the 11<sup>th</sup> December the council agreed to allow six months consultation with the Campaign Group and to keep the pool open for this period. Should you wish to get involved with the Campaign Group contact Joan at 086-3888151 and she will put you in contact with the group.

## Waivers to go on Bin Tax - Water charges on the way

Dublin city Council have imposed a 5% increase in the bin tax both on the pick up and the standing charge. Disgracefully, the waiver has been effectively removed from the 40,000 lowest income households in this city including pensioners, social welfare recipients and those who earn so little they don't pay tax. Householders with waivers will now pay for the black and brown bin pick up charge. This comes on top of the social welfare cuts of 4%, and increased prescription charges.

The Anti bin tax campaign has always said that what was a generous waiver scheme, given to one in four households in the city, would be a temporary measure, used to undermine resistance and mass non payment. We have unfortunately been shown to be right.

At present, the City Council's appeal to the Supreme Court is being heard. We expect a decision fairly soon and will be calling meetings to discuss the outcome, the waivers, and the issue of water charges where meters are to be installed this year with a new water tax due in 2011. People Before Profit councillors will be arguing for the relaunch of a mass, national campaign against local stealth taxes.

## Community alert!

A second planning application, number 4566/09, for the Star Bingo Hall went into Dublin City Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. Last day for objections/submissions is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.

The draft Dublin City Development plan 2011-2017 is out for public consideration until the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. Many people in our community have been fighting against inappropriate development in our communities over the last 5 years. This new plan is proposing new heights, densities, transport etc. It is important that you find out as much as you can and propose alternatives. The plan will be on display in Walkinstown library on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, and the 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February, from 1-8pm.

There has been a significant increase in house burglaries in the area. The police have advised if you see any suspicious vehicle or persons dial 999 immediately. Dublin City Council have warned against bogus water inspectors using the water shortages to gain access to peoples' homes. Don't be conned.

Joan Collins is a Councillor for the Crumlin/Kimmage ward. She is a member of the People Before Profit Alliance, a new movement of community activists, socialists, environmental campaigners and trade unionists. We stand for putting the needs of people and the environment before the profits of developers, bankers and big business. We want more democracy in the way our community and the world is run. It's only through people power that we can achieve change. We meet monthly in Crumlin and Drimnagh  
Join us. Text **Join PB4P** to **087 7675691** or visit **www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie**

