

Colm Stephens

Your People Before Profit Candidate for the City Council in the North Inner City


The People Before Profit Alliance has selected **Colm Stephens** to stand for election to Dublin City Council in the North Inner City area at the local elections next June. We want offer a real choice to the electorate and give the voters an alternative to the failed policies of privatisation and cut-backs.

As the name suggests we stand with ordinary people and for their interests – not the interests of big business, bankers and property speculators. All the established parties seem to agree that in the good times the workers needed to be ‘restrained’ in their pay demands as others made billions. Now in the crisis

they say the workers must again bear the brunt – by taking pay-cuts or losing their jobs while public services are cut and taxes are raised.

We are different. We recognise that the real cause of our problems is the greed of the profiteers. We will fight with you to make them pay for the crisis, for real sustainable jobs, for decent education, education, health and transport services and a decent place to live.

People Before Profit candidates are standing in five areas around the City and in a number of other councils too. Give us your vote so that your voice can be heard as we fight back together!



Colm is a second generation northsider who grew up in Glasnevin. He now lives close to Croke Park in Drumcondra with his partner and works in Trinity College as an administrator. Colm previously spent over 10 years working in high-tech industry in Germany and Ireland. In 2002, horrified at George Bush’s plans to invade Iraq Colm joined the Irish Anti-War Movement and became active in socialist politics.

After the great first-time showing by People Before Profit at the last general election, Colm and others were inspired to start a branch of People Before Profit in Dublin Central with the aim of providing a real alternative to the policies of the Government and the other establishment parties.

Contact Colm at 087 294 7100 or ColmStephens@gmail.com

People Before Profit Alliance

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Government introduces more cuts Public sector workers to pay for the crisis Another €7 billion bailout for the banks

Colm Stephens comments: *The People Before Profit Alliance condemns the package of cuts announced by the government on 3 February. This package of extra taxes and cuts is assault on public sector workers, parents of young children and the poor in the developing world. Yet it was none of these groups that created the economic crisis.*

The government talks about spreading the burden across society yet those who created the crisis: bankers, speculators and property developers, have got off scott free. There was also talk about broadening the tax base yet the government’s package will ensure that even the lowest paid public sector workers will each pay thousands of euros.

At the same time the Fianna Fáil/Green coalition keeps pouring money into the banking system. Following last year’s bank guarantee scheme and they have now agreed to pump a whopping €7 billion into the Bank of Ireland

and AIB. That comes after the nationalisation of Anglo-Irish Bank Most people are rightly outraged that the Government can find money to prop up a bank used almost exclusively by speculators and property developers while they punish the rest of the population with savage cutbacks.

It is time the trade unions gave voice to this anger by launching a vigorous campaign against the government’s package and to demand measures to make the rich pay. We are also calling for a package of measures to broaden the tax base and ensure those who benefited most from the Celtic Tiger pay for the mess they created.

What People Before Profit would do

- A wealth levy on the 33,000 millionaires in the country
- Increases in capital gains and corporation tax
- Close off of tax loopholes including those for property developers
- Introduce higher tax rates for top earners
- Take the banks into public ownership. Merge them into one institution reorganised to support job creation and not financial speculation.
- Sack the millionaire managers in the banks and replace them with people who have proven experience (e.g. bank officials, Credit Union staff etc.) on reasonable salaries.



Another PPP regeneration scheme collapses

The residents of Croke Villas were shocked at the announcement on 10 December last that Dublin City Council's plans to regenerate the flats complex using a 'Public Private Partnership' (PPP), had collapsed. According to the City Council it was not possible to negotiate a deal with the developer (Bennett Developments) because of the 'economic climate and global credit crunch'.

In other words, the developer cannot be guaranteed a profit from the sale of the private part of the development and because of this nothing gets built. Don't forget that this developer has numerous state contracts including a €55 million project for new government offices in Trim, Co. Meath. The company made a profit of €4.5 million in 2007 but only paid a measly €2,642 in tax! And that was after it paid the directors over €5.8 million! It demonstrates the craziness of depending on millionaire private developers to provide public services. As soon as the going gets tough, the developers get going get going as far from their responsibilities as fast as possible!

What should be done?

After 10 year's wait for regeneration the people of Croke Villas need action and need it fast. I believe strongly that the Council itself should urgently regenerate the whole of the Croke Villas site for social housing. It is clear that the people cannot wait around for 10 more years for another millionaire developer to come along when he believes that he can make a profit on the backs of the people.

Colm Stephens



How the cuts affect education

The effects of the massive education march on December 6th, which saw over 70,000 people on the streets are being felt. The Department of Education and Science has rolled back on the ban on substitute cover in primary schools. This is a small but important victory. But continued protest is needed. The cuts in the free school books scheme, language support, home school liaison, teacher numbers and other areas remain in place. More and deeper cuts in social services like education are on the cards. The work that schools, parents and communities have put in fighting for an equal chance for all children is being undermined. This is unacceptable and it can and must be reversed.

What we think

People Before Profit believes that every child has a right to a decent education at every level. This should not depend on how much a child's parents earn.

Provide schools with enough funding to actually run them properly. Schools should not have to depend on fundraising for basic facilities and resources.

Fund and expand programmes aimed at supporting disadvantaged children.

Tax the wealthy and take our natural resources (such as the Corrib Gas Field) back into public ownership to pay for education and other services.

After the ceasefires Israel continues to attack Gaza

Even after both sides declared a ceasefire the Israeli military continues to attack Gaza. In the last week of January RTE reporter, Richard Crowley, witnessed the Israeli Navy shelling on a daily basis causing casualties including an 11 year old girl. This comes after the Israeli invasion that left at least 1,246 dead, over 5,000 injured. Over half of all casualties are women and children. In addition more than 50,000 people are displaced within Gaza and 80% of the population are dependent on UN food aid. The Israeli war crimes included attacking humanitarian shelters and food convoys and the use of white phosphorous shells which burn through to the bone.

Fighting Words Centre opens

Fighting Words is the name of a new centre which recently opened in Behan Square, Jones's Road. Roddy Doyle was inspired to work for the creation of this centre by a model of encouraging literacy he saw in operation in San Francisco. He immediately recognised it as an innovative way to encouraging story writing. He pursued his dream with the help of private funding and 300 volunteers. What will happen there? Children from primary, secondary school and adults will learn how to write and produce their own books. There will be an established author on hand to start the story.

People Before Profit wishes every success to Roddy Doyle and the team. They may even discover a new best selling author to rival even the great Brendan Behan from this fun way of writing! Who knows? Mary Enright

Bus services cut So much for the Green agenda

Both Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann announced in January that they will decimate bus services in Dublin and around the country. These cuts will not only affect the travelling public but will also mean that jobs will be lost in the three bus garages in the North Inner City (Phibsborough, Summerhill and Broadstone). It is unbelievable that the Green Party in government should oversee this savage attack on public transport and force people back into their cars and cause more greenhouse gases.

What can we in Ireland do?

- **By supporting the boycott of Israeli goods we can make a difference. Check out the Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign's website www.ipsc.ie for details of how to participate in the boycott.**
- **The Irish Government should support the calls for the EU to revoke the special status it gives Israel as part of the 'EuroMed' agreement. Under this arrangement Israeli companies and organisations are given preferential treatment and can benefit from EU grants and programmes.**

Dublin Bus Services Cut

The following routes that serve the North Inner City will lose both buses and 'duties'

3, 11/A, 13/A, 40/A, 42/A, 121/122

In addition Phibsborough and Summerhill will lose 12 buses on 'universal' or flexible duties that provide extra services at peak hours and backup in case of breakdown etc.

People before Profit calls

for massive investment in public transport – bus and train services – as the way to get commuters out of their cars and reduce greenhouse gases.

Get involved! Join the People Before Profit Alliance. See www.PeopleBeforeProfit.ie or call 087 294 7100