

## BRIAN LENIHAN'S BUDGET LOWLIGHTS

- 1% tax of all income – even from lowest paid who don't earn enough to pay income tax
- Removal of the automatic right to a medical card for over 70's
- €100 charge to visit Accident and Emergency
- 1,000 teachers to be cut – including language and remedial teachers
- The largest class sizes in the EU
- €200 charge on parking spaces in city centre
- Cut-back on public transport – no new buses in Dublin

## Health Protest in Dublin on 11 October Government responds with medical card cut-back and increased A&E charges!



The **People Before Profit Alliance** members carry the banner at the *Your Health – Your Protest* March in Dublin on 11 October.

On 11<sup>th</sup> October almost 2,000 people marched from Parnell Square to the Dáil to demand more. And less. We marched for more resources, more frontline health workers, more medical cards; for a decent public health service for all. We asked for less misdiagnoses, waiting times for treatment, superbug infections and privatisation.

The Government's answer came in the budget – cut-back the medical card scheme for over-seventies and increase the charges for A&E to €100.

The march was organised by the *Public*

*Health Service Campaign*, an alliance of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions, the Youth Committee of the ICTU and Patients Together, and was supported trade unions, patients' and hospital campaigns, community organisations and political groups. One of the biggest contingents was made up of **People Before Profit** groups (pictured below) from around the city.

The march demonstrated a real unity across the health service (doctors, nurses and patients) about what is needed – more investment in the public health service and not in a two-tier system



**Helena McNeill** writes on the collapse of the PPP schemes.

After 15 years of boom our housing is in crisis. While property developers grew obscenely rich, 43,000 households – about 100,000 people - were left on housing waiting lists and in substandard rented accommodation. Others are up to their necks in mortgage debt. Thousands of people endure unacceptable living conditions while they await the regeneration of rundown estates such as O'Devaney Gardens.

Instead of using our greater wealth to improve quality of life, the government abandoned the notion of public housing, which saw areas like Cabra, and Crumlin built in the past. They attempted to practically give away valuable public land to private developers under Public Private Partnership (PPP) schemes

They saw this as a cheap way of building a minimum of social housing, and regenerating housing estates, which they have ignored for years. In fact, PPPs are inevitably more expensive than public

projects as the developer always takes a healthy profit

Now Dublin City Council's deal with billionaire developer Bernard McNamara for the regeneration of O'Devaney Gardens, St Michael's Estate, Dominick St and other areas has collapsed, with 27 million of public money spent and not a single home built. Their strategy has failed.

Now with global banking and finance in crisis and recession deepening, the government is more interested in bailing out rich bankers than providing for the most basic of human needs. They argue that we must pay for the current recession, that we must accept the pain of cutbacks 'for the good of the country'. Instead of subsidising their rich friends and awarding themselves pay increases with the public's money, the Government should embark on a public housing building programme now.

### **People Before Profit** calls for

- Direct government funding for regeneration projects have collapsed as PPPs.
- The use of PPPs to provide housing and public services such as health, and education should be abandoned immediately. The state needs to return to a programme of building public housing schools, hospitals, and social amenities.
- Instead of bailing out banks that made a fortune from speculation and irresponsible lending, the Government should give more support to households who find themselves in danger of losing their homes.

# People Before Profit Alliance

## Who we are

The **People Before Profit Alliance** was established by workers from a variety of local campaigns. Its aim is to reverse neo-liberal policies which place wealth creation for the few over the welfare of communities in Ireland.

The Alliance represents a different form of politics, fitting for the 21st century. It sees 'people power' and the mobilisation of citizens in workplaces, communities and on the streets as the key to bringing change in society. It is the ambition of the Alliance to operate on a 32-county basis and to offer a radical vision for our country.

In addition to its aim of deepening the links between community groups, the Alliance contests elections but it is not interested in electing people who will join coalition governments with the dominant right-wing parties as they have all signed up to the 'business success is paramount' ethic.

**People Before Profit** opposes neo-liberal policies, including: - the sell-off of Ireland's natural resources; - the privatisation and run down of public amenities; - the destruction of the environment and our heritage through a flawed planning process; - the prioritisation of corporate profit above the environment; - poor public health and labour conditions and standards; - widespread corruption; - the erosion of civil liberties; - tax cuts for the rich and corporations while bin charges and stealth taxes rise for the majority; - the erosion of neutrality through the presence of US troops in Shannon (we support the American people against George Bush and therefore oppose the use of Irish airports and airspace by the US military); - the mistreatment of immigrants



### Join People Before Profit Alliance!

In **Dublin Central** contact Colm Stephens 087 294 7100 or come to next meeting upstairs in Maye's Pub, Corner Nth Frederick St./Dorset St., Wednesday, 29 October at 8 pm

See [www.people-before-profit.org](http://www.people-before-profit.org) or text JOIN to 087 283 9964

# People Before Profit

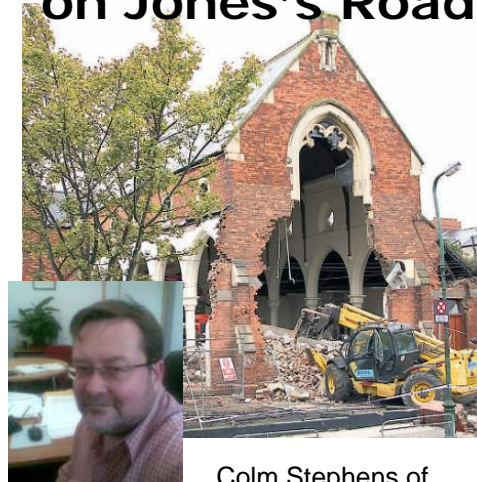


# People Before Profit



## Dublin Central Bulletin October 2008

### Illegal demolition on Jones's Road



Colm Stephens of **People Before Profit** in Dublin Central condemns the demolition of a heritage building:

Like all other residents of the area I was shocked to wake up on Wednesday, 15 October to find that the old Methodist Church on Jones's Road had been partially demolished in the early hours.

The council has secured the site but a residents' protest on Saturday demanded more. The building must be made safe immediately and then completely rebuilt at the developer's expense. We also expect that persons responsible for ordering the illegal demolition will be prosecuted.

**People Before Profit** calls for an immediate public meeting with the city council officials to keep the local community informed of further developments.

### BANK BAIL-OUT followed by CUT-BACK BUDGET

A state guarantee worth billions to the bankers and the super-rich, cut-backs in Health, Education and Public Transport – these all form part of Fianna Fáil's call to 'patriotic action'. In short, make everyone pay for the disaster – except those who caused it!

This cut-back budget follows a national pay deal that sees wages being frozen as prices and stealth taxes increase. Already there is practically no state spending on housing and now they have cut back on health and education.

What's to do? Well, people are fighting back already! For example, the residents of O'Devaney Gardens, Dominick St. and other areas affected by the collapse of the City Council's PPP housing scheme (see page 3) pretested loudly outside the City Hall on Monday, 6 October. The loudest chant was "You bailed out the banks! Now bail us out!". **People Before Profit** was there in support.

We also demonstrated for improved health care before the budget (see page 2) but Brian Lenihan chose to hit the poorest and most venerable instead. Now is the time to make the Fianna Fáil and Green public representatives feel the anger of ordinary people. Don't forget either that Fine Gael and even Sinn Féin supported the Government in the biggest scam of all – the bail-out of the banks