



People Before Profit Alliance

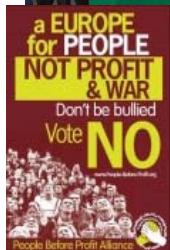
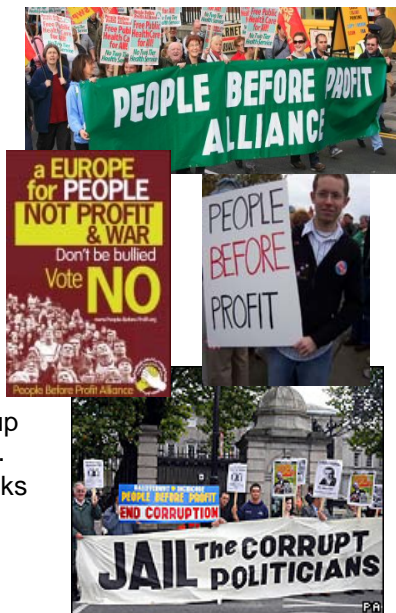
Action Programme

For a real alternative

The current economic crisis is the result of years of neo-liberal economic policies that have favoured the interests of big business and profit over the needs of people and the environment. We reject completely the attempts of government and business to make working people pay for this crisis through cutbacks in services, pay-cuts and job losses. The economic chaos now gripping Ireland and the world economy signals the need for a radical shift in the priorities of our society to put the needs of people before profit.

We say:

1. No pay cuts and layoffs – pay rises to keep up with inflation and full union rights for workers.
2. No to corporate bailouts – take insolvent banks and companies into public ownership
3. No to privatisation and cut-backs in public services
4. Subsidise fuel prices – take Corrib gas into public ownership
5. State investment in sustainable energy production and cheap public transport.
6. Make big business, commercial banks and the super-wealthy banks pay their fair share of taxes to fund public services
7. End pay hikes for company directors, politicians, top civil servants and managers
8. Protect the rights of the most vulnerable in our society. Equality for women, migrant workers, senior citizens and all children.
9. Take building land and empty property into public ownership – jobs for the unemployed on public works to provide housing, schools, amenities and vital services for all.
10. Oppose war, arms spending and racism



Join People Before Profit Alliance at our Christmas Social!

Contact Colm Stephens 087 294 7100 or come to our Christmas social in the Red Parrot Pub, Dorset Street, Friday, 12 December from 9 pm. Tickets €10/€5

www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie



Local Elections 2009

Colm Stephens writes



The recent callous budget attacked pensioners, schoolchildren, patients and workers by cutting services and increasing taxes. These cutbacks result from a mind set which says that the pursuit of profit should be prioritised over the needs of people.

While the Celtic Tiger roared billions were made by the wealthy but a policy of promoting privatisation and the market led to Ireland becoming a deeply unequal society. The opposition parties condemn the budget but fail to offer a credible alternative – only a different set of cuts. Neither Government nor opposition is calling for those who made huge profits during the boom to pay for the disaster that they have created.

The People Before Profit Alliance is committed to real social change and providing a political alternative. We believe that even now there is sufficient wealth to pay for those things that we really need – decent public health, transport and education services and care for older people. Services provided as a right, not as a privilege.

As part of our campaign for decent services, fair taxation and genuine equality we intend to run candidates in the local elections in June 2009. I have been endorsed by People Before Profit to stand for Dublin City Council in the North Inner City area. Even if you don't agree with everything that People Before Profit says, I hope that you will support the idea that we need a clear political alternative.

If we do succeed in getting real change we may then dare to hope. Hope for a better deal for ordinary people. Hope that we won't have to spend large parts of our lives stuck in traffic jams, fundraising to pay for 'free' education, lying on hospital trolleys or queuing for the dole. Please contact me if you would like to discuss supporting my campaign.

Education Cuts

After a series of regional demonstrations teachers' unions have called a national protest in Dublin on

Saturday, 6 December.

Assemble 12 noon in Parnell Square.

The education cuts in the budget will mean a loss of over 2,000 teachers. The cuts will mean larger class sizes, despite FF/Green commitments to a reduction, a cut in language support teachers, a slashing of vital grants in schools and much more.

The Government treats education as a luxury but one that was not even properly funded in good times. Ireland ranks well behind every other European Country on education funding.

PbP Dublin Central has called a series of protests outside the Fianna Fáil offices in the infamous St. Luke's, 161 Drumcondra Road.

Next protest: Thursday, 4 December at 5.30 pm

THEY SAY CUT BACK ...

Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programme

They say cut back!

Last month the government passed a death sentence on young girls when they decided to scrap the cervical cancer vaccination programme. Cervical cancer kills around 90 women each year in Ireland. This vaccine, which is already being used in almost every other EU country, would radically reduce the cervical cancer incidence rate.

Now, as the recession bites, parents are being told they have to fork out €600 to protect their daughters from this deadly disease. The money needed to implement the cancer vaccine programme is minuscule, but the government say they haven't the €10 million needed for this life saving scheme. Yet, at the same time, the government have paid out €2 million in bonuses to HSE executives and given tax breaks of over €10 million to property developers to build private hospitals on public land.

We say fight back!



People Before Profit City Councillor, Joan Collins, speaking at the rally organised by the Feminist Open Forum at the Spire on 15 November to protest against the cancellation of the cervical cancer scheme.

Community Childcare Subvention Schemes

They say cut back!

More than 40% of community childcare organisations in the inner city have reported cut-backs under the Government's new Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS). A report by the Dublin Inner City Partnership and the Inner City Community Childcare Providers Network says that there is a real risk that services will close with some of the most disadvantaged children losing out on pre-school education.

The Government argues that the new initiative was introduced to try to make childcare more accessible to low-income families. Plainly it will have the opposite effect. Under the new arrangements, Community base crèches and after-school services will no longer receive the staffing grants which have allowed them to charge substantially reduced rates to parents using the crèche.

Instead parents will be means tested and then charged one of several different rates. As a result working parents could see increases in childcare fees ranging from 50% to 166%. At the same time the relationship between these crèches and the community changes as staff are forced to inquire about the financial status of families

We say fight back!

Join community organisations, parents and children in calling for the scrapping of this cutback at a protest:

**Tuesday, 9 December
Assemble 1pm at Liberty Hall**



Helena McNeill reports.

Dublin City Council (DCC) has abandoned its failed policy of using Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) in the long-awaited regeneration of O'Devaney Gardens, Lwr Dominick St. and other areas. The council approved the plan brought forward by its officials on 2 December which will mean that DCC will provide the necessary funding directly. There is a problem however – DCC says it needs 10 years to complete the regeneration of these areas!

It beggars belief that having made empty promises for the previous 10 years, the council would ask people to wait for the same period again.

After the collapse of the council's PPP scheme with billionaire developer Bernard McNamara, angry protests by the residents, have now forced DCC to provide public funding for the homes to be built. But the wait is unacceptable. For example, no building work will start in O'Devaney before 2011. The council must regenerate O'Devaney and the other estates urgently. The only way to

ensure that they do is to keep up the pressure through protest action.

With the long delay in regeneration it is hardly surprising that many residents simply want to get out. Now that recession and financial crisis have seen land values drop, it would seem the council is content to wait it out, until the estates have been de-tenanted. They will then only need to build an absolute minimum of social housing and wait for an upturn in the economy and land prices which could allow rich developers to once again profit from people's need.

The Government hopes that a strategy of cutbacks in the services we rely on – education, housing, health – will enable them to ride out the recession. But much of the wealth that was created during the boom has not disappeared – it has simply been pocketed by the super rich. Making the rich pay their fair share of tax will make it possible. The huge fight-back since the budget, from the residents, from the elderly and from teachers and students can force them to do it.

Demolition of Former Methodist Church on Jones' Road

Council officials briefed residents' representatives at a recent meeting on the status of the former Methodist Church. Under the dangerous buildings legislation the Council has secured the site and made safe the building. The owners of the building will be liable for the full cost of the works. The officials also assured the residents that all possible action under the planning legislation will be taken. The Council is, at last, also considering adding the building to the register of protected structures.

.... WE SAY PROTEST AND FIGHT BACK!