

## Campaign Against Refuse Charges

### Continue the Boycott

### Don't be bullied by the politicians

As bills arrive for the second year of South Dublin County Council's 'Refuse Charges', the tax remains as unpopular as ever. Up to 70% of those eligible to pay are refusing to do so, on the basis of opposing a double tax. The Council have found it impossible to impose this unjust tax on the people of South Dublin.

In our neighbouring Counties, as well, opposition to the bin tax remains huge. In the Dublin City Council area, in Fingal and in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown communities have united in their tens of thousands in refusing to pay.

It is a testament to our success that the government feels under such pressure that they are threatening a change in the law. The Minister for the Environment is bringing in a law which will allow the Councils to refuse to collect rubbish from those who don't pay the charges. This is likely to become law before the summer. Opposition to this new law is a challenge which the campaign must face up to. Already discussions have begun between members of the different campaigns about the co-ordination of this opposition. Public meetings will be held in all areas in the coming months at which this new law and our reaction to it will be discussed.

The reason why this legislation is being introduced is because of our success in building an effective non-payment campaign. Now we need to step that up in order to prove to the Councils and to the government that we are not going to be bullied. Thus the first step is the consolidation and strengthening of the non-payment and the building of campaign membership. If you are already a member of the campaign, excellent. If not remember you can join by contacting one of the numbers on the back of this leaflet. Also, we need volunteers in all areas to help build the campaign—to give out leaflets, to help collect membership etc. Get in touch and get involved!!

#### Taking on and defeating the new law

The Campaign needs to come up with an effective response which will stop this new legislation in its tracks. The solidarity and strength in numbers which has brought us this far will be our strongest weapon. Among the tactics which might be used in some areas to defeat attempts at non-collection could be:-

- Appeals to workers through their unions not to co-operate with the new legislation.
- Frustration of Council attempts to identify non-payers e.g. if they put stickers on the bins of non-payers we can remove them
- Interruption of trucks which refuse to collect all rubbish
- Identification of areas in which uncollected rubbish can be dumped
- Organisation of teams to place uncollected rubbish in the bin trucks
- Bringing of uncollected rubbish to Council offices or other such places which will increase the pressure on Councillors and Council officials

What do you think would work for your area?

The important thing to remember is that we CAN defeat the Council on this issue—if we make sure we build the Campaign in all areas, and if we are prepared to organise a campaign of civil disobedience, relying on direct action tactics which utilise our strength in numbers.

**These are just some of the ideas which have already been suggested. There are probably plenty more ideas out there. These tactics will all be discussed fully at public meetings over the next couple of months so make sure you come along and join in that discussion**

### **CAMPAIGN AGAINST REFUSE CHARGES**

**A.G.M.**

**SAT. 12TH APRIL**

**2—4 P.M.**

**GREEN ISLE HOTEL,  
NAAS RD.**

**All members welcome**

**It is really important that you come along to this meeting to discuss the future strategy of the campaign (If you're not already a member you can come anyway and join at the meeting)**



## Charges Rocket Around The Country

There is no doubt that it is because of the level of opposition to the charge that South Dublin County Council did not increase it for 2003. Neither is there any doubt that if they get away with imposing it on us, the charge will rocket in the next couple of years. Already charges around the country have increased dramatically, and the Minister for the Environment has said that Councils should be collecting up to 600Euros per year. The real agenda at play is the privatisation of the service whereby ultimately someone will be making a profit from the collection and disposal of rubbish. If this happens we can forget about any decent recycling system ever being established. If there are people making money out of waste, why would they encourage the reduction of waste.

**This charge has nothing to do with the principle of 'polluter pays' as the Council tries to claim. The real polluters are not householders but big business. Of the 80 million tonnes of waste produced annually, under 2 million come from householders. Over 70 million tonnes are produced by large-scale agriculture and big business. Yet, proportionally, big business pays less tax than ordinary workers.**

Look at what people are already paying around the country:-

Sligo—10Euros per week (520Euros per year)

Louth—35Euros per month (420Euros per year)

Westmeath—416Euros per year

Longford—400Euros per year

Leitrim—400Euros per year

Waterford—7.50Euros per week (390Euros per year)

**This is the direction we are heading in if we let them away with it**

### What's happening in the Courts??

As yet South Dublin County Council has not taken any cases to court for non-payment. It is important that we continue to build membership in order to have the money to defend people if or when such cases happen. Late last year, Dublin City Council took a number of cases to the District Court against non-payers from the Finglas area. The Dublin City Campaign against the Bin Tax organised legal representation for these people, and held a large protest outside the court. The Campaign legal team raised a number of legal points which resulted in the judge referring the case to the High Court. This case will be heard sometime in the next couple of months. The fact that the issue is before the High Court effectively ties the hands of the Councils in that any cases taken to court will just be adjourned pending the High Court case.

### Get involved

The campaigns against the bin tax across all Dublin counties are huge. Over 100,000 households throughout the 4 council areas are refusing to pay. This is the kind of mass opposition which defeated the water charges 5 years ago. The challenge now is to ensure that all those non-payers sign up to the Campaign. Membership of the Campaign costs 5Euros per household. It is by building this membership that we will be able to afford to defend people in court, and organise the sort of opposition which will defeat Council attempts to refuse to collect bins from non-payers. Don't just leave it on the long finger, or don't leave it to someone else. Get in touch today. Join the Campaign and help to build the campaign in your area.

Contact:-

Old Bawn/St. Dominics—Sean Heffernan 087-6706746

Firhouse/Ballycragh/Ballycullen—Gregor Kerr 087-6996046

Rest of Tallaght—Mick Murphy 01-4934696

Ballyboden/Rathfarnham—Lisa Maher 01-4934696

Greenhills/Perrystown—Pat Dunne 01-4509571

Lucan—Gerry Maguire 086-2987680

Moorefield Clondalkin area—contact one of your

MEG reps.

Palmerstown—John Daniel 01-6208819 or 086-

8520496

All other areas—Gregor Kerr 087-6996046 or Lisa

Maher 01-4934696

Contact the Campaign by E-mail—  
binthebill@eircom.net

Visit the Campaign website—  
www.stopthebintax.com



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