

Break the grip of landlords & developers!

Block Council Budgets & Capital Plans until we get real investment in public housing

One of the biggest hypocrisies that comes with the setting up of 'family hubs' is that Dublin City Council has invoked emergency planning procedures to bypass objections from the public and the elected councillors.

Yet throughout the past three and a half years since the spike in

homelessness began government at local and national level have steadfastly refused to declare a housing 'emergency' and take the radical measures

necessary to alleviate the crisis. Had they declared such an emergency they could have applied for the EU fiscal rules which they go along with to be waived to permit major investment into public housing.

Solutions are available

The cash reserves of NAMA and the National Strategic Investment fund adds up to billions. For further funding a emergency millionaires' tax on the wealth of richest 300 could be raised. According to the recent Sunday Independent Rich List their wealth has doubled to €100bn in 2017 from €50bn in 2011. An investment in public housing, both social and affordable alongside strict rent controls and a ban on economic evictions is all possible.

However this government, Fianna Fáil and Labour have other plans.

Fundamentally they want to take us back to the early 20th century when the majority of working class people had no option but to privately rent. At the rate we are going the overwhelming majority of those on public housing lists in this state will never be housed in council accommodation. Added to that most of those with a housing need but who are not eligible to apply for public housing because of the low income thresholds can neither afford to buy in the open market because of the inflated Celtic Tiger era prices greedy developers want to maintain.

NO MORE
EMPTY
HOMES

SOCIAL
NEED
PRIVATE
PROFIT



Solidarity
The Left Alternative
www.solidarity.ie

Establishment opposed to public housing

The establishment parties, Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and Labour as well as top brass in the local councils justify their support for the long term objective of privileging the landlords and developers by arguing that to build and acquire public housing in the quantities required will result in the creation of havens of social problems. By their logic you would for example need an extra 200,000 units in Dublin City Council area alone to effect the type of dispersal of 20,000 plus social housing applicants they see as desirable! This lunacy leads them to majority privatising council owned building land and council owned developments under the banner of 'mixed tenure'.

This argument has to be taken head on. On the basis of current household incomes only 20% of those with a housing need can afford to buy on the open market, 50% are eligible to apply for public housing and 30% can do neither. If public housing, social and affordable, was made universally available to all those with a housing need, even assuming the top 20% wanted to stick with buying privately the idea that the remaining 80% of those with a housing need are 'ghetto' material is ludicrous.

End council budget & capital spending plan compromises!

For a number of reasons we have not yet managed to construct a movement that can force the necessary policy choices on the political establishment to resolve the housing crisis. A focal point is needed to bring this situation to a head. Solidarity and other left councillors have consistently opposed the proposed budgets and capital spending plans voted through in the key local authorities in Dublin, Cork and Limerick because among other reasons there was totally inadequate provision for public housing.

If across the Dublin local authorities Sinn Féin end their bad compromises with the establishment parties especially Labour and like the left refuse to pass a budget and capital plan unless there is a serious cash commitment from the government, this coupled with a people power campaign outside the council chambers could be the best opportunity we have to put this weak government under the required pressure.

This idea of a stand-off on the council budgets should be discussed by housing activists and promoted among everybody with a housing need and demands have to be placed on all councillors who profess to support housing solutions.

Solidarity also campaigns for:

- No hand over or sale of public land to private developers
- Ban selling housing on public land to private landlords
- No to vulture fund evictions - permanent leases for all tenants who want them
- Real rent controls to bring rents down to 2011 levels with all rents pre-approved by the RTB not left to tenants to police
- Emergency powers for Requisition of vacant housing owned by investors

Solidarity

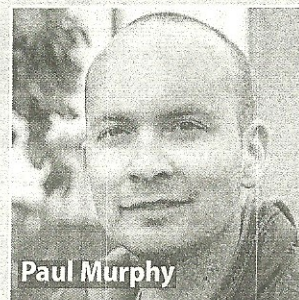
is a fast growing part of the radical left in Irish politics. Our ideas, our practical support for workers in struggle and the campaigning strategies we advocate on a range of issues from water charges to repeal of the 8th amendment are winning new support.

The establishment, seeing our potential, has singled out some of our members in the Jobstown trial and tried to criminalise them and criminalise effective protest for this reason.

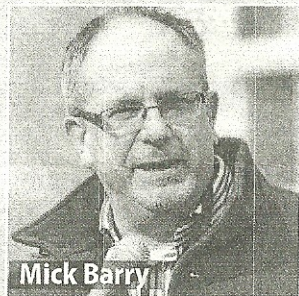
If you agree with our ideas or want to find out more, get in touch.



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