

Protests needed to beat the incinerator

By James Cusack

On Monday the 19th of November, the proposed Poolbeg incinerator in Ringsend was given the green light to burn 600,000 tonnes of waste annually.

This comes after years of grassroots resistance from the local community and beyond. Various avenue has been tried and thrown back in the faces of the community, including the election of a Green TD; John Gormley, on a primarily anti-incineration ticket.

Last year Mr. Gormley was one of over 2,000 individuals or environmental groups to lodge an objection with An Bord Pleanala. This year, in a dramatic U-turn, he is part of the government building it.

The only excuse he has offered is to claim that Ireland needs only two incinerators, burning a combined total of 400,000 tonnes of waste annually.

Aside from the fact that the Poolbeg incinerator will burn 600,000 tonnes, it is also the third one to be given the go ahead, after one in Ringaskiddy in Cork and another in Duleek in Meath, making a farce of his claim.

Government attempt to force incineration on community

The local community have been resisting various proposed 'Poolbeg Incinerators' for years, through petitioning, canvassing and public meetings and demonstrations.

These expressions of the democratic will of the people have been consistently shot down. The primary example of this was when the pre-election FF/PD government went so far as to change legislation.

People Before Profit Supports a Multicultural Ireland

At a time of great wealth, Fianna Fail have tried to blame migrants for a lack of hospital services and places in schools. Privatisation, bad planning and corruption have led to these problems.

The real scroungers are parties like Fianna Fail and their big business backers. People Before Profit welcome immigrants to Ireland.

The change in legislation required An Bord Pleanala to accede to anything the government claims to be government policy. The then Minister for the Environment; Dick Roche, made incineration the cornerstone of Irish waste management policy. This shows the government will stop at nothing to bludgeon through their plan at the expense of the health and quality of life for residents and that of the environment.

Direct Action needed

A legal challenge to the An Bord Pleanala ruling is likely from the Combined Residents Against Incineration (CRAI). We will support such initiatives.

Ultimately it will require direct action such as large numbers of residents blockading trucks trying to enter the site to stop this incinerator, just like the successful Save Our Sea Front campaign in Dun Laoghaire.

The campaign also requires cross city support to win. The cancer causing dioxins, traffic and higher waste charges resulting from the incinerator will affect the entire city. People Before Profit in Dublin South East have been heavily involved supporting CRAI and the campaign.

Very large rush hour demonstrations at the Dail and on the East Link Bridge and Sean Moore Road, leading up towards Poolbeg are required. This is to show the government the people of the area will not allow any incinerator to be built on the Poolbeg.

It will also highlight the inevitable increase in congestion from trucking in 600,000 tonnes of waste, only one of many, well-documented flaws with this proposed incinerator. Contact us to get involved.

US Military Out of Shannon - Troops out of Iraq

There are over 650,000 dead in Iraq. Over a million troops have passed through Shannon and continue to do so.

Now there is a potential attack on Iran by the US. The Greens campaigned in the past against the use of Shannon but now in government and silent on the issue.

The same is true for the incinerator and support for Mary Harney's health plans. There are plans to get a motion in the Dail regarding the use of Shannon. For more details see: www.irishantiwar.org



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A Voice for People,
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Dublin South East Bulletin December 2007 - January 2008

Contact details: 086 152 3542 Email: pbp_dse@yahoo.co.uk web: www.people-before-profit.org



Save St. Luke's

Cancer Hospital By Rory Hearne

A local issue with national consequences for the treatment of cancer came to the fore during the People before Profit General Election Campaign. Patients, their families and supporters are very concerned about the planned closure of St. Luke's Hospital Rathgar, an established centre of excellence for the treatment of cancer.

St Luke's- a real centre of excellence

About half our population has taken out private health insurance because we fear we will not get proper treatment. We are paying on the double – through taxes and through private insurance – because of the fear of an inadequate hospital service. This is a crazy and unfair system.

Save St. Luke's Campaign

The sustained and unwavering support since the election from Rory Hearne, People Before Profit and others who believe in people power, political support and pressure lead to The Save St. Luke's Hospital Campaign being formally launched at a public meeting on October 25th 2007 in Ranelagh.

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St.Luke's should be retained in Rathgar with expanded services, which builds on the existing excellent care and treatment of patients from all parts of Ireland and the support offered to their families.

Health Service for peoples need not for private profit

Save St Luke's Hospital Campaign Chairperson and local PBPA representative, Rory Hearne, said, "There has not been adequate consultation with staff and patients about it's planned closure.

If smaller private cancer centres are viable and use technology to access global expertise, why cannot we have smaller public cancer centres like St Luke's offering excellence?

St Luke's is a public facility and the current plan is to replace it with a public private partnership at St James' and at Beaumont, thus threatening equality of access and quality of service. PBPA is campaigning for a universal public health system available to everyone based on public need not private profit."

If you are interested in supporting the campaign and are willing to help in any way you can please contact: Rory Hearne 086 1523542.

Rory Hearne



Rory Hearne, the People Before Profit Alliance (PBPA) candidate for Dublin South East stood in the General Election on the issue of Saving St Luke's Cancer Hospital and no incinerator in Dublin Bay.

The PBPA stand for an increase in investment in public housing, health, transport and education and an end to privatisation. We oppose coalition with the conservative parties.

Thank you to those who voted for us and those who helped in the election campaign.

We continue to campaign on our principles unlike politicians, like John Gormely TD, who have betrayed the people who voted for them as a voice for change.

The Green Party is now part of a corrupt Government that is responsible for privatising the health service, selling off Aer Lingus and the cancer care crisis.

The PBPA believes that people power and grassroots community action are needed to bring about change in this country.

We urge you to get active in the campaigns outlined in the newsletter, join the People Before Profit Alliance (PBPA) and let us know about the issues that are affecting you.

BIN CHARGES CAMPAIGN CONTINUES By Paula Geraghty

Over two and a half years on, since DCC implemented non collection of wheelie bins, residents of Ocean View, Ringsend are still refusing to pay the Bin Tax.

Every fortnight when the bin truck comes along, community activists and householders are coming out to put community waste on the back of the bin truck.

This is the community which is closest to the proposed incinerator in Poolbeg. The bin tax would be used to fund and make profits for those who would run the incinerator.