

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

ELECTION SPECIAL

O'Devaney Gardens - A Litany of Lies

On Saturday 8th February, We encourage you to get out and vote in Election 2020. However, we ask you to take a few minutes to read this information sheet before you vote.

"We will reject any selling off of publicly owned lands to private developers within the City boundaries" - Dublin Agreement 2019

The above pledge was signed by **Fianna Fáil, Social Democrats, Labour and Greens** upon their election to Dublin City Council and yet their very first act was to **GIVE AWAY O'Devaney Gardens**, one of the most important publicly owned sites in Dublin. Despite our City being in the middle of a housing and rent crisis, they actually gave it away to one of Ireland's wealthiest developers. This act will deprive hundreds of working people and families of the opportunity of an affordable home and furthermore will cost us, the taxpayers, over €100 million in lost revenue and future rent.



Mary Fitzpatrick laughing with Bertie Ahern whose government put the Irish people €200 billion in debt

to make €60 million profit while children continue to live in hotel rooms. Shame on them. Please remember this when you go to the polling station.

We should not be surprised to see that **Fianna Fáil** were involved in this act of treason. The party destroyed the Irish economy and inflicted massive hardship upon families across Ireland. Mass unemployment, houses repossessed, thousands of young people forced to emigrate, pensioners suffering cuts, hospital wards closed, Carers penalised, public services decimated, minimum wage cut and the horror stories of people committing suicide due to financial pressure are all the result of Fianna Fáil's involvement in the bank crash and their developer friends destroying the economy and leaving the Irish taxpayer with over €200 billion debt.

Fianna Fáil have always been connected to corruption. This is not the self-proclaimed new Fianna Fáil seeking your vote. Mary Fitzpatrick has been a member for years. She voted to give away desperately needed public land, our lands, to a private developer allowing them



The O'Devaney Giveaway Gang

Fianna Fáil, Council management and the golden circle developer while ignoring the strong community voice to retain O'Devaney for public affordable homes.

The **Social Democrats** were founded on the promise of changing the way we do politics, a promise they have failed to live up to. One of their founders jumped ship and joined Fianna Fáil. One of the initial funders was Michael Chadwick, the multimillionaire construction magnate.

Their first act on the new City Council was to gift publicly owned land for free to a private developer, Richard Barrett, one of the golden circle of developers during the Celtic Tiger years. This act was pushed by Gary Gannon, their candidate in election 2020. Gannon flip flopped on this issue, initially supporting the giveaway then opposing when put under pressure by the local community and finally voting in favour of the giveaway twice! He has sided with

You can rely on one party to betray working people and families across Ireland despite the election lies they spout. The **Labour Party** are a toxic party. Their ministers, while in power with Fine Gael, implemented some of the harshest cuts on ordinary people. They cut women's pensions and increased the retirement age. They cut child benefit, rent allowance, maternity benefit, disability allowance and carers allowances to mention just a few. They doubled student fees. And all the while they stood by and allowed the banks and bond holders to be bailed out resulting in us, the taxpayers paying over €40 billion for the mistakes of others. They introduced Water Charges and even sought to jail community activists for successfully opposing their attempt to privatise Irish Water.

Labour's candidate again is long term politician Joe Costello. Costello lives in Stoneybatter amongst the very people he has denied the opportunity of an affordable rented home by his decision to hand over for free the extremely valuable public lands which could have seen 800 homes made available for cost rental and social housing. Costello not only signed the aforementioned Dublin Agreement but went one step further. Below is his motion from July 2019 and yet weeks later he was only too happy to be party to betraying the very community where he lives. Labour never changes its spots. Labour took our money from us when last in power.

Don't give them another opportunity.

5) Councillor Joe Costello

That a moratorium be placed on the sale of public lands in the ownership of Dublin City Council while the housing crisis remains.

Submitted: 5th June 2019



Fine Gael continue the cycle of imposed poverty on the most marginalized in our society

Fine Gael have been in Government for almost 9 years and yet the housing and health crisis continues to worsen. Children living in hostels, food stalls feeding families on our street, trolleys piled up in corridors, a billion dollar hospital but no staff to reduce waiting lists. Retirement age increased but further pay increases for politicians. Young people denied third level education due to financial constraints and forced to live at home because of exorbitant rents.

The housing crisis could be solved by a public home building policy but instead Fine Gael refuse to allow this happen as they are beholden to private developers. They have even changed the planning rules to allow smaller 'shoebox' units and co-living units, described as bedsits by another name.

And still we have only seen the housing lists grow. Public affordable rental homes will house people, end property speculation, end land hoarding, curb ever spiralling house prices and reduce the taxpayers multimillion bill for HAP and rent allowances. Fine Gael oppose this sensible policy because it does not benefit their developer friends and the tax free vulture funds who are buying up entire complexes for a pittance from the unaccountable NAMA.

All this under the watch of Paschal Donohue, local FG candidate and Minister for Finance. If you're a huge corporation like Apple or a bank, Paschal doesn't want your taxes. If you live in Dublin Central and are working or studying, Paschal will screw you and your family while failing to provide funding for housing, health or education. Fine Gael wanted to commemorate the Black & Tans who pillaged Ireland and no wonder, they have allowed plenty of corporations, tax dodging billionaires and banks to do so as well.

Don't just complain. Abstain from voting Fine Gael.

After the **Green Party's** last stint in Government it won't surprise anyone that they voted to sell off the public lands at O'Devaney Gardens. We can expect more of the same if they are part of the next Government. They supported Bin Taxes, Water Taxes and now they want to carbon tax ordinary people rather than tackle the big polluters.

Title: Election Special: O'Devaney Gardens – A Litany of Lies

Organisation: Campaign for Public Housing

Date: 2020

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.
Visit www.leftarchive.ie

The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to us, in addition to the original creators. For republication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to The Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.