



THE CUTS & CHARGES *FIGHT BACK* WITH THE TEAM YOU CAN TRUST



Seamus Healy T.D. Director of Elections with candidates Pearl Sheehan, Pat English and Martina Maher.

A GOVERNMENT OF BROKEN PROMISES

Launching its Local Election Campaign Workers and Unemployed Action has called on the public to fight back against "A Government of broken promises", "A dishonest Government", "A Government which has targeted low and middle income families, children, the elderly and the disabled for cuts and increased taxes while protecting a golden circle of the rich and powerful in society.

The Local elections must send a clear message to Government "**Hands off ordinary people**".

In the 2011 General Election Enda Kenny and Eamon Gilmore asked the public to "vote for change". They promised to "**burn the bondholders**", they promised "**not another cent for the banks**", they promised "**to protect the vulnerable**" and it was going to be "**Labours way not Frankfurts way**". The Fine Gael/Labour Party Government broke all the promises. They took the public for fools.

They were only a wet week in office when **they turned their coats** and donned the clothes of the Fianna Fáil/Green Government. This Government embraced the austerity agenda with a vengeance. An array of tax increases and cuts to services targeted at low and middle income families followed. Longstanding services and facilities like **St. Michaels Unit and Kickham Barracks** were also closed.

The sick, elderly, medical card holders, carers, pensioners and children even the dead were targeted for cuts like loss of medical cards, cuts to child benefits, heating allowances, telephone rental, respite grants, disabled persons grants, death grants and the list goes on.

Families were hit by house and water taxes. It was morally wrong, unjust and unfair. Now in addition a huge health tax of €1,600 per person per year is to be imposed. But the golden circle of the rich and powerful were treated with kid gloves. The banks were bailed out again with billions more and bond holders were paid in full. Consultants made millions and crony politicians retired with huge pensions.

The super rich were spared tax increases. They increased their income and assets but faced no increase in income, wealth or assets tax. The Sunday Independent 300 rich list increased their wealth from €57bn in 2011 to €70.75bn in 2014 an increase of over 20%.

This Government, like the last, is making ordinary people pay for a recession in which they had no hand, act or part in creating while the rich fat cats get off scot free.

Workers and Unemployed Action have nominated three candidates in the Local Election for the Cahir/Clonmel District, Cllr. Pat English, Martina Maher and Pearl Sheehan, who will faithfully stand up for the ordinary man and woman and their families and bring back the message of fairness and job creation to the powers that be.

CLLRS. SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE STOP THE JUNKETS NOW

In the current climate of cuts, house tax, water tax and the proposed health tax, should councillors continue to waste your money on junkets?

Absolutely Not

This is waste of your money for which there is no justification. At the best of times it is unacceptable but in these straightened times it is outrageous.

Our councillors have consistently voted against junkets and have never taken part in them.

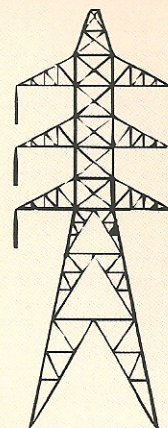
THE DOLE QUEUES

Cahir	1,209
Carrick-on-Suir	1,806
Cashel	1,166
Tipperary	1,610
Clonmel	2,810
South Tipperary	8,601
National	398,069

To address these huge level of unemployment the Government must commence a major public works job creation programme. This would put people back to work, reduce social welfare expenditure, stimulate the economy and create spin off employment.

Targeted infrastructural public works job programme would include the areas of telecommunications, hospitals, health centres, schools, colleges, transport and water and sewerage schemes.

NO PYLONS



Put the cables underground and/or undersea. Read our comprehensive submission on

www.wuag.wordpress.com

THE POST OFFICE - AT THE HEART OF IRISH COMMUNITIES

The post office network is an unique social cultural and financial institution that is essential to our local communities and the country as a whole.

It makes a vital contribution to the Irish economy employing over 3,000 people and is the backbone of rural communities especially our small towns and villages. With over 1,100 offices the network represents Ireland's largest retail network and for many rural communities the post office acts as their only retail outlet.

Many communities have already seen the closure of the local pub, shop, creamery and Garda station. Loss of the local post office would be the final nail in the coffin.

Two hundred and fourteen post offices have closed since 2006 and successive governments have allowed the network to be undermined by lack of support.

Four hundred and fifty to five hundred post offices are at risk of closure, over the next four years due to the Department of Social Protection plans for the electronic transfer of Social Welfare payments. The Department is actively driving customers into using bank accounts to receive welfare payments and it is diverting business away from post offices on a daily basis.

To retain and expand the post office network the government must

1. Produce a comprehensive action plan for development.
2. Stop the diversion of business away from post offices.
3. Stop the installation of machines in Tesco.
4. Insist that tenders issued by government departments and agencies will include a social obligation to the old and the disadvantaged as currently delivered by post offices.
5. Grant a full banking licence to An Post for roll out to post offices.

LABOUR SELLS OUT WORKERS

- The Labour Party has cut pay and pensions and increased working hours in the public service through the anti-worker FEMPI Act.
- Labour Party Minister Brendan Howlin T.D. has also cut staff numbers leading to huge increases in work load on all public employees.
- New teachers and nurses have been appointed at yellow pack rates of pay.
- The country cannot be properly policed due to closure of Garda stations and cuts to Garda numbers.
- Nurses, ambulance and health workers, work above and beyond the call of duty 24/7 and despite their best efforts, services can't be safely delivered.
- Increased class numbers and elimination of support staff is seriously damaging the education of children.
- Shame on the Labour Party for betraying workers and damaging public services.

PEOPLE POWER WORKS!!! HANDS OFF OUR HOSPITAL

South Tipperary General Hospital has lost almost 25% of its budget and more than 100 staff over the last few years. Beds have been closed and the hospital has been put under extreme pressure. The number of patients forced to await admission on trolleys in corridors is simply unacceptable.

This year another €1.7million has been cut from the hospital budget. It is a well known practice of the Health Service Executive and Department of Health to starve a hospital of finance and resources and then use the resultant situation to close or transfer wards and services.

In the coming months South Tipperary General Hospital faces a "review" of its accident and emergency department and its maternity department. "Review" is Health Services Executive "speak" for downgrading, closure or transfer of services. South Tipperary General Hospital is part of the new South/South West Group of hospitals. This new grouping may well be used to attempt to transfer acute services from South Tipperary to Waterford Regional Hospital and Cork University Hospital.

Let the Health Services Executive be warned that any attempt to downgrade South Tipperary General Hospital will be successfully fought by the people of South Tipperary.

Not too long ago the public of South Tipperary put "People Power" of 15,000 on the streets and won. It may have to happen again.

YOUR MEDICAL CARD AT RISK

In opposition they said.....

"To take away your rights to have a medical card beyond the age of 70 years I reject it. The cheek of them, shame on them" Enda Kenny T.D.

Deputy Eamon Gilmore asked how the then Fianna Fail/Green Government could disrespect our elderly "who worked hard all their lives often paid high taxes and only want the peace of mind of having a medical card if feeling unwell".

But that was then and this is now!

Now the Taoiseach and Tainiste are targeting the sick and elderly for the withdrawal of their medical cards. The last two budgets have targeted the withdrawal of 75,000 medical cards. The elderly and the chronically ill including cancer, motor neuron and disability sufferers are losing or being refused medical cards. **Shame on them.**

For HONESTY, COURAGE and ABILITY

HOUSE TAX WATER TAX HEALTH TAX

“IT IS MORALLY WRONG UNJUST AND UNFAIR TO TAX A PERSONS HOME”

Enda Kenny T.D.

The above is a quote from Enda Kenny T.D.....
Another broken promise.

Within twelve months of becoming Taoiseach and with the support of the Labour Party the government imposed a house tax on every family. There was no exemption for even the poorest families, the unemployed or old age pensioners. The income from this tax was supposed to go to local authorities for services but local authority budgets were again cut and the income was used to pay bankers debt and to set up Irish Water including the payment of €50 million to consultants.

Water Tax

Another broken promise

~~Tainiste Eamon Gilmore T.D. built his political career on opposition to water charges. “Water charges were a form of double taxation on PAYE workers” he said (see Irish election literature blog for more).~~

But now his government is installing hundreds of thousands of water meters and introducing water charges. The first bills will drop in your letter box in January next.

We still don't know what the cost will be to each household, what the water allowance will be, if the allowance will be bigger for bigger families; if families subject to boil water notices will be charged; if families will be charged for hard water which damages showers and electric appliances; if families needing additional water for medical reasons will be charged or get an increased allowance.

Health Tax

Now the public face a triple whammy of taxes with the proposed health tax. This new tax is the brain child of minister for Health James Reilly. Under the cover of universal health insurance he is proposing a health tax of €1,600 per person each year. His motto is make the public pay more for less!!!

We will continue to oppose these taxes at local and national level.

THE FAT CATS - THE FACTS

- The top 1% of the population own 20% of the wealth.
- The top 2% of the population own 30% of the wealth.
- The top 5% of the population own 40% of the wealth.
- The 10,000 highest earners earn €595,000 each per year.
- The 20,000 highest earners earn €403,000 each per year.
- Financial assets of the wealthy now higher than peak boom year 2006.
- Ireland is the seventh wealthiest country in the world.
- The top 300 wealthiest Irish increased their wealth by €13.75 bn between 2011 and 2014 up to €70.75bn.

They pay no wealth, no asset tax, no higher rate of income tax and use tax shelters to avoid payment of tax. Some are also tax exiles. They must be made pay their fair share of taxation. The fat cats are doing well but.....**where is the recovery for ordinary people?**

MORTGAGE CRISIS STOP EVICTIONS

When the greedy bankers, speculations, regulators and crony politicians burst the Irish economy hundreds of thousands of workers were thrown on the dole queues.

Despite their best efforts many could not meet their mortgage repayments on family homes many of which were also in serious negative equity.

121,00 families are now in mortgage distress. At least 30,000 families have no or not enough disposable income to qualify for the insolvency arrangements. Personal insolvency practitioners are legally precluded from offering them insolvency solutions despite the fact that they have fully engaged with their lenders and their only property is their family home.

These families now face eviction. Lenders have brought almost 1,500 new cases to repossess family homes in the last three months of 2013.

If evicted these families will qualify for rent supplement and local authority houses at huge personal and financial cost to themselves and the state. This makes no social or financial sense.

- Evictions must be stopped.
- Mortgages must be written down to current market values.
- Mortgages to rent schemes, leaving families in their own homes as local authority tenants, must be available as a legal right.



THE CUTS & CHARGES *FIGHT BACK* WITH OUR ELECTION CANDIDATES



Cllr. Pat English, "Churchview", Rathronan, Clonmel. Tel.: 052 6124014 Mobile: 087 7684746 Email: cllrpat.english@southtippoco.ie

Pat was elected in 2004 on his first attempt to both Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary Co. Council. Pat is married to Carol and they have five children, three girls and two boys.

Pat is a founder member of the Workers and Unemployed Action Group, he is an active community worker and has particular interest in education, the environment, planning issues and youth services.

He is the current Mayor of Clonmel, a scout leader with Clonmel Scouts for over thirty four years, chairman of the Workmens Boat Club, member of the Board of Management of the Central Technical Institute, member of the Parents Council of Gaelcholaiste Ceitinn, committee member of the Busking Festival, Board member of the Junction Festival, Treasurer of the Save our Hospital committee, Treasurer of the Two Bridges Partnership.

CLLR. PAT ENGLISH

He is also a member of South Tipperary County Council, Clonmel Borough Council, County Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee, Tipperary Education and Training Board and County Museum Committee.



Martina Maher, 63 Woodview, Cahir. Mobile: 086 3503445 Facebook Email: martinamaher63@hotmail.com

Martina is daughter of Jimmy and Patsy Maher, Avondale Court, Cahir.

She believes that women must have a strong voice in local government. She has a special interest in services for the elderly and has been employed as a home help with the Health Service Executive for the past fourteen years. She has completed a number of health related courses including Fetac level 5, health service award and personal skills courses.

As a working mother she understands the problems of combining work outside the home with bringing up a family. She has been involved in the provision of shared reading classes and other education related courses.

In her spare time she is a keen sports enthusiast and has the honour of representing Tipperary in Darts. Martina has two adult children and lives with her partner John.

MARTINA MAHER



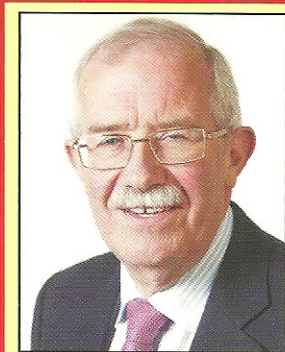
Pearl Sheehan, 73 Baron Park, Clonmel. Mobile: 086 1261734 Facebook Email: pearlsheehan@hotmail.co.uk

Pearl is a committed community activist. She is currently community services officer for the Clonmel branch of the Irish Red Cross. She was a founding member and former treasurer of the Elm Park Residents Association. She believes that women must have a strong voice in local government.

Pearl is a registered carer and opposed to the targeting of carers and person with disabilities. She has a special interest in Educational Disadvantages, including organising breakfast clubs, shared reading and school completion programmes. She is an area representative of the Workers and Unemployed Action.

Pearl is married to Gary and has three children.

PEARL SHEEHAN



Seamus Healy T.D.

**Director of Elections asks you to
Vote 1,2,3 in order of your choice
for our candidates**

Pat English, Martina Maher, Pearl Sheehan

Sureprint



WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYED ACTION
56 Queen Street, Clonmel. Tel.: (052) 6121883 Fax: (052) 6170860

Title: Stop the Cuts & Charges — Fight Back with the Team You Can Trust

Organisation: Workers & Unemployed Action

Date: 2014 c.

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 the Irish Left Archive, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, 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.