

**Cian Mac Aonghusa**  
Blackrock Rep



**Richard Boyd Barrett**  
TD For Dún Laoghaire

**PUBLIC ADVICE  
CLINIC TIMES**

**People Before Profit**

**Dún Laoghaire**

13 Lower Georges St.  
Dún Laoghaire  
A96 KP21

**Monday:**  
10:00 - 13:00

**Friday:**  
11:00 - 13:00

Phone or Email for an  
Appointment:



01 230 3020



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**Demand more Social and Affordable Housing**

The housing crisis is the greatest social disaster facing this country. Our government's housing policies have led to a situation where 13,000 people - including 4,000 children - are currently homeless.

Rents and house prices in Dún Laoghaire and Blackrock are out of control. The average rent is now €2,400 per month and the average house price in our area is now €635k.

People Before Profit have been campaigning for the council to build and buy more social and affordable housing. This pressure has seen the council buy nearly 400 new homes from developers for social housing and purchase the new apartment block on Newtownpark Avenue. But we need to push them for more.

If elected I will demand that the council:

- Issue Compulsory Purchase Orders on buildings and sites that have been left vacant and derelict without a valid reason.
- Increase the proportion of new homes that are social and affordable from 10% to 50%.
- Redefine "affordable homes" so it is based on average incomes and not a percentage of the market value.
- Accelerate the construction of public and affordable housing on council-owned land. Recruit more tradespeople and apprentices to work to renovate and maintain council houses.



Cian and Richard at a People Before Profit Right to Housing protest in Dún Laoghaire, 2020

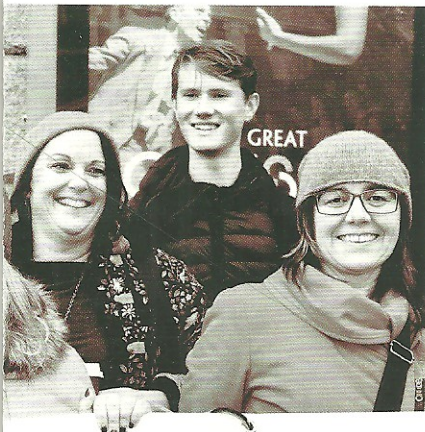


Housing protest in Dublin, 2023

**Introducing CIAN MAC AONGHUSA**

Cian Mac Aonghusa has been a dedicated activist in Blackrock and Dún Laoghaire over the past decade. He has been active in building campaigns and protests demanding more public and affordable housing. Cian played a leading role in the Student Climate Strike movement both nationally and in his own school, Newpark Comprehensive. He is very actively involved in the current protest movement against Israel's genocide in Gaza. Previously campaigned for Repeal in the Dún Laoghaire Together for Yes, as well as for marriage equality.

"As a young person, most of my generation are being locked out of a future in this country because of unaffordable rents and house prices. We need to build a mass movement for public and affordable housing so young and working people are not forced to leave the country. Join me in the fight to create a fairer and equal Blackrock "



Cian and Melisa leafletting in Dún Laoghaire for social and affordable housing.

The next local election will be held on **7th June of 2024**. Cian MacAonghusa will be running as the People Before Profit candidate for Blackrock.

Everyone who is a resident in Ireland is eligible to vote in the local elections. All you need to register is your **PPS Number** and the **Eircode** of your place of residence.

**Register To Vote**

<https://www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/> or by scanning the QR code.





Dún Laoghaire Welcomes at the Dún Laoghaire St. Patrick's Day parade

# Dún Laoghaire Welcomes

Dún Laoghaire Welcomes is a coalition of trade union groups, community groups, activists and political parties in the greater Dún Laoghaire area. We were involved in forming this coalition to show a Cead Mile Fáilte to those seeking asylum living in our council area.

Our community has a long history of welcoming new arrivals. We have seen the positive impact that diversity and openness can bring to a community.

In recent months, Dún Laoghaire has welcomed people seeking asylum into the area. We have seen local groups reaching out to welcome our new residents, who are already beginning to integrate into the community.

As our community continues to grow, we must work together to push back against narratives that aim to divide us. The issues we face as a society are the result of ongoing state policy failure and we must work together for an Ireland for all.

## SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION TRUST OUR SCHOOLS

This government is failing our children. All across the country children with additional needs are being left without the support they need. The waiting lists for Assessment of Needs and the Children's Disability Network Teams are endless with children waiting years for the support they need.

This situation is as bad in schools with not enough Special Ed Teachers, Special Needs Assistants or special classes. Now the government has made it even worse by changing the method for allocating all these resources.

In September many local schools will have less support available for children. This is not good enough. Cian and People Before Profit have helped initiate a campaign calling on the government to trust our local schools and allocate Special Ed teachers and SNAs based on need.



Richard and Melisa at a public meeting on special needs education

## GAELSCOIL LAIGHEAN - Fós ag Fanacht Suímh Bhuain

Oscloídh Gaelscoil Laighean i 2019. Ba chéim ollmhór chun cinn é don feachtas ghaeiloideais sa Charraig Dhubh. Ní ach 8% de dháltaí bunscoile ag freastal ar scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge sna 26 chontae faoi láthair in ainneoin go bhfuil fonn ar roinnt tuismitheoirí go bhfoghlaíonn a bpaistí trí Ghaeilge. Tá an pobal na Gaelscoile Laighin an-mheallta, áfach, nach bhfuil súiomh buan óirúinach acu fós i 2024.



## Disability Rights are Human Rights

Disability activists are demanding the government ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Disability activists were recently successful in their campaign to scrap the proposed Green Paper bill. This highly regressive and invasive proposal would have tied the worth of a disabled person to their ability to work. Scrapping this bill was a great victory for the movement and People Before Profit will continue to work alongside the activists



People Before Profit with Dún Laoghaire Disability Rights Activists, 2023

for greater disability rights. This will include the ratification of the Optional Protocol.

Locally, People Before Profit has campaigned to expand accessibility to all public spaces. At present, the number of venues that are accessible is incredibly low, leaving members of our community excluded. In particular, when designing new buildings and projects, accessibility should be at the core of the project and not just treated as an afterthought.

When projects have accessibility as a feature rather than a core principle of the design, we get similar situations to the disaster at the Dún Laoghaire Baths. It is unacceptable that the plans for a public space can be changed once construction has begun that can result in members of the community being excluded.

In 2018 our councillor Dave O'Keeffe brought forward a motion on beach accessibility for wheelchair users. The initial motion was expanded upon into the beach accessibility programme. This includes the provision of beach wheelchairs and access to the water for wheelchair users.

Tá Gaelscoil Laighean tar éis súiomh buan a shochrú ar sean-suíomh an chomhairle contae i Mount Anville, tar éis feachtas fada pobal na gaelscoile. Tá díomá orainn nach mbéidh an suíomh lonnaithe sa Charraig Dhubh nó i mbaile an bhóthair; agus mar gheall ar easpa phleanáil agus easpa maoirseacht ceart san roinn Oideachais, ba an t-aon suíomh a raibh ar fáil áit ina raibh tithíocht inacmhainne agus tithíocht sóisialta le bheith lonnaithe.

Cé gur vótáil Cllr Melisa Halpin ar son an suíomh a thabhairt chuig an nGaelscoil, níl sé maith go leor go bhfuil ar chomhairleoirí rogha a dhéanamh idir scoileanna agus tithíocht

inacmhainne. Tá freagracht ag an roinn oideachais planáil ceart a dhéanamh do na scoileanna atá geallta acu. Táimid ag iarraidh ar an aire Oideachais plan a chuir i bhfeidhm chun foirgnimh a soláthar do Gaelscoil Laighean agus na scoileanna eile sa cheantar comh luath agus is féidir.



Scan for article in English!

NEWSLETTER

## Free, Frequent and 24 hour **Public Transport**

Despite the urgent need to rapidly increase our public transport network, Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Greens have let our network stagnate. There has been no extension to the LUAS network in over 15 years. In 2017, Fine Gael sold half of the bus network in Dún Laoghaire to Go Ahead. This has led to worse conditions for bus drivers and a consequent deterioration of services. The level of late buses and services that simply do not show up is unacceptable.

If elected I will campaign to renationalise our transport services and move them away from a profit-led model. We need more buses and bus drivers on the road as well as further expansion of the LUAS and DART networks. People Before Profit is campaigning nationally to make public transport free and introduce 24 hour services. The fact our public transport shuts down before midnight inhibits our night time economy and increases the cost of living for everybody - especially for our essential shift workers.

## **Ecological Regeneration Community Led Reforestation**

The ecological and climate crisis is the defining issue of our century. Its impacts are already being felt through rising food prices, increasing water stress and natural disasters all around the world. Nationally, People Before Profit has committed to transformational policies to break Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels.

Locally, it is essential to protect Dublin's biodiversity and its ecosystems. If elected to the Council Cian will call on the council to develop Community Woodlands - a community led project to redevelop native woodlands in our local areas. Less than 1% of Ireland is covered by native forest and woodland.

People Before Profit have a proud record of campaigning to protect and expand native forests. In 2021 we successfully campaigned to prevent the sale of 39 acres of forest in Enniskerry. In 2013, People Before Profit was a key part of the mass movement to prevent the privatisation of Coillte - the State forestry company. Native woodlands and ecosystems are vital to reducing carbon emissions, maintaining healthy soils and protecting our water quality.



Cian, Richard and Melisa at a Save Our Forest public meeting, 2019



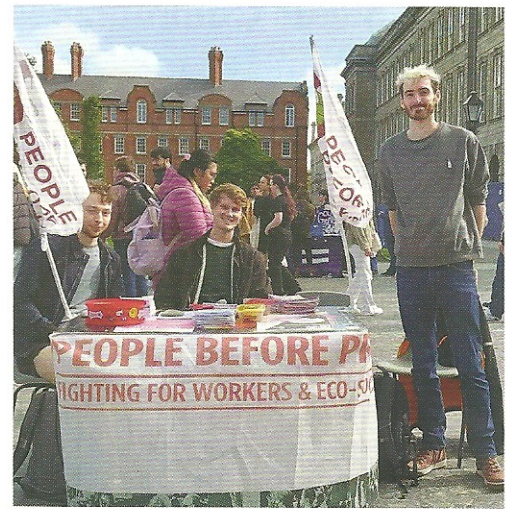
## **RETROFITTING SCHEME REVAMP**

The latest environmental survey by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council revealed that its largest source of carbon emissions comes from social housing. Most of the houses in Blackrock and across the constituency are over half a century old. This is due to poor insulation and the Council's neglect of social housing in the county for decades. Poor insulation means lower income families face higher energy costs in order to adequately heat their homes.

We are calling for a much more ambitious retrofitting scheme which will improve the living conditions of those in council housing, while also reducing their cost of living. This needs to be implemented broadly, and as a priority. Schemes which focus on small groupings or take years to implement are not solutions to the problems people face. For those on low incomes who own their own homes, the gap between government grants and the cost of retrofitting is too wide. We must demand bigger retrofit grants for those on low and modest incomes.

Additionally, the finance models used for non-council housing retrofitting must be restructured. Many of the current models, such as the installation of solar panels, require high upfront payments which many people cannot afford. This means that the people who would benefit the greatest from these schemes cannot avail of them.

We need to change how the schemes are run to allow gradual payback to the council, instead of applying for refunds from the council after paying out thousands.



Cian campaigning with People Before Profit Trinity

## **STOP GAZA GENOCIDE Free Palestine**

For over six months Israel has inflicted death and destruction on the people of Gaza, killing more than 34,000 people, mostly children and women. This horror follows decades of ethnic cleansing, apartheid and occupation by Israel against the Palestinians, actively supported by the US, UK and EU governments. Irish people have shown solidarity with the people of Gaza and Palestine. Despite protests here in Ireland and across the world, the Irish government has refused to impose sanctions on Israel.

People Before Profit has been key to building support in Ireland. Cllr Melisa Halpin proposed a motion to the council supporting the international Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign, requesting that we should:

**Impose a Boycott and Sanctions** on the Israeli apartheid regime.

**Prosecute Israel** for the crime of genocide and other war crimes.

**Defend Irish neutrality** and ban US military aircraft and weapons from Irish airports.



Cian, Melisa and MEP candidates Brid Smith at a Palestine Solidarity demonstration

## Sports Builds Communities

Community-level sports and grassroots clubs are some of our communities' most important social networks, yet they are vastly underfunded. Across Europe, Ireland, in 2021, registered the lowest ratio (0.1 % of GDP) devoted to 'recreational and sporting services' (Eurostat, 2023).

Our area has a chronic shortage of pitches, clubhouses and basic infrastructure. Every club we meet needs more funding, space, or basic support. Richard Boyd Barrett and Cllr Melisa Halpin have supported clubs like Monkstown Boxing Club, Granada, Sallynoggin-Pearse, Spring Hill Tennis and many others in their fights for clubhouses, pitches etc.

### As People Before Profit, we are calling for:

- **Doubling Government spending** to meet, if not exceed, European averages.
- **More provision of pitches** for grassroots sports clubs.
- **Better serviced facilities** and upkeep through staffing and government financial support.

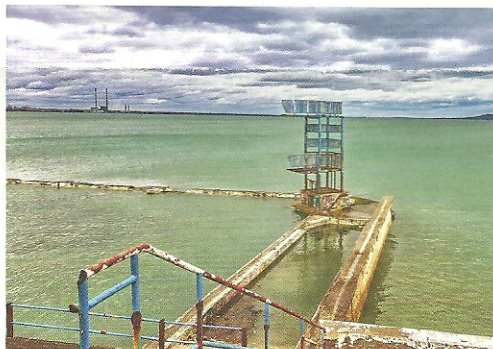


People Before Profit with Monkstown boxing club at the site of their new facility.

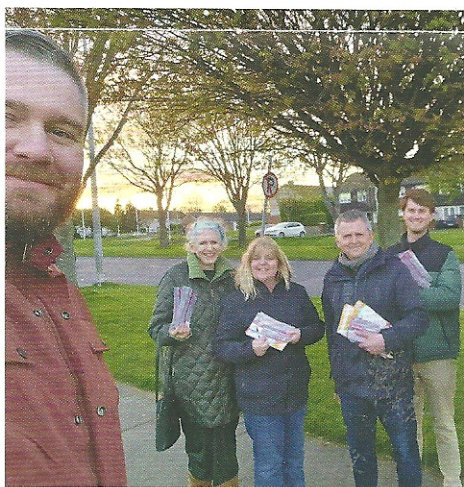
## Blackrock Baths - STILL DERELICT

It is an utter disgrace that the Blackrock baths site is still derelict. The baths shut in 1987 and the council has let the site fall into dereliction eventually having to remove the iconic driving board as it became dangerous. People Before Profit, working with Save Our Seafront, has campaigned for years for this site to be redeveloped as a fully public amenity.

New plans for the site are due to come forward in the coming months, we believe the whole seafront area of the baths must be a fully public amenity. We do not want to see what is public land sold off for private development. If elected, Cian will campaign for proper public consultation with the community about the future of this site and will insist on a fully accessible, fully public development.



Dereliction at Blackrock Baths



Cian campaigning with Dave and Richard

## Space to Play

Well done to all those in the Clonkeen and Seapoint areas who have been campaigning for more play facilities. The Council has just announced two new playgrounds, one in Longford Gardens beside Salthill Dart Station and one up in Clonkeen Park.

The slow roll-out of proper places to play for children and young people is not good enough. If elected Cian promises to campaign for proper resources to be provided for our community.

## Dún Laoghaire Women's Refuge

After years of campaigning, Dún Laoghaire is finally getting its first women's refuge. While this is welcome, it has only been allocated 14 spaces instead of the proposed 28 spaces - which itself is half the number needed under the guidelines of the Istanbul Convention. If we are serious about protecting women and tackling gender-based violence, we need to do better. People Before Profit is calling for adequate refuge spaces in every county in Ireland.

USEFUL NUMBERS	
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	01 800 77 88 88
Sexual Assault Treatment Unit, Rotunda Hospital 24h	01 817 1736
8AM - 5PM (MO-FRI) outside hours:	01 873 0700/01 817 1700
REFUGES (24 HOURS)	
Bray Women's Refuge, Bray	01 286 6163
Aoibhneas Women's Refuge, Co. Wick	01 867 0701
Kathimines Women's Refuge	01 496 1002/496 1922
Saolse Women's Refuge, Tallaght	01 468 0000
Sonas Women's Refuge, Blanchardstown	01 866 2015/087 952517
MIGRANT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING	
Immigrant Council of Ireland, Information and Referral	01 674 0200
AkiDwa, Information and Referral	01 834 9831
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT IN DLR	
IN A CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 999/112 FOR GARDAI AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	
OUTREACH SERVICES	
Women's Aid Outreach in CIC	1800 341 900
Bray Women's Refuge Outreach	086 059 7560
SONAS Advice Line / Outreach	087 952 5217
CRISIS ACCOMMODATION	
Safe Home Mon - Fri 8am - 6 pm	087 742 2897
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT	
HSE Elder Abuse Service	1850 24 1850
SAVE - Interagency Network in DLR	087 612 8740

### Emergency contact information in DLR



Cian and Dave campaigning with Together for Yes



Dún Laoghaire Right 2 Water campaign

## Your Local Team

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