

SAOIRSE

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PROFIT OR PEOPLE

New Town Centre?

THE HOPES OF TALLAGHT people for their area, took another knock recently, with the now almost certain decision by Dublin County Council to allow developers London and Clydeside to reduce from 350,000 sq. feet to 200,000 sq. feet the plans for the proposed new Tallaght Town Centre.

The only obstacle left now to the scaling down of the plans is a request for certain points to be clarified by the County Manager. He has been given six weeks to get back to them with this information.

"MIRACLE TOWN"

In an area with such a massive influx of people in recent years, with none of the amenities normally considered necessary being provided, people had pinned their hopes on the provision of the 'miracle' new Town Centre, that was to be the largest in Europe and was to house every community facility imaginable.

The excuse given by the developers for the cutting of the scheme is that disposable income and purchasing power in Tallaght had been reduced drastically within the past year. This being the case it is not too difficult to imagine what it is that will be axed!

PROFIT FOR PEOPLE

The emphasis will obviously be on a centre that will bring in the most money possible — community facilities such as libraries etc are not normally considered big money spinners.

We must be vigilant and bring every pressure to bear to ensure that we are not deprived of the amenities which we so badly need. These include a proper Post Office, a Labour Exchange/Job Centre, a hospital, a library, ample public telephones, public



toilets, creche or childcare facilities and facilities for public functions, meeting and clubs.

Obviously, proper shopping facilities suitable for a town of 70,000 people are also very important, but the much needed community facilities should not be sacrificed for

the sole reason of increased profit.

It is of vital importance at this stage that the plans for the Town Centre be made available and put before the people of Tallaght so that they can indicate whether they feel that they are adequate and meet with their approval.

EDITORIAL

Stop extradition!

CLEAR CONFIRMATION that a political decision has been taken by the Free State government to extend their collaboration to include the extradition of republicans to the North was given in the Dublin High Court on Friday, 19th August.

At a time when the Northern judicial system is being viewed in the lowest contempt because of its acceptance of the informer tactic, the Dublin court nevertheless agreed to hand over to its control a man who escaped from Newry Courthouse in 1975 whilst on trial for attempting to escape from Long Kesh, where he was acknowledged by the British at the time to be a political prisoner.

Moreover, the judge ignored earlier Free State court decisions, in 1975 and 1976, when the extradition of five fellow escapees was refused on the standard grounds that they were engaged in political actions.

It is now certain that the Free State courts, under obvious political pressure, are going to attempt to hold that the republican struggle in the North is not a political one and that those engaged in it are therefore not entitled to the accepted protections of international law.

This is exactly the kind of attempt to criminalise the republican struggle which the British tried to bring about with the withdrawal of political status in 1976 and the introduction of the H-Block strategy.

This extradition turnaround was signalled last December when the Free State's Chief Justice O'Higgins in the Supreme Court, ordered the extradition of former IRA member Dominic McGlinchey, and stated that the political nature of 'offences' would have to be proven to the satisfaction of the court in future cases, suggesting that he did not personally consider that republican activities in the North should be regarded as such.

In the McGlinchey case, the defence counsel withdrew the plea that the matter was a political offence and the court subsequently granted the extradition request as an ordinary offence. O'Higgins' remarks therefore were not directly relevant to the case and so are not binding on the lower courts. Nevertheless, another judge (a personal Haughey appointee, Ronan Keane) has now shown his willingness to follow the line laid down by O'Higgins in the Supreme Court and at the same time has shown the very real atmosphere of political pressure involved.

This latest case, and another current case, involving a man charged in relation to the IRA's execution of the Stronags at Tynan Abbey in January 1931, will soon come before that same Free State Supreme Court for final decision.

British Tory and Northern loyalist politicians, along with the vicious British gutter press, have long screamed for extradition as the last sign of Dublin's total craven servility and compliance with Britain's oppression in Ireland. There is a very grave danger that the Free State is going to satisfy their demands.

Whilst the extradition decision will ostensibly be made in the court, the pressures for it have come from outside, in a political context. It is in that context that this latest act of slavish collaboration can be halted and only a major outcry against it in the twenty-six counties will alter the present course of events.

In view of statements issued by Northern direct ruler Jim Prior and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after the recent heroic mass break-out from the H-Blocks, it is more obvious than ever that political collusion is taking place between the Free State and British Governments. A very embarrassed James Prior told news reporters that there was no safe haven for the escapees and that the 'Southern Government' would "hunt them down like animals." Margaret Thatcher who was on tour in Canada when the break-out occurred assured the press that the British government would have the full co-operation of the Free State government in hunting down these killers on the loose.

A major campaign of opposition is now a most urgent necessity.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to the 38 men, who, in the course of a determined and disciplined military action, freed themselves from the British Long Kesh Camp. Their spirit symbolises the spirit of freedom carried through the ages by Irishwomen and Irishmen. As long as that spirit continues, Britain will never succeed in enslaving the Irish people either physically, culturally or economically.

BROOKFIELD

FRIDAY THE 8th OF OCTOBER has seen the fears of the residents of Brookfield come to life.

Four-year-old Derek O'Shoughnessy who is one among hundreds of children attending St. Aidan's School on the Fortunestown Lane, was the victim of a serious accident. Derek who was returning home from school accompanied by his mother, was knocked down by a P&T van. He was rushed to hospital where he was found to have sustained multiple injuries.

Feelings in the estate are running very high as many residents believe that this accident could have happened to any one of the hundreds of children who regularly cross the road on their way to and from school each day.

Sinn Féin in conjunction with the parents of the estate decided to highlight the dangers of the lane by blocking it. This action took place on Monday the 11th of October and will continue until the Council permanently block the road or supply the school with a 'lolly pop' person.

Fortunestown Lane, (which is in a very bad state of repair) is a connecting road between Saggart and Tallaght, and has long been used as a dumping ground for stolen

cars and other various forms of rubbish. It was promised by the council to have been turned into a *cul de sac* before the school was opened in September, this still has not happened due to reluctance of the council to finish the new road.

Note: As we go to press we learn that the County Council have now closed the road themselves, as they consider, after residents blocking the road, that it constitutes a public hazard. And as the new road will be open for use by all traffic next week, it seems that the protest by Brookfield residents has been successful.



● Car blocked by barricade across Fortunestown Lane

CAN WE AFFORD WATER NOW?

THE RECENT DECISION by Dublin Corporation to charge water rates of up to £60, depending on rateable valuation, comes hot on the heels of Dublin County Council's decision to charge £30 per annum for water.

For anybody unemployed or living on Social Welfare, or indeed many of those who are employed and paying a large mortgage these charges are the latest blow to their already very basic standard of living.

Water is one of the basic necessities of life and to hit now at the right of every citizen regardless of means, to have ready access to that necessity, is further proof of the alienation of politicians from the needs of the people.

An average unemployed couple with 3 children would be receiving roughly £78 per week in unemployment assistance. It is almost an impossibility to buy food, pay rent, electricity, feed and clothe and look after all the other expenses of running a house and rearing a family on this pittance, not to mention that last month saw the

turn of children to school with all the ensuing cost or books, clothes, shoes etc. Now, as Christmas looms before parents they are expected to find another £30 to £60 for the privilege of turning on the tap.

Sinn Féin urge all individuals, tenants and residents associations to refuse to pay

these charges — if enough people refuse to pay it will be impossible for the local authorities to leave entire areas without water!

As a constructive alternative, we would suggest that all concerned individuals write to the papers, requesting the Free State president Dr. Hillery to refrain from further lavish state visits abroad, until the country can afford to allow its people to flush their toilets without feeling the pinch!



President Hillery and his retinue enjoy the sun in India

SCOIL SANTAIN

SCOIL SANTAIN IS an all-Irish school situated at present on the Old Bawn Road in Tallaght. It was founded four years ago by Cumann Gaelach Thamlachta, and has never looked back since. From the humble beginnings of 32 pupils and two teachers, Scoil Santain is now a two stream school, and, if anything, has trouble finding enough space to accommodate its nine teachers and their pupils.

Despite the recent set-backs in education by the government, Scoil Santain has managed to flourish, mainly it must be said, due to the efforts of parents and supporters who make up the fo-choiste Imeachtaí (to organise events) and the fo-choiste Airgeadais (who look after finance).

They recently held a 10km sponsored walk which was well attended and supported. An Cumann Gaelach also holds social evenings in the school — on Wednesday nights to learn the Céilí dances and once a month a bigger (bring your own) affair which has proved immensely popular, and which is a great opportunity for Gaelgeoirí to use their Irish in a social context, and for beginners to try out their beagan in a relaxed atmosphere.

Cumann Gaelach Thamlachta, which has been in existence now for almost ten years, has in that time managed to reach out to a very large number of people in this new and still growing community. Some of the people would have already known Irish or have been in contact with the Irish

language movement before coming to Tallaght, while many had no contact whatsoever with the language before they came in touch with the Cumann Gaelach or either through Scoil Santain, or the Irish classes, social events or the Naionraí (all Irish playgroups).

OPPORTUNITY

What the Cumann Gaelach and Scoil Santain are doing is giving people a choice. They now have the opportunity (which is available only for a small percentage of people in this country) to have their children educated in Irish, from pre-school onwards, and to become part of the Irish language movement, if they so wish.

HANDICAPS

Tallaght recently won 3rd prize in the GÍÓR na nGael competition, which is a great tribute to the people of Tallaght, especially considering the struggle which people have had, to try and gain for themselves the most basic amenities, let alone in

the face of now very obvious indifference of the government and RTE towards not only the Irish language but our culture and heritage in general.

This is highlighted nowhere more so than in the lack of Irish programmes for children on RTE. Until recently there was not one programme in Irish (the first language of the country) for children on RTE, and after many years of pressure the result has been one ten minute programme per week.

In protest at this policy of indifference, indeed it could be called hostility, to the language three members of Cumann Gaelach Thamlachta are due to appear in court soon for non-payment of their television licences. They have indicated that they will not be willing to pay the fine which means that they could face terms of imprisonment — for demanding Irish programmes, for Irish speakers in Ireland on our national television!

It seems that somebody somewhere is either trying to cod us when they plead concern for our dying language, or else they have their priorities very badly mixed up.

In view of this the Cumann Gaelach can only be congratulated on their excellent work and we wish them success in their task in the future, and hope that other areas may follow their example!

No 'clinics'

In reply to Mary Harney's call in the last edition of the Tallaght Echo for an Advice Centre for Tallaght, we would like to point out that Sinn Féin have been operating just such a centre for over three months now.

Our Advice Centre is housed in a caravan situated opposite the post office in the village on Tuesdays and in Killinarden on Saturday mornings. Since we have been in operation we have dealt with every type of query imaginable.

We would like to point out that our advice centre exists to advise people of their rights and help them in as much as we can — however we are not a political "clinic", and we do not pretend that we can do favours for people — we cannot house, or get anyone a tax rebate which is not due to them. Neither can any councillor or member of Leinster House for that matter, much as they might like people to think of them as benefactors or miracle workers.

Finally, it is not an indictment of our system, that people must turn to voluntarily run advice centres such as our own or the Tallaght Welfare Society to find out about their most basic rights or to get help in extracting from some government department what is rightfully theirs?

distinguished service!

IN THE NEWS THIS week is Detective Garda Thomas Quinn of Tallaght — scarcely for distinguished service!

He appeared in court on Tuesday this week with his wife, facing, between them, a total of 20 summonses relating to alleged brothel-keeping at a house in Dublin's North Circular Road.

Hitherto, Quinn had been better known in Tallaght as a particularly obnoxious garda. During the H-Block hunger-strike, Quinn, who claims to have a brother in the RUC, was the subject of a series of complaints to the Garda authorities and Dublin Ministry for Justice following a garda attack on two women, one of whom suffered a broken arm.

TALLAGHT STORIES

Many weird stories are told about incidents that occurred in olden times in and about the vicinity of Tallaght.

Ghostly monks are said to have been seen at night near Kilnamanagh Castle, at Greenhills Road, and chanting heard. Before the Reformation, after the castle was built, there was a monastery on the site.

Sounds of battle have also been heard at Kilnamanagh, according to some people. Ancient weapons have been found during excavations made by builders putting up the many new estates in Tallaght, and there is a strong tradition in the area that Cromwell's Army was quartered there, and that fighting took place between Irish and Cromwellian forces.

Three churches — an early Celtic one, a medieval church and the existing building of 1829 — have stood in Tallaght churchyard. The belfry of the medieval church has survived, and the building of which it once formed part, is said to have been the scene of some strange happenings. The ghost of an officer of Cromwell's Army is supposed to have been seen in the church grounds at night.

The officer, who commanded a troop of horses, quartered on Tallaght, unroofed the church for building materials, carried away the seats and fed his horses from the church font. The story goes that some days after doing this he was found dead in the church grounds. It is said that he is fated to wander forever about the place as a punishment for what he did to the church.

Repairs carried out in 1774 resulted in an intriguing discovery. When wainscotting was removed from one of the pews a glass chalice and several human skulls were found. No one could explain how they came to be there.

Weird stories are also told about Old Bawn House. It is said that a phantom coach, complete with headless coachmen and headless horsemen, and containing a mysterious passenger used to career along the lonely roads of South County Dublin, terrifying the people of Tallaght, who feared to go outside of their homes late at night.

The occupant of the coach is said to have been Archdeacon Bulkeley, who lived in Old Bawn House, and was an extensive landowner in the area in the sixteenth century.

The house was said to have been inhabited by evil spirits and strange rituals were reputed to have been performed there while Tallaght slept. On one occasion, the story goes, a tramp called to the house looking for food. He was invited in, but the next morning was found outside the village, in a hysterical state, claiming that he had been tortured through the night by ghosts and animal-like creatures and that Satan himself had been present.

Section 31

Clíodna Nic Mhurchadha, a member of Cumann Markievicz Sinn Féin is due to appear in Rathfarnham district court on the 1st of November.

In keeping with Sinn Féin policy, Clíodna is refusing to pay for her TV licence on the grounds that Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act prohibits members of Sinn Féin from being interviewed on RTE. Her protest is also at the disgraceful lack of Irish language programmes on RTE.

We ask all who support this protest to help mount a picket on the Courthouse on the day in question.

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Tallaght Youth Band

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE Tallaght Youth Band on coming 3rd at the International Marching Band festival in Wembley last June. This band were recently presented with their certificates of merit. The name of the band has recently been changed from the Priory Youth Band to the Tallaght Youth Band and hopes are high for 1st place next year!

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IRELAND'S BEST SELLING POLITICAL WEEKLY

AN **PHOBLACHT** Republican News

SINN FÉIN SPOKESPERSONS, because of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, are not allowed to appear on RTE Television or Radio, although RTE allows people who support violence, such as Thatcher, Paisley, Reagan, Garret FitzGerald and Charlie Haughey, to appear on our screens.

You can beat this censorship by reading *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, the largest selling political weekly newspaper in Ireland; *IRIS*, the Republican magazine; *SAOIRSE*, our quarterly Irish language magazine and of course, *The Tallaght Republican*. If you'd like any of these delivered to your door contact any Sinn Féin member or write to any of the addresses given in this paper.

Sinn Féin's bookshop at 44, Parnell Square, Dublin 1, sells a wide range of literature on republicanism, socialism, women's issues, history, Irish language. Badges, posters, records, crafts made by Republican prisoners in Portlaoise, such as leather handbags, purses, wallets, harps, crosses etc. are also stocked.