THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

the ALTERNATIVE media, published by An Chomhdháil Phobail | The People's Convention

" Therefore, we repeat, the Free Maintenance of the Children is a most important item to be fought for, and we look to see the revolutionary working class making this demand a prominent feature in its future agitation."

~ James Connolly, '**A Plea for the Children**' 1899

BESSBOROUGH

We allowed children to be abused horribly in the Industrial Schools. We allowed women to be enslaved and tortured in the Magdaline Laundries. We allowed innocent young mothers to be brutalised and have their babies die of deliberate neglect, or be trafficked, in Mother & Baby Homes.

We know all this, yet the abuse continues for the survivors whose fight for acknowledgement, even for recognition, was frustrated. Survivors searching for records of their incarceration, for medical records, or even to find their children, dead or alive, were blocked by the institutions, by the Catholic church, and by our state.

But the innocent children… even in death their bodies were abused, discarded, hidden, dumped in sewers!

Officially, about 9,000 children died in the '*homes*', 923 of these were at Bessborough in Cork, but we only know where 64 of them are buried.

The investigation into the '*homes*' said that it is *"highly likely"* that some missing infants are buried on the grounds. Now a private developer has permission to bring bulldozers in to construct apartments on this land.

Valarie O'Sullivan, CEO of Cork City Council signed off on the planning permission to allow it, **Paul Caprani** and **Liam McGree** of An Coimisiún Pleanála approved it too.

The SHAME is on us all.

However, rest easy, they have promised to look after the biodiversity on the site, control invasive species, protect trees and avoid disturbance to bats and birds. AND, there will be an expert, qualified in juvenile skeletal remains, on hand if any body parts are found when the bulldozers start digging.

Relatives have asked that our state should issue a Compulsory Purchase Order on the site, to protect it.

It should be preserved as a garden of remembrance. They have also asked that all of the existing reports on the site be made public, and that additional forensic investigation be carried out to locate the graves.

What kind of society do we live in? Is this development not an act of barbaric cruelty? Is it another symptom of a society which is seriously sick? Are these our values? Can we not cherish and respect our children?

Valarie O'Sullivan Approved the Development

Our State & Corporate Greed

UISCE ÉIREANN : IRISH WATER

Uisce Éireann is an unending failure, they were involved in over 50 legal cases last year, costing nearly €6 million in fees and settlements.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Inland Fisheries took multiple cases against them for water pollution, but nothing changes.

In July, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities fined Uisce Éireann €31 million for failure to meet performance targets.

Yet, Niall Gleeson, CEO at Uisce Éireann was given a 43% pay increase, topping out at €391,953.

That salary is shocking:

Firstly, it is a vulgar salary to pay anyone and the percentage increase is an insult to workers everywhere.

Secondly, in 2024, nearly 60% of our wastewater treatment plants were sub-standard, this was due to *"poor operational management"*.

By contrast, workers at Uisce Éireann received bonus payments of near €18 million last year, reported to be up 36% on 2024. However, over the same period the numbers employed by Uisce Éireann increased from 2,108 to 3013 in 2025, an increase of about 43%, so, the average bonus for workers was actually reduced!

It seems that *'Corporate Greed'* applies to Management only.

Where bonus payments at Uisce Éireann consistently equal about 9% of wages, they should be considered as normal pay – they are not really bonus payments at all.

Naming & Shaming

Speculators created a 'Special Purpose Vehicle' (SPV) in order to profit from the acquisition and sale of the lands at Bessborough, it is called Estuary View Enterprises 2020 Limited.

This SPV is itself owned by a chain of companies, including Mysticarrow Limited, which is owned by Gortnaskehy Limited, which in turn is owned by some individuals and other companies.

The creation of SPVs by property speculators in such a chain is common practice, they hide their true identity and they isolate and avoid any liability that might arise.

Aidan Harte, Profit Speculator

Gortnaskehy, in the chain of companies, uses 'Freeform Plastics' on Centre Park Road as an address, the development SPV seems to have emerged from that location.

Aidan Harte is Managing Director at Freeform, and Tony Walsh was a founder – these two individuals, along with Greg McGinn (from Douglas, a long term director of Estuary View) appear to be the back bone of the Bessborough '*deal*'.

Other individuals involved include Deirdre & Kyle Harte with an address at Model Farm Road, also William Walsh of Curraheen Road, Kevin O'Donovan of Ballincollig, and Thomas Welch of Glanmire, all in Cork.

This is how SPVs and Vulture Funds do business, they operate to make super-profits and have no concern at all for communities.

The EU is Dragging us into War

Ireland took up Presidency of the EU Council in July.

The opening ceremony was attended by Zelensky, he and Taoiseach Martin were singled out in António Costa's (European Council President) opening speech, stating that EU and Ukrainian security were priorities.

The direction we are heading in was obvious from the first day.

Yes, it is confusing… but the EU has up to nine (9) 'Presidents' in different roles – a job for everyone – and making it all sound very democratic!

- Leinster House's programme for the Presidency says that *"active support for Ukraine will be a defining priority"* and that Ireland will work to ensure Ukraine has what it needs to defend itself.
- Government told Leinster House on 1 July, the first day, that continued political, humanitarian, military and financial support for Ukraine, together with sanctions against Russia, remain central EU policy.

Then, on July 14th, as France celebrated Bastille Day, we sent our army to join a massive military parade in Paris, lead by the ***'Coalition of the Willing'*** … all in support of military aid to Ukraine, and with a whole battalion of Ukrainian soldiers led by Zelensky himself.

Our Presidency has placed Ireland in the chair while the EU advances a programme involving military assistance, defence-industrial integration, sanctions and Ukrainian integration with European defence structures.

This is not the EEC or EU that we joined, it is not consistent with our status as a neutral state.

While NATO and their proxy forces feed the Russia/Ukriane war, the Big Powers of the EU continue to supply and support Zionist Israel in its genocidal wars against Palestine and Lebanon, and have supported the illegal war and sanctions against Iran.

Leinster House has committed to spending €1.7 billion on *'military capital'* between now and 2030, this is a 55% increase in budget.

The 'Triple Lock' prevents sending any more that 12 of our soldiers overseas, unless approved by (1) Government, (2) Leinster House and (3) the United Nations. This guarantees our exclusion from military alliances and the preditory wars of NATO or the EU.

Across Europe, NATO member states agreed to Trump's demand to increase military budgets to 5% of their GDP, that is a massive value increase of about €850 billion.

The world is spending huge amounts of resources on preparing for war, the arms industry is working to maximum capacity to keep up – this is a super-profit bonanza for them, and for the Banks that finance them!

Meanwhile the vast majority of humanity struggle day-to-day for the basics of life – food, shelter, education and healthcare.

When are we going to ask:

Who is deciding these policy issues? Who is prioritising spending huge money on devices to commit mass-murder over the provision of education? What is really behind the wars? Why is Leinster House determined to abandon our neutrality?

Iris an Phobail

www.cppc.ie

Uimhir #75

Mí Iúil, Lughnasa & Meán Fómhair - 2026

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Eagarfhocal

Má raibh sampla ag teastáil, nó comhartha éigean chun taispeáint dúinn cá seasann an stát agus cad iad na luachanna atá tábhacht dó, tugann cás agus tragóid Bessborough dúinn é.

I bhForógra na Poblachta i 1916 gealladh go gcoimeádfar gach leanbh an náisiúin ar chomhchéim. Gealladh gur le muintir na tíre, muidne, gach rud ar nó faoin talamh, i bhfarraige nó sa spéir – gur linne gach rud, gach acmhainn agus áis.

Nuair a ghlacamar, ar ár leas féin, Bunreacht na hÉireann, dúramar gur againn agus ar ár mhaitheas féin atá stát ann ar chur ar bith.

De réir an Bhunreachta, is le muidne, pobal na tíre, na saoránaigh, atá an focal deiridh maidir le polasaí an stáit a shocrú – ach ní mar sin a tharlaíonn sé, ní iarrann aoinne faic orainn ach chun vóta a chaitheamh gach cúpla bliain. Agus, fiú amháin ansin, nuair a thagann toghcháin ní bhíonn an deis chéanna ag an ghnáth saoránach is a bhíonn ag na Páirtithe Móra – úsáideann siad airgead poiblí chun a cás féin a chur chun tosaigh agus d'eagraíonn siad na meáin agus chuile rud eile ar a thaobh féin.

Is féidir leo é sin a dhéanamh mar is leis na buaiceanna móra airgeadais a sheasann siad, agus is ar a shon atá an stát á rialú acu – níl baint ar bith le daonlathas leis.

Is é sin an fáth go dhinneadh neamhaird agus níos measa ar leanaí i mBessborough, agus nár thugadh fiú is uaigh i gcré beannaithe dóibh, nó aitheantas d'aon saghas. Tharla an rud céanna is dTuaim agus ins na tithe eile, tharla an rud céanna i dTithe Níocháin Mhaighdiléana agus ins na Scoileanna Tionsclaíocha.

Is náir orainn go léir é seo.

Do You Like What You Are Reading?

We are building '*new media*'; that tells the truth and which informs, gives hope and courage.

We print this on paper and we also have an online edition, including regular video based reporting, if you can help with this work please contact us.

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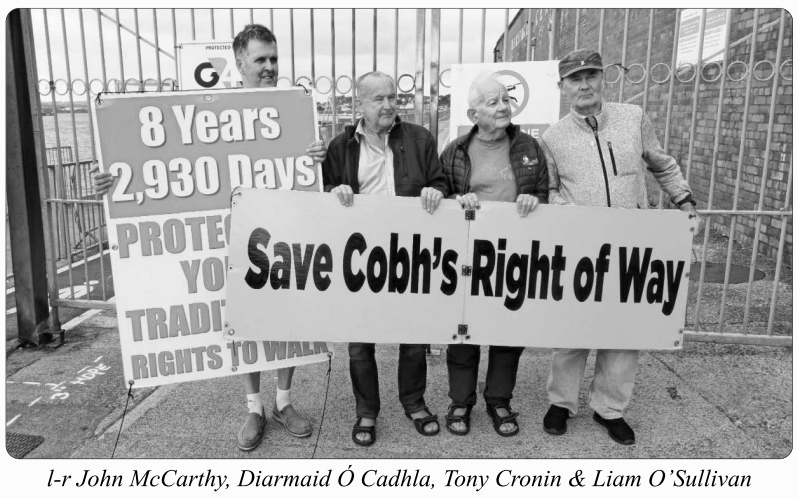
Community Wins Through Protest



l-r John McCarthy, Diarmaid Ó Cadhla, Tony Cronin & Liam O'Sullivan

The Port of Cork Company (POCC) has been stopped in their latest attempt at land-grabbing.

The *Save Cobh's Right of Way* group has won a 7 year court case, taken against them by POCC, the court has ruled that there is a public Right of Way over Deepwater Quay in Cobh.

The campaign had people out at 6am every time a Cruise Liner came in, that's about 80 times a year for the past 8 years, in order to prevent gates being locked and barriers to block the public being erected. Protestors endured bullying, name calling and even assault by rogue POCC staff and private security. In one outrageous incident, POCC staff shouted at elderly protestors, calling them *"fucking retards"* – several of the campaigners suffer disability. On several occasions Gardaí were called against protestors, once including armed detectives, but there was never cause to arrest anyone as the campaign was entirely and strictly peaceful.

POCC had sought injunctions against any member of the public who might "*trespass*" on Deepwater Quay (i.e. without permission), and they declared that the lands were PRIVATE property. Their efforts were supported by Cork County Council and by the local Chamber of Commerce, and others who *'bowed the knee'* and acted against the community.

In contrast to the snobbish *blue-shirt* types, thousands of ordinary people supported the campaign and rejected the corporate dictate, including those coming in on the Cruise Liners.

Deepwater Quay is where the liners berth, POCC generate up to €20 million annually but there is no contribution to the local community – some local restaurants sell a few extra cups of coffee, but that's all.

Campaigners have never objected to the liners, but they have insisted that the Right of Way be kept open without hindrance, it has existed since the 1850s.

In their statement (see www.CobhRightOfWay.net) the group once again calls on the Council to do it's duty and ensure that the Right of Way is registered and included in the next County Development Plan.

The matter is up for mention in Cork Circuit Court again on Oct 7th, where the judge will issue a formal Declaration confirming the Right of Way, with a map showing its extent.

Members of the public are invited to attend and help celebrate this significant victory for the community.

We are sure that without the public protest this issue would never have been resolved, and that Deepwater Quay would now be private property.

People should have courage!

Sticking To Our Guns!

Our editor, Diarmaid Ó Cadhla, was arrested for protesting the presence of HMS Enterprise in Cork city in June 2022, he was held overnight by Gardaí and brought to court the following morning.

In April 2021 Ó Cadhla was arrested for displaying a banner to *'End the Lockdown'* on St Patrick's Bridge and not following the instructions of a Garda.

Both cases were finalised in Cork Circuit Court in July and Ó Cadhla was told that he *"had no case to answer"* for either incident.

Already the cases had been before District and Circuit Courts, and the High Court (for Irish language issues) on 62 separate occasions (itself an abuse of process).

Throughout the hearings, the state was accused of destroying evidence and deliberately misdirecting the court on points of law – implying that several Gardaí had committing perjury, and that the state attorney himself had told lies.

We believe that the state did not want to have the evidence implicating itself revealed in court, and that this was why their witnesses *'failed to turn up'* and why they messed up the paperwork, knowing that there could be no hearing as result.

Either way, a victory is a victory.

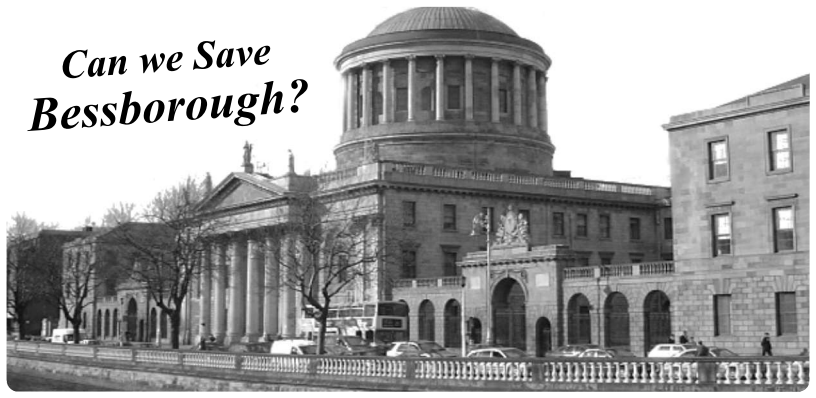
The final hearing shows that it is possible to win, fundamental and constitutional rights are important, if we yield them they will be gone forever. Bullies should not be tolerated, just because they wear a uniform or a bat-man cloak and wig in court doesn't mean they are better than anyone else.

When right is on our side we should *'stick to our guns'*, even if sometimes it appears that we lost.

As PH Pearse said while awaiting execution and considering the result of the 1916 Rising:

"To refuse to fight would have been to lose; to fight is to win."

Can we Save Bessborough?



Some have called for a case to be taken to the High Court

An Coimisiún Pleanála has upheld the grant of Permission by Cork City Council for the development of 106 apartments at Bessborough.

Thousands of relatives and friends of those who survived are outraged. Families feel they have been ignored, their voice wasn't heard, witnesses were not heard.

An Coimisiún Pleanála denied a public hearing as part of their process - yet the whole community is concerned about this issue.

Since then, An Taoiseach has said that Government would back City Hall in their talks with the developers (Estuary View) regarding purchase of the site.

The same commitment was made when campaigners met the Taoiseach recently.

Now that Planning has been granted wouldn't Estuary View be delighted to cream off a huge profit, and Taoiseach Martin is willing to pay them.

It seems that Martin doesn't understand the power that lies behind being Taoiseach, or maybe he'd prefer to just pay the speculators - are they buddies?

There has been calls to challenge the decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála by taking a case for Judicial Review to the High Court, generally, such a challenge would have to be lodged within 3 months of the decision.

The decision making of any public body may be challenged by Judicial Review, to ensure that it was based on legality and that it followed the required process.

Potentially, the High Court could order An Coimisiún to re-consider their decision, or it could order a full new hearing.

Reasons why an application for Judicial Review might succeed include…. that An Coimisiún did not hear all the relevant evidence.

For example the *Commission of Investigation into the Mother and Baby Homes* report excluded extensive witness testimony, it deleted audio reports and it placed the original materials into a sealed archive, hidden away for 30 years.

This material should have been consider by An Coimisiún, to not do so is surely a violation of fair and due process.

The Commission had said that it is *"highly likely"* that missing infants (859?) are buried on the grounds – that makes it a crime scene. If the site is bulldozed it will compromise any evidence that Gardaí might find when they investigate – shamefully they have not done so to date!

If the site is bulldozed, it will desecrate the graves of so many children who are likely buried there, it will be a further abuse on what was already a tortured life – this would or should constitute a crime in itself and should never have been allowed.

That there was no public hearing has denied a voice to thousands of relatives and local community members, who are legitimate stakeholders and have real evidence to offer, this was a denial of fair and due process.

A living witness, a local man named Pat Mulcahy (now 89), claims to have seen an open grave in Bessborough holding the bodies of multiple children, his evidence was not heard by either An Coimisiún or, we presume, by Gardaí.

A proper Judicial Review is required to expose the facts surrounding Bessborough.

Such exposure should lead to a successful reversal of the Planning Decision – then leaving the greedy property speculators to carry a loss!

The campaign continues, this paper is 100% in support of it, let's respect the victims.

Not Even Our Rivers Run Free!

The levels of fresh water pollution in Ireland appear are at disaster level. The table below shows the significant fish kills reported so far this year. A similar pattern exists for 2025, but those figures went higher due to the massive kill on the Blackwater where about 40,000 fish were killed – and nobody has been blamed.

Neither Inland Fisheries nor the EPA nor the Councils seem capable (or willing?) to prevent it.

Without doubt, intensive agriculture with runoff from chemical fertilisers (including the cancerous Glyphosate) is a major cause; likewise both agricultural and industrial discharge directly into waterways is a cause.

Runoff from agriculture puts excessive nutrients into the water, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, this encourages plant growth which reduces oxygen for fish. This is a particular problem during the summer months when naturally higher water temperature itself causes reduced oxygen - this is when 90% of the fish kills occur.

Location	Fish Killed	Main species
River Glyde (Aclint Bridge to Lynns Weir)	20,000	Atlantic salmon, eel, brown trout, pike, minnow, coarse fish
River Rye / Rye Water near Maynooth	500	Trout, lamprey, stone loach, minnow, gudgeon
Tributary of Dunkellin River, east Galway	120	Salmon, trout, perch, stone loach, stickleback, lamprey
Cavan Town River	7,500	Brown trout, European eel, roach, lamprey, minnow; freshwater crayfish
River Tolka near Damastown	500	Brown trout, eel, stickleback, lamprey, minnow
Boycetown River, tributary of Boyne, Trim	900	Brown trout; small number of stickleback
Tributary of Moynalty River north of Kells	500	Brown trout

H-BLOCK
HUNGER STRIKE

COMMEMORATION
Sunday 30th August
Assemble 2pm, Garden of Remembrance, Dublin

HOSTED BY :
Independent Republicans
National Commemoration Committee

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

An Gorta Mór
Memorial Ceremony
2pm Sunday 13th Sept.

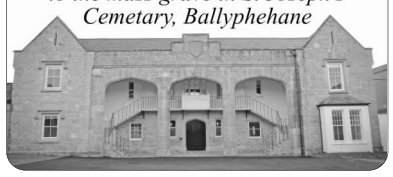
30,000 are buried here, in a mass grave.

Reilig na Naomh Uile
Carr's Hill, Cork
(All Saints Cemetary)

They died needlessly in the Genocide of the 1840's (the 'Famine')

Annual Memorial Walk
for the victims of
An Gorta Mór
2pm Sunday 1st November
meet opposite TESCO Express on Douglas Road, Cork city

A short walk from the site of Cork's Famine Workhouse (now St Finbarr's Hospital) to the mass grave in St Joseph's Cemetary, Ballyphehane



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POLITICS BLOG
ERIN GO BRAGH
www.thefuture.ie
holds nearly 15 years archive of articles & video reports
YouTube/@GraTire

Giving Voice to the People
Corruption Awareness Ireland

on facebook
On-the-spot video reporting ...

Information Stall
'Housing Action Group'
every Saturday 1pm to 3pm
outside Dunnes, St Patrick's St.
CORK CITY
Demanding that Government setup a National Emergency Committee on Housing & Homelessness
www.HousingRights.ie