

# Socialist Worker

## The building sharks can be beaten!

# St Ultans: STOP THE EVICTIONS

The Fight at St Ultans shows that greedy landlords and developers can be taken on.

Huge profits have been made over the last number of years by developers and speculators building hotels, offices and hugely expensive private apartments.

But while cranes dot the skyline the housing situation has actually got worse for working class people.

The government has all but stopped building local authority housing.

The waiting list for public housing is now over 50,000 nationally. Fewer local authority houses have been built in the last ten years than were built in any one year in the 1970's.

This has driven many more thousands of people into the private rented sector where landlords can charge

huge rents because they know there is a massive shortage of accommodation.

The payments to politicians scandals make clear that many politicians have been bribed to serve the interests of the speculators and developers and line their own pockets at the expense of working class people.

In Dublin the main parties seem bent on collaborating with developers to drive working class people out of the city centre altogether and turn it into a yuppie paradise.

Parties like Labour have proposed that developers should be forced to include a proportion of cheap "social housing" with each development. This is a fantasy.

Greedy builders and developers are only interested in profit and will never help provide affordable housing for ordinary people.

The only answer to the housing crisis is for the government to start a massive programme of local authority housing.

They should also cease immediately the practice of selling off publicly owned land into private hands.

This is why the fight at St Ultans is so important.

Housing is a right not a privilege.

The residents of Charlemont St are showing us how to fight for that right.

Everyone who wants to see a society where people are put before profits should support this struggle.

The residents of St Ultans Flats on Charlemont St have been fighting a tremendous campaign for several days now against plans by their landlords to evict them and demolish the flats.

Karl Byrne was to be evicted on Monday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Brigid Cooney is under a similar threat, the landlord having refused to accept rent from her for several months.

Essie Keeling and Bernard Skillen, the two other residents won the right to lifetime tenancy a number of years ago but there are fears that the

landlord Thomas Mc Philly would try to drive them out if he succeeded in evicting Karl and Brigid.

However, Essie, Brigid, Karl and Bernard, are determined to resist the evictions to the last.

Essie told *Socialist Worker* "This is my home and I am not going anywhere. They can do what they like but I'm staying here."

The residents and the Housing Action Campaign, who helped organise the protest, are demanding that the St Ultans complex is bought out by Dublin Corporation using a compulsory purchase order and

**STOP EVICTIONS AT ST ULTANS**  
Lobby Dublin Corporation to take flats into public ownership  
Monday 21 June 6.15pm Civic Museum  
South William St  
Called by the Housing Action Campaign

are calling on councillors to support an emergency resolution on the issue at the first meeting of the corporation this coming Monday.

The protesters are main-

taining around the clock pickets of St Ultans to prevent any attempt by bailiffs to carry out the eviction. The pickets have been supported enthusiastically by the residents and community association in the adjoining Tom Kelly Flats and Charlemont St with many protesters also coming from other areas in the city.

At a public meeting of protesters and local residents it was decided to organise a major lobby of the corporation meeting to back up their demands. The Lobby will take place at the Civic Museum, South William St, at 6.15pm on Monday. The meeting also decided to organise regular mass pickets and are calling for solidarity from workers and communities across the city.

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I want to receive *Socialist Worker* regularly

**Socialist Worker Branch Meetings**  
Tom Kelly Community Centre every Thursday 8.30pm  
Thursday 17th  
The Case for Socialism, speaker Brid Smith  
Thursday 24th June: Can workers run society  
All welcome