

1974

Proposed Office Development in Ranelagh : Press Release

Sinn Fein

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Press Release from Pearse Cumann, Sinn Fein, 18 Ranelagh Rd. Dublin 6
re proposed office development in Ranelagh.

Another step away from solution of the housing crisis has been made with the recent announcement that 42,000 sq ft. of land is to be covered by yet another office block in a city of the homeless. This proposed development which will be behind Ontario Tee. Ranelagh will represent the major encroachment by commercial and business interests upon the residential character of Ranelagh, an area which under the Corporation Development Plan for Dublin is still zoned for residential use.

It is a mystery how Dublin Corporation, a body which proclaims itself to be interested in providing accommodation for working class people, starved of decent and cheap accommodation through the uncontrolled activities of speculators, can at the same time permit the building of an office block on a site which is eminently suited for the building of a block of flats or of lower density housing, and in an area which the Corporation itself has designated as residential in its own development plans.

It is an even greater mystery how the corporation can justify this action while approx. 100 yds away lies Mt. Pleasant Buildings which is an affront to the self respect and dignity and an even more positive danger to the physical and mental well being of those who through deliberate Corporation policy, are forced to live there.

It has been estimated by an independent architect that the site in question would accommodate one block of flats similar to those the Corporation has built in Charlemont St. or a terrace of 8 houses.

Pearse Cumann of Sinn Fein wishes to pose the following questions to the planning officials of Dublin Corporation-

- 1) Why has Dublin Corporation not investigated the feasibility of using this site itself to provide much needed housing?
- 2) Why has it granted planning permission to a private group of speculators for business purposes in a residential zoned area?

One can only assume that the profits of Mordel Investmenst Ltd. which has strong links with Mr. Gerald Jones, close friend of Mr. Neil Blaney are more important in the eyes of Dublin Corporation than the rights of the homeless of this city to good housing.

There is only one way open for the Corporation to act, if it is not to make a complete mockery of its avowed function to provide working class housing and that is to acquire this site by compulsory purchase order for the agricultural value of this land and use it to build housing so desperately needed by the tenants of Mt. Pleasant Buildings and the many other homeless families of Dublin.

Signed;

Diarmuid Daly,

P.R.O. Pearse Cumann.