

1. Bernard McGlynn

This is a very progressive document that I see gaining a lot of support, I do have one thing to offer for your consideration, "Right2Jobs & Decent Work",

As I don't believe it is possible to have full employment, due in a large part to modern work practices, machines have made it so one man can do the work of many, therefore there will be many that can't find paid employment, thus it would in my opinion be a good idea to give each citizen from birth till death a monetary subsistence with no strings attached, no means test, no requirement to be unemployed, or unable to work, in order to get enough money to feed yourself and provide shelter for yourself, any and all income earned could then be taxed to pay for this, If this were done it would benefit society in a number of ways, first it should free up a lot of people stuck on the welfare trap,(those who can't work as they'd lose the dole/benefits that they need to survive,) would be free to go out and be productive even if it wasn't profitable they could afford to do so because they would have food and shelter covered! it would also free up a lot of public resources currently being tied up means testing thousands of people who have nothing worth counting, to see if they should receive welfare, there would be no need for social welfare at all, or children's allowance, or old age pensions, or disability/sick pay, this in my opinion would be the ultimate equaliser in society!

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2. Conor Madden

I couldn't make the first meeting, there are loads of great ideas and no doubt more to come, this is the biggest question I have about the policy document: How do we pay for it?

A part of the answer is legalising cannabis. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/19/benefits-legalizing-weed-by-the-numbers_n_5173785.html

Instead of the US model though where the government sell licenses and get tax, the Irish model should be owned and operated by the Irish government. The state becomes the biggest exporter of cannabis and cannabis based medicine in the world. We get all profits.

(In my opinion, all drugs currently illegal should be regulated, quality controlled and sold only by the government. Reasoning is, why should global criminal networks be gifted billions by myopic and dangerous drug policy, give the profits to the nurses, firefighters, kids, squirrels etc.)

Think about the money we'd save, courts police and HSE etc. and all that we'd gain through profits. Look at Portugal, ten years ago they decriminalized all drugs, they're still illegal but you don't go to jail if you're caught. Since then Portugal have halved their heroin addict numbers. Prohibition does not work.

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3. Eamonn Freeman

I have been involved and active on the ground since the introduction of the bank bailouts and all that has come with it! The way I see things is our system is set up to benefit the insiders at the expense of the majority of the people!

1. We need a Constitutional change that guarantees all of our natural resources for all the people of our Island.
2. We have to be able to hold Governments accountable when they are in direct conflict with the majority of people in the Country by referendum by implementing in our constitution the right to call one for major decisions that affect us all and the direction our Country is taking with full disclosure at all times.
3. We need serious changes with our justice system and the appointment of judges. As is already stated in our constitution we are all equal in the eyes of the law, but as many citizen's that had to go through the justice system will confirm this is far from true.
4. We need to take back control of running our Country for the benefit of all our people, and put the question to the people about cutting the chains that are controlling and restraining us from using our many opportunities to providing Quality food and by this creating many job opportunities! This will be made all the more possible by securing our natural resources in the control of the people, and hence we can build a sustainable and more equal society that we all can be proud of and determined to pull together!

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4. Pat Waine

I am Chairman of a group called "Greenhills United Against Water Charges" We organise the Anti Water charges Campaign in Greenhills Dublin 12. The views I express here are my personal early views on your Doc with the above heading.

Democratic Input and a left policy platform are key to any new initiative coming out of the Water charges movement

The recent initiative by "Right 2 Water" could represent a real move to form a fighting working class alternative to the right wing parties that have dominated Irish political life for decades. However a conference of handpicked people who were deemed to "represent" us all was a poor attempt to start off the initiative. The Union leadership within "Right to water" invited the three pillars along on May Day. The unions involved had their representatives. The Political parties who support R2W had their representatives. The community sector including water charges campaigns had their "representatives".

The local water charges campaigns had no input into who represented them at this conference , It could be argued that the unions and the political parties were at least able to select who represented their organisations at the conference but local water charges campaigns were not given that opportunity.

Democracy

Democratic input is vital as is a democratic structure in any political initiative if we hope to build a mass movement out of it. The key question that all activists should ask about the democracy in this initiative is. Should the water charges campaigns select who represents them? The answer is clearly yes. We as a movement need to see more democracy brought into the decision making mechanism if our movement is to thrive. Hopefully for the second conference this will be corrected.

Need for left initiative

Before deciding on a political policy platform I think that it is vital that we start at the beginning. We need first to agree what brought us to where we are and then set about fixing it. In Ireland since the formation of the state we have been governed by right wing free market economics. The main parties of established Ireland have opened the economy to spivs and speculators both national and international and these have fed off our people and our national resources .Witness how shell was treated in Ireland and how nearly all our national utilities are now in private hands. The recent move by Government with regard to the transport service is a continuation of that privatisation policy. We must clearly stand against that philosophy of Neo liberalism. No to Privatisation and no to the neo liberal agenda!

Water Charges

We should all support the scrapping of Irish water and water charges but we must also clearly call for non-payment if that movement is to succeed in achieving our goals. No Government will take any of our demands seriously if we cannot deliver a mass boycott of the water bills. Holding a conference based around the water charges campaign without making a call for people not to pay the water bills is an incredible mistake by our movement.

Wages and Workers rights

We should ensure that under any Government supported by our movement that workers are treated fairly with not just a statutory minimum wage but a living wage. To assist workers achieving this we need to remove Industrial relations law that prohibits effective industrial action. We only have to look at the recent dispute at Greyhound where the unionised workers would still be standing outside their place of employment if they had remained within the strict Industrial relations law. We demand that the industrial relations act be repealed to ensure that workers have a right to effectively defend their living and working conditions.

Housing and building in Ireland

We should demand a mass campaign of house building by the state to clear the housing list and provide employment to building workers also. We should also address the need to change the building regulations to have water harvesting and conservation mechanisms included by law. These were also demands we made way back in the original water charges campaign in the 1990's. We need also to address the price of land and initiate law to cut across land speculation which was one of the drivers in the property bubble that later crashed our economy.

Health services

All health services should be provided free at the point of use including GP services. Nowhere in the public services is it more clear where private operators are lining their pockets out of human misery than in our health service/and related areas.

The "Voluntary" health Insurance scam should be made voluntary i.e. in private hospitals and should not be included in our public services. All should be able to access services based on medical need and no other criteria.

Police services

Our police service should be democratically controlled and really answerable to public scrutiny. Structures should be put in place to ensure that this is the case and that local communities decide the policing that is enacted in their areas.

Politics and coalitions

We should clearly set ourselves to the left of the political spectrum. Not for any macho reasons but because we believe in left economic solutions. The right have failed the Irish people, the middle have moved to the right. We have to give people a clear perspective for change. Change that can answer the needs of the people and show a way out of the mess that is Ireland today. I believe that a movement showing a left perspective would achieve a huge response from working people if it was backed up by unions and fought for in a real way within the working class. I believe that any movement we support should refuse entry into any coalition with the parties of the right .This should be fundamental to our thinking and guard against the mistakes made by Labour down through the decades.

Wealth tax

A wealth tax should be introduced and a cap imposed on Corporation tax that ensures that we at a very minimum achieve full compliance with any rate that we decide on. By this I mean if we have a corporation tax at 18% all pay 18%.

Conclusion

These are my early views and I have tried to cover some of the issues covered in the Document by Right 2 Water "Policy Principles for a progressive Irish Government". The fundamentals for me are that we should have a democratic forum to debate the way forward that includes the campaigns nominating delegates going forward etc. That we clearly map out a left perspective opposing the rule of the parties of the right, ruling out coalitions ,defending workers' rights and supporting people with a progressive taxation system that ensures all pay according to their means.

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5. Patricia O'Leary

I write to you at this time and prior to the R2W Conference due to take place soon, to ask that you give community and political members of this campaign an undertaking that you will ballot your members for strike action should our government pass the water charges over to Revenue for collection by deduction from peoples' wages and salaries.

I, like many others, have become politicised in recent years over the crushing austerity taxes being imposed on the ordinary people of Ireland and I cannot tell you how impressed I was when I heard that your Union came on board with the R2W Ireland campaign. Unfortunately the CAHWT failed to stop the Local Property Tax being implemented because the government passed it over to Revenue for collection and people no longer had any form of resistance against such a move. Now we are in a different position with the R2W campaign, we have a number of Unions involved which gives us additional strength in our fight against the water charges. I appeal to you and all Union members involved in the R2W campaign to set the tone very clearly for the government and let them know that this campaign means exactly what it says. There will be no more austerity taxes deducted from the wages of the hard working people of Ireland to support the privatization of our water for private enterprise and ultimately big corporate interest at the behest of crony politics in Ireland and Europe. I call on you, to say very clearly, that if the government draws this line in the sand, that the Unions will collectively respond in an unprecedented united manner in an endeavour to break this unholy war being declared on working people.

With regard to the expansion of the Right2Water Campaign being extended into a Policy Principles Document for Government, I would hope that this expansion will not over-ride the R2W Campaign for the purpose that it was initiated and intended to serve. The issue of water charges alone has succeeded in bringing hundreds of thousands of people out on the streets and we must not lose that momentum. The expansion sounds like a political manifesto of a political party and a great one at that but I think it should run simultaneously and separately to the R2W Campaign. A campaign has the advantage of bringing together people from all political parties and none whilst the extension of R2W as a political entity would allow those who wish to pursue the full agenda an opportunity to do so. A perceived political party such as Right2Water Trade Unions Party will lose people who believe that they want to remain largely non-political. It happened with CAHWT when it was driven down the political party road, the campaign split and people fell away. The current objective needs careful consideration and maybe you could advise if it has consensus from the Community and Political entities of R2W.

May I suggest that you add the matter of TTIP to the Policy Principles Document and the spurious ISDS courts that will facilitate corporate capitalism at the alarming expense of governments, countries and people. TTIP must be halted as a matter of urgency and it will take as much collective energy that we can muster to resist it.

Finally, I wish to thank you all for your hard work to date and hope that the success of R2W Ireland will continue in a collective united front of Community, Political and Unions who simply want an end to unbearable austerity.

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6. Rónán Ó Dálaigh

I'm affiliated to the Clondalkin Meter Watch group.

One quick thought on the 'Policy Principles for a Progressive Irish Government' discussion documented circulated recently. It's excellent. A human rights focus is very powerful and is the right approach to social change.

However, it's missing one crucial element: a focus on our culture and language. The promotion of our language and culture should form a key pillar in any large-scale social movement. In every revolution the Irish language inspired the leaders and movement. We need to allow the renewal of our language and culture to inspire us now.

Some solid proposals:

- Form a cultural committee the aim of which would be to promote Gaeilge in all documents and communications published by Right2Water. It would come up with ways of promoting Gaeilge as well as translating other communications.
- Include 'Right2Culture' as another pillar. There are dozens of reports that state the importance of language and culture as a human right, from the UN and UNESCO to Human Rights Watch etc. etc.
- Bring Conradh na Gaeilge on board as a partner in the Right2 movement. Or at least meet with them at the highest levels to get their advice and opinions on including Gaeilge and Irish culture in the movement.
- Start using more Irish through the Right2Water online presence: website and Facebook. Put out a call on Facebook and Twitter and do a press release, calling for Irish language activists to become involved in the campaign: writing articles, translating Facebook posts etc.
- Publish a survey, online, to gauge whether or not supporters of the Right2Water movement would like to see Right2Water using more Irish. Use the inevitable positive results as a means for getting investment and further support for the Irish language.

Ní neart go cur le chéile. Ná bímís faoi dabht ar bith: baineann inspioráid domhain agus cumhachtach leis an Ghaeilge. Más féidir linn úsáid a bhaint as an bpoitéinsiúil sin beidh sé chun tairbhe an ghluaiseacht!

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7. Anonymous

End the 'War On Drugs' starting with the Regulation of Cannabis. The vast majority of 'drug' use is non-problematic. The greatest harms caused by 'drugs' arise from their prohibition. This is really a war on people. The laws against Cannabis are fraudulent - brought into being and maintained by corrupt Big Business.

Vested interests cause the suffering of millions of people by denying them access to this plant. Cannabis may have cured my deceased parents' cancers, or at least helped them better-endure chemotherapy. I have a neighbour with Parkinson's disease. The pharmaceuticals he is on do not work well for him and have deleterious side effects. The right variety of Cannabis would improve the quality of what remains of his life.

Cannabis Is Safer Than Alcohol - for users and society. Otherwise law-abiding citizens are marginalised, ostracised and criminalised. People are unjustly imprisoned. This is not a crime as there are NO VICTIMS.

Regulated Cannabis will create 'Green Sustainable Jobs', boost tourism, the economy.

8. Conor Hoey

There should be policy in place that makes each party legally bound to their party promises when going around campaigning. I cannot trust a word out of most politicians. To make election more credible and encourage people to vote this is necessary. Too many lies and broken promises are made by politicians to get elected.

Just a suggestion and hope you agree and take it on-board. Good luck with everything.

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9. Barrett

We need to enshrine all our natural resources in our constitution to take back our gas and oil. Also we need some rethink how much control the EU has in our country. Also our fishing rights needs to be addressed. The debt must die not restructure. More national control over banks and their lending abilities. Think Iceland are doing something like this.

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10. Glenn Fitzpatrick

Right2Education (Third Level)

Higher Education is starved of investment. Students live it every day. Grants and hardship funds are at skeletal levels, frontline student services are under-staffed and under-resourced and library hours aren't flexible enough. Staff numbers are down, affecting the quality of education and casualised labour is on the rise.

The policy direction of Higher Education needs to reflect the needs of society. Currently, employers enjoy a cosy relationship with HE providers and policy makers. The lobbying strength of the IUA and IBEC threatens to neo-liberalise Higher Education even further, as they call for higher student fees, less regulation by the state and demand more flexibility from lecturers. They would have you believe that there is no alternative to this. In reality, what is needed is a re-democratisation of Higher Education. Tuition fees were abolished in Germany in 2014. This was a political decision, not an economic one. Opponents of higher education as a public good argued for higher fees even when times were supposedly good. We are in an era of managerialism. Management teams are in no meaningful way accountable to their staff or student bodies. There is currently a student revolt across parts of the UK.

The NERI paper titled 'We Need to Talk About Higher Education' goes to great lengths to articulate a means of achieving a fit for purpose system, outlining how if we gradually increase our percentage of GDP over a period of a number of years, we could eradicate student fees. Some counties have

also attached a levy to multinationals who naturally benefit from a highly educated workforce while others have ring-fenced a small part of their corporation tax.

The return on investment socially and economically makes every penny we spend on education worth it.

Other notes on Right2Education

- More strides needed towards secular education.
- An end to Section 37 and other forms of workplace discrimination.
- A gradual phasing out of the public contributions made to private schools.

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11. Frank Burke

Could you please put the pyrite problem on the agenda as you are probably aware there is only compensation if you are at stage 2. Prevention is always better than the cure so if there was a fund set up to deal with all pyrite problems it would be very beneficial to those people and it would create jobs. Another issue is the svr mortgages there are around 500000 voters involved in this rip off so again you could propose legislation to stop this rip off

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12. Sharon Sutton

I really like all that I read in the documentation. However, I don't remember seeing anything about trying to take back for the people some of the natural resources given away by Ray Burke, for example the gas fields off the West.

Also, is R2W in favour of Ireland remaining in the EU, would they hold a referendum on the subject? Thanks to quotas etc. the fishing industry is struggling here. If able to fish our own waters, we'd be able to have a thriving industry making billions. I believe as a country we can stand on our own two feet if everyone supposed to pay tax i.e. Google, private individuals etc. pays tax in a progressive regime.

Regardless of the above, R2W has my full support and I'm delighted the Unions involved are taking initiative in this

13. Cillian Doyle

Just wanted to give my two cents on the request for submissions for the Policy Principles for a Progressive Irish Government. There's a lot of good stuff in there, and nothing any of the political parties, community grouping or independents should find objectionable (here's hoping). With regard to the area of housing I just wanted to say a few things. In the area of planning we should look to have new type of land zoned, one that focuses on long-term (life) rental and tries to move away from the notion that ownership of housing is the be all and end all. A new state body should be established to carry out this. Pension funds could be used to finance such developments, as is often the case in other countries. In fact Irish pension funds regularly invest in such projects abroad, but

rarely here on home soil. They should be encouraged to do so. For reasons of sustainability, cost effectiveness and efficiency timber-frame housing should be the priority. Utilising Coillte - the state forestry company - surely some kind of arrangement could be reached for the mass supply of base materials for such a project. Finally the cost for renting such a unit should be a significant percentage lower than current market rates. This would make rent affordable for those living there, and simultaneously help to stop the profiteering currently taking place in the private rental market by reducing rates as the result of competition from a vibrant state rental sector. This would be an environmentally friendly way to achieve our aims (ending housing crisis), as well as giving jobs to our many unemployed construction workers a boost to indigenous semi-state companies like Coillte.

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14. JF

I am a post-primary teacher in () and I also lecture part-time on Educational Assessment in TCD. I am very encouraged by the Policy Principles document but in my opinion there is a glaring omission in the 3 basic priorities of the Education principles.

Priority 3 states: "Investment in early childhood education should be provided in line with a progressive childcare policy which would facilitate the option for parents to enter the workforce."

There should also be "the option for parents to LEAVE the workforce" (i.e. request part-time/flexible hours & extended leave for significant amounts of time) in order to allow for flexibility where parents can share responsibility for caring for their own children, in particular in the early years. In terms of mental and emotional development there is no substitute for positive parental input. As is enshrined in the Irish Constitution, the parents are the primary educators of the child and their presence & input and equally lack thereof, is pivotal in the education of the child. Education in its holistic sense starts from the day a child is born. The policy should be seen to embrace this and not only education in its formal sense.

Otherwise I felt the 'priority' above felt rather like an 'employment' priority in terms of creating opportunities for parents to go back to work.

Thank you for all your hard work, I am a full supporter of Right2Water and will not be paying my bill.

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15. Brian McCarthy

PROBLEMS2SOLUTIONS a work in progress

1) PROBLEMS

*Empty Houses Ireland +350,000 +17% of our housing stock (Europe*11m homes lie empty)

*Social Housing Waiting Lists +112,000

Mortgage Arrears~ Unknown but at least 140,000 with 70% of them in arrears of over 2 years. (Grandparents and parents guaranteed loans also)

Social Housing Rent Arrears

Dublin council is owed more than €23 million in arrears, by more than 14,000 households, according to figures presented at the council's housing committee. 8th Dec 2014

On average, 3.2% of local authority homes, more than 4,000, are empty, around 75% of them awaiting repairs before they can be offered to a new tenant.

It takes an average of more than six months to get them repaired and re-let with some authorities taking over a year

*In Court System + 30,000

Banks/Court Repossessing homes and leaving empty for in excess of two years.

The current epidemic of repossessions by Banks is to claim insurance on mortgages.

To name one of the worst candidates for being uncooperative (all banks similar) to their customers who they have a duty of care to are PTSB. Bailed out by the same people and taxpayers who they are now dragging through courts with expensive solicitors and barristers who if they agree to voluntary sale or are evicted they again become a tax payer's problem.

90,000 households are in housing requirement need. Most of these are private rented accommodation subjected to rapid rent increases and the introduction rent caps by D.O.S.W means over half in receipt of rent allowance have to top up their rent to avail of housing owned by landlords.

At least 41 TDs are landlords and to name a few with vested interest who do not want solutions; Alan Shatter 14 Tom Barry 10 John McGuinness 8. Also see Property Management Co.'s on Ministers and TDs declared interests.

Who's Buying Ireland?

A total of 22,119 mortgages to a value of €3.9bn were drawn down in 2014 while Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government data show that in 1976 the total number of mortgages paid was 22,051.

Just under half of all homes purchased in Ireland last year – 20,365 in total – were bought for cash. Property website MyHome.ie said this means that on average of 55 houses a day were being bought for cash throughout 2014.

Two teachers in full-time employment with savings of €60,000 unable to borrow for a €240,000 home(Thank God) but it begs the questions who is creating the property bubble in Dublin where they were hopeful of purchasing. If the banks are not lending to working professionals with savings who is buying all the houses? Corporate vulture capitalist banks are the answer similar to those purchasing the NAMA properties. (See NAMA document)

Who is benefitting

* funnelling over €600 million annually to private landlords in leasing schemes

* Loopholes in the law allow landlords to remove tenants from their homes and then re-advertise the same properties at substantially higher rents

If the system does not learn from the past we will re-create the environment for developers and sellers as commentators constantly identify and promote the ideal of a lack of housing as their main concern currently

7,000 social houses built in 2008 in comparison to 750 in 2013 and funding for social housing cut from over €1.5 Billion-€500 Million in 2014

Identify the vested interests creating the 'property bubble' way beyond reality in order to pump up prices if the banks are not lending. The media along with the analysis of property economists are a problem as they themselves work for institutions and have a direct interest in rising property prices such as banks, mortgage brokers and stockbrokers.

Continuing current policy will only worsen the housing crisis and condemn further generations to homelessness, poverty and continue to enslave by mortgage debt.

2) SOLUTIONS

A huge increase in public affordable rental property is required without external influences and vested interests.

A full evaluation of property and write-down of value nationwide to serve purpose as banks contracts/creation of money/securitisation/POA/Original Document penalties are enforced.

Remove the fate of the housing crisis which has been left to politics, government, speculative investors, capital investment companies (arms of banks); the corrupt NAMA fuelling the new bubble (36,000 units) almost all currently have vested interest not social interests at heart.

Legislation to change NAMA residential and unfinished developments into a non-commercial social housing agency using property for housing needs.

Growth in communities of rural Ireland by identifying all empty houses and condition of the same (Jobseekers with experience/3rd Level Students Transition. With options to re-house by choice out of urban to remote areas with homes that are regenerated and maintained as rent-buy-exchanges for existing owned/social housing.(quality of life/rural job co-op creation/urban rural growth/markets programmes/tourism)

Perspective rising property prices and rents affects competitiveness and is 'wasted' money removed completely from the domestic economy. Radical steps to address housing through systemic policy that will eliminate successive governments inaction, putting housing requirements before profiteering, rent controls, write-downs and moving towards more public rental accommodation than the usual and accepted.

Temporary legislation could be introduced a temporary basis where residential property can only be bought as a primary residence restricting speculative investment in property that should be first available as a home for those who need it.

Security for long term tenants in addition to rent regulations would help to improve standards of housing and create long term benefits and housing options.

Rent control caps and long term contracts favouring tenants instead of the elite (Rent Allowance costing the State Annually) but with a view to moving from private rental to social housing long term by re-investment upon assets gained.

Vulture Capitalists who are buying property portfolios for 15-25% of what mortgage holder's actual loan value is to be bought by individual mortgage holders and local authority with a view to an agreed percentage of 10%-20% on top of new purchase price and reinvestment of gain to further a sustainable long term local and national social housing programme.

Capital gains to be removed where derelict houses could be purchased by agreement with the local authority then redeveloped/refurbished by County Taskforces created from Jobseekers with experience (not Jobsbridge). Rental to repay cost of refurbishment and capital investment with option of rent-buy plus 25% over time. Reinvestment of gain to further a sustainable long term local and national social housing programme.

Offer Properties-Properties in need of refurbishment by owners without funding to be regenerated by the County Taskforces with investment plus 20% regained in time by fair rental and repayment scheme with again a view by agreement rent to buy or rent cap for 10 year agreed period securing tenant and affordable rent.

Large Nama & Derelict Properties-Renovated by Taskforce/Community Projects. (Students live projects)

Re-Generate Taxpayer Funded/Owned Buildings (e.g. St.Finians Killarney-see St.Finians Health & Wellness Project Ballyvourney Colaiste Iosagáin-Colaiste-Colaiste Ide Dingle)

Retirement Villages created instead of land grab (un)Fair Deal. Current property to Social Housing in exchange for lifelong retirement property plus safety & care and allowances to value to be paid over time. Family Home-No capital gains on exchanged property plus value.

Homelessness; Retreat Centres combined with self-sustainable projects on site. The "housing first" approach involves moving long-term street homeless individuals — the majority of whom are living with mental illness, substance abuse disorders and other serious health problems — directly into subsidised housing and then linking them to support services, either on-site or in the community. Research studies have found that the majority of long-term street homeless people moved into "housing first" apartments remain stably housed and experience significant improvements in their health problems. Much like permanent supportive housing, the "housing first" approach is far less costly than emergency and institutional care, such as shelters, hospitals and correctional facilities. Gentleness-Nurture-Growth-Re~Introduction to a different world-

Students Live Projects 3rd/4th Year-Sustainable Housing Projects and Solutions-Life Skills & Focus Work Experience--Energy Efficiency-Transition Year can create an extra gap in volume entering the jobs market.

Derelict property Tenant Refurbishment Reward; Rent/Long Term Agreement/Option to purchase.

Outline works required-costing-long term tenants with required skills and back up rewarded by low rental for endeavour.

*Financial Transaction Tax introduced with 10% for direct action social housing investment.

*Corporation Tax percentage for direct action also.

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16. Peter Lawlor

Regarding the document itself, I found it difficult to read with the different colour backgrounds and the side-by-side page layout. That may be more to do with my 10 year old PC than the document itself.

Personally, I would leave out the quotes from past constitutions and 'celebrity' contributors. The document is, or should be, strong enough to stand on its own feet.

I have commented below under the various headings. I trust you will take them in the spirit they are intended. I also recognise that some of the comments are 'hobby-horse' items for me and probably have no place in this kind of document. Anyway, let me know what you think, particularly if you disagree with any of the suggestions.

Water

This section needs to be broadened to include all our natural resources e.g. Gas, oil, fisheries, forestry, scenery (no pylons) etc.

This sentence needs a re-think: "This policy will see conservation measures legislated for including mandatory planning permission requirements, incentivised and subsidised water saving devices, and a public education campaign." It implies that the general public is responsible for the wastage when the vast majority of leakage is in the infrastructure, in the ground outside the home.

Installation of water meters in all main water supply lines to identify exactly where the losses are occurring.

Installation of water turbines in all main water supply lines to power the water distribution system.

Jobs

A couple of specific actions should be included e.g. Abolish JobBridge and zero hour contracts.

What is "bogus self-employment"? I haven't come across that term before.

This statement: "provide under-employed workers with the right to seek additional hours in their workplace when they become available" makes no provision for under-employed where no additional hours are available. Would they have their hours augmented through the 'employer of last resort'?

Better support systems for entrepreneurs and start-ups. Most start-ups fail within a short time and cost the individual/company a considerable amount, both financially and emotionally. The types of

support should include guidance, education, one-to-one consultancy, mentoring etc. before and during the start-up phase.

Right2Housing

This section seems to be well thought out and I have nothing to add. Maybe I just don't know enough about the subject.

Right2Health

Removal of private consultancies from public hospitals or recovery of costs from private consultants.

Abandon the American and adopt the French model on ADHD diagnosis and treatment.

Right2Debt Justice

Index link between LIBOR and mortgage interest rates. e.g. If a bank is borrowing at 1% the maximum they can charge for loans is 3%.

Recognise that the bailout is an odious debt and refuse to make the repayments.

EU exit – I don't think we will ever have justice in Ireland while EU law supersedes the Constitution.

Right2Education

Identify, recognise and cater for the individual needs and abilities of all children from Primary through to Third Level. e.g music, sport, arts and crafts. The current emphasis on academic learning is not suited to many children and they are effectively ignored by the education system.

Right2Democratic Reform

“The introduction of breathalysers ahead of votes in the Oireachtas should also be introduced.” My initial reaction on reading this was “Ah come on lads, are you having a laugh?” Why not simply abolish the Dáil bar?

“A relaxing of the Whip system.” - Abolish the Whip system altogether and outlaw penalties for any TD who votes against the party line.

End to political influence in the appointment of Judges.

Citizens propose Presidential candidates.

Direct elections to the Senate to replace Government appointments

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17. Mike Walsh

I wish to submit: Direct Democracy with the power of recall (Articles 47 & 48) should be a priority to have returned to the Irish Constitution.

They were never taken out via referendum so therefore the Government should be challenged on it as a priority.

Politicians are afraid of Articles 47 & 48 for the obvious reasons.

With These Articles returned to the Constitution we rid our country of the threat of corrupt politicians in the future and it would give ultimate power to the people.

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