

‘Council Cowardice’

“A large scale enforcement operation involving over 40 agencies including the Councils enforcement team, Police, and Immigration Service has been cancelled because of fears it would breach the rules on political publicity and/or use of council resources for a political purpose so close to the elections in May.

The operation related to illegal flats built during the last local elections in 2006. Shortly after his election Cllr O’Rourke began lobbying for strong action to be taken against the developer to send a clear message that the Council will not tolerate such blatant flouting of planning law.

Cllr O’Rourke said: “It has taken over three years for our enforcement team to have sufficient capacity and leadership to even consider such a large scale operation and to stop it now because of ‘political concerns’ is outrageous and will send a clear message to rogue developers and landlords that we are weak in our convictions”.