

I work extremely hard I own my own house. My rates have increased and increased over the years. The present system based on the ratable value of the home is fair to a point- If the value previously given was to stay as indicated. However if this was to increase due to the recent increases in house prices this would be totally unfair and it would be the honest hard worker member of the public that would be most disadvantaged. I would recommend:-

1) Capping the upper limit(3-5% of total income) to save guard those whose children are off to university or left home and the elderly, why should they have to leave their home to move to a smaller cheaper property.

People are forgetting these houses are peoples homes their lives their memories they should not be forced to sell to move into a smaller cheaper property.

The current inflation in the housing market is unrealistic and unfair if rates are to be based on the current market value not the value previously given then we are all in trouble.

I also think why should a pensioner/s pay more rates that a family of 5 or 7 just because they live in a council or smaller house and it is valued less. A large family produces more rubbish, they use more of the local services and use more water? What I see is if you are on benefits and have a large family you win. That flies in the face of what we should be aspiring to.

We are not all the same so therefore should not all be treated the same we need a system that is fair and equal to all. But what! I hear you say. Use the previous market values given to have a starting point. Those figures gave a true value of what each home was worth. No-one in their right mind could use the figures given at today's prices. Then perhaps a discount for each room not used. I am not sure how this would work for uni or those in their teens and 20's as they are always coming and going. But this would be more permanent for pensioners. If there is a lot of adults registered to an address then the figure could be loaded in some shape or form to increase to a maximum amount again. This could help eliminate the so called dole drop! It would also stop a system whereby if there is a lot of adults living in one home they pay equally not less.

I welcome any comments or questions to my mail