

HIGHFIELDS ANTI POLL TAX UNION NEWS

THATCHER HAS GONE - WE FIGHT ON

THATCHER HAS GONE! Every non-payer will be delighted to see the back of the architect of the Poll Tax. Already every candidate for the Tory leadership has claimed the Tax was nothing to do with them and needs "reviewing". It needs to be scrapped right away - not "reviewed"!

It's likely that whoever wins the Tory leadership will try to buy off our hatred of the Tax with small concessions. We must stand firm and continue our campaign! It's even possible that

the Tories might go into the next election promising to get rid of the Tax. We don't want promises- we want the Tax scrapped now and all outstanding debts written off!

Even the Tories now say the Poll Tax was a mistake. We shouldn't have to pay for that and the Labour controlled City Council should refuse to carry on with this completely discredited Tax. We say: STOP THE PROSECUTIONS! STOP THE BAILIFFS! SCRAP THE TAX NOW! WRITE OFF THE DEBTS! FREE THE POLL TAX PRISONERS!

XMAS CARDS

HAPTU Christmas Cards are selling well. If you want to buy some there are 10 different designs. They cost £3.00 for 10, £1.50 for 5 or 35p each. Call at 9 Laurel Rd or ring 553440.

NO CUTS

The introduction of the Poll Tax has led to cuts in Public services across the country. It is clear that the second year of the Tax will lead to councils slashing yet more vital services to avoid being Poll Tax capped.

The Tories claim that the Tax is only high because of inefficient or extravagant Councils - in fact it is their fixing of the way Government grants are worked out that has led to high bills.

The local authorities claim that they have no choice but to have high bills or cuts. In many cases people have both! They will also claim that non-payment causes cuts. In fact the local authorities have chosen to implement the Tax and do whatever the Tories tell them to! The councils could have set deficit budgets, refused to implement the Tax and refused to meet repayments on loans from the City Of London. They could have joined with the millions who can't pay and the workers whose jobs are at risk and killed the Poll Tax from the start.

In Leicester there is a high chance that there will be cuts - Stewart Foster the Chair of the City Councils Finance Committee has said as much. Any cuts will not bring the amount of the Tax down - they will just be to avoid capping. In other words the City Council will probably surrender without a fight. We can't afford the Poll Tax and we can't afford the cuts and so we have to campaign against both! The Tories and the Councils will try to turn non-payers and Council workers against each other - we have to make sure that they fail by supporting every fight against cuts and asking Council workers to support our fight against the Tax itself.

COUNCILLORS IN COURT

On November 6th three councillors from Highfields appeared in court for not paying the Poll Tax. They were: Malik Salim from Spinney Hill, Paul Gosling from Charnwood and Joe Allan from Wycliffe. All three refused to pay on a principled basis of supporting our campaign and standing shoulder to shoulder with the thousands in Highfields who can't pay or are refusing to pay.

All three have also been attacked by those in the Labour Party whose response to the Tax has been to do the Governments dirty work for them. We want to make it clear that we see the actions of the non-paying councillors as being in the best traditions of the Labour movement and we thank them and support their stand! We condemn those who have attacked them and particularly the right wingers in the Labour Party who paid Malik Salim's Poll Tax. He wishes to repeat that he supports non-payment and will not be paying next year either!

Since November 6th two other councillors have been in court: Bob Waterton from Saffron and Dave Brazier from St Augustines. We congratulate them on their stand as well.

COURT CASES

Large numbers of people are turning up at court and by the time you read this the judicial review of the magistrates refusal to allow McKenzie Friends - lay advisers - will have happened. Whatever happens we must maintain the high turn out at court so if you get a summons or know anyone else who does please get in touch.

The City Magistrates have said that if McKenzie friends are allowed they may only be able to get through three cases a day! They allowed two people to have McKenzie Friends to see what happened and one case took 55 minutes to deal with!

NEXT HAPTU MEETINGS

69 CHANDOS ST

THURS 6TH DECEMBER 7.30 PM

THURS 10TH JAN 7.30 PM

XMAS PARTY

HAPTU is organising a Christmas Party to raise funds for the campaign. It is at:

38, SEVERN ST

LEICESTER

9.00 PM SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER

BRING A BOTTLE

£2.00 WAGED £1.00 UNWAGED