

Highfields Anti Poll Tax News 25743 P

NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1991

No Bailiffs Here!

Many non-payers in Highfields have had threatening letters from the Bailiffs. Some have been pensioners and people on benefits - so much for the Councils claim only to be chasing those who can afford to pay!

We've taken up these cases with the Council and helped to organise support groups amongst people's neighbours. We've found strong support with few people paying and almost everybody willing to help their neighbours turn away the Bailiffs.

We're confident that if we stick together we can beat them - remember they have no right to break in! We are many and they are few!

So far the Bailiffs haven't got into anyone's house in

Magistrates Overruled

On July 25th the Appeal Court overturned Leicester Magistrates decision to refuse Poll Tax defendants McKenzies friends (people to give them advice in Court). This means that if you get a summons you are allowed to have someone with you in Court to help you present your case. There are people from the Anti Poll Tax Federation in Court every day.

This decision is a real blow to the Council and the Court which has been rubber-stamping cases for them. The Labour Council has been in favour of people being denied their basic rights! The Court has wanted to deny people advice so that they can herd more non-payers through the system!

We are demanding that anyone who was refused a McKenzies friend in the past should have a new hearing. We have also demanded the resignation of the chief magistrate!

Trafalgar Square Defendants Cleared

Two cases last month exposed the Police frame up about the Battle of Trafalgar Square. On July 17th Michael Conway was cleared of Violent Disorder. He'd defended the Demonstration against the Police attack and pleaded self defence in court. After watching video recordings showing the horrific Police violence the Jury cleared him!

The day before Neal Fernandez was acquitted of arson after the Police evidence was shown to have been made up!

These cases show that many people were framed after Trafalgar Square and that those who did fight back were only defending themselves and others.

We believe that there should be an amnesty for all defendants - but no amnesty for the Police perjurers!

We are affiliated to the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign which has unconditionally backed all defendants.

Leicester. In Braunstone a Bailiff was met by 75 protesters and left quickly! We can do the same here!

The Council have said that they won't use the Bailiffs against the unemployed, single parents, pensioners, people with disabilities, people with severe financial hardship, people on long term sick, recently bereaved or having marital problems. We don't trust them on this at all so if you fit one of these categories and the Bailiffs get in touch let us know and we'll take it up.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET THE BAILIFFS IN! STICK TOGETHER AND WE CAN BEAT THEM! IF THEY GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU THEN YOU SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

Jailings

Labour M.P. Terry Fields has been jailed for refusing to pay his Poll Tax. We applaud his stand which shows up most other M.P.'s. If we had to rely on people like them we wouldn't have got rid of the Poll Tax from 1388 let alone this one!

About 50 others have been sent to jail - mostly for about 14 days. This compares with 14-15 million who haven't paid. No one in Leicestershire has been jailed yet.

The City Council has sent some letters threatening prison but these are illegal as they HAVE to try to use Bailiffs first. They are trying to frighten us into paying.

If the Council do try to use prison then there are Court hearings which look at people's finances. In most cases the Court orders a set weekly payment and passes a suspended sentence which can be enforced if you don't keep it up. Even if you are sent to prison for not paying you still don't have a criminal record.

We stand against any use of prison for debt and we're ready to take on the City Council if they threaten us!

Party

We're having a fundraising party at:
38, SEVERN STREET,
LEICESTER,
SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER
8.30 P.M.
WAGED £2.00 UNWAGED £1.00

Next HAPTU meetings

69, CHANDOS STREET 7.30 THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER, 3rd OCTOBER, 7th NOVEMBER.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 553440 551075 531012 547903