

# Leicestershire Anti Poll Tax News

## City Labour Group Lobby

About 30 Anti Poll Tax protesters lobbied a meeting of Leicester City Council Labour Group on October 30th demanding that they reverse their decision to use bailiffs to collect the Tax. Some of the councillors were very sympathetic and many of the others are feeling the pressure of the campaign. We hear that Ned Newitt, for example, has been desperately trying to convince his ward that bailiffs will be a last resort and won't ever really be used.

Some councillors were offensive in their disregard for the fear and stress that their threat to use bailiffs is causing to the people that elected them. Particularly noteworthy were David Thomas and Peter Soulsby. Peter Soulsby - great democrat that he is - opposed the Labour Group even listening to a delegation from

the lobby. He is obviously not confident of his case! Mind you, we hear that Thomas has been unceremoniously kicked out by his present ward and is presently hawking himself about to try and save his political career and that Soulsby is scuttling off to another ward after his own demanded his resignation over his stand on the bailiffs! Maybe there's justice in the world after all!

The Labour Group still support the use of bailiffs and we have got to increase the pressure on them. The next Labour Group will be lobbied on this issue and we have to make sure that this is widely publicised. Labour Party members should follow the example of Spinney Hill and demand the resignation of any councillors supporting the use of bailiffs.

## National Demonstration

A coachload of protesters from Leicestershire went to the national demonstration on October 20th to welcome the Peoples Marchers to London. There were up to 35,000 on the demonstration clearly showing that our movement is alive and defiantly strong!

The Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign organised a picket of Brixton prison where Poll Tax prisoners are being held and up to 4,000 turned up! It was the biggest prison picket since the jailing of Dockers shop stewards in 1972!

Despite having agreed in advance to a picket of 90 minutes the Police moved to disperse the protest after only 15 minutes



and when people stood their ground the crowd was attacked. About 150 were arrested following 2 hours of clashes.

The actions of the Police show the Governments hatred of our movement and their need to stop our demonstrations - the Police immediately suggested that future protests should be banned. Our answer has to be to continue to organise and march and we must support all of those arrested opposing the Tax. The All Britain Federation is calling for a massive 1st anniversary protest in London next March. We should make sure that it is an overwhelming show of our strength whether it is banned or not!

## Defence Campaign

The Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign was set up after the Police attack on the March 31st demonstration to support the 500 plus who were arrested. The campaign unconditionally supports all of those arrested that day and has done invaluable work revealing what really happened. The Leicestershire Federation supports the campaign and urges all of the Anti Poll Tax movement to do the same. TSDC can be contacted at:

Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign,  
C/O Haldane Society of Lawyers,  
205, Panther House,  
38, Mount Pleasant,  
London WC1X 0AP TEL 071 833 8958

TSDC desperately need donations and affiliations so that they can continue their crucial work. They also ask that people write to and support Poll Tax prisoners and gave us the following names:

Paul Jacob, RA0771, HMP Brixton Jebb Ave., Brixton, London SW2	Andrew Crowe, PM2604, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, Du Cane Rd, London W12 0AE	Antonio Rossi, HMP Feltham, YOC, Bedfent Rd. Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4ND
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## National Conference

The All Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation is holding its second annual conference on Sunday November 25th in Manchester.

Affiliation to the Federation costs £10.00. The delegation costs are £20.00 and are on a first come first served basis. The deadline for applications for delegates (max 2 per APTU) and for the receipt of resolutions is November 7th. The address and phone number is:

ALL BRITAIN ANTI POLL TAX FEDERATION,  
P.O. BOX 764,  
LONDON E59 5X,  
TEL. 071 326 0302

# Local News

## CITY

**BEAUMONT LEYS:** are meeting fortnightly and are aiming for weekly meetings. They flyposted widely advertising their advice line for summons' and bailiffs. Non-payment is strong but many people are passive and the work falls on just a few activists.

**BRAUNSTONE:** are building a street rep system and telephone tree. They are planning to lobby Greville Janner MP - although they aren't expecting miracles! Non-payment is strong and the local community are confident of seeing off the bailiffs.

**CASTLE:** are canvassing weekly. They organised a fundraiser around the Peoples March and made £60. Future plans are for a Public meeting in December and an Xmas disco.

**HIGHFIELDS:** are canvassing regularly and have about 450 members. They have organised area meetings of non-payers and have a street contact system. They produce a monthly newsletter and circulate 1000 copies. They are producing a series of Anti Poll Tax Xmas cards to raise funds.

**NARBOROUGH RD:** have about 500 members and have been actively involved in supporting the Northampton occupation and Peoples March.

**ROWLETTS HILL:** are having a street stall at the Co-op on 3rd and 10th November. They have had to confront racism in their Union and with the support of the Federation made it clear that this would not be tolerated. They support the unity of Black and 'white non-payers.

## The Fed

THE NEXT LEICESTERSHIRE ANTI POLL TAX FEDERATION MEETING IS AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER AT THE RAINBOW AND DOVE CHARLES ST. LEICESTER.

## Contacts

STEVE SCORE: FED SECRETARY Tel Leicester 885979  
BOB JOHN: ASST SECRETARY Tel Leicester 547903  
MICK SHENTON: BAILIFF BUSTERS Tel Leicester 531012  
PETE KENNY: NEWS SHEET Tel Leicester 553440  
NICK JOHN: LEGAL DEFENCE FUND Tel Loughborough 237372

## Cyril Munding - Update

On Sunday October 21st the News of the World revealed that their "Captain Cash" had paid Cyril Munding's Poll Tax against his wishes. Northampton Council had been threatening Cyril, who is 74, with prison and the court had given him 14 days to pay. In response the office of Northampton Council's Treasurer was occupied and plans were being made to picket Cyril's house if the Council tried to carry out their threat. The News of the World let the Council off the hook - we should encourage people to write to "Captain Cash" demanding that he pay their bills as well!

Cyril's refusal to surrender and the occupation put real pressure on the Council and they'll think long and hard before threatening anyone else with prison.

This news sheet will be produced on a monthly basis to keep Anti Poll Tax activists informed about what's going on in the campaign. We're hoping to have reports on what each APTU is doing, so if there's something you want included get in touch with Pete Kenny on Leicester 553440.

## COUNTY

**HINCKLEY:** meet every week and get about 40 turn up. They recently had a Rock Against the Poll Tax benefit and raised several hundred pounds. The Borough Council have been taking 5-600 a week to court and about 10 a day turn up to answer their summons'. The Council are hardline and pass all cases on to Madagans the bailiffs. Quite a few people have been visited by the bailiffs but they seem to have consistently turned them away.

**LOUGHBOROUGH:** are still waiting for their Council to send out reminders and 27% have paid nothing with many more in serious arrears. Loughborough members have been involved in the Northampton occupation and helped to organise support for non-payers from NW Leics whose Council used the court in Loughborough. They organised a benefit around the People's March and 100 came.

**MARKET HARBOROUGH:** have got 700 members and meet regularly - at their last two meetings 40 and 60 turned up. The Council are taking small numbers to court - 30 summons' the first time and 80 the second. In Lutterworth 30 summons' were issued. Members have been to support non-payers in court cases in Kettering and Corby - where 300 and 700 turned up - and in Daventry. In Market Harborough district 7000 haven't paid a penny.

**WIGSTON:** have still not had their final reminders let alone summons' and they are going to have a street stall on Saturdays as part of their preparation for court cases. A recent fundraising disco raised £40.

## Leicester Court Cases

Leicester City Council has begun issuing more summons' for November 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th and 13th. At least two of the summons' are for City Councillors who have been refusing to pay, which should result in useful publicity for the campaign. They are: Malik Salim, councillor for Spinney Hill, who fought a bye-election last May supporting a campaign of non-payment and promising not to pay himself, and Paul Gosling, councillor for Charnwood who has also promised not to pay.

As far as we know the City Council has issued 3500 summons' this time. This will bring their total to 7000 - a long way short of the 43000 plus who haven't paid a penny and the tens of thousands more who are in serious arrears!

We need people outside the court and in the public gallery to support non-payers so if you can get down to the court in Bishop St Leicester from 9.00 am onwards on the above days you'll be most welcome!

## Bailiff's Picket

A group of protesters from the Youth Rights Campaign picketed the offices of A.A. Johnson, bailiffs for Grantham Council, on Tuesday October 30th.