

POLL-AXE



News-sheet of the Forest Fields & Hyson Green

Anti-Poll Tax Campaign

Special Issue

September/October 1991

One in four people in England have not paid
a penny of this year's Poll Tax (26%)

95% of people in Scotland have not paid
a penny and they've had the poll tax for 3 years!

And at least 1 billion pounds (10% of total) remains
unpaid, in England and Wales, from last year.

Everyone knows that the poll tax is unfair and unworkable. That is why we are being bought off by lower bills and the promise of a new, fairer "council tax". What we have to remember, though, is that this new tax will not start until 1993. That means we have this year's poll tax to pay and next year's. Our bills might be lower but the principle of the poll tax is the same - everyone has to pay no matter about the size of our houses, and how much we have to live on. This is wrong. Why should we pay the same as those in their big houses in the Park or Mapperley? The Poll Tax has not gone - it is only being disguised to try and trick us into paying.

THE CITY COUNCILS RESPONSE

Scare-Mongering

The Council have tried to frighten non-payers by the threat of bailiffs. *THIS HASN'T WORKED*. Bailiffs have not been successful in our area. There's too many of us and too few of them - *they never stood a chance!*

Now the big threat is prison.

We all read in the Evening Post recently of Soroosh Ayandeh, from West Bridgford, being sent down for 3 months. Soroosh was given

time to rethink but stood firm and said he would never pay. Rushcliffe District Council did this to Soroosh. Our Council have yet to decide what to do.

On 29th August the Labour Group of the City Council had a meeting to decide whether or not to send non-payers to prison.

Noreen Baker proposed that people should not be sent to prison for debt - which includes the poll Tax. Only three other councillors supported her (Stuart Argyle, Mary Bloomfield and Barry Jackson). Our own councillors -

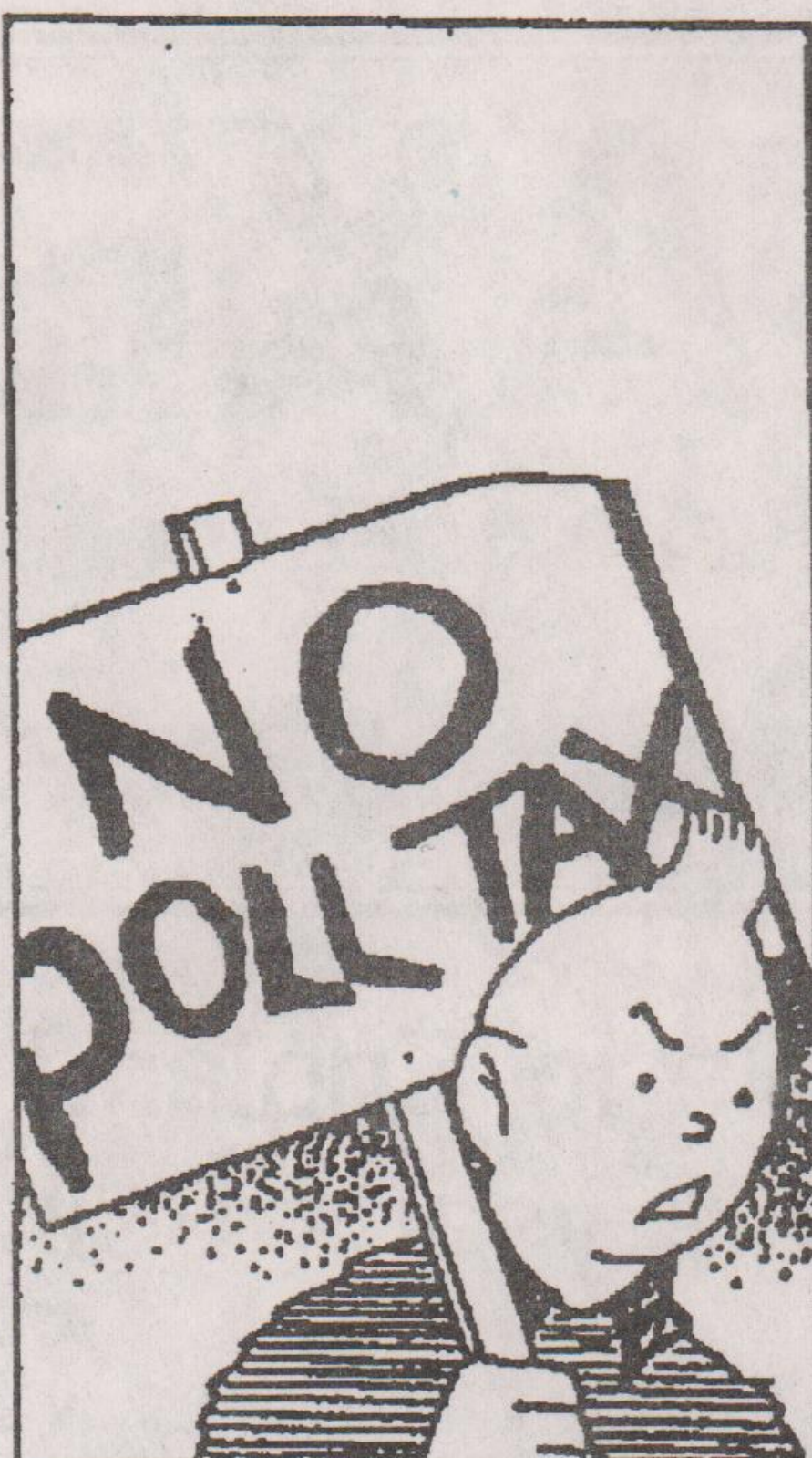
Mohammed Ibrahim & John Taylor

representing Forest Fields and New Basford;
Ronald McIntosh and Azad Choudray

representing Hyson Green and Radford - all voted against the motion. So clearly they agree with sending non-payers to prison. We all know that John Taylor, our local Councillor and Deputy Leader of the Council, is trying his hardest to get the 40,000 pound plus City Challenge job he practically set up himself. It's no wonder he's not bothered about us in Forest Fields and Hyson Green. He has got other, more important, things to think about.

Hardship Committee

This has been set up by the City Council to discuss people in hardship - to see whether their poll tax can be written off. Councils can by law write this debt off. Mr. Chris Neale at the Guildhall is responsible for choosing who is discussed at this meeting. As yet people cannot attend the meetings when they are being discussed - this might change. Setting up a hardship committee proves that the council is in trouble. They know that people still can't/won't pay - and they can't send all to prison.



Right up until the last minute in court we can say that we will pay so much a week or month. They will accept anything. So we shouldn't be put off by the threat of prison. Also we have to remember that the prisons are overcrowded - where will they put us all?

Going To Court This Year

Some of us have been/have our dates for court this year (for 1991/92 Poll Tax).

Remember last year when the magistrate(s) refused us "McKenzie Friends" (people who can help us in court who do not have to be legally qualified - for example a friend or someone from our local Anti-Poll Tax Campaign). This has now been reviewed by the Court of Appeal (on 25th July) and the Court said that we can have McKenzie Friends in court. Magistrates can only stop this if, whilst the case is being heard, they

believe that the McKenzie Friend is being used "improperly" or that help is not really needed for example. So we will have to be careful! The important point to remember is that it is not the magistrates decision to allow a "McKenzie Friend" in court.

Is your poll tax being deducted from your income support?

If so, the benefit office may be acting against regulations.

Ring Steve on 705788 for more details.

If you have any questions or if you need help with getting rid of bailiffs/going to court then give us a ring.

We all live locally.

Dave	621117	Sally	626298
Julie/Wayne	704477	Simon	608089
Jo	423066	John	703553
Colin	788710	Carolynne	789846
	Steve	705788	

Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign meets on the first Tuesday of every month.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st October, 7.30pm at the Indian Community Centre, Rawson Street (past Noel Street Leisure Centre).

All welcome.