

NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

NEWSLETTER NO. 1 APRIL 1990

The Nottingham Defence Campaign has been set up as a result of the post-demo meeting held at the "Yorker" on Monday 2nd April, and subsequent communication between members of various anti-poll tax groups after the Nottingham Anti-Poll Tax Federation meeting held on 7th April. In light of the Federations intent to have a scapegoating "enquiry" into the events of the London Demo, and their offer of at best conditional support for demonstrators who were arrested, it was felt necessary to set up this campaign in order to co-ordinate genuine support for all people arrested in Nottingham for whatever reason, and hopefully to come up with a defence strategy for future occasions.

The Campaign has been set up as follows :

- One or more people from each APT group to act as Defence Campaign representative(s), responsible for gathering information and keeping their group informed about and involved in the Campaign activities. We would urge people to contact members of the Campaign either at the next "Yorker" meeting (23/4), or on the 'phone number/box no. below to help out with this.
- One or more people to act as central co-ordinators to sort out a bank account for funds and a telephone/box no number for the Campaign. This is in hand (see below).

HELPING THE CAMPAIGN

The most important thing that people can do to help is to get involved. We are hoping to have regular meetings and to set up a Fighting Fund to help people with transport/legal costs etc.

At the moment, the most useful thing we can do is to gather information about people who have been arrested. To date, we know of at least 14 people who have been, and would like to hear from anyone else in the same position. Information we need to know includes :

- Name and contact address/ telephone no.
- Offence(s), and whether officialy charged yet
- Date, time and place of court appearances
- Whether the person has or intends to plead guilty or not
- Who their solicitor is, if any
- Whether the person can get legal aid or not

PLEASE CONTACT THE 'PHONE NO./BOX NO. BELOW IF YOU OR ANYONE ELSE YOU KNOW ARE IN THIS POSITION

Our contacts are :

Box DF, HG Wholefoods, 72 Radford Road, Hyson Green

!!!!!! F O R T H C O M I N G E V E N T S !!!!!

27TH APRIL - ST. ANNES BENEFIT GIG AT MARCUS GARVEY.

10TH MAY - DEFENCE CAMPAIGN BENEFIT GIG AT MARCUS GARVEY.

NEXT NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE CAMPAIGN MEETING : 23RD APRIL
AT THE "YORKER" AFTER OPEN MEETING ON SAME NIGHT.

FUNDRAISING

Obviously we need more money, so we would like to take this opportunity to ask groups to consider some of the following options for raising funds :

- Benefit gigs : always a good one, and it can be combined with raising funds for your own campaign (say 50/50)
- Donations from poll tax groups. You could take this newsletter back to your campaign meetings and have it discussed, and then perhaps ask that the campaign to make a donation to the Defence Campaign.
- Collections at meetings, on stalls, at gigs, in pubs and on the street, perhaps combined with raising funds for your own campaign as well.

Please make any cheques payable to : "N.D.F." and send any donations to the box number, or give them to your local APT group representatives. There are currently Defence Campaign representatives in the Sherwood, St. Annes, Radford and HGFF APT's.

Current Situation

At the moment, we have the names of 14 people arrested either in London on the March 31st demo, or in Nottingham after the Council House occupation on March 5th. Four of these people are actively involved in the campaign, and we're hoping that most people will want to join in when we've made contact with them.

Court dates are very widely spread, with some people having been to court already, and many others adjourned to later dates ranging from May to July, mainly so that police can sort through video tape, film, pictures etc that they have seized from the press. Although we can't organise group transport to London, we hope to ensure that nobody will have to go down on their own without support.

Having talked to some people who have been to court, it looks as if some charges may be upped (e.g. from Public Order section 4 to 3), or be added to, so we must ensure that people have proper legal advice on hand.

We have also heard of a campaign in Lambeth doing similar things to ourselves, so hopefully we can contact them to help set up a national campaign with a common strategy.