

INNER AREA PROGRAMME '86/'87

(OR ... WHY YOU SHOULD BE AT THE FESTIVAL ON NOV. 9TH..)

Early this year 65 voluntary sector groups applied to the local authorities for money from the Inner Area Programme (I.A.P.) to fund projects. As we go to print, the City and County Council are planning on asking the Department of the Environment (D.O.E.) to approve the funding (and pay 75% towards) 5 completely new voluntary schemes. A further 4 voluntary projects are being re-submitted because they received only 2 years funding to date or in the case of one project, because the City Council are asking for part of the budget to be renewed through IAP. Although 4 community groups applied for funding from the Health Authority none are expected to be supported.

extra cash...not enough!!

In September, the D.O.E. gave Nottingham an extra £400,000 to spend on its IAP budget for this year (85/86). However, don't all rush at once! This money is already accounted for by projects which were meant to have started earlier this year but couldn't due to lack of funds and is all capital money (has to be spent on building/repairs/conversions or major items of equipment). The extra cash in this year's allocation has released more money for new projects in '86/87 - but clearly far from enough.

What about the workers ???

The vast majority of groups asked for funding, which if their applications were successful, would come out of the "social" sector of the I.A.P. These are projects mainly aimed at alleviating the problems, giving help, support, advice ... in the urban areas of the City. They are the voluntary sector's response to the deteriorating situation in their communities where services provided by local authorities are increasingly inadequate and inappropriate. Such projects desperately need workers and running costs as well as buildings for them to operate from. 45 out of the 65 projects were asking for workers. A total of 151 workers altogether were requested by community groups. The authorities are proposing to fund 9 full-time and 4 part-time workers for new voluntary sector projects in 1986/7. Some of the "successful" projects for this year have been given capital money only where workers and running costs were also requested. Also 4 projects applied for funding from the "economy" sector of the IAP hoping to provide training and create jobs in their community. None of these were successful, despite the City Council saying that such schemes were more "likely" to receive funding. Why were they refused? Because they asked for workers and running costs.

The authorities say that they can't fund workers and running costs (revenue spending) because the D.O.E. insists that this is limited to only 30% of the IAP budget. However this year the County Council (apparently anxious to avoid having to continue to fund projects after their I.A.P. budget runs out) has actually converted £100,000 they could have spent on revenue costs into capital money!

block grants

The County Council are proposing two new "block grants" which projects should be able to apply for funding from - Grant Aid for Ethnic Minority Provision (£100,000) and Youth and Community Support Fund (£20,000). At the time of writing it looks likely that the Grant Aid for Ethnic Minority Provision has already been allocated by the County Council to do building works ... a total of 8 projects.

This situation leaves many projects with only a fraction of the support they need, with no workers or running costs even if they have building or equipment. The authorities are operating a short-sided unacceptable economy. Projects will be coming to them next year for money to pay workers OR (the option now clearly favoured by the government) resorting to M.S.C.

crisis?-what crisis?

We will be reporting the final situation regarding I.A.P. '86/87 funding for community projects in the next issue. However, it has been clear for a long time that the the scale of demand now coming from the voluntary sector clearly cannot be met by the I.A.P. Nor as the situation stands at present, from local authorities who are under increasing pressure to cut their expenditure. Funding for the voluntary sector in Nottingham and nationally has reached a crisis situation! Groups in Nottingham and nationally are getting together to try to do something about it

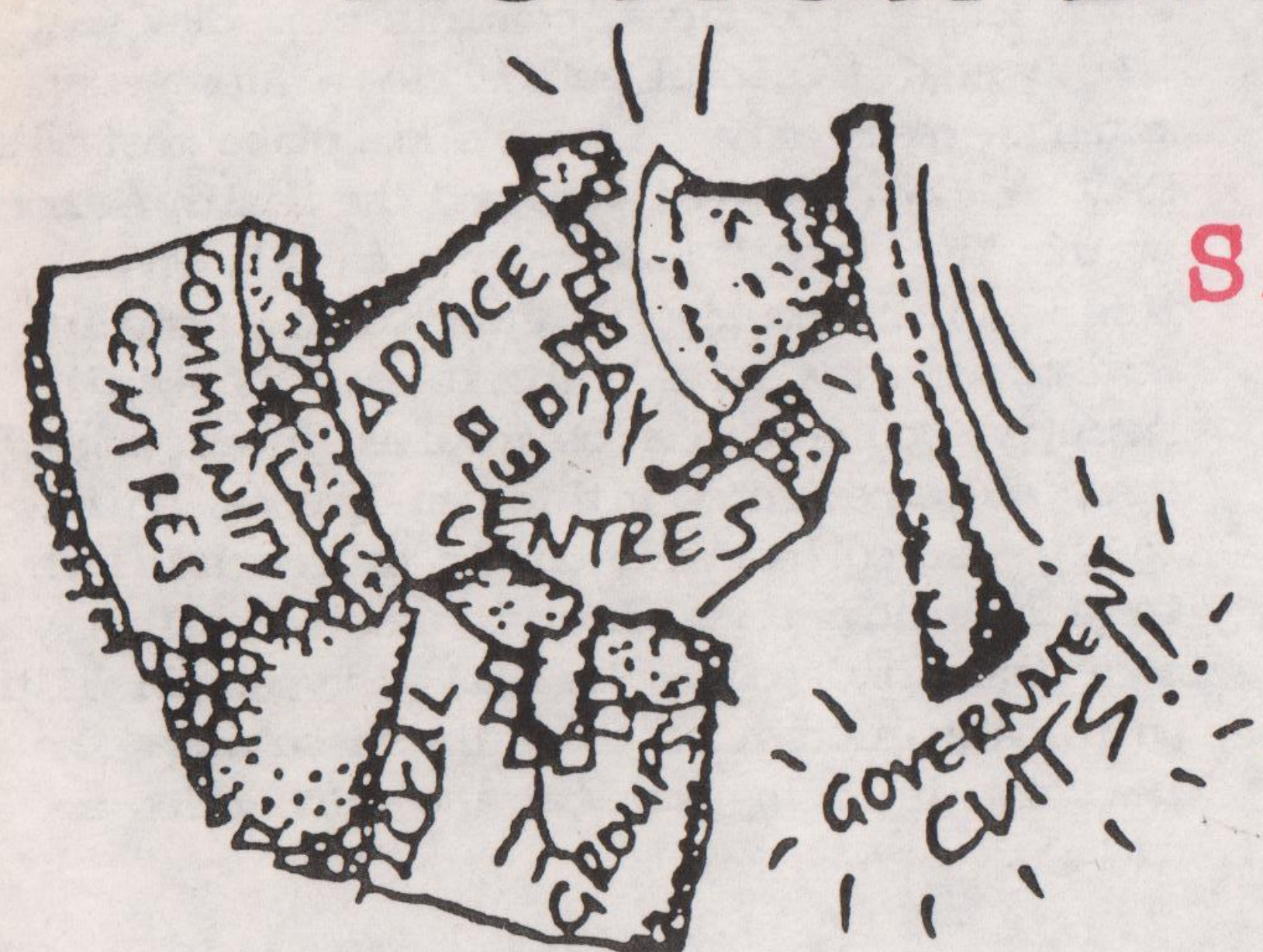
ALL OUT ON NOV9TH!!

INNER CITY DIRECT LINE

NOVEMBER 1985

Sent to over 450 community groups in Nottingham.
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NOTTINGHAM'S COMMUNITY ACTION DAY & FESTIVAL



SAVE YOUR COMMUNITIES

SATURDAY NOV 9TH

MARKET SQUARE

DEMANDS :-

CITY & COUNTY COUNCILS AND HEALTH AUTHORITY
TO.....

- * Make MORE MONEY available to community organisations
- * Provide money for WORKERS as well as for buildings, equipment & running costs
- * Give HIGH PRIORITY to resources for GROUPS working DIRECTLY with LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- * DEFEND & IMPROVE funding to community groups on an EQUAL BASIS with the authorities' own services
- * JOIN with community groups to LOBBY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT for MORE MONEY in order to meet all our local needs

There is still time if your group wants to get involved in the Festival. If you would like a stall/to put on a display/to fundraise/to get some free publicity/to talk to the Authorities, contact Sally or Tina on 410437 for details. (If the weather is really bad we'll be in the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottm. ring 419842 after 9.15 am on the day for information. Don't miss your chance to a bit of fun and opportunity to state loud and clear;

"DON'T REMOVE, IMPROVE!"

DON'T WAIT FOR THE AXE TO FALL ON
YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP !

PLEASE SUPPORT THE DAY OF ACTION !!

Remember, remember the 9th of November!!!
Nottingham's Community Groups Action Team has organised a day not to be forgotten by community groups, councillors, health authorities or our M.P.s.

Community Groups will be taking over the Market Square in Nottingham with stalls, displays, food, music, activities etc.etc. to remind shoppers and the authorities just what a colourful and necessary role in Nottingham's life we play. Already on a forced diet as grants and general resources die down to a trickle, we can only look forward to total starvation of funds (and collapse of many groups) in the near future if present policies continue.

A delegation of representatives from different community organisations will be meeting with City and County councillors, M.P.s and Health Authority representatives at 11.00am in the Council House to put the demands as outlined above.

ADVICE CENTRES— A FUNDING CRISIS!!

15 million women, men and children – 1 in 4 of the population – are forced to survive on the breadline. Many are without jobs and depend on social security benefits. Others earn their poverty in low paid jobs.

Rising unemployment, more lone parents, an ageing populations, a gradual erosion of employment protection, restrictive immigration laws and "Care in the Community" policies which leaves more and more vulnerable people isolated means that as at no time before, effective advice and assistance is vital. Yet at a time when expansion is needed what meagre provision there is is under threat.

Most support for advice centres in Notts. comes from the County Council. Traditionally, small "starter" grants have been made available to advice groups, who, when they become established are then supported in applications to the Inner Area Programme to develop full time services.

Now the Department of Environment says it will no longer support advice centres through the Inner Area Programme. It does not doubt their worth, but believes they should be funded locally.

At the same time, local government is facing an unprecedented reduction in its resources. They too are convinced of the value of neighbourhood advice centres, but financial restrictions mean that at best they may be able to preserve existing services, but there will be no expansion.

With Inner Area money running out on 3 major centres next year and many smaller groups already surviving on a hand to mouth basis, unless a comprehensive strategy for the proper development of advice provision in Notts. is established soon, many of these hopelessly overstretched resources will not survive.

DON'T REMOVE — IMPROVE !

Garry Robson
October 1985

JOIN US!

Why you should join!

The Executive is a umbrella organisation for community groups in Nottingham. It aims to act as an open community forum for discussion of ideas and action in the City; to promote better consultation between community groups, the community in general, to advise community groups and individuals on the working of Nottingham's Inner Area Programme and to campaign for increased funding for projects run by community groups. Every month members of the Executive Committee meet for discussion and decide which issues, questions, comments etc. they want to take up with the local authorities. Also every month representatives from the Executive meet with City and County Councillors and the Health Authority at the "City Panel" (see article on City Panel). In this way the Executive is involved in an ongoing liaison with the local authorities. Through the Executive you group can be involved in exchanging ideas and experiences with other groups, uniting to organise collectively and to talk to and lobby the local authorities about issues that affect you as a community group. You will also get all of the up to date information about the discussions the Executive is having and what the authorities are up to !!

Last but by no means least

It's all free!

It doesn't cost you anything to join. The only thing we ask is that a representative from the group attends at least one Committee meeting to introduce the group and vice versa. You can choose 3 members of your group to be on the Executive Committee.

So join us now!

PLEASE FILL IN

AND RETURN THE FORM!

The Executive has two full-time community liaison workers, Sally and Tina, and a part-time secretary, Trisha. If you need more information/convincing please contact them at the Executive offices at 83A Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Phone 410437



CITY PANEL REPORT

OCTOBER 1985

The City Panel is the regular monthly meeting of councillors and officers from the City and County Councils and Health Authority representatives with people from the Nottingham Inner City Executive. The following is a report of items discussed at the October meeting. (There is never a meeting in August, and the September one was cancelled due to the impossible situation of the Council Council trying to change the date at the last minute.

Time Expiry

The Executive requested details of the City and County policy on funding for time-expired schemes. Both Councils finally agreed to prepare written statements.

D.O.E.

Mr. Perry (DOE Regional Controller – Midlands Enterprise Unit spoke somewhat unsatisfactorily in vague terms generally and around questions submitted by the Executive. The Executive made it clear that the IAP is pretty useless in any attempt to deal with inner city problems where central government consistently cutting main programme funding.

Area Meetings

County seems to have very different and exceedingly limited idea of consultation (and its usefulness etc.) from either the Executive or the City Council, the Executive warned that this could well blow up in the City's face.

M.S.C. ★ ★ ★ ★

On October 23rd, the Executive held a meeting to discuss its draft briefing paper "Manpower Services Commission and Community Organisations" with community groups. After a long and involved discussion it became clear that more work needs to be done so we will be recirculating the new paper to you as soon as possible. For more information, contact Sally or Tina on 410437.

Funding for Black Community Groups

The Executive asked for policy statements regarding funding for black groups and warned of future revenue problems likely to arise if capital money flung around heedlessly. After angry discussion without any agreements, the Executive stated that they would probably return to the subject at the next C.P.

A.I.D.S.

The Executive requested clarification as to the process of consultation between the Health Authority and gay/community groups around provision regarding AIDS. Health Authority officer, Julie Woodin stated that groups would have to write to the Health Authority asking for formal consultation if this was wanted. The Executive questioned her as regards the race dimension/black consultation with the health authority and she stated that black groups are consulted on schemes as far as it is seen as appropriate.

'85/'86 & '86/'87 I.A.P.

The Executive pointed out that they had only received the paper on the morning of the City Panel and asked that the report be deferred until the November IAP Committee. After some discussion, and agreement for an extra City Panel (on Nov. 8th) the City Councillors agreed to recommend this.

City Panel

The Executive had submitted a brief paper on the role of the CP. It was agreed that the subject be discussed at more length after the Executives Self-Evaluation in December.

