

SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

THE POLL TAX IS NEARLY DEAD - LET'S ENSURE IT GETS A FULL BURIAL

The Government are in a panic about their handling of the economy and the poll tax replacement. They knew the poll tax would cost them the election so they announced its "abolition". They also threw councils into chaos by announcing that 1991/92 bills would be cut by £140 after many councils had already sent out their bills! Now we have the ludicrous situation of Wandsworth residents paying nothing towards their local services in 1991/92.

WE'RE NOT PANICKING - WE'RE STILL NOT PAYING!

The poll tax is being replaced because it was seen as unworkable. Why? It was only threw the efforts of those who refused to pay the tax in support of those who couldn't that the promise to get rid of the tax has come about.

THE POLL TAX STORY IS FAR FROM OVER

What is the poll tax replacement?

Nobody knows exactly what the new Council Tax will be like but it looks as if it will be a mixture of property tax and the poll tax. Heseltine has said that the new tax will be based on:

- accountability
- fairness
- ease of collection
- most people should pay something

BEWARE - THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE POLL TAX!

If the poll tax has gone why should the anti-poll tax campaign carry on?

We still have *at least* another 2 years of the poll tax if the Tories win the next election. Over 14 million people in England and Wales have not paid some or all of the first year's tax. In March this year Nottingham City Treasurer said that over half the people on the register were behind with their payments.

"Non-payers only do harm to local services"

Local authorities are harming local services by slashing them in an attempt to avoid poll tax capping - hence our own County Council closing elderly persons homes. This is the real harm! Over recent years the government has been cutting grants to local councils to the tune of billions of pounds.

JOIN US - FIGHT THE CUTS

"With a reduction of £140 surely the poll tax is fair now"

The only way they have managed to do this is by putting up VAT, which in itself is an unfair tax that hits the poor hardest and lets the rich off lightly. It certainly doesn't just go on 'luxuries', unless you call clothes and telephones luxuries! In fact we are being bribed with our own money. In any case there is no guarantee that we will get the same 'reduction' next year.... or are they going to put up VAT yet again!

The only answer is to keep up the campaign and insist that:

- the poll tax is completely scrapped
- bailiffs are not used against non-payers
- there should be an amnesty for non-payers
- people should not be sent to prison for non-payment

For more information about the campaign, ring

p/p SDAPTC - 11 Osborne Ave, Sherwood.

SHERWOOD and DISTRICT ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

*Beware of
people who might be...*

BAILIFFS & 'RECOVERY OFFICERS'! - IF IN DOUBT - **KEEP THEM OUT!**

1. Avoid opening front door if possible
2. Make sure ground floor windows + doors are locked

3. If front door is opened simply say
"It's not convenient" and close the door.

What do bailiffs do?

Bailiffs are usually private debt collectors who will try and collect payment for poll tax or a fine for non-registration.

The council must first get a liability order against you from a magistrates court - then it is the council's decision whether to use bailiffs or not.

The legal term for what bailiffs do is 'distress'. If they can't persuade you to pay the debt they can try and take some of your personal possessions to the value of the debt.

Are bailiffs like the police?

No. They have no powers like the police and are not employed by the courts. You cannot be in contempt of court and the criminal law is not involved.

What powers do bailiffs have?

Their powers are strictly limited and the procedure is different to that in Scotland. There is no equivalent in England and Wales of a 'poinding' - valuation of goods - prior to a warrant sale.

The court must provide a warrant for the bailiffs in addition to the liability order. This is just an administrative step, with no additional court hearing. They might tell you about the warrant just to put the frighteners on.

Putting the frighteners on is what the bailiffs try and do - they hope to intimidate you into paying. Bailiffs are adept at getting into homes and will try every stroke in the book.

SO KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.

1) As soon as you get wind of the bailiffs contact the anti-poll tax union (see below). The bailiffs don't want any hassle and will retreat when we mobilise hundreds of people against them.

2) If bailiffs come they should show identification and give you a copy of Regulation 39 and Schedule 5 of the Enforcement Regulations 1989.

3) If you are not in they may leave a note saying when they will return. Make sure the anti-poll tax union is warned.

4) Otherwise, the bailiffs can only get into your house if you let them in. **THEY CANNOT FORCE THEIR WAY IN** but can climb in through an open window.

However, they may be within their rights to force a second door if they've been let in the first one, as in flats with a communal entrance.

If they push past you and force their way in you can call the police to have them removed.

5) Bailiffs can only come in daylight hours. Put pressure on the council, through the anti-poll tax union, to publicise the dates and times when bailiffs are coming. This makes it easier to mobilise people outside your home to keep the bailiffs away.

6) If the bailiffs get in they can 'lay claim' to goods that belong to you. But they cannot claim fixtures and fittings, or goods that do not belong to you - ie. things on HP or things you have just sold to a trusted friend for a nominal sum!

7) The bailiffs will ask you to sign an agreement to pay something by a certain date (including something towards their costs). If you sign and they leave the goods in your house this is a 'walking possession'. If they take the goods with them it is a 'close possession'. You then have a time limit to pay before they sell the goods at auction.

8) Once in possession, the bailiffs can return and forcibly enter your home and take your goods. It is a criminal offence to remove goods after they have been 'laid claim' to.

9) So everything hinges on the bailiffs getting into your house. They might claim to have 'walking possession' just by looking in the window. This is nonsense - they cannot know what is yours and you haven't agreed to anything as the regulations require.

10) They may claim that looking in the window is a valuation - this is waffle to make you think they have started a process. Don't worry, they're panicking.

Remember, bailiffs are the only real power that councils have in Scotland and they have got nowhere after 17 months! In Scotland the bailiffs - called sheriff officers - have a procedure to use force but still have not succeeded.

There are only 1,000 bailiffs for all the councils in England and Wales. They don't stand a chance against 14 million of us - the poll tax non-payers - as long as you know they can't get in unless you let them. The anti-poll tax unions are ready to back you up!

For more information contact:

KEEP THIS BY YOUR FIRE

Sherwood and District Anti-Poll Tax Campaign

8.00 pm
onwards

£1.50
WAGED
75p
UNWAGED
ON THE DOOR

CHRISTMAS
PARTY SOCIAL

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER

THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
SHERWOOD RISE.

P/P - SDAPTC
11, Osborne Ave., Sherwood

Nottingham

PUBLIC MEETING

SHERWOOD and DISTRICT ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

Come and hear the facts!

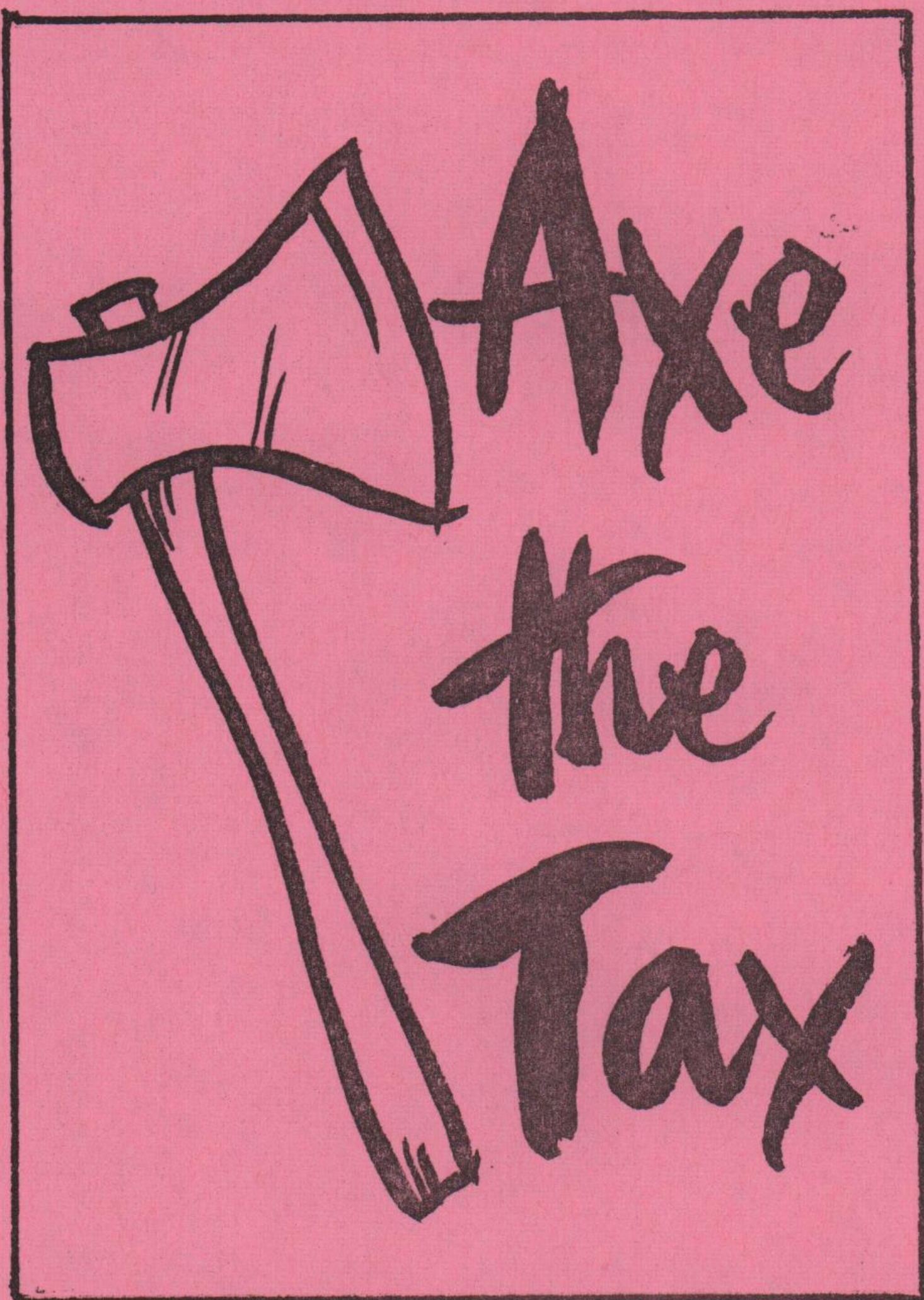
How can we fight against a tax which will allow a millionaire to pay the same as the lowest paid worker?

Since the Sherwood and District Anti-Poll Tax Campaign was set up in September more than 450 people have joined to try to stop the Poll Tax in its tracks.

We are linked up with other Anti-Poll Tax groups in the City and we are twinned with the Ibrox and Cessnock Anti-Poll Tax Campaign in Glasgow, Scotland.

This meeting will be for exchanging information and discussing the way forward for the Campaign.

ALL WELCOME



Speakers

GAIL SQUIRES

(Nottinghamshire NALGO - in a personal capacity)

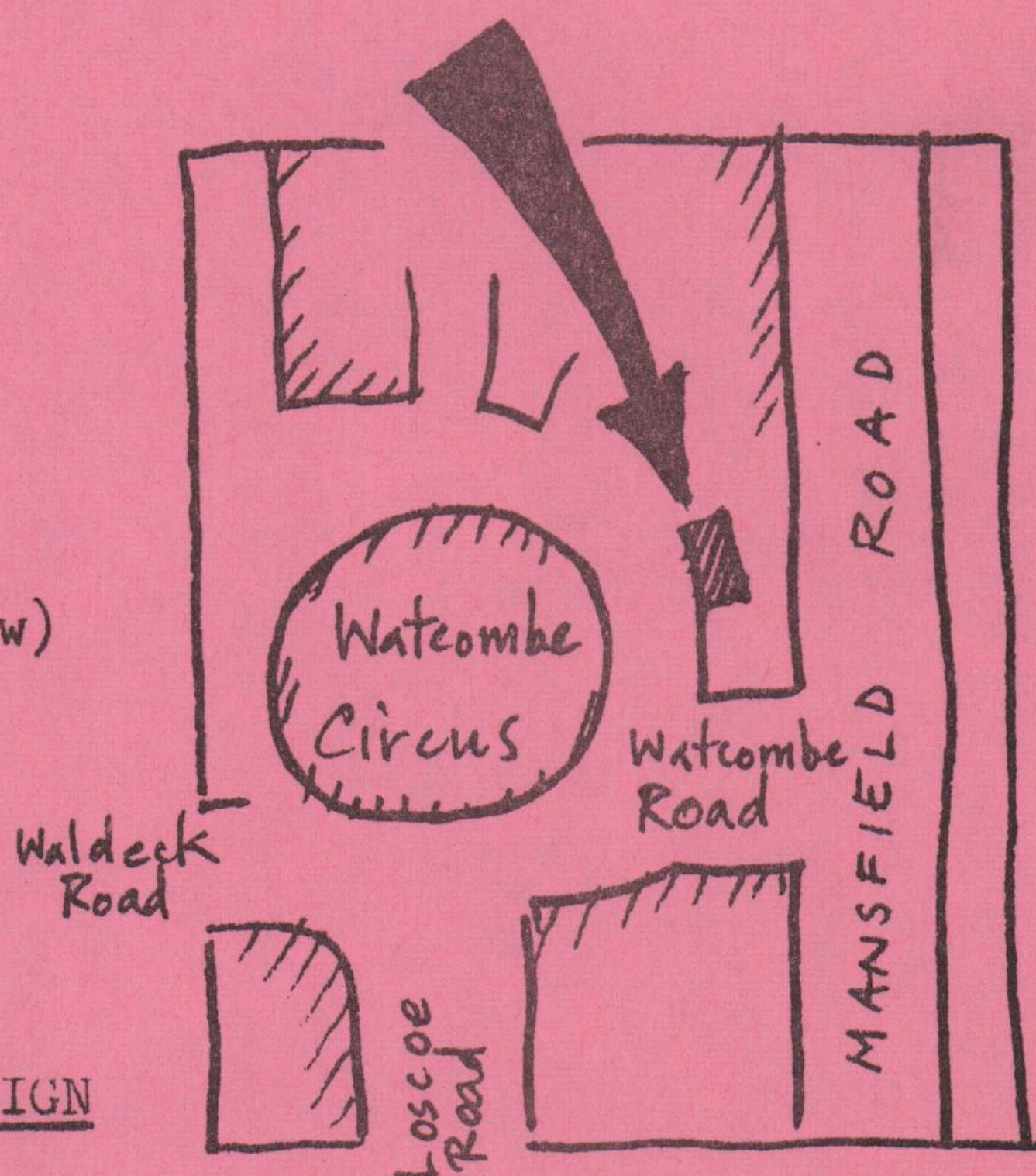
KEITH MILLAR

(Ibrox and Cessnock Anti-Poll Tax Campaign, Glasgow)

COUNCILLOR HASSAN AHMED

(Nottingham City Council)

AND SOMEONE FROM THE SHERWOOD ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN



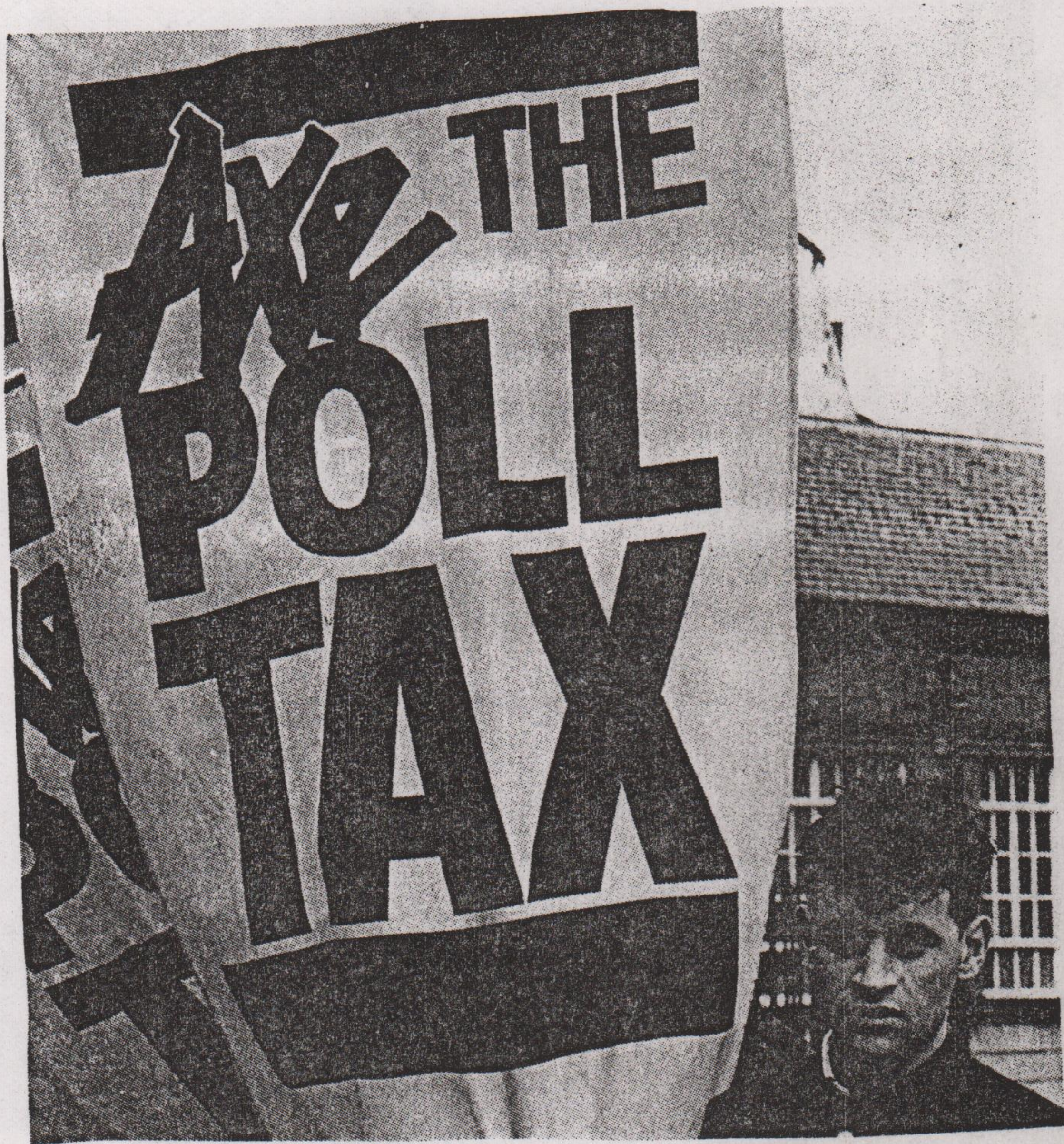
THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER

7.30pm

**St. JOHN's CHURCH HALL,
Watcombe Circus, Carrington**

SHERWOOD

ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN



Public Meeting - hear the facts!

Over the last few weeks more than 800 of us have signed the petition against the Poll Tax. Following the massive response to the petition a meeting has been set up to organise a campaign locally. ALL WELCOME

**WEDNESDAY
20th SEPTEMBER
7.30pm**

SHERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE,
MANSFIELD ROAD.