

ST ANNS ANTI POLL TAX UNION

GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

WHAT IS THE POLL TAX 'COMMUNITY CHARGE'?

It replaces the Rates. Unlike the Rates-where those with larger houses pay larger Rates - the Poll Tax is a standard tax for everyone. The millionaire pays the same as a miner.

WHO HAS TO PAY IT?

With some exeptions everyone in your property over 18.

HOW MUCH WILL THE POLL TAX BE?

Nobody really knows. The government estimate for Nottingham is £242. per person. However it could be well over £300. The Tories may keep the Tax artificially low until after the next General Election.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO START PAYING POLL TAX?

Next April. The first payments will be well overdue by July 1990.

WHAT IF I DONT REGISTER?

You can be fined £50. then £200. Delay registration for as long as possible. Ask for the Union's Leaflet on how to do this

WHAT ABOUT MY RIGHT TO PRIVACY?

Under the Poll Tax you dont have one. To bring in the Tax means - a massive National Computer link up will have to be set up. It's a National Identity Card in all but name. The register is a licence for Snoopers.

I DONT WANT TO PAY THE POLL TAX ITS' TOTALLY UNFAIR!

We agree! That's why we set up the St. Ann's Anti-Poll Tax Union. The Poll Tax is a way of moving a massive amount of money From the poor To the rich. We need it, they dont. We need the Union because it's no good sitting at home moaning. In order to beat the Poll Tax we need to be Organised. Individuals can't beat it - Together we can beat it.

I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY POLL TAX - AND THE ELECTRIC-GAS-RENT-FOOD Everything said above applies to you too even more so!

THE MINER'S LOST-THE DOCKER'S LOST I JUST CAN'T SEE AN ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN FORCING THE TORIES TO CLIMB DOWN.

Maybe it will, maybe it won't, we can't Guarantee victory, one thing is for sure ,if we don't fight then the Poll Tax will definitely come in! Together we Can win. If you don't fight then don't moan.

LETS WAIT FOR THE NEXT LABOUR GOVERNMENT

Even if - it's a big if - Labour gets in to power in 1991/2 we can't trust them to repeal the Poll Tax. Point made.

OKAY I CAN'T/DON'T WANT TO PAY BUT THEY WILL TAKE THE MONEY ANYWAY.

At the moment they are allowed to take £13. weekly from £100. take home pay, nothing from pensions and £1.75 from a single persons dole money (£2.75 couples). The law is being changed so much more can be stolen from dole money. Point is - if enough people refuse to pay the Poll Tax collection system will collapse. It's in chaos now just over registration!

WHAT ABOUT SCOTLAND?

The Poll tax was introduced there one year earlier - in April 1989

WHAT'S HAPPENED THERE?

Over 1 million people - over 20% of the population have refused to pay. Many just can't pay. Anti-Poll Tax Unions are leading a mass campaign of defiance. We need to do the same here.

LET'S FORGET IT UNTIL WE GET THE BILL!







Thattime will be here soon enough. People will start joining the Anti Poll Tax Unions then in a big way. However we need people to get organised Now. Otherwise you would'nt be reading this leaflet. Battles need preparing. For futher information on the Poll Tax ask the Union for "The Victims Guide To The Poll Tax.

WHAT CAN I DO

Join St. Ann's Anti Poll Tax Union.

LF...

Steve Bell

THE POLL TAX (THE SO-CALLED COMMUNITY CHARGE): WHO WILL BENEFIT?	
	1. The Teacher? The Teacher, married with two teenage children: No, you'll be paying 'at least double, probably treble what you pay now.
	3. The Fireman? I'm afraid you're going to have to douse a few more fires to recoup the amount you're going to lose.
	2. The Dustman? Large family, rents house. Not you. Your bill's shooting up sixfold, which is a shame because we're cutting your wages
	4. The Lollipop Person On the amount you earn you might as well jump under a bus. It's not going to cover your Poll Tax, nor is it low enough to entitle you to a rebate.
	5. The Lean, Fit, Perrier sipping, 5-times-a-night wealth creator? No children, owns half Gloucestershire. Yes! You'll be in the money, sir! And don't forget the Conservative Party when it comes to corporate donation time.
	6. The Landlord? Quite apart from your personal gains, your lot are going to have a windfall of millions because you won't be reducing your rents by the amount they now include to cover rates.

WE HOLD WEEKLY MEETINGS

EVERY TUESDAY 7.30p.m.

A.C.N.A. CENTRE . HUNGERHILL RD.

(OFF WOODBOROUGH RD.)



May
2nd

VOTE ANTI-
POLL TAX

Ross Longhurst	ST. ANNS WARD	
Kevin McCloskey		
Paul Walton	MANVERS WARD	
Frank McCloskey		
Peter Jackson	GREENWOOD WARD	

ST ANNS ANTI POLL TAX UNION

IF VOTING COULD CHANGE
ANYTHING IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL!

It's true isn't it!

So the last thing we want to do is to con anyone into voting for your ANTI-POLL TAX candidate on the basis that power lies in Nottingham Council House. It does not. They simply do what they are told to do by central government. The Labour Party have been constantly telling us that they can't do anything about the Poll-Tax except try and collect it.

Political power lies in London in the hands of the top civil servants/company directors/bankers/military/media personnel etc. In short, amongst the centrally organised ruling class.

For working people to exercise power they need to act together. That's why the ruling class hate the Anti-Poll Tax campaign. Non-payment is not just hitting them financially but politically too. All these Poll tax resisters won't do what they are told!

So, we can vote ANTI-POLL TAX as a way of continuing our protest against the tax. Nothing more, nothing less.

If you are NOT PAYING or have STOPPED PAYING then that is an excellent protest against the totally unfair Poll Tax.

However, whatever you are doing, we want you to do one more thing. Make a protest against the Poll-Tax and local government cuts on Thursday May the 2nd by VOTING ANTI-POLL TAX.

REGISTER A PROTEST AGAINST THE POLL TAX ON THURSDAY MAY 2nd!

VOTE ANTI - POLL TAX ON MAY 2nd.

We don't want "Son of Poll Tax" or "Poll Tax 2 : The Agony Continues"...

Let's get rid of it!

We could let the Tories in. Can't anybody ever do anything for themselves in case it "lets the Tories in"? With that attitude working people can never do anything lest it spoils Labours election chances. Labour policy on the Poll-Tax...you should pay it! People who are waiting for Labour to make life easier are in for a big shock!

At local level there is no shock at all. For the past year, two years in Scotland, the Labour councils have been hammering the people with cuts and Poll Tax demands. It matters less who crawls in than people carry on fighting against injustice.

NO LIABILITY ORDERS!

NO BAILIFFS!

NO POLL TAX WITH A NEW NAME!

NO CUTS IN LOCAL SERVICES...CUTS ARE DUE TO THE ENORMOUS LOCAL
TAX REDUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE RICH!

.....
ELECTION MEETING.

DAY APRIL 24th SYCAMORE SCHOOL,
ABBOTSFORD DRIVE, 7.30pm

OTHER CANDIDATES INVITED DARE THEY DEBATE WITH THE ANTI-POLL TAX
CANDIDATES?

RFP, F. McCloskey, 23, Primrose Close, Nottingham.

ANTI-POLL TAX CANDIDATES

NOMINATED

Anti-Poll Tax candidates are standing in the forthcoming elections to Nottingham City Council. They are:

BEECHDALE - Guy Waddingham

GREENWOOD - Pete Jackson

MANVERS - Frank McCloskey, Paul Walton

ROBIN HOOD - Torsten Shaw

ST ANN'S - Ross Longhurst, Kevin McCloskey

All of these candidates have refused to pay the Poll Tax and Guy Waddingham has served a jail sentence for his part in the 'Custard Pie' attack on City Councillors last year.

The objective in standing is to provide people with a further opportunity to register their opposition to the Poll Tax.

This unjust tax is still with us and despite the reduction will still hit low income groups the hardest. We don't want 'Son of Poll Tax : the agony continues'. Let's get rid of it!

We know that many people in areas where the Anti-Poll Tax group is not standing candidates are nevertheless sympathetic to the idea of doing so.

None of the above candidates have available to them the kind of money available to the corrupt major political parties.

Therefore we are asking for the support of everyone who agrees with the idea of running Anti-Poll Tax candidates.

If you have TIME to contribute to the campaign then ring the number below.

If you have MONEY to contribute to the campaign then give it to a reliable agent for transmission to the address below or, preferably, send it direct.

Support this important campaign. Support this independent working class initiative.

.....
CONTACT.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

TEL.....

CONTRIBUTION ENCLOSED £.....

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE CAMPAIGN.....

.....

Tele

ST ANN'S ANTI-POLL TAX UNION

has enabled Militant to strengthen its own position within the Labour Party. For them activists are useful cannon fodder with which to "pressure" the L.P.

There is nothing wrong with working with L.P. members, notwithstanding the fundamental political differences we may have with them. To resist the Poll-Tax the maximum unity in action is necessary. However, what is totally unacceptable, is that the parameters of the struggle against the Poll-Tax should be constrained by what is acceptable to the Labour Party.

Locally, the Federation condemns the invasion of the Council House because it may upset their cosy relationships with the Councillors. Nationally, the vicious attacks made on the Trafalgar Square protesters, by the Labour Party leadership, go substantially unanswered by the "leaders" of the anti Poll-Tax Federation. Deputy Labour Leader, Hattersley, demanded "exemplary sentences" for the March 31st arrestees. Is it a coincidence that 150 people have been arrested since the demonstration? Is it a coincidence that a young protester has been, ludicrously but sinisterly, charged with attempted murder? Poll Tax activity should not be conditioned by whether or not it may embarrass the Labour Party's election chances.

There is another point to take account of. It has been mentioned before, that we want to promote the self-activity of the working class. The orientation towards the Labour Party cuts across this concern. The tactic of putting 'pressure' on Labour Councillors, for example, has implicit to the action the understanding that the working class cannot struggle on its own behalf. Rather, it needs 'important' people to 'represent' it. It is true that important sections of the class are demoralised. That makes it even more important to undertake the, painstaking, work required to build a core of activists. There are no 'get rich quick' solutions to this problem. Working class self-activity is a necessity not a luxury.

St Ann's Anti-Poll Tax Union has formally disassociated itself from the, so called, All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation and the Nott's Anti-Poll Tax Federation. In this document we explain why we took this action.

AFTERMATH

In the aftermath of the March 31st Anti-Poll Tax demonstration in London, the political instincts of the, Militant controlled, All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation ensured that they would line up with the British ruling class. The, many thousands, of working class people on the march were condemned in language strongly reminiscent of the gutter press.

A.B.A.P.T.F. Chair, and leading Militant member, Thomas Sheridan said,

"the majority of those who became embroiled in running battles had nothing to do with our protest."

Such dissemination is a calculated insult to all those who were the victims of ferocious and indiscriminate police attacks!

DEVELOPMENT

By April 2nd. Sheridan had developed the Militant/Federation position. Those who attempted to disperse the police blockade, which was crushing demonstrators, were, prefiguratively, judged to be guilty.

"If any of those who climbed the scaffolding in Trafalgar Square and threw blocks of concrete, metal and fire extinguishers into the crowd are identified - we will have no qualms about informing the police." (Financial Times 2nd. April.).

Sheridan was taking his cue from Federation Secretary Steve Nally who, the previous day (on I.T.N. 'News at Ten'), had threatened that "names would be named". Like Sheridan, Nally is an important Militant member. The Militant associated M.P., Mr. Terence Fields, added his ounce of venom by pontificating about "group terrorism".

In an A.B.A.P.T.F. leaflet dated 24-4-90 we are informed, by Nally, that some anti-Poll tax activists,

"...are mischievously suggesting that the Federation will pass names and information on to the police. This is untrue and there was never any intention that this would be so."

In the light of the Federations previous statements, we are entitled to know just who "names would be named" to? Nally, for example, has claimed that all along he meant an internal Federation enquiry! Indeed, at the Nott's Federation meeting of 7-4-90, Federation officers denied that Nally had even made his comments: even though millions had heard him on television! Such is the contempt in which the Federation holds anti Poll-Tax resisters.

St Ann's A.P.T.U. believes that the (Militant Controlled) Federations initial position on the Trafalgar Square events reflects its political gut reaction to state repression. The "revised" public position is just that, a public position based on purely pragmatic groundings. One could never trust such people in a situation of conflict. To retain any organisational links with the local or national Federations would have put the interests of all 600 S.A.A.P.T.U. members at risk. These are people who agree with mass non-payment, some are not even registered. We certainly do not want them to feel that their names are, in any way, for public consumption.

To hand in a petition to Leicester Council, with 10,000 names and addresses of potential non-payers (names and addresses which were handed straight over to the Community Charge Registration Officer) may have been gross stupidity. To maintain links with conscious Police collaborators would be political negligence of the highest order.

In contrast to the Militant/Federations position S.A.A.P.T.U. published the following document for discussion,

"We recognise that the violence at the 31st. March 1990 London Anti-Poll Tax Demonstration was provoked by the police charges on peacefully protesting demonstrators adjacent to Downing Street. The consequent violence was a result of police activity and not the initial cause of it.

A.P.T. campaigners have a legitimate right to resist state violence by the most immediately appropriate means.

It is noted that those seriously injured were demonstrators and not police.

We condemn all those who seek to justify state violence against demonstrators. We will campaign to expose the vicious lies they are actively promoting and which the mass media is relaying.

Any future A.P.T. activities should be properly organised so as to minimise the possibility of A.P.T. campaigners being subject to police attacks.

Substantial efforts should be made to provide all those arrested with legal services. Specifically no one should be forced into pleading "guilty" due to lack of financial aid.

It is particularly important that all money donated for legal aid be actually used for this purpose and that local monies collected are distributed with this aim in mind."

This perspective is incompatible with that of the Militant/Federations.

The following resolution, passed unanimously at the S.A.A.P.T.U. Action Committee Meeting of 17-4-90, is extremely brief.

"We propose that the St Ann's Anti-Poll Tax Union disassociates our group from the Nott's Anti-Poll Tax Federation and the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

We feel that co-operation with state forces is an affront to the working class struggle against state and capitalist oppression.

We further believe, that the brave people fighting state forces were heroes and not hooligans."

Yet it upholds a basic working class principle; no collaboration with state forces. Like many elementary principles, for example not crossing picket lines, it may have been honoured more in the breach than observance of late. But it does remain a principle.

WHAT NOW?

In practical terms leaving the local Federation means nothing. Far from acting as a facilitator for anti Poll-Tax activity, the Federation is a talking shop. May worse. The Federations "contribution" to the occupation of the Council House was to publicly denounce it! A Federation, local or national, completely dominated by one political tendency can never hope to obtain the degree of co-operation needed to serve as a focus for anti Poll-Tax work. Militant argue that they have achieved their control of the (local and national) Federations by "winning the arguments". In fact, Militant have obtained their positions by the constant enactment of bureaucratic manoeuvres. The "bussing" of supporters to meetings over a wide geographical area and the setting up of skeleton A.P.T.U.s simply to increase Militant's Federation vote are two of the, least sophisticated, methods used.

A substantial amount of time and effort has gone into, and is going into, opposing the, essentially negative, role of Militant and others within the non-payment movement. Needless to say, since St Ann's has transcended the futile internecine conflicts, and turned our attention fully to actual anti Poll-Tax campaigning the organisation has doubled in size.

In particular we have held a very successful social which, along with contributions from our members, has made the Union reasonably financially secure. We have been able to play a part in initiating the Nottingham Defence Fund which, unlike the Federation, offers unconditional support to anti Poll-Tax activists with legal problems.

It is important to realise that struggle against the Poll-Tax would occur irrespective of the existence of A.P.T.U.s. Many people simply cannot pay, and some will not pay because of the inherent injustice of the Poll-Tax system. It is the task of groups, such as St Ann's A.P.T.U., to co-ordinate and generalise struggle to ensure that people do not have to fight back in individual isolation. In particular, we wish to promote the self-activity of the working class. This is not the perspective of all trends within the anti Poll-Tax movement.

HIDDEN AGENDA

Groupings such as Socialist Organiser, and Militant, have the primary concern of returning a Labour Government to power in 1991/92. Militant are the most important to consider because their influence in the anti Poll-Tax movement is strong, whereas S.O.s is marginal. The anti Poll-Tax struggle