

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE



AGAINST THE POLL TAX

CLAPHAM

NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

BRIXTON

Lambeth council sent out 110,000 forms of which they received 43,000 back. 27,000 of these were usable the rest being abusive, spoiled or wrongly filled out.

Until mid July the council were using delaying tactics to prevent spending any extra of the £800,000 given by central government. After a threat of surcharges on councillors they backed down and have now agreed to buy and install the ICL computer which will be used to compile the register and store info. (This computer is unreliable and not even fully ready!)

The council has said that before fines are imposed for non-registration, they will consider each case at the Policy and Resources committee, which is chaired by Joan Twelves, council leader. This may mean that

Late News

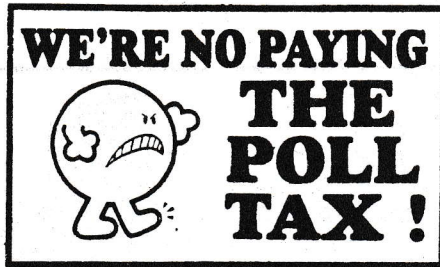
There's a possibility that the council may not use canvassers, but try to register people by the back door e.g. cross referencing info.

there is considerable delay in Lambeth before fines are imposed, although we can't be sure if this plan is definite. One of the reasons for not imposing immediate is the cost of fining 3/4 of Lambeth.

Scottish councils have had to make decisions about the cost of administering fines compared to how much Poll Tax they will receive in the future. Some 'socialist' boroughs in Scotland have tried to implement the poll tax and initiated warrant sales of peoples goods for not paying. Meanwhile many people have not sent their forms back or are holding onto them to see what happens, we say 'DON'T DELAY THROW IT AWAY'! Local groups are springing up and the feeling on street stalls is angry and defiant.

Now we need to get even more organised against possible door to door canvassers. With contacts in every street, estate and workplace we can smash this loony tax and make it another government failure.

50,000 Scots in Strathclyde say:



Late News's poll tax chaos in Lothian Region is in even poll collection will not the poll that they to recover until 15 trying from non-payers. At 22nd September CPSA members after 22nd September CPSA members benefit offices will not have said they from deduct poll tax from claimants benefits.

50,000 is the number of people in Glasgow and the surrounding Strathclyde region who had refused to return their poll tax registration forms by early October 1988. That was the date that the regional council had intended to publish the poll tax register.

Through these people refusing to pay the tax real delays and non-implementation have come about. Note that the Scottish Office have been claiming 99% registration.

There have been those that have been forced to register and many have had their names put on the list even though they had not been co-operating.

The fact remains that registered or not, of those due to pay **ONE MILLION SCOTS**, that is one fifth of the population will refuse to pay.

- a virus has appeared on the computer system holding the register in Edinburgh. Every ten minutes, one name disappears from the register!

- a single mother in Edinburgh who had not been able to pay her poll tax bill had managed to put off 'visits' from the bailiffs on 5 or 6 occasions. (In Scotland, those who can not pay the poll tax face having their belongings possessed as payment.) She finally contacted the bailiffs, who came to her house only to find 70 other people there, supporting her. The police were called and after assessing the situation, they left, refusing to support the bailiffs. The woman now has the support of a lawyer, who is threatening the bailiffs for harassment.

- the administration of the rebates is causing problems: people on low-incomes hoping to receive rebates on their poll tax are facing huge queues just to pick up their rebate forms Anti-Poll Tax activists have been advising them not to bother with the forms at all, once they have filled them in, then the registration officer has a mass of information about their circumstances.

- figures from Scotland show that in 52 of the 56 districts and Island councils, couples will be facing poll tax bills between 1% and 78% higher than the average rate bills. This compares with average domestic rate bill rises between 87/8 and 88/9 of only 6%.

- fines of 250 pounds for non-registration have been suspended due to a back-log of fines in the court.

Together we can defy this unfair, extortionate and sinister Government Tax, and make it unworkable

Community RESISTANCE

AGAINST THE POLL TAX Clapham/Brixton branch, c/o 121 Railton Road, Brixton.

LONDON NEWS

Most London borough councils have made some effort to get registration off the ground. Many councils have asked for information which they are not entitled to, and in Canterbury, Kent a whole new batch of forms had to be sent out.

Kensington and Chelsea have had 54% forms returned, Camden 50% and Islington 55%. The Poll Tax office in Islington was also attacked and damaged by an arson attack.

Tower Hamlets council had 43% of their forms returned, meaning that 40,000 people have not returned their forms. Also 1,700 forms were "not genuine" with insults scrawled on them, etc.

A Federation of Anti-Poll Tax groups has been formed in London. About groups are organised already, and the number is growing as community groups, housing co-ops and tenants associations form their own anti poll tax group. Perhaps we will catch up with Scotland soon, where Edinburgh, for an example, has 40 anti - Poll Tax groups.

In Greenwich, the Civil & Public Servants Association branch at the DHSS Office have passed a resolution not to deduct poll tax payments (20% of the full amount) from claimants cheques. Unless other DHSS workers take action, the 20% will be automatically deducted from Income Support payments, so claimants won't have the choice.

Federation Address: c/- 72 West Green Road, N15

WE'RE NOT PAYING !

COMING EVENTS

3rd September, there will be a national meeting of all Anti Poll Tax groups at the Polytechnic of Central London opp Baker St tube (10-5p.m.). Countrywide solidarity and co-ordination is needed and this meeting will be the first step.

WEEK OF ACTION

October 30th to Nov 5th. A London wide week of Anti-Poll Tax action, ending with a major event on November 5th! All ideas welcome.

LOCAL GROUPS

Clapham-Mostly meet at Clapham baths, Clapham Manor St. Look out for flyposting for dates of meetings. Write to c/o 121 Railton rd, S.E. 24 0LR.

Vauxhall-Contact them at Community Resistance against the Poll Tax c/o The Cafe, Bonnington Sq, Vauxhall, SW8.

Streatham-meet at Streatham Library, 63 Streatham High Rd SW16 (creche available) Mon. nights. Temporary address, same as Clapham group.

Lambeth against the Poll Tax-meet at Lambeth Town Hall. Contact 2 Norfolk House, Rushcroft rd, SW2.

All these groups have got organised by letter-boxing, running street stalls, holding meetings. Together, we can make the Poll Tax unworkable, but we need to support each other. If you would like to be an anti-poll tax street rep, letter-box your street, or hold a meeting at your work place, tenants' hall or community group, contact us and we'll speak at it. We've got 1,000's of anti-Poll Tax leaflets waiting to be distributed too!



18 March, Glasgow: 15,000 demonstrate for non-payment!

DON'T REGISTER FOR THE POLL TAX

ADVICE

..... HOW TO TACKLE THE NEXT STEP PLANNED BY LAMBETH COUNCIL

After another delivery of registration forms, to catch those people they've missed, the council are going to send around people to question you about unfilled forms.

- a. DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR!
- b. TRY TO WARN YOUR NEIGHBOURS THAT THE CANVASSERS ARE ABOUT.

However..... if you have already answered the door,

DO NOT FILL IN THE FORM ON THE DOORSTEP!

Make some excuse or reason for not doing so, eg :-

- Say you are not a resident of the house/flat, and that you are not prepared to take the form on someone else's behalf.
- Say you are on your way out.
- Say you are busy.
- Say you have to discuss it with someone else in the house.
- Say you don't believe you are the responsible person.

As yet, there have been no test-cases brought against people in England, but according to the Scottish example, you are not under any legal obligation to give information on your doorstep, so

DON'T HELP THE CANVASSER

and ...

DON'T GIVE ANY INFORMATION

Make THEM do the work