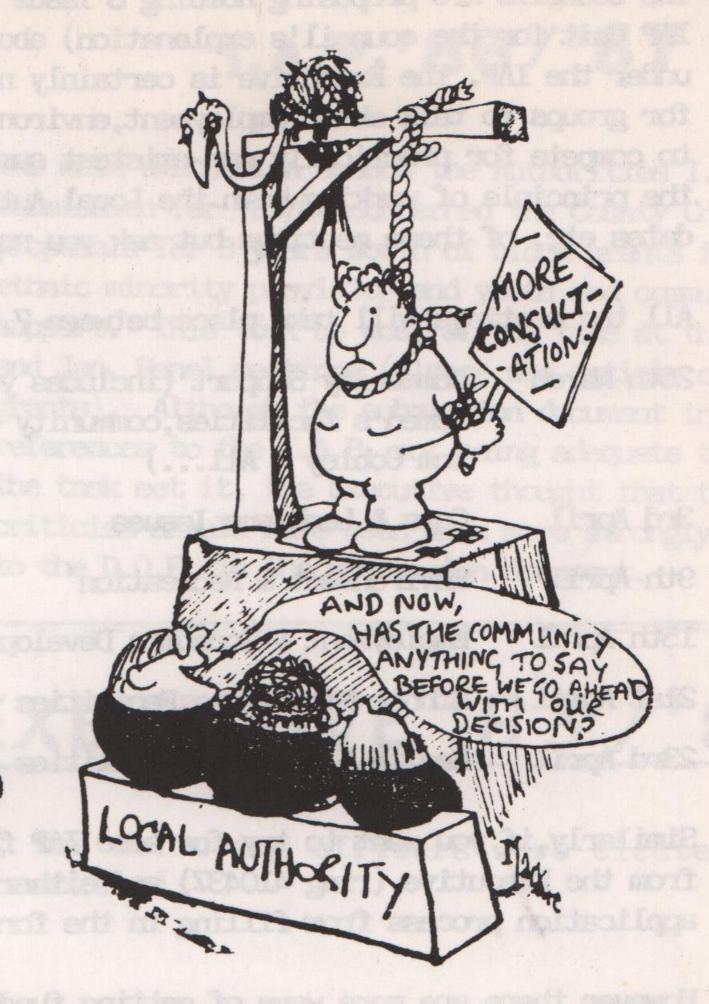


Sent to over 500 community groups in Nottingham. Published by Nottingham Inner City Executive, 83a, Mansfield Road, NG1 3FN. Tel: 0602 - 410437

AREA MEETINGS?



COUNCILS SAY NO TO BETTER LOCAL CONSULTATION

After months of negotiation by the Nottingham Inner City Executive with the City & County Councils, it has become clear that the Councils are not prepared to finance proper local consultation in each neighbourhood of the City. The Executive has been arguing that the existing annual area meetings are simply not good enough — people need to be able to get to a neighbourhood meeting where senior officers from the City & Councty Councils, Health Authority, Police etc. will be automatically available to answer local questions & criticisms. The Councils accept that the present meetings must be about their main services (from housing modernisation plans to pedestrian crossings) but seem to think that one meeting for i.e. North Nottingham (e.g. for Bestwood Estate, Bestwood Park Estate, Edwards Lane Estate, Top Valley Estate, and Rise Park Estate) will actually a) encourage people from all these areas to come to it and b) give them enough time to talk about all the different services in every estate! (Optimistic as the Executive is, even we can recognise a miracle when we see one!) Mind you, the City Council is prepared to widen out the old West Nottingham area meeting into 3 new local areas. Why stop there?!!!

The Executive has also been pushing for 6 monthly Area Meetings with proper follow ups to each meeting. If you have ever been to one, you'll know how incredibly frustrating it is to hear the same issue come up year after year even when money has been promised and found to deal with the topic; e.g. the long-awaited lift for the library in Sherwood which elderly & disabled people cannot use at the moment. What the Executive proposed was to have local people elected from the 6 monthly open meetings to work with the council, and other, officers and local councillors to ensure that action which has been promised actually happens and can be reported back to the next open meeting. The Councils , however, say that whilethis may be a good idea, they just don't have the money and staff to do this! So, they have the money to spend on local areas but not to spend on, at the very least, checking as to whether the local people want their money spent in that way!?

Discussions continue but in the meantime the City Council is obliged by Central Government to consult the voluntary sector on the 1987/8 Inner Area Programme (IAP). As far as the Executive is concerned the IAP is really about peanuts — it is more than likely that well under £75,000 will be available for running costs and salaries for any new voluntary sector cultural & social schemes in 1987 and remember over £4million was required for this last year — and any consultation can only be meaningful if it is about the full services the local authorities provide! (If you want to hear more about the negotiations, please contact Sally or Tina on 410437 at the Executive offices)

The Councils are proposing holding 6 issue meetings (see following article submitted by the City Council IAP Unit for the council's explanation) about the different categories for which groups could get funding under the IAP. The Executive is certainly not welcoming these as a brave step forward — open meetings for groups to talk about employment, environmental improvements etc. with no bearing on main services and to compete for practically non-existent sums of funding are not our idea of consultation! However, under the principle of working with the Local Authorities to provide maximum information we list the venues, dates etc. of these meetings but ask you not to raise your hopes too high!!

All the meetings will take place between 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

Health & Disabled Facilities

International Community Centre, Mansfield Community Support (includes youth, education, elderly, 26th March Road, Nottm. (ICC) women's facilities, community development and Uncle Tom Cobley & All...) City House, Maid Marion Way, Nottingham 3rd April Gays & Lesbians Issues ICC Environment & Recreation 9th April City House 15th April Employment & Economic Development ICC 21st April Ethnic Minorities Facilities

Similarly, if you want to try for some IAP funding, what there is of it, application forma are available from the Executive (ring 410437) and either Tina or Sally will be happy to help any group with the whole application process from filling in the forms to lobbying councillors & health officers for support.

However there are more ways of getting funding than filling in an IAP application & keeping your fingers crossed. See the article on "Funding Workshops" for some practical help the Executive can offer groups.



Submitted By The City Council IAP Unit

ICC



NEWS ON AREA MEETINGS

23rd April

Over the past 6 years the Area Meetings have become a regular feature of consultation between the City Council and the residents of the City. Although based on the plans and projects for the Inner Area Programme, the meetings have become a chance for everyone to have their say about the services which the local authorities provide for Nottingham's residents, in general.

The meetings have usually been held between January and April of each year. However, this year is to be different. Futher details will be given later in the year, and all that can be said at this stage is that it is hoped that the Area Meetings will start their annual round in the Autumn.

The City Council still wishes to allow consultation on proposals for Inner Area Programme schemes starting from April 1987 onwards. As the closing date for new applications is May 2nd 1986 it has been decided to arrange a series of topic based meetings covering the major issues which get raised as items for inner area support. The details of these meetings are given below. They are open to everyone. It is hoped that the meetings will discuss new ideas for projects to benefit the disadvantaged areas, as well as the general policy towards inner area problems.

APPLICATION FOR INNER AREA PROJECTS

The application forms are now available for groups and individuals wishing to apply for grant aid under the 1987/88 Inner Area Programme. You can get a copy of the form from Jane Hutchinson, Inner Area Programme Unit, City House, Maid Marian Way tel 412334 ext 4467.

££ FUNDING WORKSHOPS ££

Stupid question: DOES YOUR ORGANISATION NEED MONEY?

WHAT FOR? WHERE FROM?HOW??

It's far from easy to get funding BUT if you come to these workshops it just might help! The Executive, with the help of CVS and several other community organisations, is running a series of workshops/ sessions aimed at helping community groups apply for, and, hopefully, get, funding. These sessions (details below) will be informal with lots of time for discussion & questions in small groups. They will be run by people from the voluntary sector and anyone from a community organisation or who is planning to set one up is welcome to attend. It is hoped to cover as many sources of funding as possible from Inner Area Programme to Social Services grants, Charitable Trusts, Sports Council etc. etc. Attendance at all the sessions is free of charge and all will have a free, supervised children's room & free refreshments! Please complete the tearoff slip on the application form which is enclosed in this Direct Line and return it to the Executive's office (83a, Mansfield Road, Nottm, NG1 3FN) if you want to book a place for any of the sessions. You can attend the whole course or just the sessions relevant to you, and more than one person from each organisation can attend, as space permits - so book now to avoid disappointment!!

ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE AT THE INTERNATIONAL COMM-UNITY CENTRE, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottm. DISABLED ACCESS

Setting up

WEDNESDAY 9th APRIL

Day Session: 10am to 4pm - with a break for lunch!

When applying for funding you will be expected to be reasonably well organised before you start, and even if you're from a well-established group it doesn't hurt to have a refresher course! We will be looking at the basics of setting up a community organisation, forming a management committee, adopting a constitution etc. Also how to fit the aimes of your organisation to the method and structures you use to achieve them and how to assess how successful you're being.

Where to get funds from - and for what?

FRIDAY 11th APRIL

Morning Session: 10 am to 1pm.

This is an information-giving session where all the main sources of funding available to community groups will be identified and explained; what they are available for, where & how to apply for them. There will be masses of time for people to ask specific questions in small groups.

Making an application

TUESDAY 15th APRIL

Day Session: 10 am to 4pm.

The better your application for funding, the more likely your success! This session will concentrate on the nitty gritty of how to get the aims, methods, structure etc. of your project down on paper - as is necessary when you fill in the dreaded application forms! In small groups, we plan to work through an application form discussing how to describe the work of the project, work out budgets, job descriptions for workers, additional info. to include etc. etc.

What happens to your application form-and how to help it

THURSDAY 17th APRIL

Afternoon Session: 2pm to 4pm.

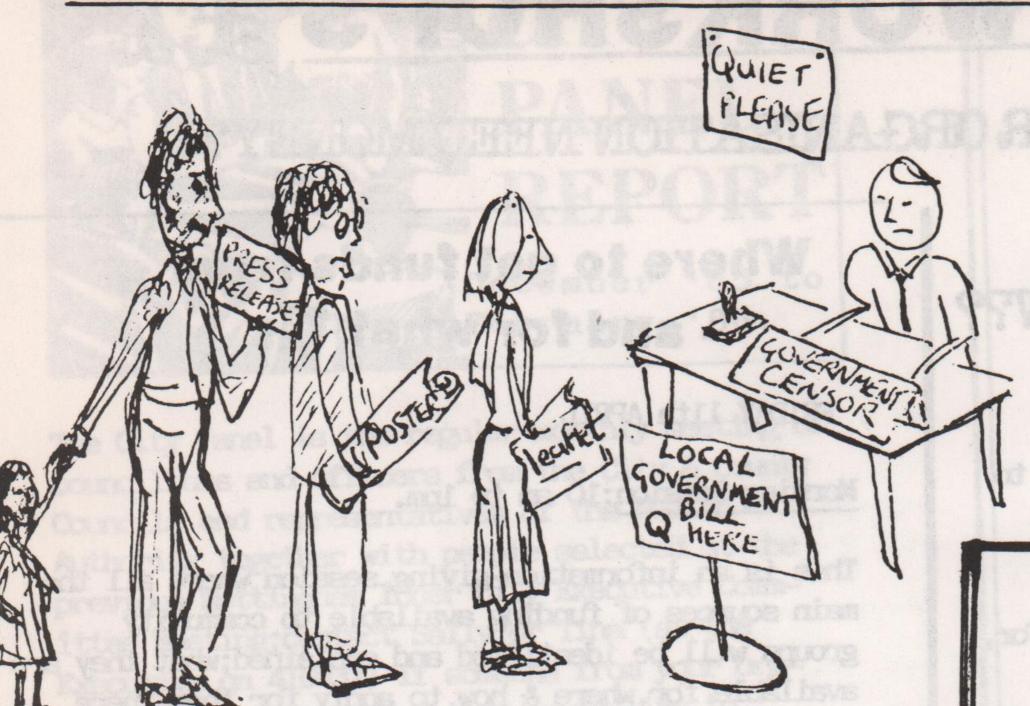
So, after all that hard work what happens now? This session will look at the various Council, or other, structures, committees, officers etc. that your application goes through when being "processed" and how your organisation can influence decisions by "lobbying" etc. We will discuss how to put pressure on cllrs (and how not to!), how to use local media, petitions, get support from other groups etc. We will also invite some cllrs to talk about what 'lobbying' they think works and what not!

INFORMATION AND FACTSHEETS AND OTHER RELEVANT LITERATURE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ALL THE SESSIONS FOR PEOPLE TO TAKE AWAY.

For more details about any of the sessions, contact Tina or Sally on 410437.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL GOPEN MEETING >





for anyone involved in a community organisation

FRIDAY MARCH 14TH INIERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE 61B Mansfield Road at 7.30pm

with Richard Ottaway M.P. to answer your questions and criticisms of the effects of the bill. (Local Conservative and Labour City and County Cllrs. also invited to allow you to question their support for community organisations.)

From community organisations' points of view the most improtant thing about the bill it that it is a serious threat to grants groups get from Notts. County Council or Nottingham City Council. Basically what it means is that the councils will not be allowed to give grants to any community organisation doing work which might influence how people vote and support the political parties.

On the face of it, it seems quite reasonable that the political groups running the councils should not be able to use our hardearned rates to pay for fake community groups campaigning for the Labour or Conservative party. However, the bill is written in such a wide way that, not only will lawyers earn a fortune from our rates bills 'establishing the correct interpretation of the rules' but all community groups may have to stop all the public campainging (with leaflets, posters, newspaper articles, radio interviews etc etc) which is the only way most groups can force the councils/government into action.

In practice this would mean:

- Community Associations would not be allowed to press for council house sales since this would be seen as anti-Labour.
- The Disability Alliance could not criticise failure to provide adequate facilities and opportunities for disabled people because this might affect support for Labour (locally) or the Conservatives (nationally).
- Afro Caribbean and Asian Community groups could not take up complaints that the Nationality Laws are racist. These groups could of course continue to make these points but they would not be allowed to have any grant-aid for their organisation from the City or County Councils.

This bill will silence our voice and seriously threaten our funding if it goes through Parliament in its present form. It must be stopped or completely changed if we are to continue to play our important independent role of demanding the best for our communities.

BLOCK GRANT PROPOSALS

The County Council are asking the Department of Environment to approve two "block grants"; one for Grant Aid for Ethnic Minority Community Provision (£100,000 per year for 3 years) and one for Youth & Community Support (£20,000 per year for 3 years). Both are for capital expenditure only; e.g. building works, major pieces of eqipment etc. These proposals have generated much discussion both within the Executive and at the City Panel, since the decision to, and implications of, creating such block grants gives much cause for concern. In the case of the block grant for Ethnic Minority Community Provision, quite unlike any other block grants which are distributed once the money is definitely available, the Councty Council have "earmarked" several groups to receive this money in 1986/7, prior to having received DOE approval.

The Executive's Position

Although having strong reservations about these block grant proposals the Executive wishes to make it clear that it does not, and never has, opposed the funding of the "earmarked" groups, or any other, from this block grant money. The Executive supports ALL voluntary sector applications for funding and has consistently fought to increase the allocation of TAP money and main programme budget, for all community groups, and will continue to do so.

Objections

The representatives from the black community on the County Council's Etimic Working Party and on the City Council's Race Sub-Committee raised objections to the proposals and several individual black community organisations have also protested against them. After full discussion the Executive made the following main objections to the Local Authorities regarding the block grants:-

i) Despite recognised consultation procedures, such as the monthly City Panel meeting, the proposal to apply for such a grant was not raised by the County Council until after it had been included in the IAP submission to the Dept. of Environment. Also, to our knowledge, there was no consultation with black or youth groups in the City to assess whether or not such block grants were a good idea. Yet the implications arising from their creation are very serious... ii) Does this mean that in future all black or youth groups are to receive IAP funding only from these grants? Where is a black youth group to be funded from? How does this link in with main programme spending?

iii) Since the money is for capital cost only, how are projects to pay for the running costs & workers necessary to make their buildings useable?

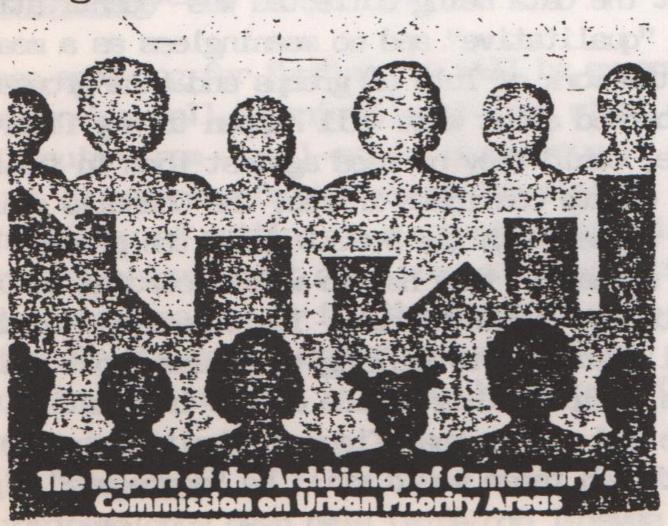
iv) There is no process of consultation that has been opened by black & youth groups in the city to decide how the grant should be allocated. Neither were the criteria on which funding decisions were based clearly spelt out beforehand. It is the responsibility of the local authorities to consult in a meaningful way and make clear the criteria they are using.

The Response

Despite pressure amounting to threats of total with-drawal from consultation by the Executive, the County Council adamantly refuses to review these proposals. Similarly, the City Council, although they say that they are unhappy with the plans, refuse to publicly oppose them. The County agree that their consultation policy is bad — and even invited the Executive to suggest improvements. Both Local Authorities made it plain that they will not be picking up any of the revenue costs associated with capital funding from these block grants.

FAITH STATES OF ACTION BY CHURCH AND NATION

In 1983, the Archbishop of Canterbury set up a commission to look into the situation in 'Urban Priority Areas' which produced the report 'Faith in the City' in December 1985. The report says nothing really new but does provide another forum for discussion of the massive and increasing problems of inner city and outer area housing estates in deprived cities such as Nottingham.



What Now?

The County Council have said that once they have DOE approval, the allocation of the grant will have to be reconsidered. Also, as yet, only 1986/7 funding for the block grants have been discussed — there will be another 2 years to go. So there is possibly room for manoevre and for groups to influence decisions in the future.

The Executive is sending out a full account of the discussions & decisions reached so far to groups concerned and is calling a MEETING ON 24th MARCH AT 7.30pm AT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE to discuss this issue and any group interested is welcome to send a representative. For more information contact Sally or Tina on 410437.

"Chapter after Chapter of our Reports tells the same story; that a growing number of people are excluded by poverty or powerlessness from sharing in the common life of our nation. A substantial minority — perhaps as many as one person in every four or five across the nation, and a much higher proportion in the Urban Priority Areas — are forced to live on the margins of poverty or below the thresholds of an acceptable standard of living" (Faith in the City p. 239)

Nottingham's community organisations would certainly agree with the report's strong condemnation of bad, inadequate housing, huge levels of unemployment, particularly for young and black people, lack of preventative health care, badly resourced schools etc. etc. Many would also agree with the church's call for 'recognition by the government of the need for long term continuity and funding for recognised voluntary bodies working alongside statutory organisations" together with "development by central and local government of consultation with, and partication by, local people at neighbourhood level". There are parts of the report which many people might agree with e.g. the recommendation to expand the MSC Community Programme to 1/2 million places; the assumption that the Church of England could or should automatically 'help to provide direct services', 'influence local policy', 'influence attitudes' and particularly the worrying statement that church support of law centres might free law centre workers from having to worry about pleasing local politicians/ council officers who distribute grants since equally few such law centres in urban priority areas might want to worry about ensuring they pleased their local parish councils!

All in all, however, the Report seems to be saying much that needs to be said to this and future governments. It is interesting that, at a time when Central Govt. appears to be trying to squash all criticism of Govt. policies through the imposition of the Local Information Bill, the Conservatives originally tried to rubbish the results of this report by, amongst other things, calling it Marxist! — and only succeeded in making it a best seller!!

Has your organisation any feelings about what the Church of England/other churches could be doing in your local area for the community? If so, please feel free to write in to us with suggestions we can print in the next Direct Line.



CITY PANEL REPORT

December '85 to February '86.

The City Panel is the regular monthly meeting of councillors and officers from the City & County Councils and representatives of the Health Authority together with people selected at the previous Nottingham Inner City Executive Committee Meeting; contact Sally or Tina (at the Executive on 410437) if someone from your organisation has something they would like to bring up themselves. The following is a report of the items discussed at the December, January and February meetings.

City Panel

The issue of the (changing) role of the City Panel has been raised several times recently. In December the Executive asked for a statement from the Authorities on the role of the City Panel. By the February Panel, we had received this, but as yet had not had time for a full discussion with the Executive. At the January meeting it was agreed that in future the notes taken at the Panel meetings (both the Council's and Executive's set) will be submitted to the I.A.P. Committee.

Time Expiry

The Executive received the long awaited policy statements on time expiry from the City Council late in Jan. and the County just before the Feb. Panel meeting and so has not yet had chance to fully discuss this very important issue. It will be raised as a major item at the March Panel.

Area Meetings

By the December Panel meeting, from the Executive point of view, there was still no clear agreement between the Executive and the Authorities on what the format and content of Area Meetings for '86 should be. At the November Panel meeting, it was agreed that Area Meetings would not take place until later in the year, and the Executive wrote letter to go to the I.A.P. Committee stating why, for the Executive, the meetings couldn't happen; no agreement had been reached plus the Executive didn't have the time or resources to run the meetings before April '86. It was agreed to do joint Executive/Council statement to publicise the situation to community groups. At the Feb. Panel, it emerged that the City Council thought agreement had been previously reached on the format and content of the meetings. It was decided that the councillors should meet with Executive officers to re-discuss the Area Meetings to happen later in the year. (See article on Area Meetings).

CHANGING THE CITY

NATIONAL CONFERENCE!

Local voluntary and community organisations in conjunction with the Urban Unit of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations are planning a weekend conference in June this year. This conference is a first attempt to bring together community organisations from across the County to discuss how they can use their knowledge of local needs, their skills and experience to make decisions about what should be happening in our cities; the voluntary sector's own view of what "urban policy" should be. Representatives from local groups, residents and tenants associations, community associations, youth clubs etc. and from local and national "umbrella organisations" are invited to attend.

THE CONFERENCE IS ON JUNE 27/29 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESIER INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

The fee is £56 per person (very steep! but subsidy should be available to groups who can't afford this). If your're interested in going/want more information contact Tina or Sally at the office. Places are restricted to 250 so book yours now!

I.A.P.'87/'88-

funding applications

Since the January Panel meeting agreed that Area Meetings would not take place this year as in previous years, the Councils have to do some form of alternative "consultation" prior to making an IAP submission for 1987/8. In February they proposed running a series of "issue based" meetings for groups to discuss IAP funding for '87/8. The Executive raised various objections & explained their plans to run "funding workshops" for groups to cover all forms of funding available, which the Councils agreed to participate in. (See articles on Issue Meetings and Funding Workshops.)

Monitoring and Evaluation

At the Jan. Panel, the Executive learnt that the Councils had already started this process and that they had to submit a report to the D.O.E. by August '86. The Executive objected to the fact that we had not been consulted, as previously agreed, prior to groups being approached to give information. Also, that the data being collected was "quantitative" not "qualitative" and so meaningless as a measure of the work of lots of groups and that groups are concerned about what will happen to any figures they give, could they be used against them in future? The debate continued in Feb; the Councils said they had argued with the D.O.E. about the process but had got nowhere - they had to work according to DOE rules or the IAP would be cut. The Councils agreed to give full resources to talking to groups about the process, helping them decide on the information they give and ensure that figures submitted to the DOE (although these would still be "aggregate" figures for several projects) also have supplementary "qualitative" information.

Executive's "campaigning" activities

The Councils had received a letter from the DOE stating that the Executive would have its funds cut if it produced "party political" propoganda (i.e. Direct Line!). In February, we asked the Councils if and how they had replied to this. The County Council had said it was difficult to assess what is "political" activity/campaigning and that they were "by and large" happy with the work of the Executive. City Council pay salaries of the workers only, but had replied along similar lines.

I.A.P.'86/'87

The main discussion around the Authorities I.A.P. submission for '86/87 concerned the County Council's proposals for 3 years worth of block grants for ethnic minority provision and youth and community support. This took up most of the time at the Dec. and Jan. Panel meetings (please see article on block grants). Although the submission document includes references to the I.A.P. not being adequate to meet the task set it, the Executive thought that this criticism should have been much more strongly made to the D.O.E. in the submission document.

WHO'S WHO ON THE EXECUTIVE '85/'863

At the A.G.M. of the Executive back in December, the following officers were elected:(the organisation the officers represent is in brackets):-

Officers :-

Co-Chairpersons

(the Executive now has two chairpersons)

Vice-Chairpersons

(members prepared to give help and Support to the co-chairpersons)

Mr. G.S. Birdi (Ramgarhia Sabha, Nottm.); G. Khan (Muslim Liaison Committee) Lin Gilzean (West Indian Nationals Assoc) G.S. Sanghera (Indian Welfare Assoc.) Ferdi Fru (Nottm. Comm. Housing Assoc.) Carl Wardle (Phobics Assoc.) L. Stevens (West Indian Nationals Assoc.)

Treasurer

Jenny Haywood (Nottm. Video Project)
Wyn Williams (C.R.C.)

Alex Meade (Womens Aid)
George Leigh (West Indian Nationals Assoc.)
D. Wilson (West Indian Nationals
Mrs. Jeet Osaan (Ramgarhia Sabha, Nottm.)
Mr. Surjeet Singh (Ramgarhia Sabha)
Mrs. T.K. Birdi (Ramgarhia Sabha)
Mrs. H.K. Ghaley (Ramgarhia Sabha)

Mr. J.S. Flora (Indian Comm. Assoc.)

Executive Committee :-

The following organisations are members of the Executive for '85/86 and are all entitled to send three representatives to Executive Committee meetings:

All Saints Institute; Basford United; Bulwell Advice Centre; Bulwell Community Toy Library; Crabtree Community Assoc.; Dawat-E-Islamia; Emmanuel House; Forest Fields Community Assoc.; Health Strategy Group; Highbank Comm. Assoc; Hindu Temple and Comm. Centre; Hyson Green Law Centre; Indian Comm. Centre; Indian Welfare Assoc; International Community Centre; Islamic Centre, Nottingham; Italian Community Assoc.; John Perkins House; KIngs Hall Methodiat Church; Lesbian and Gay Peoples' Centre; Lenton Parish Church; Madri-Masjid and Muslim Educational Centre; Meadows Advice Group; Meadows Muslim Action Group; The Midland Group; Morley Junior School Youth Club; Muslim Womens Organisation; New Basford Community Assoc; Nottingham Beavers; Nottm. Comm. Arts Centre; Nottm. Comm. Housing Assoc. Ltd; Nottm. Comm. Relations Council; Nottm. Council for Voluntary Sercice; 47th Notm. Scout Group; Nottm. and Notts. Soc. for the Deaf; Nottm. and County Phobic Assoc; Nottm. Video Project; Nottm. Young Volunteers; Norwich Gardens Friendship Society; Queens Qalk Comm. Centre Assoc.; Our lady and St. Patricks R.C. Church; Pakistan Centre; Pakistani Friends League; Pakistan Democratic Group; Second Base; Top Valley Comm. Assoc.; UKAIDI Community Link Project; Union of Pakistani Organisations; Assoc. of Ukrainians; West Indian Cavaliers; West Indian Nationals Assoc.; Windbag Inflatable Project; Womens Aid.

Your can join the Executive at any time of year, and its free. Contact Sally, Trisha or Tina at the office for details.

COMMUNITY ACTION FESTIVAL!

SAT. JUNE 21ST. 10AM. -4PM. OLD MARKET SQUARE



Time to take to the streets again! Nottingham's "Community Action Team" is organising another Festival Day for community groups to put their case as to why they need improved funding and not cuts!

From 10am to 4pm on June 21st we are asking groups to come along to have fun & free publicity by having a stall & giving out leaflets, giving displays (from dance to music to keep fit etc.)selling food or jumble or anything the group makes, in Market Square. (The Festival will definitely take place in the Square come wind or shine!)

We have invited local city & county councillors and MPs along for the day to meet the different community organisations and also to speak, answer your questions!, at an open air meeting we will be holding in the Market Square at lunchtime. A chance for all your members to air their views to Labour & Conservative politicians and tell them what you think should be done about future funding of community organisations and community resources!

So if your group is interested in being involved in the festival in any way, please fill in the form loose inside Direct Line & get it back to CAT at 83a Mansfield Road, Nottingham.Or, even better, if any of you would like to help organise the day, come along to the next organising meeting on 10th April at 7.30pm at the International Community Centre or ring Sally or Tina for details.

DON'T SQUEEZE US DRY!!

DATA Protection Act

This act gives new rights to individuals regarding any personal data held about them on computer. By 1987, individuals will be able to ensure that such information is accurate and is not disclosed unnecessarily.

Groups and individuals who process personal data on computer will have new obligations to register with the Data Protection Registrar, and to process any data within a specific code of practice.

But don't despair!

If you are an individual who uses a computer for recreational or personal purposes, you do not need to register, nor to worry about this Act.

If you are a group or individual who ases personal data for a small club or solely for mailing lists for a group, you may not need to register. If you do need to register, it must be done before 11 May 1986.

You need to see if the Act applies to you or your group.Pamphlets are available from the Data Protection Registrar's Office:

Springfield House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AX Tel. (0625) 535777

CODA can also give you information, if the Data Protection pamphlets aren't clear. Ring Carrie Salzedo on Nottm. 470906. Good Luck!

COMMUNITY DATA PROJECT CODA

454 MWNSFIELD RU NOTTINUMM NUT 31 H TEL 478986

directors: r. caney, a. clark, i. griggs, i. junipor, a. marshall, j. silvey, j. melch