

News not Profit

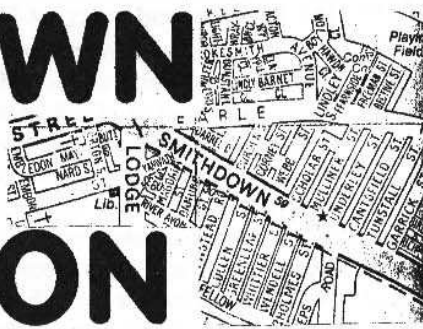
WILL PRINT YOUR STORIES. GET IN TOUCH.



July 2006

Brought to you by the Liverpool Social Forum

SMITHDOWN AGAINST DEMOLITION



greater number of homes and providing community resources to replace ones lost locally. If homes were refurbished and occupied, and the council and police take the issue of antisocial behaviour seriously, then this would be a nice place to live.

For those of you on Tunstall, Garrick, Bird and Richardson Streets and adjacent shop terraces, you are scheduled

for phase 2. We ask you to join us in this fight now. If we lose and we are evicted, who will you ask to help you? Please join the fight now to save all our homes. Residents of Bannerman St, Spofforth rd and adjacent Webster Rd streets, did you know the developers have already submitted plans for your area? They have outlined your houses for clearance and development by a third party to make profits on the back of your losses.

Have you been here before? Do you want to tell us or the inquiry anything? How bad has your housing association or council house been? What ideas do you think would improve the area and your life? Did you object to the plans and did you get a reply? We know of people who objected but aren't on the list of objectors. email: maxiliu@hotmail.com

On July 11 the issue of compulsory purchase orders for homes and business in the Smithdown Rd area goes to public inquiry. From a longer message posted on Liverpool Indymedia, July 20.

'We are a new group fighting for better homes and community facilities in our area. We are NOT against new homes being built for those that want them, but they don't need to be built on the rubble of the homes of people that don't want them or can't afford them. We ARE against the theft and demolition of decent homes and profiteering by the private sector. Membership is £2 per year and is open to all residents and businesses in the area. There are many ways we can help ourselves and our neighbours. You can become a committee member, deliver leaflets, attend our meetings, display posters, give fighting funds for the public inquiry, your skills as a builder, artist, architect etc, towards community led alternatives. Whatever you can do, please let us know as soon as possible.

For those of you that have been told by the council and their partners that these houses are definitely coming down - this is a lie. This is their preferred option. It will be decided by public inquiry, and then by Ruth Kelly MP. The council is offering a fraction of what your home is worth; that is why sales to the council have dried up recently. Did you know that one house on Tunstall Street sold for £106,000? Imagine what they'd sell for in a refurbished state with a nicer environment!...The council has chosen the most expensive option - mass demolition and new build by the private sector - BELLWAY HOMES and KEEP-MOAT. We believe the money would be better spent refurbishing a

GMB Vs. Walmart

Workers at 20 UK distribution depots are taking on America's biggest employer, demanding respect for their union and safe working practices. A GMB meeting in Manchester saw a 74% vote in favour of striking and labour will be withdrawn between June 30th and July 4th affecting the delivery of 30,000 tonnes of goods to Asda Wal-mart stores. The GMB wants a formal bargaining structure with the company which is notorious for its anti-union practices. They also want to see unpaid bonuses from 2005 and an independent panel to ensure they are safe while they work. Staff are worried about the way new technology and methods are introduced and the risks of greater work rates and unsafe depots.

Phil Davies of the GMB says 'members know full well that Asda Wal-Mart are gearing up to try to break this strike. This decision shows that GMB members are determined to win collective bargaining rights which are common across British industry.' Similar strikes in the US have had support from shoppers and people in Merseyside can help by not shopping at Asda while the dispute continues.

ROUND UP

Culture Threatens Luxury Flat Industry

The Jamaica Street industrial area, South of the City centre, could be the next new yuppie district if a bunch of artists don't get in the way. Quality empty buildings have already been used for exhibitions and short term projects and the Picket music venue has recently moved there. People are starting to propose an 'independent' district in which non-profit groups can operate without the threat of eviction or over priced sandwiches. Keep an ear out.

Oxton Festival Banned

Residents near the Arno park, Prenton have managed to stop other people going there to listen to music and socialise. The final decision was made by Wirral council who have a bad record for spoiling people's fun. Someone told us that folk will meet anyway on Saturday 1st July, mid afternoon for a picnic and do it yourself entertainment.

Fly Posting News

Liverpool Council is intensifying its anti-fly posting campaign and grass roots, non-profit operations are starting to suffer. An official scheme is on trial whereby each band night/event can have posters pasted at three official sights. Results so far are not promising. People are organising and talking with the council so if it effects you, get in touch: flyposter@merseymail.com.

Christian Protesters Surprised

A small group of people braved heckling and did their bit for free speech when the Gerry Springer Opera came to town. Christian Voice organised a demo against a show seen by some as sacrilegious. Some say it's just not very good, but the courageous counter-demonstrators turned up at the Empire with their own placards when the show opened.

ID Cards not Inevitable

The anti-ID campaign was boosted recently when groups from Liverpool, Nottingham, St Helens, Manchester, Preston and Oldham gathered to plan the next phase of resistance to state surveillance, intrusion and oppression. Local campaigns are going well, though inactivity at the national level and an air of reformism in No2ID concerned activists spoiling for action. The meeting was lively as people shared their experiences of lobbying MPs (pointless), awareness raising amongst the public (effective) and direct action. A North England network is being set up and a national gathering of activists is planned, plus a range of activities over the summer. They are build-

ing towards a mass campaign of defiance and non-registration. *from liverpooldefyID*

Meanwhile the government may be forced to release a secret report on the benefits and risks of ID cards.

The Department of Works and Pensions made the report but refused to let people see it. The Freedom of Information laws may force it's release though they can appeal. The ID card scheme will probably be delayed because the government has not started allocating contracts to private companies. The procurement process has been put back from now till september at the earliest. Said one company 'we still know nothing about what the Home Office requires of us'. *Info from the BBC & Sunday Telegraph.*

Free the Migrants

Over 120 people held at a removal centre near Oxford have gone on hunger strike in protest at their indefinite detention and the harsh conditions inside. Campsfield centre was recently taken over by the company GEO who are cutting costs at the expense of detainees and staff. People opposed to the detention of immigrants have been ~~holding vigils outside~~ *Says one hunger striker; there are people who have been detained for up to 2 years. We are cramped in here like animals...and moved around different detention centres like animals. The immigration service has taken husbands away from families and taken people who ran from persecution in their own countries'.*

At the time of writing 57 people are still in police detention after a peaceful protest against Spain's newest and biggest Migrant Detention Centre in La Vermeda. The people are packed in small cells and say they are experiencing police violence. Protests are planned to try and get them out and people are being asked to write to embassies.

Animal test update

On the 14th May Blair made potentially one of the biggest blunders of his political career. Finally pushed into breaking his silence by his puppet masters, Glaxo Smith Kline, he came out in favour of animal testing. With their shareholders being targeted by animal rights campaigners, GSK had obviously decided enough was enough. Clearly Blair puts corporate interests first. An analogous situation exists in the US where Bush has just scrapped the Technical Operations Assessment Board whose findings were not what big business wanted to hear. *The message is clear - when the scientific facts do not favour corporate interests, suppress and deny them.*

The TGN 1412 incident which put six men in hospital in march demonstrated that animal testing does not work. This was an antibody designed to target a human protein in a human white blood cell. Guess what? Animals do not have this human protein so they did not react to it as humans later did. The animal trials were misleading and pointless. Vioxx is now estimated to have killed 150,000 world wide. The US Food and Drugs Administration admits it has blood on it's hands. Vioxx was 'safety tested' on animals.

Blair says he is one of the 'silent majority' in favour of animal experiments. What majority? 83% of GPs are in favour of an independent evaluation of tests (TNS survey 2004). Over 200 MPs have signed the early day motion calling for this (visit www.vote4animals.org.uk). Animal and human toxic results agree about 15% of the time while an alternative - human cell cultures, are 85% accurate. Simcyp is a company that's developed software which models the human body and predicts the effects of drugs. It has contracts with 28 drug companies and is making a profit. Two Russian research groups have recently announced they will stop animal testing altogether.

By Claire of Merseyside Animal Rights group. Stats and facts provided by VIN. PO Box 223 Camberley, Surrey, GU16 5ZU. vivisectionkills@hotmail.com www.vivisection-absurd.org.uk

Cheeky Squaddies reported in *Private Eye*

The new defence secretary Des Browne recently visited British troops in Basra. He didn't get much respect. One soldier described him as 'smug, sleek and fat, every inch the new labour apparatnik. Another asked him 'what do you know of the military?' He replied 'not much. What do you know about politics?' 'Well I know how to lie.'

Liverpool Social Forum is a regular meeting where people can share ideas and organise action on the issues they care about. We believe in people taking the initiative and not relying on mainstream press, politics or 'market forces'.

News not Profit needs YOUR STORIES. Send info, articles, pictures and events news to 'LSF, News from Nowhere, Bold St, L'pool L1. email to liverpoolsf@yahoo.co.uk. There is a discussion list at <http://lists.riseup.net/www/into/liverpoolsf>

Things to do...

2nd and 4th Thurs of the month - Liverpool Defy ID meeting. 6.15pm, News from Nowhere shop, Bold St.

Sat 8th July - Peace Picnic 'Liverpool School Students Against the War' 1pm behind ST Georges Hall.

Tuesday 11 July - Liverpool Social Forum 7.30pm the Casa, Hope St. Meetings every 2 weeks, all welcome.

Sat 15 July afternoon- Vegan Fair. Free food, film and info at Modo bar, Concert Sq.

Sun 16 July - International Day of Action Against Climate Change

Tues 18th July - LSF Presents a night of radical film and music to mark the anniversary of the Spanish civil war, Casa, Hope St, 7.30pm

Thurs 20th 8pm - Refugees Benefit gig, feat Santa Clare, Fayze Two, Alun Parry, Silent Partners. The Magnet, Hardman St.

Sat 22nd July - Animal Rights Fundraiser with local bands and DJs. The Casa, from 8pm.

Sat 5 August 3pm-Justice for the Shrewsbury Pickets, Remember Des Warren, - jailed after the national building workers strike, 1972. Join the campaign to end casualised labour. Also at the Casa.

Liverpool Social Forum presents
!No Pasaran!
 A night of film, food and music on the anniversary of the Spanish Revolution and its heroic struggle against fascism and militarism.
 including 'Burutti, en La Revolucion Espana' and CNT propaganda films
 The Venue at the Casa, 29 Hope St, L'pool
 18th July, 7.30pm, £2



'Power is about what you can control, freedom is about what you can unleash' - anon

