

Palace £70m, Residents nil

Half-time
score

The ruling clique of Southwark Council have finally severed the fragile links between themselves, Southwark people and the Labour Party they claim to represent. In a historic evening 35 Councillors contemptuously brushed aside the huge wave of protest from all corners of the Borough over the £70 million new town hall proposal.

On a separate route to their own shameful decision the Ruling Group purged 11 councillors who spoke up against the mammoth scheme, a fate likely to befall 5 other councillors who voted against their rulers' instructions, at the Council meeting on 17th January.

Several hundred who turned up at the Town Hall on the evening of the decision were turned away by police. The people who did manage to find a seat had to wait a couple of hours whilst councillors in the chamber below dealt with another issue; the fate of the gypsies in Southwark. As an awful foretaste of what was to come the rulers were in no mood for compromise, and the Council's policy of hounding the travellers around the Borough was re-affirmed despite the pleas from a deputation of Gypsies, local people, and local schools. The sickening sight of Councillors applauding the deputation minutes before they put up their hands to kick the gypsies off their present site will remain in many peoples minds for a long time.

The 5 hour long debate on the New Town Hall, the first

Continued on page 4.



SEVERAL THOUSAND SOUTHWARK RESIDENTS AND WORKERS demonstrated against Southwark Council's town hall plans in a march from the Elephant and Castle to Peckham just four days before the Council voted in favour of the project. Demonstrators carried 70 coffins representing the firms and shops which will go if the plan does go ahead. The coffins were piled in a 12ft wall blocking the entrance to the present Peckham Town Hall.

At a rally afterwards, residents, councillors, clergy, Trades Council and council workers pledged to continue the campaign until the Council agree to abandon their grandiose plans.



HOMES WITH A DIFFERENCE

Edward Henry Co-op Full Speed Ahead

A START ON BUILDING WORK ON THE CONVERSION OF EDWARD HENRY HOUSE in Cornwall Road, Waterloo is expected in the Spring of this year. 80 flats will be created from the shell of the buildings which have been derelict for three years while the GLC decided what and who should use them or the land.

Unless this can be done, the only ones to profit from the whole issue will be the Southwark Tories, who have throughout done their best to profit from the affair.

Suggestions on how to bring the Council to heel include a rates or rent strike, blacking of the Town Hall site by building and other workers, non-cooperation with the Council by tenants associations, voluntary bodies, trade unions and traders associations, etc.

Meanwhile, two other issues on which local people can take action are described on pages 4, 5 & 7.)

The result is that the flats will be owned and run by the people who live in them by forming a "housing cooperative". People who join the coop will be able to control the design of the flats and the running of the estate when it is completed including deciding who lives there, rents, cleaning and repairs.

Local residents have been pushing for a housing coop to ensure that the land is used for housing rather than offices. After agreement in principle last May for the coop the formal and bureaucratic procedures to draw up plans, register the coop with the government's Housing Corporation and transfer the ownership of the buildings have been co-ordinated by a steering group of co-op members and local residents with help from SCD Housing Association. SCD are providing expertise on planning and design, finance and dealing

with much of the bureaucracy.

There will be 18 family flats, 48 two person flats and 12 one person flats. Detailed design drawings are now being drawn up, covering such items as the kind of heating, windows, doors, flooring, kitchen and bathroom layout and rubbish collection arrangements and if the people who will live in the flats are to have any say in their design it is vital for people to join the co-op now. If building work starts in the spring the first few flats could be ready by the end of the year.

As far as possible priority will be given to people who either live or used to live locally and are in need of re-housing but anyone who is interested in joining the co-op should contact the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1 tel 261 1404 as soon as possible.

SE1 says

The final whistle has not yet been blown on the Town Hall issue. Up and down the borough, the opposition is unanimous - including Southwark Labour Party.

The task now is to find ways in which the anger and frustration of Southwark people can be given practical expression in a form that hurts the Council enough to force it to obey what is manifestly the will of all the people it supposedly represents.

DAN CRAWLEY

On the Friday before Christmas North Southwark lost one of its finest fighters for justice. Dan died not many months after he had got a new flat in Rouel Road. Dan lived for many years on the Bethel Estate in Tooley Street and took an active part in the formation of the Tooley Street tenants' association and took a close interest in the area. He was also a supporter of the North Southwark Community Development Group, coming to their meetings since the beginning and always supporting their battles with Southwark Council over the Riverside.



Dan had a special genius when it came to words. Some will remember his letters to the South London Press where his love of literature was echoed in his fighting style for people's rights. He was a committed socialist who followed politics closely always asking important questions and thinking deeply about the world around him. He will be sadly missed in North Southwark. In his memory, a rose tree is to be planted in St. John's Gardens, Tooley St.

The change of life

We had our meeting on the Change of Life on 7th December at Waterloo Action Centre. 17 people attended. We had a gynaecological registrar from Kings College Hospital and a local Health Visitor who gave us information on what happens to your body during the change and some of the symptoms women may have at this stage of life. We also talked about Hormone Replacement Therapy: the pros and cons - is it addictive or not? Is it safer? Should women try to do without drugs and only take them as a last resort?

Depression was a common experience during the change and it was pointed out that at this stage of a woman's life she may well be at the height

of her responsibilities - a full-time job, teenage children and ageing parents. With all this in mind and the change on top, small wonder that some women find it difficult to keep up the same pace.

We decided at the meeting to meet once a month, to share information and give each other support. Some women may feel nervous about coming on their own to a meeting but we would like to stress that everyone is welcome, even if you only come once to see if it is for you.

The first of these meetings will be at 7.30pm on the 18th January, at Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road. The second meeting will be at 7.30pm on February 15th.

OAPs' XMAS

Christmas was made a little happier for over 160 Senior Citizens living in Waterloo, when each of them received a Christmas Box of either a food parcel, food voucher or cash.

Co-ordinated from the Waterloo Action Centre, the project started four years ago and as it gradually gets better known is now reaching more of the elderly in the area.

It is impossible to finance covering every pensioner in the area, so WAC tries to reach the needy first.

If you know any contact who would like to contribute to the fund next Christmas, or know of a pensioner who was left out, please contact WAC with details.

May we thank all those who contributed this Xmas - IPC Magazines, Shell (Charities), Sainsbury, London Weekend TV, NATSOPA (IPC Mags), Church Overseas Missionary Society, UAC, Hatfields GPO Exchange telephonists, London Nautical School, IPC Social Club, The Prince Albert Pub, Beaufort School, and the Lloyds Bank Riverside Social Club.

Dear S.E.1

I protest most strongly about the building of a new Town Hall.

Having so far spent four days waiting for an emergency plumber to call and unblock my kitchen sink, I have lost a day's work and pay. So the idea of millions of pounds of our (the rate payers) money being wasted on such a building is abhorrent.

There are plenty of new and modernised buildings around the London Bridge and Borough Road area the council could use for offices.

Then perhaps some of the council officers will see the conditions and hear the noise from the railway the tenants of North Southwark have to live with.

Yours,
Shirley Ruler,
20 Leves House,
Druid Street.

WANTED.
OWN ROOM IN SHARED FLAT/HOUSE OR ELSE OWN FLAT TO RENT FOR TRAINEE ACCOUNTANT (24), GRADUATE OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY, NOW WORKING FOR LARGE FIRM IN SE1. PLEASE CONTACT HOWARD GOODER, 934-2754 (WORK).

SOS

We need volunteers for our Work Centre for disabled people. If you have any spare time, and would like to help, give us a ring at 261 1404, or drop in at 14 Baylis Road. We would also be grateful for any leftovers of knitting wool, or any old postage stamps.

Waterloo Community Project requires Community Health Worker

To join another worker in encouraging members of the local community to participate more in their own health care and to influence health services so that they are more responsive to consumer needs. The worker will be employed by the Association of Waterloo Groups and be responsible to a committee of the local community. Salary negotiable. Closing date: 8 February. Application forms/job description from Jane Miller, Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1. Tel. 261 1404.

Photography-for you?

Everyone knows the lines about "one photograph is worth a thousand words" and in the words of a pop song, "Every Picture tells a Story". In their own way, these sayings are pointing out that photographs have the power to communicate. Photography is an instrument, just as words are, for the expression of things we want to say. The different sorts of 'stories' that photos can tell are many, as are the uses to which photographs can be put.

It is with these things in mind that the Photography Project at Blackfriars Settlement sets out to teach people how to do photography for themselves. Started in 1973 by Paul Carter, the Project has grown to the point where there are now 6 teaching programmes a week for both adults and kids who learn how to take, process and print black and white pictures. There are 18 cameras for people to borrow and a well-equipped darkroom in which to produce their photos. As the Project is financed by

grants, the costs of joining a course are next to nothing.

Photography can play an important part in our community. It can help both groups and individuals to express a wide range of things that are of interest and concern to them and it can be used as a tool of action over such things as housing problems and redevelopment issues. The Photography Project would like to teach more people who are concerned about their neighbourhood the basic skills of photography so that, when appropriate, they can use this visual communication power.

If you are interested in learning basic photography there are short courses of 8 or 10 sessions available at the Photography Project, both in the evening (Tuesdays) and in the daytime. You can contact us at 44 Nelson Square, SE1 tel. no. 928 9521 (Caro Webb or Ron Hollis). Photography is much easier than you think (we have ten year olds producing fine pictures) so why not give it a go?



Photographer: Ann Burr who did a 2-day crash course in photography and produced pictures to

show the unsatisfactory living conditions during Southwark Councils modernisation scheme.

Blackfriars Photography Project.



Waste Firm To Be Swept Out

After many protests to the Council by local people that the Waste paper firm in Lant Street, Lawsons was a blight on the area, Southwark Council have rejected the firm's application for continued use of the site for their business. The site is in the long run wanted for an extension for Charles Dickens school, although it is accepted that this will probably never be

built. However when Lawsons move off the site it could be used for allotments by local people or as an extension to the school's own garden further down the street. The Council are keen to encourage Lawsons to move to a more suitable site elsewhere in the Borough, and this could then lead to a further extension to the Mint Street Local Park, on which work is due to start later this year.

REDMAN HOUSE...REDMAN HOUSE

WISBY'S

WINDOWS

DON'T FIT

A LOCAL CONTRACTOR, WISBY'S of Union Street appears to be making a botch-up job of fitting new windows in a block of Southwark flats on Borough High Street, many of them occupied by old people. Tenants are complaining that the windows are made of cheap materials, do not fit properly, and let in draughts. There have also been complaints that the contractors have not had as many men to do the work as they promised so that progress has been slow. If ever there was an argument for getting rid of contractors from Southwark's maintenance this is it - direct works must be the answer. Southwark are unable to fix the windows themselves until the work is completed on the entire block.

Coin Street Film

The Coin Street Campaign, in conjunction with Blackfriars Photography Project, have produced a slide show with taped sound track about the need for housing, not offices on the Coin St sites. The show lasts 20 minutes and is aimed at informing people of the facts and issues involved in the redevelopment struggle. If your group would like to know more about Coin St then you can book it from Waterloo Action Centre (261 1404) and a speaker will bring it along to show and answer questions.

Keep in touch, see the Coin Street Tape Slide Show.

Strikers fear sell-out

IT IS NOW NEARLY SIX MONTHS since Southwark social workers came out on full-time strike. Similar action has followed in other social service departments not just in London but as far afield as Newcastle and Liverpool. The social workers action has official backing from their union, NALGO.

Striking social workers have been called 'irresponsible' and 'uncaring' but they feel such criticism shows a lack of understanding about the job they do and how the dispute arose. Much of a social workers job involves carrying out legal duties concerning care of children, the elderly and the handicapped. As new laws are passed the job becomes more complicated and responsible so social workers want regrading in recognition of this. Their grades have remained unchanged for ten years.

Why strike?

Pay levels are worked out on a national level, yet the job varies greatly: working conditions in rural Wales are rather different to those in Inner London. So social workers are pressing for local negotiations in line with most other Council workers. Once these issues were accepted as official NALGO policy, social workers claims for regrading and local negotiations were put to their employers on a local level. When these claims were turned down strike action resulted.

Over the past six months, informal consultations have taken place between many employers and unions on a local level. This has not happened in Southwark where the Council has rigidly adhered to its policy of refusing to negotiate locally.

PROPERTY VANDALS

Following the mysterious blaze in November which burned out the New Hibernia Wharf (reported in the last SE1), Southwark Council's Planning Committee has now agreed to the building's demolition. The Wharf, which is close to Southwark Cathedral, is part of a designated Conservation Area, and the planning permission granted to the owners for office development had stipulated that the Wharf should be rehabilitated. The destruction caused by the huge fire fitted in very nicely with the view of Bernard Sunley Investments that a new building would be more suitable for their office development than rehabilitation. Southwark CID say they are still investigating the cause of the blaze.

At the meeting of the Southwark Planning Committee which approved demolition of the New Hibernia Wharf (and also gave permission for a modernistic extension to Southwark Cathedral), Councillor George Nicholson, representing

Cathedral Ward, criticised Southwark's failure to produce any specific plan for the historically important Clink St. area. The Committee eventually agreed to Councillor Nicholson's suggestion that a 'planning brief' should now be drawn up, to prevent haphazard redevelopment and destruction of the Conservation Area's character.

But the Council's general attitude towards Conservation Areas in the Borough remains unclear, and its Conservation Area Advisory Committee doesn't seem too interested in local opinion from North Southwark. Councillor Ron Watts, its Chairman, has turned down flat a request from the North Southwark Community Development Group to address the Committee about the New Hibernia Wharf. Councillor Watts also refused the Group's request to be represented on the Committee, which includes such spokesmen for the local community as the Southwark Chamber of Commerce. He said there were no places left on the Committee.

Social workers regard this policy as showing lack of concern for both the workers and the people they help. Remarks like the Mayor's "we are managing very well without you" do not help to dispel such an impression.

A national settlement proposed by a joint union/employers working party is due for consideration by NALGO on January 26th. On a local level social workers reaction has been generally unfavourable as the proposals only partly meet the 'local negotiations' issue. Also unacceptable is the proposal that a social workers pay might be increased at the discretion of management, who could assess that workers 'effectiveness'. There are fears that this would lead to favouritism.

For these reasons, social workers hope that national NALGO will take note of local branch views and not settle on unfavourable terms.

able terms. One director of Social Services has already said that he considers the proposals 'a recipe for disaster'.

The social workers' strike has happened against a background of general cuts in public expenditure. Although social workers have been accused of putting people 'at risk', the same criticism might be levelled at Councils who cut back on the already overburdened welfare services. Do Councils have the right to ask overworked social workers to carry on willingly and silently when vacancies remain unfilled and resources are minimal.

How can you help? By contacting your local councillors, asking them to press Councillor Coveney (Chairman, Social Services Committee) or Councillor O'Grady (Leader, Southwark Council) to meet with the social workers and sort out the dispute.



Social workers on the picket line outside the Walworth Road area office.

SE1 says

Support the Residents Plan For Housing on Bankside

**At the Bankside Public Inquiry
Peckham Town Hall,
Peckham Road, SE15
Beginning
Tuesday March 13th, 1979
10.30am**

BANKSIDE IS THE FOCUS of the first big inquiry this year into whether housing will be built on the Riverside. The Coin Street Inquiry begins in May, but next month starting on March 13th an important battle will take place in Southwark over the housing scheme put forward by the NSCOG for Bankside (at Emerson St. and Park St.). Southwark has turned down this proposal but the NSCOG have appealed to the Minister and so there is to be this Inquiry.

It is a PUBLIC INQUIRY - so ANYONE can speak at the inquiry. Don't miss this chance to give your support - for more details of how the Inquiry system works, and how to make sure your views get heard, get in touch with the NSCOG at 108 Great Guildford Street or phone 928-8165. We are featuring in this centre page spread the Bankside housing issue where the history, and what the community wants is explained. SE1 interviewed several residents - as one told us "THEY'VE DESTROYED SO MUCH OF THE COMMUNITY ROUND HERE WITH THE THAMES HERE IT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR HOUSES WITH GARDENS;

Town hall cont.

debate there has been on the issue, despite the fact that the ruling group had made a decision to go ahead in November started with a call for a referendum on the issue to be held. Councillor Jim Greening led the call for a local poll, but not surprisingly this was opposed by the leadership. Councillor Anne Ward made the astonishing claim that people had been misled and could not be trusted to make up their own minds, a charge that people think applies to the ruling group. At one stage the "35" found themselves voting with the conservative opposition when they joined forces with them to defeat a proposal from Councillor Ritchie that the £70million earmarked for the new town hall should be spent on local services and facilities. This spotlighted the complacent attitude of the Council. They repeated time after time that the money for the new town hall "was not needed" and Councillor McSorley even went so far as to suggest that if the money was not spent on a town hall, the council would not be able to find anything else to spend it on. This curious claim stems from the fact that the Council underspends its present budget by as much as 30%, because of bad management.

Just after 2.30pm the final hurdle to the New Town Hall was cleared when a motion to cut off the funds to the new town hall was defeated and the smug rulers retired to the Mayors Parlour to celebrate on a good night's work.



A POCKET HISTORY



Housing on Bankside at the turn of the Century.

BANKSIDE CLASH

There always was housing on Bankside. Look at the old maps of London going back hundreds of years. During the war a lot of housing was destroyed by bombing (see photograph below) but this was not replaced. Property developers managed to get hold of the huge site now covered with the Ministry buildings in Southwark Street. Since then there have been further pressures for offices in Summer Street (the CEGB). Mixed in with housing there has also traditionally been industry and the Power Station.

The clash over the use of the Bankside housing site began eight years ago when various property companies tried to buy the site for office development. Sam Wanamaker also discovered the site and said he wanted to build a Globe Theatre there. One of the property companies, Freshwater Properties (of William Stern fame) was successful in buying a factory owned by Wright's the soap people. Freshwater submitted a series of proposals to Southwark and the GLC some of which included a theatre, all of them including a huge office block. None of these got approval because the then Labour controlled GLC was against them and because Freshwater could not get an Office Development Permit from the Ministry of the Environment.



drew up plans and these were submitted to the GLC which at the time was controlled by Labour. The Labour GLC liked the housing proposals and began talks with a housing association who agreed to undertake the development. But this was brought to an abrupt halt by the loss of the GLC to the Tories.

TORY GLC

The Tory controlled GLC gave the responsibility for the application to Southwark Council which meant that it was almost certain to be refused. In July 1978, Southwark turned down the NSCOG housing proposal as expected. Southwark also decided to buy the whole site under the Community Land Act - in order to build offices and a Globe Theatre.



BANKSIDE PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1943 AFTER BOMB DAMAGE. Some of the housing destroyed was replaced in the 1950's by the Ministry buildings. Part of Summer Buildings was damaged but was rebuilt.

Residents say "A good quiet place to live..."

MRS BURGESS, Summer Buildings: "We definitely need houses for families in this area, where are our young people who get married supposed to move to? If young people have kids they can't stay in this area. If there are more families in the area the community would start to pick up at last - we don't want to move from this area. Why do they want more offices when there are loads standing empty like up near London Bridge."

DORIS WEBB, Peabody Estate, Southwark Street: "Housing is desperately needed in the area to encourage the community back. Family housing is urgently required - if you are in a flat in the area you cannot move anywhere else."

MRS LYNCH, Summer Buildings: "We've got more than enough offices in this area. It is not surprising that kids get into trouble when there is little space for them to play in, offices can only reduce it more. Once there used to be shops all along Southwark Street, people used to come up this way to shop near the river."

MRS CASTAGNA, Thrale Street: "It would be nice to have housing for working people in this area again. All the housing seems to have disappeared. We definitely don't need more offices when there are so many that seem to be empty. With the Thames there it would be perfect for homes with gardens; just right for families. It's a good quiet place to live."

THE HIDDEN COSTS

IF THE PROPERTY DEVELOPERS get their way on Bankside and other sites like Coin Street, their plans for offices and hotels will be paid for to a large extent out of your pocket.

The money deducted from your wage packet for your pension goes into a pension fund - most companies and nationalised industries have their own funds. This money is invested in stocks and shares and increasingly in property development. Obviously, the money comes back to you with interest when you retire

but in the meantime you have little to say about how the money is used.

So who control these funds? In most cases a tiny group of "investment managers" who invest the money purely for profit. Hence, the money is channelled into office blocks on Bankside or Coin Street rather than going towards the type of development we need in the community.

Do we really want to provide for old age in this way? It would be better if everyone was guaranteed a decent pension without our money going into speculation.

WHAT WE SAY

SOUTHWARK SAY that Bankside is "unsuitable for families".

WE SAY that families already live on Bankside, that people would jump at the chance of a house with a garden on Bankside, that Bankside is close to riverside open space and there are plenty of spare places in local primary schools.

WE SAY that the community needs to be built up with more family housing. This will help shops, schools and community activities.

SOUTHWARK SAY that the residents' plans for low rise houses with gardens "fail to take advantage of the locational potential of the site".

WE SAY that low rise houses with gardens are what people want and will fit in with the scale of other development on Bankside - what we need is a reduction in the number of large buildings in this area. The potential of this site is fulfilled by building housing with gardens for rent.

SAM WANAMAKER SAYS the history of Bankside is of theatres and entertainment and tourism.

WE SAY the history and future of Bankside is of people living there.



EMERSON STREET - how it could be if residents win the Public Inquiry. The houses in the photo are in fact at Nicholson St, SE1

Who will be at the Public Inquiry

THE NORTH SOUTHWARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP with residents from Bankside, an architect, local Labour parties and the Trades Councils will be presenting their plans for housing.

THE FRESHWATER PROPERTY COMPANY represented by G.L.Hearne and Partners a firm of planners and surveyors in Borough High Street. Freshwater own one-third of the site.

THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD own part of the site which they use as a car park. Their plans for this land are unknown but will presumably come out at the Inquiry.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL use part of the site for storing dustcarts. They will be putting their case for buying the rest of the site and developing the whole site for an office block and a theatre.

THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL will be talking about their policies (whatever they are) for the South Bank.

THE WORLD CENTRE FOR SHAKESPEARE STUDIES (alias Sam Wanamaker) will probably be talking about Globe theatres.

Colombo Street
Sports and Community Centre tel: 261 1658
LARGE HALL FOR HIRE
(bar facilities)

SOCIALS, WEDDINGS, CONCERTS WELCOME
SMALLER MEETING ROOMS ALSO AVAILABLE
USUAL SPORTING ACTIVITIES EG SHORINJI KEMPO, BOXING, KARATE, BADMINTON, DAP'S DANCING
starting soon -

**RELAXATION and EXERCISE CLASS
FOR THE DISABLED and ELDERLY
THURSDAYS 10.30-12.00**

FOR DETAILS OF ABOVE PHONE OR CALL AT THE CENTRE

Action Against Racism



SCARF IS THE SOUTHWARK CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACIALISM AND FASCISM. As you can see (below) the campaign is organising several events during the coming month.

The first printed issue of their newsletter is also now out. It advertises the new SCARF badge (shown above) and contains information on new anti-racist publications, on racism in the press, and other interesting topics.

For more information about the campaign or the badge write to 136 Lordehip Lane, London SE22. (If you want to join the campaign the annual subscription is £1 for individuals and £5 for groups or organisations.)

DEAFENING SILENCE

Just in case you thought you were being represented by your local councillor on the Council (there are a diminishing few who still believe this) SE1 is starting a league table of councillors contributions to debate.

This month's record holder is Councillor Joy Lee (Chaucer Ward) who has sat through over 12 hours of council business without saying a word. Could it be said that she is representing the silent majority?

SPORTS COURSES

Lambeth Amenity Services have arranged three ten-week courses on:
Gymnastics (B.A.G.A. Grade 3)
Any age
Judo (Grade 2 & 3) Ten years and over
Self Defence for Ladies
Twelve years and over.

The courses begin on Tuesday 23rd January, and continue up to April 3rd. Each course will cost £2.

For further details, phone 761 0901 ext. 23.

Knowledge Is Power

Seventy-five years ago in 1903, Albert Mansbridge had an exciting idea of linking labour with learning, of helping local workers to educate themselves to cope with and understand all the problems that beset them. Mansbridge originated what we know today as the Workers' Education Association (WEA). Courses and classes can be provided to assist people in a vast number of ways, the central idea being that

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER! The WEA is, however, more than a simple slogan, and historically it has been a good friend to working people. It can and does provide valuable resources that give us an opportunity to approach everyday problems with adequate information and knowledge.

But a WEA is only as good as the one we put it to. Let's give an example of a dilemma we in SE1 are facing: the Coin Street Public Inquiry. Surely we need to educate ourselves to understand what the

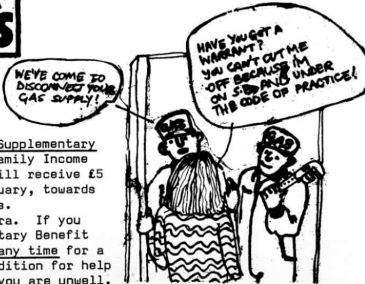
Inquiry is about, how it operates and how we can best present our views and opinions. The WEA can provide experts to advise and educate us to really grasp the issues in such a way that we can at least go into battle with the people and corporations who want to destroy our local area. We will know what's happening and what to do. IGNORANCE IS NEVER BLISS!

We can have a WEA in our own area to serve our needs and help us when the everyday questions appear difficult and awkward. To set up a WEA, all we need to do is arrange a public meeting and chat about the things we would like it to do for us.

Drop into the Waterloo Action Centre to find out more about this exciting and necessary resource, or, come along to a meeting on February 21st, at 7.15pm at the Centre, where a number of folk like you and me can set up our own WEA branch.

We can run it the way we want, to do all the things we want. Sounds terrific!!!

YOUR RIGHTS



If you are on Supplementary Benefit or FIS (Family Income Supplement) you will receive £5 at the end of January, towards your heating costs.

This is an extra. If you receive Supplementary Benefit you can claim at any time for a regular weekly addition for help with heating; if you are unwell, or if your flat is very hard to keep warm. If you disagree with the decisions of the DHSS you can appeal to the local office. Make sure that it is in writing and that you KEEP A COPY. If you need any help with this then please contact BIAS (see below).

For you and anyone receiving rate or rent rebate or allowance there is a discount on your winter electricity bill if it is above £20. Your winter bill is the one based on a reading due between January 1st and March 31st. It will be marked with a 'V' if you are entitled to discount.

TO GET YOUR DISCOUNT...

- * Take the bill to the Post Office together with - your order book or Girocheque - the letter and certificate the council will automatically send you if you get a rent or rate rebate (ask at Castle House, Walworth Rd for Southwark or Council Offices Brixton for Lambeth if you have not got these).

* The Post Office will give you a credit voucher, for a quarter of the amount over £20

(eg £1 for a £24 bill).
* Take or send this voucher to the LEB.

NB. If you have a slot meter or if the DHSS make 'Fuel Direct' payments for you, you can still get the discount.

GAS OR ELECTRICITY CUT OFFS

You should write immediately asking for action to be delayed. There is now a Code of Practice which says they cannot cut you off

- * If you are applying for help with the bill from DHSS or Social Services,
- * If you have children under 11 or receive FIS and you have told Social Services about your difficulty with the bill,
- * From Oct to March if everyone in the house is an OAP (and doesn't have savings),
- * If you agree to pay off arrears week by week and to cover future bills. A slot meter could possibly be installed (but might work out more expensive,
- * If when they come to cut off the supply your circumstances have changed.

In your letter to the relevant Fuel Board remind them about this Code of Practice.

IF THEY COME TO CUT YOU OFF...

DON'T let them in without a warrant, and TELL them again about the Code of Practice.

If you get a fuel bill you can't manage to pay get advice EARLY, to stop the problem building up.

If you have questions about fuel bills, you can contact BIAS at Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Square, SE1. 928 9521 Open 10 - 1, 2 - 5 weekdays except Weds and Thurs mornings.



12 Meymott Street, S.E.1.
tel: 928 1643

SE1 DATES FOR 1979

Issue No.	Monday Meetings	Paste-up	Publication Day	Publication Month
40	5 & 12 Feb	17 & 18 Feb	23 February	March
41	12 & 19 Mar	24 & 25 Mar	30 March	April
42	9 & 17 Apr	21 & 22 Apr	27 April	May
43	7 & 14 May	19 & 20 May	25 May	June
44	11 & 18 Jun	23 & 24 June	29 June	July
45	9 & 16 July	21 & 22 July	27 July	August
46	6 & 13 Aug	18 & 19 August	24 August	September
47	10 & 17 Sep	22 & 23 Sept	28 Sept	October
48	15 & 22 Oct	27 & 28 Oct	2 November	November
49	19 & 26 Nov	1 & 2 Dec	7 December	December

* Meeting on Tuesday 17th April because Monday 16th is a Bank Holiday.

The final copy deadline is normally the second Monday Meeting of the month, stop-press deadline is the evening before paste-up weekend. Meetings start at 7.30pm and paste-up starts at 11am each day, all day at the SE1 office, 12 Meymott Street, SE1. (off Blackfriars Road) Tel 928 1643.

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TOGETHER LET'S STOP THE ROT

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- * SIGN THE FORM at the bottom of this page (even if you signed the petition already).
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I would like to come to Action Group Meetings

I would like to speak at the Public Inquiry

Sign below, add your address (we want to keep you in touch!) and send it to the bottom INFORMATION at the bottom left of this page. Thanks

I SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FOR LOW RISE HOMES AND RIVERSIDE PARK ON THE COIN STREET SITES.

I AM OPPOSED TO OFFICES AND HOTELS ON ANY OF THESE SITES.

Sign

Address

Sign

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GOIN ST. PUBLIC INQUIRY!



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Europe's tallest skyscraper HOTEL and well over ONE MILLION sq ft of OFFICES

OR

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THE RESULTS OF THE INQUIRY WILL DEPEND ON HOW STRONG THE GOVERNMENT THINKS PUBLIC OPINION IS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTH BANK.

The Action Group will give information, advice and support to any individuals or groups who are sympathetic to the campaign. BUT..... THE FUTURE OF NORTH LAMBETH AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DO TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN....

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IN MAY THIS YEAR, 1979, A DECISION WILL BE MADE WHICH

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THE PUBLIC INQUIRY

The government has ordered the South Bank Inquiry (which will be open to the public), following four different planning applications for the 16 acre 'COIN STREET SITES'. These sites (mainly publicly-owned) include MOST OF THE LAND BETWEEN WATERLOO AND BLACKFRIARS BRIDGES.

THE DATES

Please make a note of these dates -

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Further information from:-
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Phone 261-1404
NORTH SOUTHWARK PLANNING CENTRE, 108 St Guildford St., 928-8165

RATES and POLICIES

Lambeth: "Services - Rates"

Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council, has taken the unusual step of publicizing a rates increase 3 months in advance. He's asking for support for the policies the Labour Party was elected on.

The increase is 37.5% on the domestic rate. That's between 65p and £1 per week for the majority of council tenants.

In return they'll get:

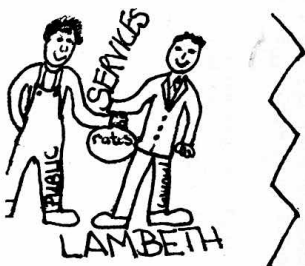
*No rent increase (for the 2nd year running).

*Improved programme of housing modernization and slum clearance.

*More home helps and other social services.

*More recreation facilities and open space.

Other costly policies which Lambeth Labour Party are committed to include better offices for their workers, and a more efficient computer system. They also want to spend on creating jobs.



Meanwhile... Southwark wants it both ways

Whatever you think of the choice that Lambeth Labour Party offered the voters last year, by their election manifesto, surely no-one thinks much of the single-option presented in Southwark.

***(MUCH) HIGHER RATES**
AND*HIGHER RENTS
AND*(MUCH) HIGHER HEATING CHARGES
AND*LOUSY SERVICES
(and, of course, a New Town Hall!)

*Apart from an expected rate increase at least as large as Lambeth's, Central Heating and Hot Water charges are to go up 32.5%. Rents will be up 2% on Sheltered Housing, 10% for everyone else.

Tenant representatives on District Housing Management Committees have met with the Council to give their views. Southwark District felt that 5% rises were the most that

But it isn't just their programme that's putting up the rates. In fact, most of the increase (28.2%) would have been needed for a 'nil-growth' budget.

One problem is £1.8 million of government housing subsidy not being paid. The government refuses to help with any building more expensive than their highly restrictive 'housing cost yard-stick': and the same goes for community housing facilities.

So it comes down to this: as far as the government's concerned, if we want decent housing and TA halls, we'll have to pay for them ourselves. Lambeth Council has said: OK, we will.

SE1 would like to hear reader's comments. What do you think of the choice, better policies or lower rates? Is there any way of forcing the government to pay more?



were acceptable.

They also pointed out that tenants would resent the increase when many heating systems are inadequate, and frequently go wrong. They noted that the largest part of the budget was debt charge, and said that money borrowed for local authority housing should not be liable for interest.

Southwark Council's 'consultation' turns out to be a bit of a sham anyway. Under pressure, they've called a special meeting of the borough wide Tenants' Consultative Committee. But in fact, the Labour group has already met and approved the proposals.

As a Newington Councillor once said, "Southwark Council likes consultation. It gives us a chance to tell people what we're going to do."

Support Your Local Shop

OPEN UNTIL 8pm Monday - Friday
7pm Saturday
1pm Sunday

* Fresh milk daily

* Frozen foods

* All groceries and provisions

* Wines, spirits & beers

* Newspapers

* Confectionery & tobacco

* Hot snacks, rolls and sandwiches to take away

THOS E. DAVIES & CO (TOMS)

137 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

NSCDG GRANT

Councillors' quotes

THE CRUNCH FOR THE NORTH SOUTHWARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP IS COMING. In the next two months Southwark Council will have to make a definite decision whether to continue the Group's Urban Aid Grant (½ paid by the Council, ½ by government) for a further year or more. Their present grant runs out on March 31st. Although it was 9 months ago when the Council first indicated that the grant might not continue it has been impossible to get a firm decision either way.

SE1 spoke to some of the councillors who will be making the decision:-

Len Tucker:
Bricklayers Ward.
Chairperson of
Establishment Cttee.

I think the North Southwark Group is a useful thing and I'm in favour of it. I've voted in favour of it in the past but it's up to me how I vote and I want to listen to all the views.

Charlie Coveney:
Abbey Ward
Chairperson of
Social Services.

I hope that the Group will continue and I will support the continuation of the grant. There have been occasions when NSCDG has been very critical of councillors and the council. People must realise that when the criticism gets too one-sided it gets people's backs up. I hope people will understand that NSCDG can do a good job but the Group must also accept criticism and behave more responsibly.

Charlie Sawyer:
Rotherhithe Ward
Chairperson of
Housing Committee.

I don't really know. There have been accusations that the Group is not representative of people in the area but I know groups like Tenants' Associations are in favour of them. I'm not convinced on any arguments but I want some good facts presented on paper not vague arguments and prejudices.

Ann Ward:
Bellenden Ward
Deputy leader of
the Council

I don't have a position at the moment, I've had some discussions with the group and heard their arguments but I haven't heard the other arguments against yet. I was unhappy about their attitude on the Laings site (East Bank-side) and about their "offices bad - industry good" line.

Coral Newell:
Riverside Ward

I will be voting in favour of the grant continuing and I hope to be able to argue for it.

Peter Cather:
Barset Ward
Chairperson of
General Purposes &
Finance Committee.

I'm in favour of the grant continuing and I will vote for it.

Two new faces

WE ARE THE NEW FULL-TIME WORKERS for the Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre, which occupies the once derelict Sainsbury's canteen off Blackfriars Road.

Up till now the centre has developed solely through the spare time commitment of local residents, who've taken over the place, stripped out tons of rubbish and machinery, redecorated it and converted it into a presentable sports and community centre. Money's been short - we've been out in the cold for two years before the heating was on - and many different sources have helped the centre to make ends meet.

Now that an urban aid grant and Lambeth and Southwark councils are paying our salaries we hope the centre will quickly blossom to reach its full potential. But the continuing support of the local community is essential if that's to happen. So if you're interested in learning, participating in or teaching a sport, using our hall or smaller rooms for socials, meetings etc then drop in and see us. If you can help the centre in your spare time...great!!



There's an amazing number of jobs to be done, so come over to see us or ring 261 1658.

If its some time since you've been inside the centre come along and see how its progressing. We've new lights in the hall, full central heating ... and showers due to be in operation soon. With your support Colombo St will be an exciting centre serving the community throughout SE1.

Bob Lentall and Jim Turner.

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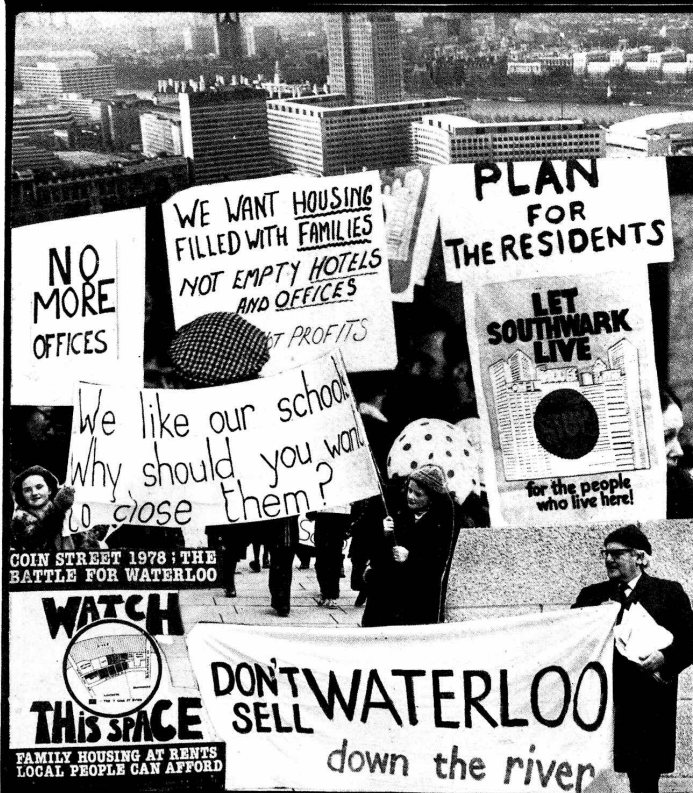
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