

cuts bulletin

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VOTE FOR ACTION!

Fifteen hundred members at Tuesday's branch meeting voted almost unanimously to stage a one day strike during a "week of action" in February against cuts. The resolution adopted at the meeting calls for a one-day strike on February 4, in the middle of a one week strike by Lambeth manual workers in the TGWU and Construction Services. Other manual unions are likely to take supportive action. The week will also be used for a publicity campaign, already being worked on, aimed at 'putting our case' to Lambeth residents.

Ballot

A ballot is now to be conducted over the one day strike. Members should receive a voting paper by the end of the week, via their Shop Steward, and the result will be announced next Thursday.

An amendment calling for a weeks strike in support of the manual workers was defeated by 823 votes to 565. While only a handful of people voted to take no strike action at all. The meeting also rejected a call on members not to co-operate with prosecutions arising from refusals to pay supplementary rate rises.

Levy

A voluntary levy of between £2 and £10 is to be taken of all members. The money will be put into the branch's special fund, to help

fund industrial action, particularly if cuts are announced.

Picketing

The resolution passed by the meeting states that branch members are "strongly advised not to cross picket lines of other unions" during the week. Representatives of all the unions are meeting to discuss which buildings are being picketed, which are the emergency and 24 hour services that should be exempted, and other details.

All members who are exempted from strike action will be asked to contribute their pay to the branch's reserve fund.

WANDSWORTH ACTION

A collection of £777 was taken for Wandsworth NALGO members after the meeting had been addressed by the Wandsworth Branch Chairperson, Colin Moore, about their campaign of industrial action against 700 redundancies.

50 jobs cut every month

"We have never seen such support and enthusiasm" - he said. Collection of rates and rent has been stopped. Telephonists have been pulled out. All work on Council house sales has stopped. Since the Tory administration took over in May 1978, 50 jobs have been lost every month.

Cuts in all sections

Wandsworth NALGO, on the strength of a "no compulsory redundancies" agreement, have so far not opposed voluntary redundancy, redeployment and early retirement schemes and many workers have been covering for vacant posts. The Council has now torn up that agreement: 400 workers have been approached individually and told that their jobs have gone. Every section and grade is affected - from clerical workers to assistant directors. The list of posts includes Committee Clerks, Legal Staff, Valuers, Typists, Accountants and Audit Staff, Housing Officers, Planners, Librarians, Play

Leaders, Parks Supervisors, Cashiers, Social Workers, Day Nursery Workers, Street Cleansing Supervisors, Principal and Assistant Engineers.....

How the Tories would cut Lambeth

Tory Councillors at the Special Council Meeting which discussed the projected deficit for this year, called for cuts in social services, housing, construction services, amenity services, a freeze on recruitment, a rent increase of £3.50 per week - and a supplementary rate of 14p.

NALGO and NUPE joint action call

NALGO and NUPE have drawn up a joint policy document "Local Government Under Attack" which calls on members of all local authority unions to jointly resist further reductions in services and staffing levels. It calls for joint action and for campaigning against cuts with tenants' associations and other groups.

GLC unions joint fight

GLC NALGO members have voted to join GLC Construction Unions in a fight for the reinstatement of 7 scaffolders, laid off before Christmas. They voted to set up a special fund with a levy of £5 per week and to refuse to draw up redundancy notices. Members will be asked not to cross picket lines and not to co-operate with building contractors.

CUTS IN GRANT HIT LONDON

Forecasts of rates rises from around London are beginning to appear..... the highest rate borough Haringey, will be charging an extra 48.9 per cent....

Lewisham has estimated that without hugh cuts in jobs and services, rate rises will be at least 66% and could reach 100%. Camden rates are likely to rise by about 50% the Council voted on Tuesday to reject proposals to cut jobs and services.... Tory controlled Bromley Council will have to raise rates by 30% to maintain current services....

Wandsworth will have to increase rates by 30-40% even after eagerly complying with all Government requests to cut expenditure.. and axeing nearly 2,000 jobs.

Jack Halligan re-instated

Jack Halligan, Lambeth Director of Finance, was reinstated last Friday, January 16, only four days after he was suspended over "a matter of corporate management". The decision to reinstate Mr Halligan was made by Councillors after a six hour hearing at which he was represented by Assistant Branch Secretary Brian Martin, and an official of the Federation of Professional Officers.

Mike Waller had earlier requested the Chief Executive to re-instate Mr Halligan in the interests of maintaining good industrial relations in the Council.

PETITION

All 270 members of the Finance Department signed a petition calling for his reinstatement and, twice last week, threatened to walk-out in support.

INQUIRY

An inquiry is now to be held into the suspension which happened only hours before the Special Council Meeting decided to levy the supplementary rate, and attracted considerable criticism. Mr Halligan was suspended by the Chief Executive, Frank Dixon-Ward, not long after they had had what Mr Halligan has described as a "blazing row".

Squatters form 'SAS'

Those evicted from Kilner House have founded "Squatters Against Sales" (SAS). Contact SAS on 237/8277 (days) or 701/5691 (evenings).

Lambeth Housing Fightback

"A meeting to bring together organisations and individuals opposed to housing cuts as part of Lambeth Fightback" Wednesday, 28 January, 7.30 p.m.

May DayMay Day

A march from Liverpool to London will start on May Day and finish at a rally near Westminster on 29 May. Organised by the North West Region of the TUC, it promises to be one of the biggest demonstrations of the very real anger against unemployment.