



2012 no.6

TAX EVASION: each year £120 Billion in tax is uncollected, evaded or avoided. That's over 3 times the total of the Tory /Lib Dem cuts. The wanted list includes Vodaphone, Boots, Top Shop, Shell, Rolls Royce, HSBC, RBS, Goldman Sachs.

Whilst 99% of people face a very tough time

There ARE Alternatives

Following Government orders the council is making cuts of £31million in the 2012/2013 financial year beginning in April – in addition to the £45 million cut last year.

On top of the 20% VAT rise, soaring gas and electricity bills, and the fact that 30,000 people locally will lose £12m a year in the cuts to Housing Benefits and Council Tax Allowance, local services which many depend upon will be further cut, reduced or

their availability limited due to price increases.

Families with children, sick and disabled people, pensioners, and young people without work are in the front line of these cuts. The poorest people in our poor District are



getting poorer — along with (most!) of the rest of us.

As the reality of what it is costing to save the banks, and who is paying it, becomes clear we are hearing less blather about “Big Societies” and how “we are all in it together”.

Across the District ordinary people are finding the brains, heart, and guts to defend themselves, their

families and friends, their jobs and pensions and those of their workmates, their day centres and community resources.

Unhappily the response of Bradford Council doesn't measure up to the occasion.

With a few honourable individual exceptions the Tory group has suffered a resurgence of its Neanderthal genes and indulged in knuckle-dragging threats to local government workers and their trade unions whilst flapping the union jack as usual to distract people from the developing misery.

The Liberal Democrats have nothing to say. They are trapped as accomplices of the Government of Millionaires (out

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Bradford Resource Centre Conference.

Alternative strategies at a local level

In the face of austerity and public spending cuts how do we create alternatives in local government, in services, and in communities?

Speakers from local authorities, trades unions, and local alternative projects.

Saturday April 21st. 11am-3.30pm. at Bradford Resource Centre, Chapel Street, Little Germany, Bradford BD15DT tel: 01274 779002

How do we protect the services that people need?
How do we defend local government?



The “Welfare Reform Bill” will cap the total benefit – including child benefit – any family can receive in any one year to £26,000.

Not at risk

Duncan Smith alias **Ian Duncan Smith** Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Estimated personal wealth £1m.

Former Tory leader Duncan Smith owes his apparent wealth to his wife, **Betsy**. He lives in a £1million house provided by her father, the 5th Baron Cottesloe, which appears to be tied up in a series of complex family trusts.

In 2009 Duncan Smith claimed £98,077 MP expenses on top of his salary.



The Bradford People's Coalition Against the Cuts



Bradford People's Coalition Against the Cuts



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There ARE alternatives cont

of 28 members of the Cabinet, 23 are millionaires). Their local MP David Ward desperately casts about for "popular" issues [such as reintroducing smoking in working mens clubs (!?!)] whilst voting with the Tories on the key issues.

The Greens have become completely colourless if not almost invisible. Last year they managed to say "me too" to the £45m cuts. Since then they have said nothing.

Labour's publishing of its draft budget document and the range of consultation meetings have been a good step, as far as they go.

However the usual mix of hand-wringing and bland managerialism fails to meet the needs of the times.

They have fallen for the trap

of taking a short term bribe from Eric Pickles to keep Council Tax down this year - which means BIGGER CUTS or an EVEN BIGGER RISE when Pickles pulls the rug next year or later. Across the country councils of many different hues have seen the trap and chosen to put up their local tax.

Come and join the discussion and debate at the Bradford Resource Centre Conference on Saturday April 21st (see the advert on the front page) :

How do we protect the services that people need.

How do we defend local government and bring it into the fight.

How do we create and nurture alternatives.

Bradford Mayday 2012

Urban Garden 28th April from noon

<https://lists.aktivix.org/mailman/listinfo/reclaimmayday>
or email this address: reclaimmayday@lists.aktivix.org

Come to our regular monthly Organising Meeting (at 6pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Bradford Resource Centre, 17-21 Chapel Street, BD1 5DT).

Get involved and join the growing campaign against the Government's cuts and privatisations.

Website: www.bpcac.org

And you'll find us on Facebook - just search for Bradford Peoples' Coalition Against Cuts.

WINNERS AND LOSERS IN THE LOOTING OF BRITAIN

Winner – The elite:
The richest 1,000 people in the UK have become an incredible 30% richer in the last year.

Loser – Disabled: Treated as scroungers and hounded off benefits while essential services are cut.

Loser – Families: For the first time in living memory, many children will be poorer than their parents as they struggle to find work and affordable housing.

Losers – The common people
The amassed wealth of the super-rich comes at the heavy price for the rest of us.

Loser – Students: The average student will owe over £24,000 in course fees by the time they leave university.

Loser – Pensioners: The cost of keeping warm has doubled in the last five years as energy company profits soar.

Loser – Workers: Top bosses now earn over 300 times more than their lowest paid workers. As the cost of living rises, pensions and wages tumble. Divide & rule between public and private sectors means we all suffer.

Telling the Truth about Con-Dem Lies