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NewsWire

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Cambridge Drinking Ban

By Nickleberry, 05.12.2003 17.51

On Thursday 4 December, Cambridge City Council agreed to introduce a bye-law which is intended to "control anti-social behaviour arising from the drinking of alcohol in our public places". The bye-law will give police the power to "stop people from drinking alcohol in public places if they are causing, or are likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to other members of the public."

Police will also be able to confiscate alcohol and impose a fine in the event of non co-operation.

The Council's decision comes less than a month after the Council threw out a city-wide Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) in relation to the drinking of alcohol in public places. This was voted against by Liberal Democrat Councillors on the grounds that it gave police too much power to arrest law abiding citizens enjoying a social drink outside. They likened the DPPO to the "sus-laws" of the 1970s which saw police arresting innocent young black men who they thought looked suspicious. The principal difference with the new bye-law from the DPPO is that before acting a constable must have "reasonable belief" that the person is consuming alcohol in an anti-social manner. Nonetheless, any action remains up to a particular constable's discretion and the danger is that discretion can quickly turn into discrimination.

Police already have extensive powers in relation to drunkenness and anti-social behaviour; in particular police can deal with people being found drunk in any highway or public place (section 12,

Licensing Act 1872), people engaging in disorderly behaviour while drunk (Section 91, Criminal Justice Act 1967 provides police with a specific power of arrest) or people using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour (section 5, Public Order Act 1986). That these powers are not considered adequate for the police gives a worrying indication of the attitude of the Cambridge Council.

A further concern with the new bye-law is that "police [will] have powers of arrest if the person [does] not have a satisfactory address for service of a summons..." which reinforces the notion that homeless and other vulnerable people will suffer most under the new bye-law. The guests, staff and volunteers of Jimmy's nightshelter, which works with homeless people, sent a submission to the Council prior to last night's debate and, amongst other things, have expressed:

"a great concern that people, who have nowhere else to be during the daytime except on the streets, are being held responsible for much of the bad behaviour we have read about in the local press. This has resulted in a dangerous stereotyping of homelessness and a serious risk of resentment towards homelessness."

They go on to observe that in the eight years that Jimmy's has worked with homeless people they have found that a long term focus is required, rather than seeking quick fix solutions to perceived problems. Certainly this bye-law seems to be an attempt at finding just such a quick-fix solution.

Now that the bye-law has been approved by council, it will be submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (OPDM) for confirmation. There will be a 28 day period during which members of the public can make

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If you want to get involved, e-mail imc-cambridge@lists.indymedia.org or come to one of our open meetings at 7.30 every Monday (starting again from 5 January) in Clown's Café, King Street.

representations to the OPDM at the end of which it may or may not confirm the bye-law. If confirmed the bye-law usually comes into effect 28 days later.



Protest at Bush Visit

By jupiter/Poon, 11-19.11.2003

Commuters at Cambridge station were in for a surprise on 11 November when they were greeted by a large banner reading "STOP BUSH" and a protester announcing the imminent arrival of the US president rather than the next train.

Later, on 19 November while the visit was under way, the people of Cambridge gathered in the Market Square to topple statues of two of the most dangerous political leaders in the world, George W Bush and his lackey in Downing Street.

There were about a hundred people present... similar to the 'huge crowds' that tore down the Saddam Hussein statue in Baghdad earlier this year. They were able to do this without the assistance of American soldiers and tanks.



March Against the Murderers

Lancaster Animal Rights Group member, 08.12.2003 21:09

Around 400 people of all ages, classes, races, ethnicities and abilities assembled in Huntingdon on Saturday December the 6th with one purpose – to give a clear message that institutionalised animal torture will not be tolerated.

The protesters began assembling in Riverside car park around midday, where they were greeted by police officers thrusting video cameras in their faces as they left their vehicles, and a police helicopter circling overhead. The protesters browsed animal rights merchandise and vegan food, or watched videos played on a mobile screen which showed horrific footage from inside the infamous Huntingdon Life Sciences laboratory, including images of beagle puppies being punched and sworn at as they screamed in terror, and inspiring footage of the past actions of animal rights activists.



The protesters set off at about 1:30 on a loud march around the city, stopping in Chequers Court for speeches. Protesters banged drums, blew whistles, chanted and waved banners in a completely peaceful protest, despite the draconian attitude of the hundreds of police, who pushed the protesters around and refused to let them hand out leaflets to passers-by.

"Our Passion For Freedom Is Stronger Than Your Prisons"

IMC-UK (gdm, maqui, ionnek & others), 02.12.2003 19:00

On November 26th, the "Thessaloniki 7" won a five months struggle against the Greek prison system and various Greek authorities. **Souleiman "Kastro" Dakduk** from Syria, **Simon Chapman** from the UK, **Fernando Perez Gorraiz** and **Carlos Martin Martinez** from Spain and **Spyros Tsitsas** from Greece were on hungerstrike between **49** and **66 days** in protest against the conditions of their arrest and imprisonment. **Michalis Traikapis** and **Dimitris Friouras** were also incarcerated in another, juvenile prison. The determination and dignity of their struggle for justice finally proved to be stronger than the Greek anti-terrorist legislation that framed, imprisoned and almost killed them. Their dedication and passion for freedom spoke louder than

the judges, police chiefs and Greek ministers that hoped they would be forgotten. They weren't, and people in many parts of the world showed solidarity to their defiance whilst making clear that "They are inside for us, we are outside for them."

The seven were amongst 29 protesters arrested during the protests against the EU summit in Thessaloniki. While the others have been released, the seven were held on remand on charges of rioting, possession of explosives and resisting authorities. All 7 say that these charges are false. In Simon Chapman's case, video and photographic evidence confirm that he was framed.

Arms dealers confronted in Cambridge

Voluntary Slave, 15.11.2003 00:11

The annual management lecture at Magdelene College was held on 14 November, sponsored by arms company GKN, and featuring ex Secretary of the US Navy, neo-conservative and arms dealer, John Lehman. Protesters were there to let the college know what we think of their consorting with arms dealers, and to inform students of the sort of people invited to their college. And Michael Moore turned up.

For the past three years, global arms villains GKN have sponsored an annual lecture in the notoriously right-wing Magdelene College, Cambridge. This year, they outdid themselves by inviting as speaker John Lehman, who has managed to promote war in three different ways: as US Secretary of the Navy, as a member of the neo-conservative think-tank the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and as a director of several arms companies. His talk was on 'Managing defence forces in the fight against terror', something GKN are no doubt particularly knowledgeable on, having armed some of the worst dictatorships in the world.

Some People and Planet members had managed to get tickets to the lecture, and went in, hoping to have an opportunity to ask some difficult questions. Unfortunately, the organisers claimed that time constraints prevented more than a couple of questions being asked, so Lehman was not presented with a dissenting voice inside the lecture theatre. Outside, protests continued, giving out more leaflets to let students and passers-by know the kind of people this college was happy to be involved with. Just as the activists were getting a little cold and tired, who should walk down the street but Michael Moore? Apparently, he'd seen the protest while doing a booksigning, and wanted to find out what it was all about. Before he left, he thanked Cambridge activists "for everything you're doing."

Links

Report to Council on public drinking http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/agenda/2003/1119cncl_files/02.pdf

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/>

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty <http://www.shac.net/>

Thessaloniki Solidarity <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2003/09/278180.html>

Cambridge People and Planet <http://www.ppcambridge.org/>