Post Office Closures

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government, keeping these offices open would apparently affect the "viability" of other offices. This is unacceptable. The postal service is first and foremost a public institution which should be for the benefits of local residents and workers, NOT for profiteering. Closing post offices means depriving local residents of what is both an important service and a community centre.

The fact that local residents, especially elderly and disabled members of the population will now have to travel much further distances to use a service people should be able to take for granted is unacceptable. Offices such as Commonside which serve a huge local and student population closing leave people with little option but to go into the city centre for what should be a simple local errand.

This episode shows the disregard both Post Office Limited and the national government have for local communities when presented with the option of making a quick profit.

Tempspolitation

All of us have observed there’s such thing as recruitment agencies on the labour market. If we take a closer look at it, it doesn’t look as good as it seems to be. The first thing is you don’t get a full time contract which means you cannot say “I’ve got a job.”

At the beginning you’re told to wait for a phone call. When you finally get it (30 min before you have to get to the agency) you go to the “desired” workplace and you are treated as a “worst one” — you are only temporary/agency stuff. If you wanna go for a holiday — no problem, but don’t expect the work place to wait for you back unless you’ve been there for long time. If the factory you work needs to just get rid of some stuff or you get late all you hear is “you’re a very good worker but there’s no more job at the stand you’ve been held” (in fact the next casual worker arrives to hold it). The agency calls you — they don’t even say it to you themselves.

If you’re very lucky you get a contract after some time. Overall — don’t expect it to be easy and quick way to get a job.

Homeless or helpless?

It is an unfortunate belief, for many people, that homelessness is due to people’s own personal failings in life. For instance, a previous house mate of mine believed that all homeless people were inherently lazy and had no excuse for not having a job or anywhere to live. I see this as a sad misguided view of people in this situation but it is often a common opinion and a seriously inaccurate one.

Homeless people are not sleeping rough due to being idle or ‘work-shy’ nor is it due to them failing in life; it is because of factors completely out of their control, and these then escalate over time, until they reach a breaking point that consequently makes them homeless.

Research into the many causes of homelessness have found that people have often suffered family disputes, causing them to leave home at a young age. These disputes generally involve issues of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse; also having had parents with drug or alcohol dependency, leading to their own misuse of substances. 37% of homeless people in 2007 were found to have no qualifications whatsoever, usually due to the fact that they left home or care at a young age.

A study conducted by Shelter (a homeless charity) found that homelessness was often due to a combination of reasons including domestic abuse, inability to adjust after leaving prison or the army, drug and alcohol dependency and/or the loss of a loved one.

Yet still, after all these factors, the general public tend to hold a grudging and dismissive attitude towards homelessness. This is not only the case with those sleeping rough but also to people working for the big issue. Many feel that this is still begging.

In Sheffield I have witnessed incidences of bullying behaviour, by the police, community officers and business owners, towards homeless people. I have watched two police, on horses, hounding one man opposite my place of work. They cornered him into one area, making his horses rear up at him whenever he tried to move away. This went on for about 10 mins, until several people waited at a nearby bus stop, obviously having had enough, pushed their way through the horses and began to shout at the police. The man was coughing on the floor and clearly in a state of distress. All he had been doing before the police turned up was sleeping in a corner on the floor. I don’t see how their behaviour was in anyway justified because at no point had he been violent towards anyone or them. I have also seen community officers harass a Big Issue worker, while he sold newspapers nearby the Starbucks on Tudor Square. This is a public space, not owned by Starbucks or any business in that area. But it was obvious that the manager had expressed a dislike to him being there. It eventually led to the poor guy being physically dragged away by them because he refused to move. Again this is outrageous, he had a right to be there just like anyone else. And again my friend has recounted a similar situation to me where he has witnessed community officers

Letters to Fargate

Do you have an opinion on any of the issues covered in this bulletin? Would you like the Fargate to publicise your views? Are there any local issues or campaigns you think Fargate should cover?

Contact Us: thefargatespeaker@gmail.com

Fargate poses the question

Is N.C. the next J.C.?

Atheists will be troubled by local developments in the Liberal Democracy. Nick Clegg, MP for Sheffield Hallam and leader of the Lib Dem’s, has been displaying some worryingly mesiastic qualities. A self-described “maverick” and “rebel” Clegg has been baying at establishment squares since his rise to leadership of the party. In the face of the recent economic crisis, for example, Nick wrote a “strongly worded” letter to Gordon Brown in which he insisted that banks should only be able to repossess family homes “as an absolute last resort”. You tell em Nick! If I am having all my worldly possessions stripped from under my nose because city bankers have been gambling with my savings I will take great comfort in the fact that they have really taken the time to reflect on the decision before I say goodbye to the kitchen sink. Like Jesus casting the money lenders out of the temple, Nick Clegg insists on responsible bank remuneration procedures. But Nick Clegg is not only the champion of working people. He also spreads his love amongst the meek and poor of this earth. October saw Clegg taking to the streets on a walking tour of “ruff sleepers” in Sheffield. What great comfort these people must have taken to a wake-up call from this grinning ponce followed by a swift “relocation” by South Yorkshire cutters in tow.

The Fargate Speaker is produced by Sheffield Anarchist Federation.

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Warning: you are being watched

Due to the NID database being made public, relevant organisations are concerned that innocent people may be targeted. The new national identity register has been run on manual systems. The first victims to have their personal information added to the database are those who have been linked to counter-terrorism and have been convicted of criminal acts.

The NID database contains a vast amount of personal information. People are being watched by the government and the police.

Homeless or helpless?

Sheffield has had a building erected in the city centre to house the homeless. The building is designed to look like a typical housing estate, but it is in fact a police station. The police have been forced to move into the building due to protests from the local community.

Thanks for Nothing!

All 15 affected post offices will shut from mid-November onwards. The Government have announced that all post offices will be closed, including those in Sheffield. The closure of the post offices has been met with widespread opposition, with many people claiming they are not prepared to break the law to stop its existence. The law states that if the post office is closed, then the post office will remain open.

Following the announcement, a large protest was held in Sheffield. The protesters were demanding that the post offices remain open, and that the Government should not close them. The protesters also highlighted the fact that the closure of the post offices would have a detrimental effect on the local community.}

Sheffield Review

The Sheffield Review is a local newspaper that covers a wide range of topics, including news, politics, and culture. The newspaper is known for its in-depth reporting and its commitment to providing accurate and balanced coverage of local events. The Sheffield Review has been in publication since 1990 and is distributed to homes throughout Sheffield and surrounding areas.

The Sheffield Review is available online at www.sheffieldreview.co.uk, and a print edition is published every Thursday. The newspaper is published by the Sheffield Review Ltd, a local media company that has been operating in Sheffield for over 20 years.