

Saturday 4th December 2010

Nottingham Stands United Against Cuts, Fees and Tax Evasion

In Nottingham today activists from Notts Save Our Services, unions and concerned members of the public joined forces with local students to protest against the iniquity of education and public service cuts, occurring against the background of massive corporate tax avoidance.

A planned protest touring Vodafone, Boots and Topshop outlets in the city was combined with a student demonstration against education cuts, offering a powerful united front that drew considerable public attention. Chants and speeches drew attention to the billions of pounds in tax avoided in the UK by these corporations and equated that lost revenue directly to jobs, services and learning opportunities in the community. The march took in the city's main shopping areas, shaming the shops in front of the Christmas crowds and leading to lengthy closures of Vodafone stores on what ought to have been one of their busiest days of the year.

Local solidarity has been building over the past weeks, especially during the student occupation at the University of Nottingham. The four day occupation has just been suspended in the context of the opening of unprecedented negotiations with management and a planned open meeting with the University's Vice Chancellor this coming Monday. The occupation was formed by Notts Students Against Fees and Cuts, which now includes students of schools and Further Education colleges, as well as of both the local universities.

The students did more than compel the university to consult with them. They created a space of collective decision-making, shared ownership of food, resources and work. Genuine critical education took place through the lectures and workshops that continued throughout. Donations and hundreds of messages of solidarity came in from all over the world, and included an impromptu visit from singer Billy Bragg. That sense of solidarity and community is now evident in burgeoning links with other local and national organisations. We saw this at today's protest and it gives us hope.

We will fight and we will win!

To find out about how to get involved in fighting the cuts in Nottingham you can contact:

Notts Students Against Fees and Cuts:

<http://nsafc.wordpress.com/>

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Notts Save Our Services:

<http://nottssos.org.uk/>

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