



Bulldoze Prescott's plans not Linslade's countryside

Linslade Protester, 20.01.2005 13:07

Local residents near Linslade in Bedfordshire have been disrupting work on the Stoke Hammond to Linslade Bypass, a new £50m road which is the first part of John Prescott's "development" plans for the region, including a massive expansion of Luton airport. The 5 mile planned route cuts across some beautiful open countryside and includes the destruction of several groups of trees.

More people are needed right now to help stop the bypass.

Last Week's Events:

Work was expected to start on Monday 17th, but a large turnout by protesters apparently put off the contractors, and the day was spent talking to reporters and trying to determine if any work was taking place on other bits of the route. Contractors were seen hanging around in some areas but then left.

On Tuesday contractors were again seen hanging around but then left, surveyors were out working and there was what seemed like a general attempt by police to intimidate protesters.

On Wednesday morning there was intense police activity and

bulldozers being turned away by protesters. Despite a concerted effort by contractors and police to bring chainsaw vehicles and a digger onto the land during the day, work was completely blocked by local residents linking arms in front of the vehicles and two others chaining themselves to the digger.

The two who were locked-on to the digger were arrested for aggravated trespass and have been bailed away from the bypass route. They plan to use their court case to challenge the legality of the road scheme.

On Thursday morning the digger left Valley Farm, and heavy machinery work was suspended for the rest of the week on police advice. Surveying continued in preparation for a planned fence along the bypass route.

Please contact the local group before you come down. The situation is changing very rapidly, especially on the legal side. Please check www.linsladeprotest.org.uk and also call the local campaign on 01525 385097 or 07815 817108 (not after 10pm).

Update (27/01/05): Work is continuing as protesters are outnumbered by police and hired security. The council has been trying to use oppressive injunctions against campaigners.

Brutality towards asylum seekers

Cambridge IMC, 20.12.2004 21:03

At Oakington asylum seeker detention centre, near Cambridge, an Indian couple with a two year old child have been imprisoned for 54 days, and have been refused bail. The child has

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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 on the first and third Mondays of every month at 3 Fletchers Terrace (see website for details).

been ill, but because he is in detention has not been allowed to see a paediatrician. The family have been told that deportation is imminent. By the time they leave, they may have been imprisoned for 77 days.



Private Prison Contractor

The Castanos family face fear and uncertainty, as to whether they will be deported to Columbia. While at Oakington, they thought deportation would occur soon, however they have now been told they can appeal. Despite the fact that several close family members have been killed by Columbian paramilitary authorities, they are left uncertain as to whether they can remain in the UK.

Commenting on the report, Maeve Sherlock, Chief Executive of the Refugee Council said: "Detaining children for uncertain periods is potentially damaging to their well-being, as the Chief Inspector of Prisons points out. A child's concept of time is very different from an adult's, and a week will seem very much longer to a child. Therefore, detaining children for a week, or in some cases far longer, can have an

adverse impact on them, and be harmful to their development. We believe that it is not appropriate to detain children, but should the Home Office do so, they must follow all precautions to safeguard that child's health and well-being."

In another recent case Lina Castanos, and her 8 year old son, Miguel were violently taken from their home at night, to be held first at Gatwick, and then at Oakington. The mother was strip searched and left in her bra and knickers under the full gaze of male police officers before being allowed to pack one small bag of their personal belongings. While at Oakington, Miguel was refused a doctor for at least 24 hours when he became ill.

Lina & Miguel began the Fast Track legal farce on Saturday 4th December in the afternoon, theoretically a 7 day process where their entire case is heard, judged and appealed in a week. Oakington has a near perfect record in rejecting cases heard this way, and deporting immediately.

Under the Labour government asylum seekers have faced increasingly brutal treatment. This year, the government decided to ban HIV drugs to asylum seekers suffering from AIDS, including pregnant women. There have been reports of people being beaten in custody, and being deported to places where they will be in severe danger, such as the Congo. Asylum seekers have even been deported to Iraq, despite the disastrous role the UK government has played in making it unsafe for the population.

In Sheffield there has been a campaign to keep Iraqi asylum seeker Naseh Ghafor in the UK: if he returns to Iraq it is likely that

he will be killed.

UPDATE (17th January):

Indian family released after 73 days.

The crime of filming repression in Palestine

Cambridge IMC, 17.12.2004 16:29

Kelly Minio-Paluello (23), a journalist and community activist from the USA, was brutally arrested by Israeli Border Policemen while filming a peaceful demonstration on Tuesday outside Ramallah, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. She is currently being held in Hadera Detention Centre awaiting deportation. She has neither been told why or when she will be deported or informed of her rights. Earlier this year, Kelly and her husband Mika (a Cambridge activist whose reports from Palestine we have regularly featured) produced a film, documenting life in Balata Refugee Camp. Copies of the film are available from the Cambridge Indymedia collective.

Kelly's arrest while filming the beating of a Palestinian by Israeli police comes only weeks after Palestinian Authority presidential candidate Mustafa Barghouti was beaten by Israeli troops at one of the 703 Israeli checkpoints on Palestinian territory.

Update: Kelly was deported on 24 December, and is now back in the USA.

ID card controversy comes to Cambridge

Cambridge No2ID, 26.01.2005 00:00

Controversial plans to introduce a government identity card were

debated by leading figures at a public meeting in Cambridge. Around 150 people turned out for the evening. The speakers were:

- * Peter Lilley MP, cabinet minister in the last Tory government
- * Professor Ross Anderson, world-leading expert on computer security
- * Tauhid Pasha, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
- * David Howarth, Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for Cambridge

Government figures put the cost of the scheme at over £200 for every taxpayer. The government wants to make everyone in Britain get an identity card when they renew their passport -- more than doubling the cost to £85 -- and everyone would have to travel in person to the Passport Office to be fingerprinted.

"Identity cards will cause a lot of annoyance to the Queen's subjects, without really managing to cause much inconvenience to Her enemies", says Professor Anderson.

This use of identity information to control the population is also due to be used in Iraq. There are plans to use similar 'biometric' forms of identification (eye scans and DNA tests) in Fallujah, where the returning population are identified and forced to wear ID badges, before having to submit to control over their movements and forced labour.



Links

Linslade Protests – <http://www.linsladeprotest.org.uk>
Road Block – <http://www.roadblock.org.uk/>
Balata Camp – <http://www.balatacamp.net/>
No2ID Campaign – <http://www.no2id.net>