

Link Up

The Voice of the York & District Trades Union Council

**Parking charges
campaign edition**



***From
this to
this ?***



**York
TUC**

Comment

NOTICE

If your branch wants the Trades Union Council to assist in anyway, phone one of the numbers on the back page.

Link Up welcomes any articles from affiliated branches. The articles should be not more than 300 words. The editor reserves the right to shorten articles because of space. Articles should be submitted by the branch secretary and on official paper.

Some of the information in *Link Up* is drawn from documents and information from the following sources:

Labour Research Department
78 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8HF
Tel: 020 7928 3649 for details of their subscriptions.

Trades Union Congress
Web site
www.tuc.org.uk

Link Up is published three or four times a year and is available through TUC affiliated branches, a small number of copies can be obtained from public libraries in and around York.

Trade union members of affiliated branches are welcome to attend delegate meetings, provided that they make themselves known to the President or Secretary before the start of the meeting.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday in each month at the TGWU offices, Nunnery Lane, York. Meetings start at 19.30 hours.

The current parking charges policy will leave York as barren as the desert

Council Leader, Steve Galloway, keeps on saying that the additional parking charges are necessary in order to make up the shortfall in the City Council's budget. When Cllr Tracy Simpson-Laing recently spoke to the Trades Union Council, she said that the audit report on the council's finances for the last year of Labour's office had confirmed that they were in good order.

The residents on-street parking charge was meant to cover the cost of *policing* to prevent residents being deprived of parking spaces by non-residents, now the charge has doubled, the Council is using this as an additional tax.

In addition, York is a low wage economy, the residents of the City have enough to cope with with the high cost of housing they can do without this additional burden.

The commercial life in the centre of the City has been severely hit by out of town developments and internet shopping. The City centre needs all the help it can get.

YTUC is concerned that the new parking charges will have a serious impact on jobs. That is why *YTUC* is actively campaigning for a reversal of the parking policy introduced by the current administration why this edition of *Link Up* has concentrated on the campaign against these charges.

Tim Short
Editor
Link up

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The fabric of York life is under threat



Never has an issue united so many diverse groups in a common cause, Pete Holley, York and District Trades Union Council President, told Link Up.

He said that the public protest held on 29 July 2004, against the extension of parking charges was successful in keeping the pressure on the City Council to force it to review its policy,

The protest outside the Mansion House coincided with the meeting of the full City Council and was designed to lobby Councillors of all parties.

The protest organized by YTUC and was part of programme of public protests, the first being a packed public meeting on 22 July at which Steve Galloway, the City of York Council Leader was subjected to close questioning on the Council policy.

A statement setting out the case against City Council's policy was distributed to all councillors prior to the council meeting and YTUC member Brian Anderson addressed the full Council. (See page 5 for the full address.) He was supported by Peter Abbott, the owner of Micklegate Post Office, who told the Council that his staff was being threatened by motorists wanting change for the meters.

At the protest meeting, The Yorkshire Evening Press provided copies of their poster *Stop the Highway Robbery*. YTUC members wore T-shirts bearing the legend, *Parking charges kill York Life* as part of their public expression of opposition. YTUC felt that it should make its own feelings known on the effect the new charges are having not only on the commercial life of the City but also the impact on employment and social life.

Councillors were subjected to a barrage through a loudhailer from across the river from members of YTUC urging them to oppose the policy.

A choir made up of different

societies provided the musical entertainment in the form of a protest song to the tune of *On Ilkka Moor Bah't at*. Among the protesters were people representing traders, voluntary groups and places of entertainment. Dick Turpin and the Grim Reaper from York Dungeon were also in attendance.

Passers by were asked to sign the Yorkshire Evening Press petition against the charges and motorists were asked to toot their horns in support of the protest.

During the demonstration, the weather conditions were deteriorating and as the opening

Continued page 4



The choir in song

Parking charges kill York life

addresses at the Council meeting were in full swing, there was a loud clap of thunder, some one remarked that it was the voice of God.

Since the protest, Steve Galloway, the Leader of the Council has hinted that the Council may be prepared to make some concessions, see panel.

YTUC takes the view that the additional charges should be scrapped and is in the process of planning the next stage of the campaign, see page 7.



House & Sons forced to close partly because of the new parking charges. This now leaves the City centre without a shop selling white electrical goods.



There has to be a better way!

Brian Anderson's, YTUC, address to the Full Council - 29 July 2004

Some of you in this Chamber know how the TUC in York works and works very hard for the people of York behind the scenes and has done for over 110 years.

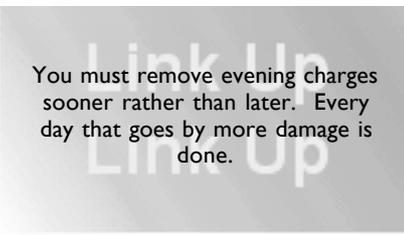
In fact we have in the past worked together with some of you on pedestrianisation of the city and on the Park & Ride vision before either of these were introduced.

I represent the TUC and am here to put a collective view about parking problems in that you are damaging the people of York's pubs, shops, Bed and Breakfasts, voluntary groups, bands, Samaritans, churches, choirs etc.

The quiet majority of trade unionists are ordinary working people and most are on low wages in York. The majority have not received increases in pay that will go anywhere near paying for increases in Council Tax let alone

the increases in parking charges.

Worse still, many people you are hurting are on fixed incomes. As an Authority you have several ways of raising and spending our money and as many ways of saving our money. That is why you were elected – not to come back and ask us to come up with solutions to problems that have



been caused probably by ill thought through changes.

We sincerely believe that you do not understand the full implications of the changes you have imposed and that double yellow lines and evening parking charges are continuing to *damage*

the very fabric of York life!!

The charges to householders and businesses are causing serious financial problems. The office where I am based was asked for £300 for one permit!!

Houses with more than one vehicle are being taxed out of car ownership – *there has to be a better way!!*

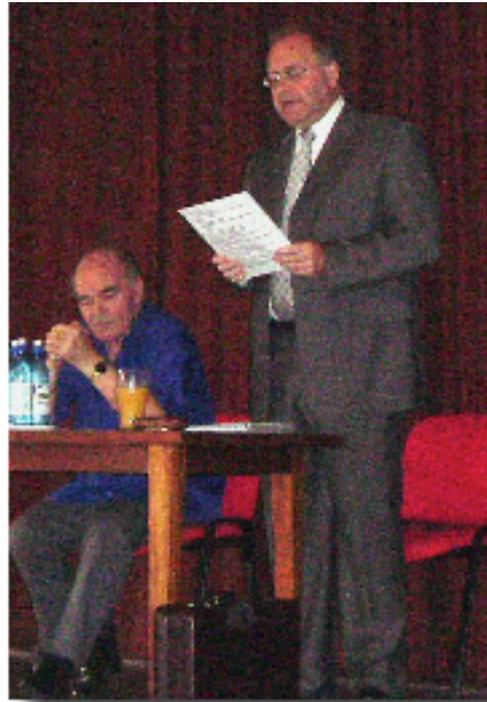
You, the custodians of our city, must rethink what you have done – not along political lines but for the people of York.

You must remove evening charges sooner rather than later. Every day that goes by more damage is done.

It takes real courage to admit "*We got it wrong*" but for the sake of York we hope you have that courage and we hope you have the backbone to admit this and change what you have done sooner rather than later.

Parking charges kill York life

Hinted concessions made by the Council leader, Steve Galloway	Yorkshire Evening Press
Permit system to allow free access by voluntary workers, charities and street entertainers	4 August
Evening frequent user passes (FUP) extended to Sundays to assist churchgoers	4 August
Flat rate evening parking charge - with a hefty discount for residents	3 August
Flat rate fee from 6pm - 8.30pm, discount for residents	3 August
Late night Park & Ride service	3 August



Cllr Steve Galloway addressing the public meeting on 22 July



Protesters gather on the steps of the Mansion House during the protest on 29 July

Parking charges kill York life

Acknowledgements

Information for these articles have been obtain from the Yorkshire Evening Press and YTUC own sources. Photographs have been provided by members of YTUC.

The Protest Song

We are the folk who live in York,
whom councils ought to please
We can't afford to park at night,
We can't afford to park at night
So scrap the parking fees!
So scrap the parking fees!
So scrap the parking fees!

The Opposition

Groups and societies mentioned in the Yorkshire Evening Press opposed to the new charges.

Bar Convent	Religious	Russells Restaurants	Restaurant & PH's
Barley Hall Museum	Leisure	Samaritans	Voluntary
Blakehead Book Shop	Trade	Supersave	Trade
Cafe Concerto	Restaurant & PH's	Something Different	Trade
City Screen	Entertainment	Sunshine (tanning shop)	Trade
Cruse Bereavement Care	Voluntary	The Canopy	Trade
Dave Dee	Trade	The Cat Gallery	Trade
Ebor Morris Dancers	Entertainment	The Chocolate Store	Trade
Fibbers	Entertainment	The Lime House	Trade
Fossgate Trades Association	Trade	University Evening Classes	Education
Gillygate Trades	Trade	Walmgate Post Office	Trade
Go Down Restaurant	Restaurant & PH's	Walmgate Traders	Trade
Grand Opera House	Entertainment	York & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce	Trade
Guppies	Leisure	York Arms	Restaurant & PH's
Hugh	Political	York Conservative Party	Political
Jack's Tapas Bar	Restaurant & PH's	York Family History Society	Leisure
La Piazza	Trade	York Labour Party	Political
Little John PH	Restaurant & PH's	York Light Opera	Entertainment
Mary Shortle	Trade	York Musical Theatre Company	Entertainment
Micklegate Post Office	Trade	York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir	Entertainment
Micklegate Trades	Trade	York Rose Singers	Entertainment
New Moon	Trade	York Theatre Royal	Entertainment
Play	Entertainment	York Tourism Bureau	Trade
Quakers	Religious	York Trades Union Council	Trades Union
Roman Bath	Restaurant & PH's	Yorkshire Philosophical Society	Leisure/Education
Rush	Restaurant & PH's		

The campaign continues

The campaign against the imposition of further car parking charges is to continue. The decision to continue the campaign was taken at a meeting of all interested groups and organizations on 26 August, which was arranged by the YTUC.

During the meeting, representatives of musical societies said that they were actively looking for venues out of the city centre. They highlighted that the extension of the

charges was a double-edged sword. Not only were their members being hit by having to pay the charges but also, audience numbers would be reduced.

Brian Anderson, who chaired the meeting and is a member of YTUC, said that there is a danger that the Council would divide opposition by making concessions to various groups, he added that certain concessions had been made to churches.

As an example of the concessions made by the Council, Paul Ab-

bott, Post Master of Micklegate Post Office told the meeting, "The reduced fee of 20p for Micklegate had not resulted in trade being improved. People see the meters and drive off."

It was decided that a further campaign meeting would be held with the view to encouraging people to write to their local councillor, to arrange another lobby of the full council and investigate further publicity measures.

Details would be posted on the York TUC website.

York Trades Union Council

Web is live

YTUC launches website

Work Trades Union Council has launched its website. The website was launched in July and not only gives information about YTUC but also links other sites of interested.

As reported in the last issue of *Link Up*, the site will enable people to connect with the TUC, whose site is invaluable for union members, and to the other union sites.

Current and past editions of

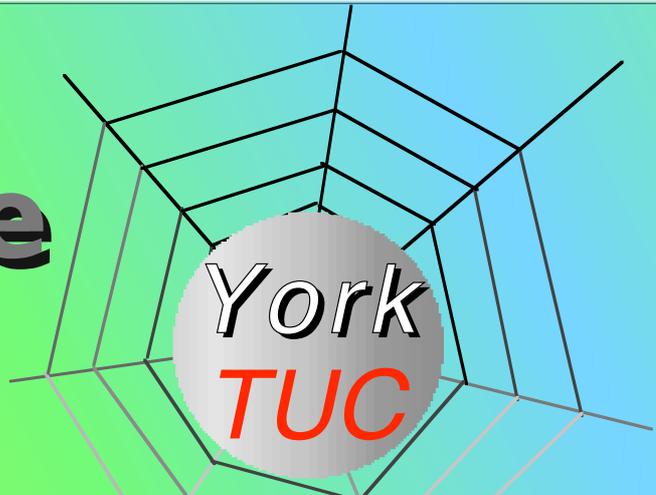
Link Up can be downloaded in pdf format. At the time of going to press, only the editions from 2000 (Issue 26) are available online. Issues prior to 2000 will be made available when time permits. One word of warning, the early editions had to be scanned in and so the file size is quite large.

YTUC news is also displayed, the big item for York at the moment is the Parking Charges Campaign.

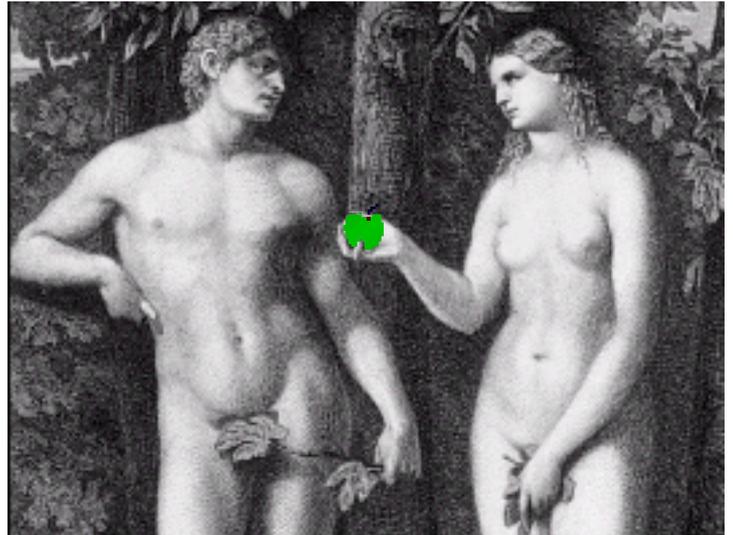
Eventually, it is hoped to

have available a potted history of York TUC but, as stated in the last issue of *Link Up* this might take some time.

YTUC Website address:
WWW.yorktuc.org.uk
email:info@yorktuc.org.uk



Quickie lunches will store up trouble



Workers' health and productivity are being jeopardised as lunch breaks get squeezed, says TUC.

Commenting on the *Eurest Lunchtime Report 2004* that revealed that UK workers are taking shorter lunch breaks than ever before.

TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber said: 'Workers who don't take long enough breaks risk damaging their health, and employees who don't get away from their desks at lunchtime are not going to be very productive in the afternoon. Employers need to do more to make sure that their staff are not so overburdened that they feel unable to leave the office for

more than a few minutes.'

Barber added: 'Overworked employees who don't get to take decent breaks are not a business asset, they are positively bad for business. The government needs to get tougher with bosses who abuse working time rules.'

The Eurest report found one in five of the 2,000 workers interviewed said they never took a lunch break, while a quarter of women said they worked straight through lunch. Only 57 per cent of people said they took a break at lunchtime. Of those that do stop to eat, the average time taken is just 27 minutes. *Working lunch*, a study published this week by health education charity *Developing Patient Partnerships*, found that

unhealthy eating patterns and snack lunches are contributing to soaring cholesterol levels.

Source : TUC

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The views expressed in Link Up are not necessarily those of the York and District Trades Union Council.

Web www.yorktuc.org.uk

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TUC Apprenticeships survey

If you work with apprentices or you are an apprentice then the TUC would like to hear from you. The TUC is conducting a survey to find out more about experiences of apprentices. Completing the online questionnaire will only take a few minutes and will contribute greatly to this project.

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/skills/tuc-8469-f0.cfm>