

# JOIN OUR CAMPAIGNS: THE YEAR IN LOWESTOFT

## THE FIREFIGHTERS STRIKE

Fire-fighters have a very expensive pension – they will contribute £4,000 pa next year, about a fifth of their take home pay, and that will go up again the following year. The government now demands that they work until they are aged 60 and face a pension cut of almost 50% if they are unable to meet fitness standards beyond the age of 55. The government has refused to talk for two months. They think they can get away with it.

## THE TOWN HALL

After months of bluffing Waveney District Council has finally admitted that it did not look at alternative town centre sites for new council offices nor did it conduct an impact assessment on moving 500 jobs out of town. Planning rules say that it must. LCAC is preparing an appeal to the Local Government Ombudsman.

## LOWESTOFT HOSPITAL

LCAC lodged a complaint against the loaded nature of HealthEast's consultation which recommended the closure of Lowestoft Hospital. The Chief Executive Andy Evans is claiming that he can deal with the complaint himself, even though he is officially precluded from doing so. This is also likely to end up with an Ombudsman.

## COUNCIL CUTS

Waveney District Council will lose half its government grant, that is another £2.5m, over the next three years. Suffolk County Council will lose £50m. Jobs and services will go and the Tories will shed no tears. Planned mergers with other authorities are already leading to further loss of local democracy and the marginalising of Lowestoft. The piers and the beach are closed. Just as the sea came over the quayside in Belvedere Road in 1953 it did so again in 2013. What is the Council doing besides buying land and building houses and offices in a flood plain?

## CARLTON COURT HOSPITAL

Last month hundreds attended the founding of the Campaign to Save Mental Health services in Norfolk and Suffolk. Launched by front-line workers it is opposing plans to cut £40m from the Trust's budget. Patients are currently sent all over the country because local provision is already inadequate. Carlton Court Hospital is closing its day centre Poppies and plans to close most of its beds.

When Lowestoft Coalition against the Cuts was formed in March 2011 we vowed to fight against cuts. While the government demonises benefit claimants massive tax dodging continues to be rife. Salaries and bonuses in the City are at staggering levels. And that money doesn't grow on trees, it comes from us. The gas and electricity companies coin in profits, for what? It doesn't take much skill to ring up Russia and ask for some more gas please. Massive capital projects of dubious value are being embarked upon. We will have to pay three times the going rate for nuclear power and £50bn or more for a marginally useful high speed rail line. Now the major expansion of Heathrow Airport is planned with little evidence of need. Wars and nuclear weapons are given a blank cheque. LCAC believes that that is what the government should cut. It should not cut jobs, wages, pensions and services.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Support LCAC by joining our leafleting every Saturday, 11-1pm, in the town centre precinct, outside the Britten Centre.
- Join our email list - keep up to date with activity in your area.
- Photocopy this leaflet and pass onto friends and workmates.
- Support the local libraries campaign - contact Pauline on 01502 586412.
- Want to know more? We can supply a speaker for your group or trade union branch.

Contact us

[lowestoftagainstthecuts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lowestoftagainstthecuts@hotmail.co.uk)

01502 568684 / 569174 / 574010



# 2013 THE STORIES THEY WOULDN'T PRINT 2013

Newspapers have been losing readers for years and one of the reasons is that they are so timid. Here are some of the stories we have given the Lowestoft Journal in 2013.

## Lowestoft Town Hall

We told the Journal that Norfolk Property Services, the company that co-wrote the business plan which recommended moving council staff to new offices in Riverside Road and selling some ten town centre offices including the Town Hall, stood to collect a commission on those sales. The Journal did not report this.

## The Journal

We told the Journal that councillors were misinformed, in the same business plan, when they were told that Suffolk County Council and Waveney District Council would save hundreds of thousands of pounds in business rates by building in an Enterprise Zone. The Journal did not report this.

We told the Journal that Waveney District Council's spokesman, Phil Harris, had wrongly accused LCAC

of failing to engage in the democratic process during their decision to dump the Town Hall. We had and WDC was forced to print an apology on its website. The Journal did not report this.

## Lowestoft Hospital

We told the Journal that the Chief Executive of HealthEast, Andy Evans, had said that if Lowestoft Hospital was closed then Beccles, Southwold and Halesworth Hospitals would be closed too. The Journal did not report this.

## Orme House Care Home

We told the Journal that WDC Environmental Officers had presented a detailed and harrowing report to the Council on the appalling conditions which had been allowed to develop in Orme House Care Home on Kirkley Park Road. The Journal did not report this.

## The Third Crossing

We handed the Journal an extract from the council's transport plan which revealed that no third crossing would be considered for at least ten years. We pointed out the two spelling mistakes in one sentence. The Journal didn't mention the Council's spelling mistakes, it just corrected them.

## FIREFIGHTERS STRIKE - THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

We have described elsewhere how wealth has been steadily shifted to the already wealthy. If we do nothing then that will continue and a new financial crisis will follow. The fire-fighters are now in the front line.

Lobby your trade union, lobby the prospective Labour Party candidate, Bob Blizzard. Write to the press and visit the picket lines at **Lowestoft Fire Station, Stradbroke Road:**

**Tuesday 24 December  
19.00-20.00**

**Tuesday 31 December  
18.30-19.30**

**Friday 3 January  
18.30-19.30**



Lowestoft firefighters picket, Dec 13