

Fighting for communism

- the future that works!

Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Urgent measures needed to address the crisis now:

- Nationalisation of ALL utilities (without compensation) along with monopoly producers, manufacturers and distributors of food, so as to ensure a secure supply of all necessities at affordable prices, free from the vacillations and disruptions of the world market.



- Lifting the minimum wage to a level providing a decent family existence.

- Legislation for pay/benefit rises that keep pace with REAL inflation.

- An end to currency devaluation through endless money printing.

- Requisition and building of social housing and introduction of a rent cap to address the housing crisis.

- The complete renationalisation of every part of the NHS, including all its buildings and the pharmaceutical industry.

- Leaving Nato, bringing all troops and military contractors home, an end to funding for proxy forces and all other aspects of British involvement in aggressive wars abroad.

- An end to the self-defeating sanctions war against Russia, which is fuelling both the energy and the inflation crises.

- An end to all subsidies to banks and monopoly corporations. Any business considered 'too big to fail' or 'necessary to the economy' that cannot make adequate profit from ordinary operations should be nationalised without compensation and run according to a plan based on meeting the needs of the people.

County Road 'deportation' rally

What did it really mean?

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On Saturday 13 June, Walton was once again the site of a reactionary protest, bringing in its train a heavy police presence and an opposition 'counter-demonstration'.

The message of the US-backed Ukip/Turning Point UK agitators was amplified by reactionary Merseyside-based social media accounts, but on the day only a small number gathered, many of them professional 'activists' who regularly appear at similar events around the country. The more we see of such events, the clearer it becomes that this is *not* a grassroots, popular movement. *Those involved have no interest in improving the lives of working people; they are being paid to create division and to spread hatred and fear.*

Understandably, there was much local concern ahead of the protest; our community is still recovering from the last time psyched-up reactionaries descended on Walton. On that occasion, the marchers caused significant damage to shops, restaurants and businesses, and even wantonly torched the local library. This time round, the high street was effectively shut down: shops, pubs and cafes were shuttered, and their staff lost a day's wages. Even the Community Shop, which provides affordable food and essentials for low-income residents, was closed.

The reactionary mob that assembled was replete with St George's flags, Union Jacks and christian imagery that appeared to be referencing the Crusades of the middle ages (more wars of elites over middle-eastern resources!) They chanted slogans like "Get them out" and hurled provocative abuse at the counter-demonstration that was assembled over the road.

Meanwhile, the opposition responded with chants of "Refugees welcome here" whilst waving Palestinian flags. While many were

no doubt motivated by good intentions, the activities of this supposedly 'progressive' side were as self-defeating as those of the reactionaries. Clearly, such empty sloganeering does nothing to explain the real reason for mass migration in the modern age. It does nothing to help anyone recognise why our own ruling class engages in endless economic and military warfare all over the world, or how that warfare devastates whole countries and leads to the mass displacement of targeted populations.

Screaming about (or at) migrants also does not bring us any closer to understanding the root causes of the housing shortages, disappearing public services, rising unemployment and increasing deprivation being suffered by the working class in Britain – of all ethnic backgrounds.

The whole spectacle was, in fact, a carefully curated pantomime that neither enlightened nor persuaded anyone, and had little to do with the everyday concerns of Walton's residents.

Why County Road?

Walton is a deprived area whose residents are suffering from the low wages, insecure employment and prolonged economic decline that have resulted from over a century of deindustrialisation – problems created by the workings of Britain's financier-controlled monopoly-capitalist economy. Its people face the familiar problems of rising prices, soaring rents, a chronic housing shortage and collapsing public services.

It is these very conditions that lead poor migrants to live in areas like ours, since the housing here is cheaper than elsewhere. And these conditions are why the reactionary demagogues are targeting us. They have been instructed to move in on areas

where workers are suffering the worst consequences of capitalism in crisis. Their job is to try and convince us that other workers are to blame for our problems.

But the only real difference between the conditions of 'native' and 'migrant' workers is that the latter are too often forced to accept *even worse* pay and housing, and that they often endure racist abuse, stirred up by the same forces that are sending these provocateurs into our midst.

Contrary to what the stream of anti-migrant bile would have us believe, the plain truth is that housing shortages, low wages and declining public services have not been created by migration. They are the consequence of decades of privatisation, speculation and austerity. They are the inevitable result of treating housing, energy and public services as *commodities* from which every last ounce of profit must be wrung – profits that can only come from the meagre purses of the working people.

What was achieved?

To many local people the demonstration may have appeared almost insignificant, apart from some temporary inconvenience on the day. In fact, its greatest value lay not in the numbers who attended but in the imagery it produced for social media.

Carefully curated footage from such events is heavily promoted by social media platforms to create the impression that a grassroots movement of British workers is rapidly growing, and that its demand is for 'something to be done' to stop and even reverse immigration flows to Britain.

When we look closer, we see that both the Tory/Reform/Ukip/Restore 'right wing' and the Labour/Green/LibDem 'left wing' are

actually serving the same master. Both sides foster anti-migrant sentiment in a multitude of ways. Both stoke culture wars and tribalism amongst working people. Both support imperialist wars abroad and austerity at home.

None of them have a plan for rebuilding British industry or addressing the spiralling cost-of-living crisis, never mind a plan for freeing the working class from capitalism's neverending pursuit of maximum profit – *a system that has systematically shipped productive industrial jobs abroad and stripped investment from working-class communities. None of them want the working people to discover their true power to take control of society and change its direction.*

The truth is that we have immense power, but to use it we must be united. That means we must oppose every attempt to divide us along lines of nationality, race or religion. Such division only makes us weak and leaves our exploiters in place, laughing all the way to the bank. Whatever our ethnicity, sex, age or religion, our interests as workers are fundamentally the same. Racial prejudice is systematically cultivated because a divided working class is far easier to exploit and control.

Our real choice is not between the 'left' and 'right' faces of the same bloodthirsty system. It is between remaining as exploitation and cannon fodder for the capitalist ruling class or taking our rightful place as the ruling class of a new, socialist society.

Only a united working class, organised around the struggle for socialism and a planned economy, can remove the chains of the present system that are weighing us down.

Join us!