



**BBC bans
Scaffold
film**

-page ten

The people won't decide after all **IT'S THE M62 STEAMROLLER**

HERE IS THE NEWS

News is what other people don't want you to read.

The Liverpool Free Press has been started by a group of people who want to print that news.

On Merseyside there are plenty of stories that are never revealed. For there is a newspaper monopoly - the Post and Echo - that is quite happy to ignore it.

Take this issue. The three stories about the police were barely mentioned in the Echo.

Persistently the Echo prints story after story to discredit strikers - the Docks, Fords, the power workers and Cammell Lairds.

The Free Press will aim at providing a radical alternative newspaper.

But we aren't affiliated to any political party. We don't have one political line that we want you to subscribe to.

As well as reporting police abuses, planning fiddles, Corporation incompetence and the suppression of news, we will be giving a voice to those who are denied a platform for their views... community groups, trade unionists, school-children, gypsies, the coloured community.

In a phrase - the people of Liverpool.

We need to know what you think and what you are doing. And we need your support if you want the Liverpool Free Press to keep coming out each month.

Contact us at 107 Brookdale Road, Liverpool 15. Daytime: 709-0264. Evenings: 733-9238.

Drawn away from home

During an action for divorce a judge asked the wife for an example of her husband's bad behaviour. She replied: 'Last year Harry asked me if I had anything to discuss before the football season began.'



A man helping the police with their enquiries.

Police raid on children's party

Don't talk to the people of Kirkby about the police force being short of men.

For on Sunday, May 3, the police in five panda cars and a Black Maria gate-crashed a children's street party in Lindby Road, Kirkby, broke it up and arrested three men for obstruction.

British justice had swung into action ten days before the Cup Final, when local police told Mrs Esther Crosby, of Lindby Road, that street parties were not their concern.

Mrs Crosby had visited Kirkby police station to ask permission to hold the street party. Twice she was told it was up to Kirkby Urban District Council, not the police.

Thinking no more about the matter, the residents went ahead organising the party. In the street lives the father of John McLaughlin, the Liverpool player, and even though most of the men are

Evertonians they thought a party, win or lose, would be a good idea for the kids.

As they were setting up the tables in the street on the Sunday, a panda car drove up and police told the mothers they couldn't hold the party in the street.

When the women protested, reinforcements were called. Police doubtless feared a riot by the 40 young children, and soon four more panda cars converged on the road from every direction and a Black Maria drew up.

Mrs Ann Cahill, of Lindby Road, said: "All they were short of was the Alsatians. You'd have thought a murder had been committed."

Mr John Killen, one of the men arrested, said: "The sergeant told us 'I'm in charge, and there'll be no party in this street today.'"

"In my opinion he came up

(Continued on page 2)

When the M62 ploughs through Liverpool thousands of people will be affected - houses will be demolished, communities will be broken up, lives will be disrupted.

And the people won't be allowed to decide for themselves.

The planning of the M62 has been advertised as an exercise in 'public participation'. But MacDonald Steward, Conservative leader of the city council, has shown that up to be a fraud, and demonstrated his scorn for public participation.

"Help to plan Liverpool's road network," said the M62 brochure.

"I don't like mischief makers," said Alderman MacDonald Steward, when he met the Picton Residents Association on Friday June 4.

To their face he told them it was not an exercise in public participation, it was an exercise in public relations.

The residents went for information. They came away feeling angry and astonished after listening to MacDonald Steward's comments.

The residents want to know why the motorway is being built. But after two public meetings with Corporation officials, and interviews with the leaders of the two major parties they are still none the wiser.

They have found the politicians and planners to be confused, muddled and contradictory about the purpose of the M62.

Back in 1934 Brodie, the city engineer, drew an arbitrary line across a map and said Liverpool needed a road there. Ever since,



it appears to have been accepted as gospel, with no questions asked.

The Picton Residents presented MacDonald Steward with a list of detailed and reasonable questions. He said he would give replies within days. By the end of June he still hadn't replied.

In six months' time the city council will choose the definite route for the £14 million stretch of motorway, and give the go-ahead for construction.

And unless the people fight for their rights to participate, the decision will be taken over their heads.

Long way to spend a penny...

Liverpool's central library in William Brown Street must have one of the finest obstacle courses in the country.

It's at its best when you're trying to find out about planning matters in the city.

City council minutes are kept in a muddled heap on the first floor. A lot of them are missing.

Planning documents are kept on the fifth floor. You're not allowed to use the lifts to get there. Hard luck if you're old or crippled.

You're not allowed to browse through the planning reports. They're kept on restricted access.

It's said that when they're left on open shelves they get pinched, which just might have something to do with the fact that they are so expensive and you can't borrow them from the library.

If you want to see them you've got to fill in a form giving your name, address, the title of the report and its reference number. If you don't know the number you've got to look through the catalogue and get it.

You're not allowed to borrow the planning reports. But you could have them photo-copied. That is, if you can afford the exorbitant

2s 6d per sheet they charge you.

And if you've got a weak bladder think twice about visiting the fifth floor. Toilets are on the ground floor, if you're caught short you have to leg it down ten flights of stairs, race to the entrance, hand over your tally, and fill in your name, address and time in the book before they'll give you the key to the toilets which are on the other side of the building in the International Library.

Who needs to charge an entrance fee to stop people using museums? Just call in Liverpool's central library as advisers.