

POSITIVE MONEY

My presentation follows in direct line from the presentation on Ludlow Campaign for Fairness. We are wholly in agreement that the need for Austerity is a political choice, an act wielded for ideological reasons - and that this is not a sustainable way to live.

In fact, my belief is that the entire way we engage with money is unsustainable and if we are to have a resilient, sustainable, spiritually balanced life by 2040, we will have to change radically the way that we approach money.

As things stand, we exist in a state where only 1 in 10 of our MPs - in a survey conducted by Positive Money in the 2010 - 2015 parliament - knew where the money supply came from. With this level of economic illiteracy, it's not surprising we have an economically illiterate government policy.

It is therefore our role to bring literacy to the population.

thus: 3% of the money supply is created by the government in the form of notes and coins. 97% is created by the banks in the form of loans - it is not based on our savings, that link was broken a long time ago: it is made simply on the basis of loans asked for and granted where there is a reasonable expectation of repayment. To put it into context, if you borrow £100,000 to buy a house, and pay 6% compound interest over 25 years, the cost of the debt will be £95,567 - which is to say, the bank just invented money out of nothing and sold it to you at almost 100% profit.

The banks do this on an industrial scale, literally. Of their lending, the vast bulk (55%) goes in mortgages because people will do anything to keep their home. Of the amount that goes to business (approximately 8%), the majority - 75% goes to very big businesses. This leaves 2% of bank lending to small and medium sized enterprises, which are the lifeblood of any community's economy. (Numbers all come from Positive Money).

Thus our money supply is based on debt. Or, to put it another way: the banks make money out of nothing. This is wholly unsustainable, to say nothing of being wholly unethical.

There are a number of ways to change this. I have three avenues.

1) I am setting up a local Positive Money group. <http://positivemoney.org>

If anyone is interested in joining, please let me know. I would like to discuss the nature of money, particularly with reference to Charles Eisenstein's book, 'Sacred Economics', but am interested in all sustainable, democratic models for how we can change our relationship with money.

2) With the local Labour Party, I am organising a conference in Ludlow at the Assembly Rooms on 8th October, 2016 entitled BREAKING THE AUSTERITY MYTH. My aim is to make this apolitical, to draw in as many people from the local community as I can, plus doctors, teachers, and other professionals from further afield. We will Inform, Educate and Empower our delegates so that when they leave, they have 5 clear talking points that they can disseminate in their

communities to enable them to argue cleanly and clearly that 'Austerity' is an ideological choice, that other and better choices exist, and what these choices are. To date, we have PROFESSOR MARY MELLOR, author of 'DEBT OR DEMOCRACY' confirmed as a speaker. John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor, has said he's interested and may come - to be confirmed. Professor Richard Werner, Professor of International Banking at Southampton University will either come ahead of the day OR will speak via a video link to explain our third arm which is -

3) Setting up a MARCHES PUBLIC BANK. Public banks based on the Sparkassen model in Germany have some key features: They are not-for-profit charities. They cannot be bought out by the big banks. They exist to invest in the local communities. The model in Southampton, which is a good way down the road plans to invest in local sustainable SMEs. They can also offer charitable funding to - for instance - local students from low income backgrounds to attend universities that would otherwise be out of reach.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXtO3NRkHu8>

The multiplier effect for local economies is significant - thus increasing the resilience of the local area. I would like to gather a group of interested individuals to investigate the potential for setting up a Marches Public Bank. Please contact me if you're interested in joining us.

thank you

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