

The Park Protests (2)

What do you think?

'Sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me'

'The pen is mightier than the sword'

Thinking about last week's lesson about the park

1. Why were people in Newmarket angry with the Council?
2. What did the protesters do?
3. What did the protestors want the Council to do?
4. Were the protesters successful?

Do you think the Council decided to stop the building of the shopping centre?

The Council decided to allow the building of the shopping centre to go ahead!

Thinking questions

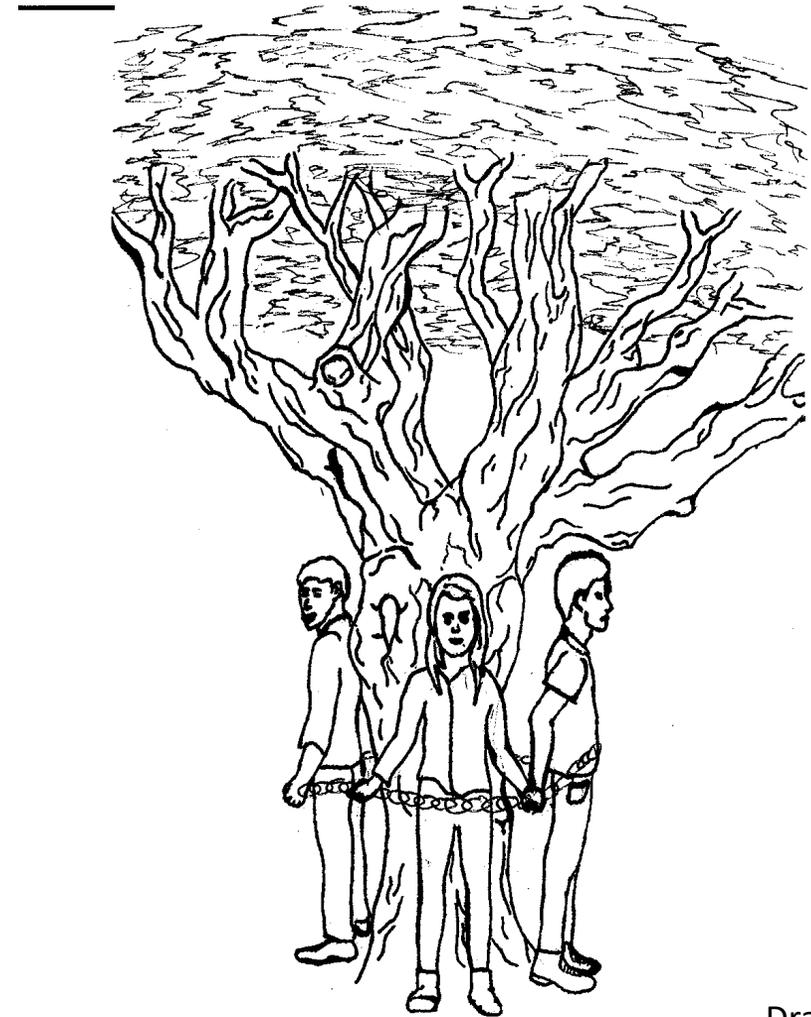
1. Do you think this was the right decision?



1. What should the people of Newmarket who do not want the shopping centre do now?
2. What would you do?

The Council decide to go ahead with the shopping centre: John and Sara respond

Many people, including John and Sara, feel angry that they have not been listened to. John, Sara and another friend, decide to have one last go at preventing the building of the shopping centre. So, the friends chain themselves to the largest and oldest tree in the park.



The Council decide to go ahead with the shopping centre: John and Sara respond

1. Were they right to chain themselves to the trees? Give a reason!
2. What do you think happened next? Why?

The workers from the building company cut through the chains with electric saws. The police arrest them and take them to the police station. The police charge them with 'disturbing the peace' and give them a formal caution. The friends feel angry with the building company and the police about the way they have been treated. They feel that they have not been shown any respect.

1. Why did the friends feel angry? Why they right to feel angry?
2. What do you think they should do now?

Violent action

- John and Sara now decide that only violent action will save the park. They go on the Internet for help and find a group called 'Take Action Now' that have taken action to try and stop the building of shopping centres in the past.
- Adam and Sophia from 'Take Action Now' tell John and Sara how to carry out an attack. They send them a text saying:

'You will be real heroes for taking action to stand up for what you believe in'

- John and Sara decide to attack the office building of 'Newmarket Builders'. One Saturday evening, they attack the building, setting it on fire. They do not mean to hurt anyone.



- The offices are closed but there are two cleaners working there making sure the office are clean for Monday morning. The two cleaners are badly burnt in the fire and are taken by ambulance to the hospital where doctors work hard to save their lives.

Questions about the attack

1. Why did John and Sarah decide to take violent action?
2. Who helped them and how?
3. Why did they target the offices of Newmarket Builders?
4. If the 2 cleaners die, are they responsible for murder?
5. Are Adam and Sophia also responsible?

What do you think? Agree or Disagree

1. John and Sara were right to attack the offices of Newmarket Builders.
2. It is right to break the law to protest against something you think is very unfair?
3. It is right to use violence to protest against some thing you think is very wrong?

Final Thoughts

- We have been looking at the story of the Riverside Park Protests.
- Can you think of any real life incidents in recent times that are like (in some ways!) what happened in the story?