



NEW MILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

By the Community, For the Community

Discussion Group – January 2018 Meeting

At our January Meeting we considered the Government's new requirements for Executive Pay being introduced in June 2018:

**Is the new law forcing public companies to publish 'pay' ratios necessary?
Will it make any difference, and if not, what legislation should be in place?**

Among the views expressed were:

- It is necessary because the pay difference of 'CEOs to average worker' is immoral, i.e. 160 : 1.
- It won't make any difference if the companies have to 'reveal and justify' the ratio, because no law will be passed to deliver consequences in the event of an unacceptable ratio.
- The idea of 'naming and shaming' if more than 20% of shareholders oppose a board member's salary is futile, since individuals are in business to make money and care nothing for public opinion.
- Phillip Green's denial and behaviour aboard his private yacht following the demise of BHS is an example of CEO's contempt for the public's concern, as is Martin Sorrell's statement of 'no apology for success'.
- To legislate against the pay ratio would be to tamper with our capitalist system and moving towards communism.
- Communist organisations are run by capitalists.
- The only truly communist group are the Eskimo' nation, who have no desire for personal possessions, but live only to serve each other and their community.
- It may be a matter for concern if the CEO is paid from public money, but if it is a private company there is no issue.
- The pay ratio is a moral issue across all companies.
- CEOs take the risks involved with big business and should be paid accordingly. If they are not they will take their businesses abroad.
- Everyone working for a company works hard, and the law should make sure that profits are distributed among them, as well as board members.
- The store 'John Lewis' is a good example of how to run a business, with the CEO earning a maximum of 75 times their average worker, and workers receiving a share of the profits as well as other benefits.
- Parliament's Select Committees will hold offending CEOs to account.
- Clever CEOs will justify their worth to the Select Committees.

Do try one of our Meetings as a free Taster and have your say!