

# **Climate Camp Gathering**

Oxford, August 2009

Minutes

## **Summary of Key Decisions and Discussion**

### **Land Group**

An update was received from the Land Group, who have chosen a site.

### **The Swoop**

An update was received from the Swoop Group, plus a draft timeline for what happens once we get to the site was made.

### **Tranquillity**

A Safer Spaces Agreement was made (see below).

CONSENSUS

### **Power Down**

Power-down will be at 11pm every night of the Camp, except for Friday and Sunday when power-down will be at midnight. However, this may be changed by the spokescouncil at the Camp itself, if circumstances require it (e.g. if it turns out that we are very close to residents, or conversely if amplified music between 11 and 12 clearly isn't a problem)

CONSENSUS

### **Meetings**

The system of neighbourhood meetings, site meetings and emergency meetings was agreed (see below).

CONSENSUS

### **Where Now Day**

There was a discussion about how best to use the Tuesday of the Camp, where lots of space in the workshops programme has been set aside to discuss our movement and what's next.

### **Media and Copenhagen**

Key messages were agreed for the Media Team's media work around the Copenhagen summit:

- 1) The UN process culminating in Copenhagen this December is not solving the climate crisis. Despite international talks over the last 15 years emissions have only continued to increase at an alarming rate.

2) The UN process isn't working because it is not challenging the growth, consumption and corporate power that is causing climate change and human suffering around the world. Mechanisms like carbon trading and offsetting are increasing profits for the few at the expense of the world's poor and not reducing emissions.

3) To tackle climate change we need to address the root causes of the problem and create a more just world that puts people first. Join Climate Camp in Copenhagen this December, or take action locally, and be a part of radical social change.

CONSENSUS

## **Defence**

Two different proposals for how to operate Site Defence at the camp were debated. The areas of agreement were:

- Defence is acknowledged as the responsibility of the whole camp, and we can do this best by organizing ourselves in groups. Neighbourhoods should try and come to the Camp with at least one pre-formed defence group.
- The defence group has the support of the gathering to come back at the first site meeting with a plan for how defence will be organized at camp and to get on with their important work!
- Big decisions on defence will be taken at site wide or emergency spokes meetings
- Other tactical and rota decisions will be taken in the defence space, with spokes from each defence group, and everyone is encouraged to get involved with this.

## **Saturday**

### **1. Land Update**

With less than 3 weeks to go, we're really excited about the camp!

Finding a site has by no means been easy given the remit we've been given this year, but we hope we've found a site that tries to fulfil all the things the gathering wanted. A huge area has had to be searched and many different issues considered. Dozens of potential sites have been seen, all with different challenges, but as we say, we hope we've found somewhere that will work as well as possible for this year's camp.

As with any site, but particularly within the M25, there will be BIG challenges in making it a safe and healthy place, but we have every confidence that the camp will rise to this and we will do our utmost to try and make sure we start on the right foot.

Swoop plans are coming along well too, and we ask that people really push the word out so that we get huge numbers of people being part of it and helping to build what is going to be an incredible camp!

Have a great gathering and good luck with all the important tasks that need to be done in these final days...!!

and see you there!!

lots of love from the Land Group

## **2. Swoop Update**

Confusion Alert – there are two separate swoops...this is the CAMP SWOOP AUG 26.

(there is also the Great Climate Swoop in October)

For Security and because it's Cool we're going to use the Bishopsgate model and open up the swoop to everyone.

*Action Points:*

Choose a Colour (with your mates) and wear that colour (or banners)

Sign up for SMS updates on the website

Check start locations in advance (48hrs)

Be in London and ready to swoop from 12 noon and be prepared to stick around for 24hrs+

### **Swoop concerns**

Q. legal support/arrestability

A. bring lots of people and there will be a legal observer in each

Q. tat carrying

Q. colours are obvious (for getting nicked)

A. alice bands rather than clothes?

Q. can we contact between groups?

Q. children on the swoop?

A. there is a child friendly bloc (orange?) named on the website

### **The order of setting up camp**

#### **Aug 26th**

0) swoop!

1) quick huddle to get briefed and sort out site defence for early arrivals

1) legal observers and liaison doing their thing

1) perimeter and then site plan begins to get marked out

2) most people are then on defence and unloading vehicles

3) site notice board up (where site office and "task shop" will be)

3) transportation hub is set up next to site

3) temporary swoop welcome set up between entrance and site

3) comms is set up

3) bag drop off point is set up at welcome (it can then be at nbhds once they are sorted)

- 4) swoop hurrah and briefing
- 4) mini-spokescouncil is sorted and activated
  
- 5) people arriving are directed to site office where any info/tasks are given or nbhds or defence depending on situation
- 5) in addition to the task shop notice board, a special task shop will happen every hour on the hour at the site office. This can be modified as things change, but this hourly briefing is the place to go to sort out new site issues or find something to do.
- 5) nbhds setting themselves up in parallel to central site being set up
  
- 6) evening site wide briefing/meeting (around 7 pm)

### **Aug 27th**

- 9-10.30 Neighborhood meetings
- 9-10.30 Site working group meeting
- 10.30-11.30 Site spokes council meeting
- 10:30 first task job briefing

12 and every hour on the hour, is task shop briefing

### **Suggested Goal of 26th (this will be on the notice board)**

[subject to change!]

- 1-3 kitchens up to serve supper (yorkshire, cambridge, london??)
- plumbing/water sorted
- enough toilets (depends on numbers in swoop)
- site office up
- store up
- main marquee?
- many nbhds (first one up gets a prize!)
- one power source?
- welcome

### **Action Points:**

Neighbourhoods to select two quick decision-making spokes for first day

### **3. Tranquillity discussion**

Welcome and Tranquillity are the same group

Still recruiting

The email address isn't fully working

- How we deal with behaviour? Change in atmosphere to drunkenness and litter and aggressiveness in London over Bank Holiday weekend for a festival (based on Bishopgate).
- BUT we don't want to be too defensive and see things in terms of risk and distrust
- Tranquillity is everybody's responsibility, but the working group is a co-ordination/support group (with gate, wellbeing etc)

- Working group also set aside to mediate and formally accountable to the camp, not just individuals.
- Tranquillity does not want to be the police. They want feedback on the balance, especially on the practice rather than the theory! They're different because they're not defending a hierarchy, they're supporting a camp of consensus. Important to avoid insiders vs outsiders

Q. Will there be a bar, should there be, it will make money and may save litter?

A. Students are trying to do a bar but it may not happen, they want clarification on whether there are other groups doing it and if people want them to do it.

Q. Will there be an alcohol free space (eg for religious reasons, or support for people dealing with alcohol/drugs problems in an environment with drugs/alcohol)

A. There is activist trauma and wellbeing group, but they don't have that specific remit yet.

## **Safer Spaces Agreement**

- Gender, toilets and wash-space, gender identity/politics, gender 'appearance'
- Have more positive emphasis, ie we challenge all these negative oppressions based on **respect** and **responsibility**

## **Questions**

Q. hats are a bad idea

A. At last year's Camp, when Tranquillity volunteers needed to take some action they would remove their hats/sashes and approach people as equals, so they wouldn't be mistaken for some kind of 'authority figure'

Q. dogs

Q. tel? 24hr phone and tent and contactable via comms, to be advertised on the time.

Q. Dogs not allowed (leaflet)

A. Guide dogs allowed

Q. Gender identity and gender presentation to be added to the SSA.

Q. Make positive aspects more emphasised

**Consensus** was reached on accepting the Safer Spaces agreement with the amendments on gender and positive emphasis.

**No consensus** on whether a reference to dogs should also be added to the Safer Spaces agreement

Final agreement is:

### **Camp for Climate Action 2009 Safer Spaces Agreement**

' I too want order, every bit as much as, or more than, those who breach it with their alleged government. But I want it to be a product of my will, a condition of my labour and a testimonial to my reason.'

' As man seeks justice in equality, so society seeks order in anarchy'  
(Proudhon)

This agreement was made collectively at climate camp national gathering in August 2009. Its purpose is to support our collective efforts to create a safe space free from

hierarchy, oppression, and conflict. It is a provisional agreement that can be changed at any time by the consensus decision of the camp.

We welcome everyone who enters this space as an equal participant in our movement. We believe that each of us has something to contribute and to learn. We are a community based on respect, trust and taking responsibility for our actions.

### **Creating a space free from hierarchy and oppression:**

We reject a society that exploits people and planet in the interests of private profit and privilege, and that fosters exclusion and oppression. Oppression can happen at a political, social or personal level and typically occurs on the basis of ethnicity, class, gender, gender identity, gender presentation, sexuality, age, income, ability, appearance, immigration, belief or non belief, activist experience, and other forms of difference and inequality. We consider any behaviour that demeans, marginalises, threatens or harms anybody, as oppression and we commit to resisting it.

- Anyone who is responsible for violence, intimidation, harassment or unwanted sexual contact will by their behaviour exclude themselves from the camp.
- We reject any form of language and behaviour that perpetuates oppression, however unintentionally: for example a racist or sexist joke, or interrupting someone on the basis of unspoken privilege. Providing a safe and welcoming space is everyone's responsibility. We ask camp participants to challenge attitudes and behaviour in a way that is respectful and constructive, whilst treating the needs of the oppressed, and our desire for a safe space, as paramount.
- Stealing and other breaches of trust, including informing on camp activities, will also exclude the person responsible from the camp. All allegations will be treated seriously but with an awareness that they can be divisive, especially if unsubstantiated.

### **Resolving conflict and maintaining a productive camp:**

We have also agreed to avoid behaviour that undermines or disrupts the camp's ability to function as a place where people live, work, and take action on climate change. By mutually seeking creative ways to reconcile any conflict between our individual and collective needs, we believe that we can demonstrate a more free and sustainable way of living.

- The camp offers an alternative to consumerism that exploits people and environment. It is not a space for excessive use of drugs and alcohol, nor is it a festival: it is an active movement for social change. We have agreed to respect spaces marked out as alcohol free.
- Please be responsible about your waste.
- We have agreed to have a power down when amplified sound will end: this will vary from 11pm to midnight.

### **The Tranquillity team**

The Tranquillity team are available 24 hours per day to support the camp in challenging oppression, resolving conflict, and keeping to collective decisions. We can arrange access to conflict mediation, and offer a fair and accountable process for dealing with concerns about behaviour. You are very welcome to contact us with any concerns, questions or feedback.

You can contact us at the Tranquillity tent, around the site (identified by green sashes), or via your neighbourhood Tranquillity reps:

#### **4. Power Down**

Spectrum line from last gathering regarding 11 or 12 power-down.

Entz more important than ever because movement building, so integrate it into the camp, eg games and music to provide access to the movement, and a chance for *us* to enjoy ourselves.

Mix of bands, from ethnicities and backgrounds diverse, including some 'up and coming' bands – all willing to perform for free and trust us to get their kit past police lines.

Entertainment from after dinner 'til late, e.g. 8-11...but some days when there's plenaries in the evening music becomes quite unviable.

#### **Concerns**

Residential area

Aware of 'yobs' and 'post-pub people' – police warning

Campers who want to sleep before midnight, including families.

#### **Proposal**

On those 3 nights entz group think it's appropriate to run amplified music until 12 midnight, and they want to test for consensus on that.

#### **Discussion**

- Entz can go on even without power, just not with amps
- Will there be a quiet place? There will not be a specific quiet place, but plenty of quiet places
- Will the gates shut, will we prevent people coming in just for the entertainment, possibly just preventing non-campers?
- Does music after 11 give the police an excuse to stomp? Maybe, but they can do anyway.
- Is there a space for open mic. poetry? – Yes, e.g. lunchtimes
- Why do we need amps, not acoustic?
- Can we amend at the camp
- Incorporate the local community in consensus talks?

Decision to **split into groups** as this is becoming a discussion.

Discuss:

- Noise - how much amplified music do we want? Can it be 12midnight on these 3 nights
- Alcohol
- Curfew

## Post Discussion Feedback & Proposals

- Need to establish a camp ethos – it is not a free festival, it is a camp for climate action
  - o Already done! Although we do always have music, dance and drink.
- Outreach group to be set up in advance to meet with locals immediately at set-up
  - o Exists within climate camp and climate rush, and if more people want to get involved, please do
- Working group discussion to deal with likelihood of increased alcohol induced people rocking onto site (especially as police can't, wont and shouldn't help).
  - o Sub spokes meeting in Sat Afternoon
- Extend safer spaces to include an awareness that people have different alcohol comfort levels and give alcohol free spaces (and respect autonomously designated spaces).
- Religious needs may be catered to – safe religious space, explicit.

### Proposals made;

- At least one main structure to be alcohol free (**consensus reached**)
- To allow autonomous alcohol free zone, with the amendment that we don't need consensus for people to act autonomously as long as it doesn't impinge on others.
- Notice - "If you want to set up your own alcohol/religious etc space, please talk to Welcome to set it up".
  
- Power-down to 11 every night (strong consensus and felt strongly)
- Definitely not late power on the Tuesday
- Early night on Friday, Sun and Tue late, because Friday may be the most problematic.
- Running a bar may provide greater control (but may include policy) (and may include fundraising).
- 12 o'clock power-down as long as there is a clearly defined quiet space, to be actually tested in the field and not to be extended if it isn't possible

### Two power-down proposals raised:

- Camp has the power to modify decisions (eg spokes council), with **consensus reached**
- We're happy to have Tue midnight power-down if and only if we're not worried about locals for noise and tranquillity issues **but** we can explicitly revisit this later
  - o Empower ents to make a strong decision.
  - o Re-jig the plenary timetable to make the Tuesday one finish earlier
  - o Ensure that any late end doesn't affect others.
  - o Empower entertainment group to actually finish the power-down on time!
  - o Empower everyone to power down
  - o Amended to...
- ...power-down later on Fri and Sun, and **consensus reached**

**Summary of decision:** The agreed default position is that power-down will be at 11pm every night of the Camp, except for Friday and Sunday when power-down will be at midnight. However, this may be changed by the spokescouncil at the Camp itself, if circumstances require it (e.g. if it turns out that we are very close to residents, or conversely if amplified music between 11 and 12 clearly isn't a problem)

## **5. Announcements**

- Vestas – update and call out for continued action! Still ongoing and why weren't more of us there?
- Vestas callout
- Naughty women for Vestas
- Gathering - 3/4 October Leeds
- Flyers
- Ross the film guy
- Capacity to take huge marquee from Swindon to Cambs before (dates)
- Swoop itinerary is now up on the wall
- Welcome desk donation desk
- Launch of “Britain's got direct action – the great climate swoop” after 6 meeting group for 17/18 October
- Rossport Solidarity – individual been sentenced to 8-month jail term, collecting messages for him, send letters.

## **6. Working Group Updates**

**Media** - Responses to IPCC, Vestas, BGG, prepare workshops, mainstream and indy media liaison for the camp.

**Entz** - Quiet sound system, ska, punk, reggae, brazilian...too much to write!  
Recruiting.

**Student Café** - Has a structure, but not massive, callout for a bigger one. Workshops sorted. Callout for volunteers to serve.

**Site** - Structures, power, working group requests/demands liaison, callout for working groups to make sure that all the tat to fill structures is co-ordinated with site.

**Legal** – plug the camp through policing. Kent police website report very critical. 1/5<sup>th</sup> of searchees gave name and address, so we have a target. Will be support for data protection, which could fund more action. Well resourced for legal observers/support and video cams, but callout for more.

**Meetings group** – started to get there but started late, so callout

**International** – liaise with international camps, updating website, flyer to mobilize campers to Copenhagen, working with Climate Justice Action, indigenous activists...

**Workshops** – 3 plenaries: Copenhagen; where do we go next?; Why London?  
Timetable! Callout for on-site helpers.

**Medics** – we know what we need to do but we haven't done it. Hoping to provide kits for neighbourhoods. Training at RampARTs, London, next week. EF! Gathering Lake District.

**Outreach** – community liaison strategy for the camp

**Wellbeing** – space for recovery and stress relieve, tat sorted, working with medics and activist trauma and legal; training coming up in Oxford, callout for masseuses etc.

**Tranquility** – callout for more people and for neighbourhood

**Kids** – workshops look good, callout for vols

**Festivals** – BGG Cancelled, Kendal 2,5000?, Big Chill  
**Action Support** – planning in Leeds, seems to be [relatively good sic], lots of action training at the camp.  
**Website** – if it isn't doing what we want, let them know  
**Process** – post-camp gathering sorted  
**Fundraising** – we got some cash in  
**Coal Mass Action** – gathering this eve to discuss  
**Space** - Opening to the public next week, accessible, outreach, locals painted it from cerise pink to cerise purple, doing well, invite to look and join in  
**Networking (meta)** – dysfunctional, late for the camp, social networking, talk to media/outreach

**Finances** – Current confirmed budgets are:

<b>Total until end 09</b>	
Space	£15,000
Meetings	£260
Legal	£9,000
Workshops	£2,005
Kidz space	£500
face off	£900
process	£900
international	£4,000
website	£200
action support	£1,020
welcome/welbeing	£300
site	£18,650
kitchens	
media	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£52,735</b>

<b>To be spent before and during Camp</b>	
Space	£0
Meetings	£260
Legal	£0
Workshops	£2,005
Kidz space	£500
face off	£900
process	£900
international	£4,000
website	£200
action support	£1,020
welcome/welbeing	£300
site	£18,650
kitchens	
media	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£28,735</b>

Questions about medics, slush fund for site, breakdown of some of the bigger funds, is it money we have or money we need or money we can't exceed (the latter), great climate swoop (not Climate Camp but also Plane Stupid, Rising Tide etc)

## **7. Working Group feedback**

- Site Working Group – **Green**, everything ok. Transport co-ordination ( what are neighbourhoods sending in and can we co-ordinate to be more efficient?)  
All working groups – think about furnishing your spaces and the transportation of this stuff – don't rely on us to do it for you. Talk to us.
- Action Support – **Green**
- Wellbeing – **Green** – Amber ( trying to recruit more volunteers in the wellbeing tent ) Working with legal re: recording injuries. Training session on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Oxford
- Workshops – **Green** - Need people to help out during the week. Please email with offers of help. Need facilitators for helping during the week. Email with level of experience

- Meetings Group – **Green** - Process is clear but don't have enough people to help facilitate the meetings but please get in touch if you can help. Will be getting contact phone for each working group Amber – facilitators, Comms and Phone number
- Medics –
- Welcome and Tranquility – **Green** –
- Medics – First ever working groups meetings. Amber. No-one has run a medic space at the camp before they are meeting with people
- Networking group – RED. Alert about how we produce publicity. Amber for online networking. Need facebook au fait people to help out with online networking.
- Website – Green/Amber – would like more neighbourhoods to update websites.
- Festivals Working Group – Green. Have raised loads of money and had loads of great festivals.
- Media – Green
- Legal – Green
- Outreach – council liaison. Need more volunteers. Thinking about organising public meetings, delivering letters etc. Mostly green but amber on volunteers front
- International Volunteers – Green. Are doing two workshops at the camp and a plenary mostly about mobilizing
- Come along to meeting on Thames Valley Neighbourhood Meeting at the camp on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>. Canadian Tar Sands group.
- Process Group – Need more people
- Finance –
- Council Liaison – Difficult job because we don't know where we are going. We are organizing a meeting for all 33 councils that the camp might be in.

## **8. Updates/Feedback**

### **MESSAGE FROM CLIMATE CAMP CYMRU**

Preperations for the camp are going well, we're getting our shit together and are almost ready for what looks like a good few days next week.

Hopefully some of you will be able to make it to Wales and get stuck in with us. Its been a fantastic experiance for many of us who have found ourselves learning loads of new skills and finding out what it means to be an important part of a fast growing movement. Thanks for the inspiration! We owe lots to so many of the Climate Camp working groups for helping out where they could.

Many of the working groups you will be familliar with will be functioning at the Wales camp, so we needn't ask for specific help, but if you were planning to join us - we'd welcome your skills as part of our teams.

In other news, there should be a Wales neighbourhood at the London camp this year too - so if we don't see you next week... catch you in the City.

Love Climate Camp Cymru x

## **Space Group**

We're sorry we can't be at the gathering this weekend, but we're determined to open the space before the camp and are therefore really busy here. We'll send further details via the newsletter but if anyone wants to get involved please email [space@climatecamp.org.uk](mailto:space@climatecamp.org.uk).

## **Ten Targets**

A proposal that we pre-announce ten targets for direct action during the Camp has been received, following a request at a previous gathering. We will try and fit this on the agenda for tomorrow.

## **Climate Rush**

They are doing a direction action caravan with a horse and cart in early September and would like to launch it from the Camp. We may get a chance to discuss this tomorrow.

## **9. Defence Group proposal (part 1)**

Aim: to be more organized than last year, so that everyone who wants to defend the camp does not need to run off every time there is a call-out.

*Proposal:*

1. *Everyone who wishes the camp to be defended should join a defence team (DT).*
2. *Each DT should be 14 people strong (or, exceptionally 18 or 22).*
3. *Each DT should send a spoke to a daily admin meeting to deal with rotas etc.*
4. *Defending on the camp's state of alert, the number of DTs activated will vary.*
5. *When a DT is activated, it will send two people to the Defence Centre (DC), leaving a deployable Multiple of twelve people.*
  - a. *a multiple of 3 bricks (or exceptionally of 4 or 5 bricks) of four people each.*
  - b. *Of the two people at the DC:*
    - i. *one will be, to make tactical decisions, (eg. changing the alert states, within the framework of the strategic and political decisions made by the camp as a whole) either by site meeting or emergency spoke;*
    - ii. *the other will be a runner to relay information.*

Amendments proposed –

1. Add 'consider' in front of 'joining a defence team'.
2. Add 'Ideally' to beginning of sentence.
3. Complete change to: 'There will be regular defence meetings in the DC to discuss rotas etc.'

**Questions for clarification:**

Has there been thought about how people will be called out at night? – response, there are different views within the group and this needs to be discussed.

How will these DTs be formed?

There may be wider questions that need discussing?

Who is going to keep up with the size of the DT as it may fluctuate?

How is the state of alert to be decided? – response: 5. b. i

How will communication go from the bricks to the DC?

Will there be a reliable system to contact people?

Is it envisaged the DT will stay together whilst on rota? – response: would be on rota unless a sudden large scale activation.

General response from the proposer: Assume there are lots of DT and the gates are being done by the DTs, alert state 5 (all mobilized – resisting eviction), stepping down by thirds, to 1 (gates only). Communication between DT and DC, by runners from DC or DT as needed. Rota'd for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. If 1, 1 DT doing gate and one quick reaction DT near Comms on 2 mins mobilization. If 5 on rota, only called if all mobilized. People would be alerted by number of flags on DC, also an audible symbol when flag raised, then if raised from 1 to 2, 2s come and do not need to be called. Also can be called. At night time – will call people rather than use audible signal, unless alert 5.

Response from proposers of amendments: three states, R, A, G: Red – everyone – alarm sounded. DC next to Comms. Comms linked to gates. Amber: may be a problem, spokes in DC. Green: all fine. Amendments proposed to remove barriers with existing proposal, so for instance, DTs do not have to be 14 in size, that is ideal.

### **Concerns:**

- Uncomfortable with the proposal. Want to do own defending – do not want other people to defend me. Major difficulties between this camp and previous ones – not in high state of alert, not in sensitive site, different political climate: may divert our energies. Uneasy – another set of rotas. Don't want agenda dictated by the police.
- Will the DTs be formed of same people throughout the camp? Think everyone should participate in defence of camp. Response: the aim is rotation.,
- May be an issue with over-organization. Is this Climate Camp? Works well as it is. Response: lack of knowledge and organization last year did cause issues, some aspects did not work. Workload was not spread evenly. Trying to make it easier for people to get involved. Last year must not be replicated, K5 was not safe for people.
- Sounds effective but will depend on co-ordination and discipline – is this our strength or is it about creativity and commitment, how to we build in flexibility.
- Doesn't feel like Climate Camp and how it works, respect need for more people and organization – need a bit of chaos and grass roots to get people moving.
- Land group asked us to sort out defence. It is a great system but may need 1 DT from each neighbourhood and then take on a day each and then if alert increases they activate all their DT, and then everyone is activated. Need a skeletal structure briefed and prepared and then build on that.
- States of alert fantastic and there are some systems for organization, may need a half way house to this.
- Problem is we do not know how ramp up alert gradually and this needs to be addressed.

Nearly out of time. Ideas to be feedback this evening and come back to it tomorrow. Last year defence heroic but not that organized, the proposal has bits people like but needs some work to make it do-able.

Amendment proposers' comments: Defence group have decided budget, spent budget, worked with Comms and come up with a proposal and then a separate proposal has come up this weekend.

Process noted: the proposal had been presented at the last gathering.  
Proposer: take on board that some people will not want to take part in a collective defence, had gone that way to try to use it to also cover the gates.

Comment: the boundary is not just about defence but also about networking and outreach.

## **Sunday**

### ***1. Meetings proposal***

#### **Climate Camp 2009 – Meetings Process**

##### **Neighbourhood meetings**

- Neighbourhood meetings are scheduled for 9:00 – 10:30 everyday, and everyone in the neighbourhoods is encouraged to take part.
- At the end of the neighbourhood meeting two “spokes” are chosen to go to the site meeting and to report back to the neighbourhood the next day. Spokes will rotate after two meetings alternately.
- Each neighbourhood also nominates a Meetings Liaison person. It is their responsibility to: ensure that notices and minutes are put up, that spokes rotate and feedback to their neighbourhoods, that the emergency spokes system is up and running and generally to facilitate communications between the site meetings and their neighbourhood.
- ALL NEIGHBORHOODS TO NOMINATE A MEETINGS LIAISON & FIRST EMERGENCY SPOKE BEFORE THE CAMP – THEY SHOULD EMAIL [meetings@climatecamp.org.uk](mailto:meetings@climatecamp.org.uk)

##### **Site meetings**

- Site meetings will happen from 10:30-11:30 every morning.
- The site meeting will coordinate issues of importance to the entire Camp. For this, it is important that each neighbourhood identifies needs and issues before each daily site meeting.
- Each neighbourhood will send 2 spokes (1 will take minutes) and working group will be asked to send a spoke to the Site meetings.
- After the meeting copies of the minutes are posted at the central noticeboard, and at all the neighbourhood noticeboards on a daily basis.

##### **Working Groups**

- All Working Groups at the camp are encouraged to meet every day – to allow new people to get involved and to feed into site & neighbourhood meetings.
- Workshop tents are available during the day at lunchtime and after the days workshops.
- Times when WGs are meeting should be displayed at the central noticeboard
- WGs can make proposals or requests to neighbourhoods – these should be given to meetings group early evening
- (Discussion taking place at some point during WG time on communications between WGs @ camp)

### **Emergency Meetings**

- If we need to make a quick decision an ‘on-call’ spokescouncil meets and discusses the situation. On call / emergency spokes will have a mobile phone with the numbers of other neighbourhood on-call spokes and numbers of the meetings group. The on-call spokes are totally different people to the normal spokes.
- The on-call spokescouncil includes on-call spokes from all neighbourhoods, and it include at least 5 neighbourhood spokes to go ahead. Each on-call spoke should bring a few (around 5) other people from their neighbourhood so a diversity of opinions can be represented.
- If the on-call spokes think it necessary, they can call a full Campwide spokescouncil, which includes everyone in the Camp. However, if there is time pressure, or if the issue is not important enough to warrant disrupting the entire camp, the on-call spokescouncil makes the decisions and reports back to the next morning’s meetings.
- In the events of a full Campwide spokescouncil runners will go around the camp asking people to gather in their neighbourhoods. Once people are assembled in neighbourhoods they will be told what the situation is, and asked to discuss what they want to do.
- At the central meeting the spokes try to find a solution to the problem that addresses everyone’s concerns. Spokes then go back to their neighbourhoods to find out if the neighbourhood agrees with the proposed solution. It may be necessary for spokes to go back and forth several times before a solution is reached which is acceptable to everybody.

This process will run from Friday – Wednesday

### **Turning the swoop into a camp (tbc)**

1. Before the swoop info on how to make quick consensus decisions will be sent out to help groups moving to the site during the swoop.
2. Site is taken – site defence, police liaison, legal observers & setting out the site starts
3. Site meeting (Wed) – everyone to get involved in defence & building the site (this will decide when & whether to meet e.g. Thu am)
4. Building the camp & neighbourhoods (central task noticeboard & hourly site task meetings)
5. Thursday night – Welcome plenary
6. Friday – ‘Camp’ process, workshops & everything gets going!

## **Questions**

- If the working groups have a proposal, does it go to all the neighbourhoods? Yes.  
The word 'on-call' needs to be replaced with 'quick decisions' in the Handbook.

## **Concerns**

None

No stand-asides. No blocks. Active consensus.

## **2. 'The Great Climate Swoop'**

Had a well attended, productive meeting last night. All groups involved are seeking funding; having spoken to Finance, WG thinks that Climate Camp can contribute some seed funding.

Proposal: £500 now for initial costs to avoid interfering with Camp costs, with up to £2000 to be added, if Finance think possible, after the Camp. Can't wait for another gathering as next one is 3<sup>rd</sup> October, too late.

Amount has been suggested because Finance says we've got it and all we need to do is approve allocating it in this way.

£500: No stand-asides. No blocks. Active consensus.

£2000: No stand-asides. No blocks. Active consensus.

To get involved, give Paddy your email address. People need to start thinking about what they want to do in their area, e.g. in a couple of weeks' time, hand out fliers; after the Camp, coordinate transport.

## **3. Defence Proposal**

Following yesterday's Defence proposal, a second Defence proposal has been put together overnight.

### Site Defence subgroup proposal

Before stating our proposal we would like to voice some concerns to the gathering. Defence and Comms (both subgroups of the Site working group) have been working hard over the past months to facilitate the safety and defence of the site. We feel we are in the process of fulfilling our role.

The power of autonomous anarchic people is that the state i.e. Police cannot counter something that is not regulated by binding rules and regulations. If by following a known model of behaviour for the camps defence, i.e. British military doctrine we undermined our own position by employing tactics at which they are better practised than us, we compromise our strength and by accepting that their tactics are efficacious and justified then they have won. We therefore choose to employ other tactics, drawn from our own beliefs and experience that affirm and celebrate the autonomy and strengths of each individual joining the camp.

In particular a potential advantage we possess is the ability for many individuals and affinity groups to make much faster and less predictable decisions than police command structures are capable of. This should be encouraged wherever practical and should not be inhibited with overly prescriptive decision making processes. While all individuals and groups should respect any site wide agreement made by the camp they should feel empowered (and strongly encouraged) to make rapid tactical decisions when faced with events unfolding in front of them.

- \* The defence of the site involves a wide range of tasks which include important roles for both individuals and affinity groups. We will actively encourage all campers to be the camp defence. Each person should be empowered to find their most effective role within our defence given their unique skills and passions (i.e. from climbing tripods to making tea for the gates). We will setup a defence space (next to Comms) to provide a hub to which anyone can come to get involved with defence.
- \* Site Defence will actively encourage neighbourhoods to form as many affinity groups as possible before the start of the camp and we will work with the Swoop group to facilitate their formation during the swoop. Once the camp has begun Site Defence will continue to work with Welcome and the neighbourhoods to promote the formation of groups. This will have additional benefits outside of defence since while they are not defending the site they can be training and planning for other activities.
- \* Within the defence space daily meetings will take place with neighbourhood, infinity group spokes and individuals to set rotas for gates and other practical tasks. We would also like these meetings to bring the experiences of the affinity groups together to plan tactics etc.
- \* All policy decisions related to defence will be made by Site Meetings (or Emergency Spokes if absolutely necessary). Site wide tactical decision (e.g. sending more people to a gate) would be made by a support group (to include affinity group, neighbourhood spokes and other individuals within the defence space) while more localised tactical decision (e.g. at gate level) would be made by affinity groups at said area.
- \* We would also like to remind the gathering that in previous camps there has been a few occasions where a small number of Comms have had to make snap decisions to protect safety. Changes in place this year will hopefully prevent this happening i.e. the support of the defence space, unfortunately this is not a guaranty and if it does happen again shell only by reflecting camp policy and tactics.

Speaker felt statement prefacing proposal was aimed at him and wanted time to respond; facilitator felt should be discussed outside of meeting; speaker was unhappy; process intervened that we now have two counter-proposals that will be discussed together later, with an opportunity to respond to each other.

Questions from the group:

- What will forming an affinity group actually mean?
- Who will attend defence meetings?
- Does it have land group's approval?

Time to think about it now. There'll be a break just before the discussion: prepare for a big discussion!

#### **4. Workshops Discussion Day**

Tuesday, the last day of the Camp, is set aside for reflection and strategizing. Purpose of this session is fill in on current state of play, and get lots of ideas.

Broken down into five parts:

1. Looking back and evaluating.
2. Stock taking: working out where we are and what we've achieved.
3. Role, strategy and objectives.
4. Process.
5. Preparing ourselves for the future.

Format? Is it just about us, or other movements too? Prioritization of questions for the day. Name?

Proposal from outreach group for session:

- If we're going to get 3,000 people or more to GCS in October, we need the whole Camp to be mobilizing. We've got a plan between working groups, but we need people to get together and cook up a plan for neighbourhoods. The success of the action could rely on this happening at the Camp itself, as there won't be a gathering in time.
- 1 hour; facilitated by outreach group.

Decisions are for workshops group, but they need input from the gathering, so space for ideas, not decisions.

Fifteen minutes to talk in small groups.

- Bring in people who were involved in the beginning and have now drifted away.
- Some kind of concrete outcome, e.g. a document, beginning a process.
- Well-structured, lots of small group discussions.
- Process = how we do things.
- Conflict between diversity of opinion and clarity of purpose to be resolved.
- Should we involve journalists?
- Forward-looking on a movement level, core values and core principles.
- Try to get more specific about what we're trying to achieve, visioning for the future.
- Creative sessions; open-space sessions; world café/world restaurant sessions.
- Process, political direction, diversity = key issues.
- Neighbourhood autonomy and structure; non-hierarchical organization; communication between working groups; dealing with large structure and openness.

- Looking at other groups we can work with, e.g. Vestas Solidarity.
- History session could be creatively reconstructed by everyone, rather than dominated by old hands.
- What the issues have been? What works well? What doesn't work well? Solutions? Action plan? Participatory appraisal tools, like OST. = Alternative way of breaking it down. Others in the group liked original breakdown above.
- Fun; interactive; forward-looking.
- Different histories that led to the CC to be heard; not speakers; actively invite old-timers to be part of sessions and bring along photos etc.
- The Swoop should be introduced and planned for in neighbourhoods.
- Games for energy.
- Interrogating how the Camp appears to new people; actively seeking feedback.
- Make other goals of CC other than direct action more year round?
- How can we arrange process so we can have more skills shares, to even out the load and stop Jonathan doing too much.
- Class and diversity: discussion, leading to practical solutions and ACTION.
- Hearing from external organizations with different modes of organizing.
- Bring in people working with class and diversity issues.
- How to keep Camp radicalizing whilst taking into account diversity of perspectives.

## **5. Media and Copenhagen**

Key media messages re: Copenhagen for media team to use at Camp. Won't be quoted word for word and shouldn't be wordsmithed by the gathering.

- 1) The UN process culminating in Copenhagen this December is not solving the climate crisis. Despite international talks over the last 15 years emissions have only continued to increase at an alarming rate.
- 2) The UN process isn't working because it is not challenging the growth, consumption and corporate power that is causing climate change and human suffering around the world. Mechanisms like carbon trading and offsetting are increasing profits for the few at the expense of the world's poor and not reducing emissions.
- 3) To tackle climate change we need to address the root causes of the problem and create a more just world that puts people first. Join Climate Camp in Copenhagen this December, or take action locally, and be a part of radical social change.

Proposal: 3 key messages + feedback = media guidance for talking about Copenhagen at Camp.

Stand asides: Climate justice is an abused term; wary of approving something woolly; feels response from gathering included mixed opinion and unclear how this can be made cohesive – don't know what we're approving, lots of responsibility for media team.

No stand asides, no blocks, so active consensus.

Media team to take on board feedback:

- 1) need to check 15 years as COP has been going for 17 years (we think)
- 2) queries about using climate justice (noted in stand asides below)
- 3) need to focus on the third message - shouldn't be looking to leaders for answers but be making them ourselves.

## **6. Ten Targets**

Discussion of proposal read out yesterday that we pre-announce 10 targets for direct action in London during the Camp.

### **Discussion:**

- The Camp for Climate Action should produce actions, won't be in keeping with our principles if this doesn't happen, make us more like FoE and other liberals. 10 targets will confuse/disrupt police response. People fear greater police repression with pre-announced targets, but they fuck us over because we're a growing movement.
- Provides understanding behind targets
- Mass actions are spoon feeding actions – this gives people opportunity to take initiative
- Clarification of “why London and what?”
- 50 rather than 10, to make autonomous actions less vulnerable.
- 10 broad targets, not specific locations, e.g. RBS.
- 10 targets are for press, not us.
- Real strength of this year's Camp is that people are free to get what they want out of it and the target is the system; lose something as well as gain.
- The entire financial system of the city of London is a target in itself. Puts cops on their toes.
- List of 10 climate criminals, not targets for direct action.
- More than a list of just ten; we don't need a list to make direct action happen.
- What would publishing ten targets mean? Putting it out in a press release.
- Seen as a failure by press if all ten aren't actually targeted?
- List of targets isn't balanced.
- Camp and Notting Hill Carnival are happening the same weekend, worse case scenario from police's perspective.
- Lists of targets will be floating around anyway; why do it just for the media; reduces overthrowing capitalism into witch-hunt.
- Proposal: City of London as symbol of capitalism is our target and that should be our media message, and action support can have list of targets for us, which we discuss amongst ourselves very publicly, and autonomously put such lists together too.
- We're inspiring and empowering people to take action against these targets, not singling them out ourselves.
- Proposal: List to be compiled and released to media. Six serious concerns, no time. Amendment: Communicate as type of target, not target.
- Things we support as well as things we oppose?
- Targeting London, as symbol of capitalism, with list of sectors we're particularly angry with.
- Proposal: Tell a little story of the inter-connectedness of actions that create climate change, with first person narratives, e.g. city worker's relationship to Heathrow. No time to discuss it. Gather and make it happen.
- Do research into particular targets or sectors and make sure it gets out there.

Summary: No consensus was reached on the Camp sending out an “official” list of targets, but many people felt that if autonomous or anonymous lists / maps / analysis of good targets were circulated that would be no bad thing...

## **7. Site Defence**

- Facilitators: Acknowledgement of conflict surrounding issue of defence due to pressure and lack of contact between parties
- Response to statement at the start of the Defence group’s proposal
  - o Distancing from “British Army” / police tactics
  - o Suggestion of a degree of antipathy from Defence group, and emphasis that individual concerned is no longer interested in working with that group
- Suggestion that a synthesis of the two proposals will be put forward and discussed – listing areas of common ground and unresolved questions to be discussed here.

## **Common ground**

- Requirement for defence
- Emphasis on **whole** camp taking responsibility for defence
- Groups can practically defend the camp (e.g. affinity, working groups, neighbourhoods)
- Big decisions will be made by daily site meetings and, if necessary, emergency spokes meetings
- Tactical and rota decisions need to be made in the defence tent (possibly space), with the input of Comms, on a daily basis

Broad agreement from everyone on all above points. Later addition of

- improvement upon defence last year
- also agreed.

## **Conflict**

Outstanding questions largely regarding the site defence during the week

- Size of defence groups – 14 or any size?
- States of alert – 3 or 5?
- Who is represented in the Defence tent to make tactical decisions?
- What resources need to be made available to groups?

General discussion leads to:

- States of alert – clarification of what the three states of alert should be. Deferred.
  - o Also concern over practicalities of communication of alert states
- Concern over how Defence policy is implemented.
- What happens now?

## **Discussion**

- Geography of the site very important
  - o Response that all sites are fluid and that a “versatile system” is necessary

## Feedback

One group happy to empower Defence group to work out details of site defence, and that the gathering should only offer guidance. Concern raised over excessive centralisation.

## Group size

- 14 good group size, standardisation important.
- Any size as long as there is on-going communication and self-confidence.
- 10-15 but too ambitious to expect groups of exactly 14. Rota instead of groups as it is a less intimidating term, and obviates need for pre-formed groups so that people can join in.
- 14 a realistic number for neighbourhoods preparing in advance (but not for people arriving at the Camp, necessarily). Morning neighbourhood meetings to try and form groups, with information about how many groups are needed.
- Bricks of 4, neighbourhood recruitment
- Flexibly-sized groups – 8-15 – based on level of comfort with group size and confrontation. To be formed casually at neighbourhood meetings.
- Autonomy, with set minimum number.
- Consistent number that should be a target across neighbourhoods but number not confirmed.

Temperature checks:

-lots of agreement for standardisation of groups

-lots of agreement for groups of 4 as minimum number *to aim for*

## States of alert

- More states of alert good as 3 does not give enough space on spectrum of alert – 5 suggested.
- Suggestion for no states of alert at all from one group, but no agreement.
- 3 suggested as an uncomplicated figure. Could be varied within these states based on subtleties of situation.
- 5 too confusing, and word “alert” unpleasant:
  - o Gates providing defence and look-out (basic level, not a state) - normal
  - o Several defence teams active - partial
  - o All teams active – Emergency - full
- Non-alarm sound, with flag/flares to communicate status.
- Which groups when? Rotation? Visual markers by groups. Noise.
- 3 levels, with 3 flags to indicate. Problem for each defence group to know which level of alert would involve them. Possibility to label groups based on this. Thoughts about noise in alerting non-emergency alerts (e.g. amber alert at night).
- 3 alert states too few; 4 or 5 suggested. Coloured flags too subtle, and *number* of flags to be used instead. Noise for emergency situations is a good idea.
- 3 too few, 5 too many, 4 left but not agreed.
- CONSENSUS OF WHOLE GATHERING – 4 states of alert

## Representation

- Working group with remit to decide tactics; one spoke from each active defence team represented in the Defence tent
- Neighbourhoods with rotating defence spokes. Ongoing comms.

- Spokes from each group shifting but with continuity; gender diversity important. Happy for Defence group to work out details of this.
  - Defence working group, plus a spokesperson from each defence group. Legal observer. Twitter feed mentioned.
  - Spokes from each group, plus core Defence team with specialist knowledge.
  - Camp-wide decision-making process should suggest strategy, and defence groups should interpret and somewhat set strategy “on the ground”.
- Flexibility.

#### Areas of Agreement

- site and emergency for big decisions
- spokes from each group should make tactical and rota decisions

#### Requirements

- Tools to subvert aggression and power – image important. Carnival masks, banners, dressing as nuns given as example (to be decided upon autonomously). Advantage also in involving people. Fun defence.
- Every defence teams needs some sort of mandatory training.
- Briefings, introduction, communication. Clear signal for states of alert.
- Rota onto which individuals can sign up for defence (so cumulatively they form a defence team, which hasn’t been pre-formed).
- Defence team-building game to encourage group dynamics and provide training.
- Basic and advanced practical training. Legal training. Encouragement to establish own internal lines of communication between members of a group. Well-being.
- Training, possibly a radio per defence team.
- Question related to “what will Comms already be doing”. Overlap between two working groups, including physical proximity

#### Gathering summary/agreement

- .comms should be an integral part of what each team is doing (ie each team has comms ability)

#### What happens now?

- Call-out – groups of 4 to be amalgamated by Defence tent
- Ongoing communication
- Clear info for newcomers and good summary for neighbourhoods
- Guidelines from gathering for defence
- Process for forming groups at the Camp
- Exploring idea of creative resistance
- Ensure enough ongoing communication between active defence teams and the Camp in general
- Empower Defence working group to finalise details; contact neighbourhoods to prepare defence. Defence group should Produce 1-side sheet describing defence policy, to be sent to, and posted in neighbourhoods.
- Training, provided by neighbourhoods. Resources provided by Defence group. Should prepare 3 flags, and disseminate message of importance of defence.

#### Gathering summary:

Lots of support for defence group to take what’s been said by the gathering, to feel trusted and to come up with a plan and come back to the camp with a plan for

everyone to get involved with. If things need to be changed this will come to the site meetings.

## Proposals

### Group size

Conflict between suggestions for organic/autonomous vs. suggesting a specific number. Temperature check:

- Broad agreement
- Disagreement specifically from members of the Defence group
  - Observation that group dynamics can reduce effectiveness
  - Also that some neighbourhoods are differently-sized
  - Response that there were varying methods of forming those groups
  - 8-14 re-raised as a way of being flexible

Process point that specifics should be decided by working group.

Criticism levelled against defence working group for disagreeing with recommended group size.

Temperature check on smallest group size of 4:

- No clear unified opinion
- Broad agreement about *aiming* for 4 as a minimum number but not total agreement

Numbers issue dropped to be re-visited.

### States of alert

Temperature check on 4 states of alert shows **broad agreement**.

### Representation

Broad group of people, with Defence group in coordinating role. Another criticism of “inexpertise” and “self-appointment” of Defence working group. In response, observation that all groups are self-appointed.

Temperature check:

Agreement that spokes from each group should be included in decision making.

### Requirements

- Training.
- Communications (including specific defence communication and question of radios), clear signal changes, rota, welfare and well-being.
- Clarification that Comms group needs to provide a very clear and up-front communication strategy. Suggestion that a call-out should be made to ask neighbourhoods to start forming “bricks” of 4.
- Identification of division between pre-Camp and at-Camp strategy, and question as to who would run games/group-building exercises – does Defence have capacity to do that?
- Confirmation that Defence and Comms are closely-linked, and request for help working with Comms due to its vital importance
- Team-building linked with the swoop?
- Neighbourhood defence e-mail already sent out, and feedback requested about neighbourhoods’ defence provision.
- Question about labelling of the groups but no agreement reached

General suggestion to defer all remaining decisions to the Defence working group.  
Praise for training as effective and non-authoritarian, but counter-point raised about cultural concerns with hierarchical or symbolological issues.  
Suggestion that yesterday's Defence proposal and Defence group strategy should be merged, with broad agreement. Question as to whether Defence group is too small but Defence group says that they're not too small.  
Clarification requested from Defence group over their remit, and whether the Defence group is trusted by the gathering to manage defence.  
Proposal to empower defence group to create defence system, with the possibility of changing strategy at the Camp.  
Further concerns raised over training in advance of the Camp.  
Defence group needs to take responsibility, and that if they disagree with the majority view then it's fine as long as they accept responsibility for them.  
Broad consensus that anyone with issues about defence should join the Defence working group.

## **8. Announcements**

- Call-out for communication on-site outside of Comms' remit
- Phone loss
- Money for gathering and travel pool
- Black diary lost.
- Drivers legal resource briefing is available from the Transport group. It'll be put on the website.

## **9. Working group feedback**

### Site

- All building the camp – take down; all need to participate; as many people as possible to stay afterwards and help clear up. Need to leave it spick and span. Collective responsibility – can be F-U-N.
- 12 people did tat down at the end of Kingsnorth!
- Tat down needs to be better coordinated to involve more people. Site group going to run job shops. Suggestion of a tat-down coordinator.

### Council Liaison

- Making sure council don't shut us down as a public health menace/other risk.
- Fire agreement; alarm and stewards etc.
- Open fire agreement; Can cause a risk to everyone, only light if there is a fire pit that is 10 m away from tents and structures, if it is being supervised.

### Outreach

- Contacts of different organisations; spreadsheets etc – to promote the camp and the climate swoop – needed.
- Volunteers to leaflet at the camp (local community) or in the run-up.

### Media

- Media fine; have made logistical plan.

- Media need an offsite space/home with highspeed internet during the camp; contact Natalie.
- Need runners and people to get involved in the documenting team and climate camp TV tent.
- Legal and media need to liaise on documentation.

#### Meetings

- All neighbourhoods need a meeting liaison and a quick decision spokes before the camp. Absolutely essential. Email meetings@...

#### Action Support

- Daily workshops; training on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> in London to run action games and training.
- Contact with other groups, eg. trauma support.

#### Workshops

- Handbook soon to go out.
- Name for Tuesday's reflective/moving forward session???
- Spectrum lines on the name – no clear consensus. Workshops to try and make a representative decision(!)

#### Tranquillity

- Relatively sorted – want to liaise with comms etc.
- Will be asking everyone who arrives to books some time at the tat-down.

#### **Done!**

Rundown: this weekend we've sorted out powerdown, tranquillity, safer spaces, defence. Today; sorted out how to make decisions, feed-back to defence, money to shut down power stations, thought about Tuesday on Camp!

Last gathering before the camp really exciting!!!