

Camp for Climate Action National Gathering Minutes Cambridge, 20th-21st June 2009

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Summary of key decisions

Action

We confirm that we will support groups taking action, look towards list of targets for next gathering.

Finance

Based on last year, we still need to raise about £25,000. Working group finance liaisons need to keep in contact with Finance working group.

Key Messages

1. This year we have seen just how disastrous our economic and political systems are. They are unsustainable, disempowering, and causing catastrophic climate change.
2. At the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen this December, we cannot afford to let bankers and politicians dictate yet more false solutions, like carbon trading- which does not lower emissions.
3. The only way we can fight climate change is by ordinary people doing extraordinary things together. Come to the Camp in August and help us build another future. Now is the time for action!

Media Remit

The Media Working Group should attempt to represent the camp's politics to the wider public through the all media channels, including the mainstream and independent media in order to further the aims of the camp.

Tranquility & Welcome Remit agreed

To support the camp as a whole to create a safe and welcoming space – easy and accessible to everyone on the camp – helping to resolve incidences through mediation and try and prevent conflict possible through creating safe and inclusive' space

Legal & Media joint work on policing - remit agreed

The remit of the policing sub-group is to put pressure on the police and the government, through legal channels and the media, to scale back the oppressive powers and tactics used by the police against climate protesters - or at least to stop things from getting any worse.

This role comes with the following guidelines and caveats:

- * we accept that the role of the police is to defend the status quo, and so any movement pushing for radical social change will inevitably come into conflict with the cops. However, through our campaigning we can change the powers and tactics available to the police.
- * Climate change is, and will remain, our primary focus - we will only carry out work on the policing of protest when it helps us to take action on climate change.
- * We will actively oppose any attempts by police, government and the media to split the climate movement into "good" and "bad" protesters.

1. Start and housekeeping

Donations: £15 for crash space and food, please stick money in travel pool if you haven't had far to travel.

On Sunday, suggestion that we discuss whether or not we do actions: central to address this!

Group agreement: useful to all agree on: respect different levels of experience and confidence/ hand signals/phones off or on silent (but remember that this is a public meeting, don't say anything you wouldn't want to say in public)/ self-facilitate (think about your tone, how long you are speaking for etc) Everyone is happy with the group agreement!

2. Isle of Wight wind industry layoff feedback

Makes blades for turbines, employs 600 people, accounts for 1000 jobs, only facility of its kind in the country, but going to be closed. Workers Climate Action (WCA) went down to talk to the workers/ local trade union activists: want to try and explain possibility of direct action and a factory occupation – an incredibly expensive plant, company want to move it to America.

There is a public meeting on July 3rd on the island, people needed to hand out leaflets, do stalls in main towns, need to build for this meeting and raise the confidence of these workers, who have been screwed over by the management. Need to build the confidence of the local community, that they can keep it open, for the sake of the environment and the community and their employment.

Factory occupation could be really effective: didn't go to island with ready formed idea of what they should be doing, talked to people there, the local activists. Currently no union presence at factory: therefore first step= public meeting, the people there seem very keen on the idea.

Major battle recently: Visteon factory workers, recent occupation, took control of valuable factory, got good payoff, its very powerful and of immediate relevance to workers in secondary industries.

Bigger issue: lack of demand for wind power. Best way to spark a big political campaign around this issue = industrial occupation! Visteon

– WCA talked about turning production over from cars to wheelie bins (an avenue for environmental activism).

Questions: what time frame are you looking at ? Closure = end of July, all before that. All of July, public meeting on 3rd of July: no idea what will happen after that meeting.

Q: Is there a danger that the workers will just get a pay rise and there will be no occupation? Yes, that could happen.

Contribution: What about if we have support action in London, could be very important for them. Should include the families and communities, not just about the workers, we should make this point on the publicity, because often they are forgotten. We should explicitly invite them to the meeting. A: definitely will be working with the local community, don't worry.

Temperature check: people willing to come down to isle of wight?

Around 6 people likely to be free to come down: use the contact details on the sheets.

Around 15 people willing to down something in London: put pressure on government.

3. Communication from Land Group:

[this continued in spectrums after lunch]

Group is working well – a number of potential sites identified – want a short discussion on 1) what is more important: small defensible site, or larger but more defensible? What is the minimum capacity for the site? What is 2) historically or politically relevant site, or a site with no obvious political relevance? More feedback at July gathering. Please send any suggestions to Suggestions@climatecamp.org.uk

Background: at Brighton gathering: decided wanted a public swoop

Contribution: Depends on whether we want to do actions or not, it complicates it.

Contribution: Lets chew over that update and feedback later this afternoon. It sounds like they want a spectrum line of what people think about those questions. Lets park it. A Proposal.

Contribution: Have to park it, because it depends on whether or not we are doing actions. Don't need secret site, if not doing actions. We need to decide.

Proposal: lets do it after lunch, use some of the working group time.

Facilitator propose: we'll get the agenda updated in the break, asap.

4. Finance

Only currently one finance person – still not in a great situation financially. Fundraising have done some tremendous work over the last few weeks, have made some successful applications for grants, but have been no other financial contributions from camp members. Previous camps= lots of local neighbourhood fundraising. We desperately, desperately need it.

Has not received a single budget from a single working group, and the camp is in 9 weeks!

Need written receipts and invoices, for the books to be kept transparent. Currently we have lots of hidden costs accumulating: working groups not disclosing the money they are spending, and are not sending in invoices. Keep the receipts and send them to your finance representative!

Brighton gathering: people agreed to be finance liaisons. Not one of them has emailed him back! All he can do at the moment is guesstimates, which is no use to anyone. Working groups were given provisional budgets at Brighton, but actual estimates are needed.

Next 9 weeks: finance will get busier. He is not happy being the only finance person. He wants a team. Come and help, especially if have interest or experience in book keeping. If you are willing to help out, contact at finance@climatecamp.org.uk

Currently have 50% of the money that we require based on what we spent last year: we have half a camp. We need the rest. We need to raise about £25,000. It is proper big money. The biggest outlays have yet to come. August: need to buy in enough food to feed 1000 people, need to rent vans and marquees, straw bales. Hit by site and food. People before have paid on private credit cards: very generous, but not an optimal situation. We need to fundraise.

Suggestion: How much are we expecting to get in from grants? And then we could have a neighbourhood pledge system, have a target.

Prob: finance not normally at the front of peoples minds in direct action groups. £3000 per neighbourhood would be great. But most important thing, is get in touch so the books are clearer.

Because no budgets, £25,000 is based on what was spent last year. At Brighton gathering they pro rata-ed it down, to give working groups an idea of what was available at the time. So the budgets allocated at Brighton gathering, were scaled down budgets.

Suggestion: wake up call to the mailing list. 2,100 people on the national list.

Suggestion: We don't actually ask for money, (when we should!). Legal got £11,500 after one press release.

Sug: lets think about a press release then.

Sug: lets have a fundraising w/g meeting this afternoon.

Sug: prob, w/gs need to know what their budget is from the start, not 30% of it, then 50% etc. People need to come up with budgets, and know what that budget is. Discuss it in their groups. This needs to happen.

Response from finance: these budgets were given in response to demands for interim budgets. They were also meant to show what a shortfall in finances vis a vis last year. Did ask people to come up with their own. Need to talk about whether it is ok to have pay pal/ donate now button on the website.

5. Working Groups:

International
EON Face off/ Space
Regional camps: Scotland and Wales
Caravan
Finance
Media
Workshops
Welcome and Tranquility
Website
Action

Site

Isle of Wight – not a working group, but come have a chat.
Networking – will meet next session.

6a. Police informers session

[parallel session with the Working Groups' spokes council]

Picking up on a discussion that begun in hebden bridge. At Hebden Bridge, a proposal: someone was a police informer, when they were vulnerable, wanted to tell the guardian their story, but wanted a promise that they wouldn't be vilified. Media working group had to draft a letter> led to wider discussion about police informers. How can we as a camp be most supportive dealing with each other, and this issue? This is an issue for us as a movement and a chance for us to talk about it.

Q: what happened in the end? Media sent letter to guardian, story hasn't appeared.

Clarification: not about discussing the individual case, but wider issue: how do we deal with it in the future?

Comment: surely we can't stop informers coming, its about keeping them away from sensitive stuff

Q: what are the precedents for dealing with informers before? I'm not sure we have had a history of these cases: normally outed, outing themselves is new.

The informer that was at drax that informed (a different one): they were not in good health and vulnerable: became suspicious of their activity: got drunk in local town, admitted they were in contact with the police – there also are concerns about personal information being leaked

Feedback from smaller groups:

Group 1

decided needs to be a formal support system for people who have been approached/ been informing can turn to: need physically named individuals one can approach – have a small group (someone from legal, process, tranquillity) – people you can be approached if you are in this sort of trouble -time issues: people at camp/ people in

the lead up – in the lead up = more difficult: would need the named individuals at the monthly meetings as well

Group 2

during camp: a role for welcome/ tranquillity: importance of face-2-face – being able to share personal experiences: how this could happen then: maybe have a whole workshop on how to deal with police informing/ intelligence issue – maybe make it a media thing: get it into the papers -need to remember the difference between infiltrators and informers (already in movement), and those who accidentally gave information

Group 3

phone or email thing, as more confidential – but problematic in terms of security issues – whatever info collected by that place – needs to be collated and made public, maybe through a web page

Group 4

don't want witchhunts, but also not to welcome people back in who have done in – tranquillity, in confidence? Couldn't really promise it: other people need to know about it. Have suspicions – could also approach tranquillity. Maybe putting something in the welcome tent: explain what it is like for that to happen. -also need to look at what happens if we find out if someone has been informing: is there a difference to confessing to us, and us finding out? Do we deal with them differently? [may need to come back to this latter issue] – if someone confessed: have to find out how much they told the police, would have to tell them to leave – and would have to let their neighbourhood know

Group 5

preventing people who were vulnerable: didn't want those people to be left alone: might feel trapped and under pressure from both sides: need a safe place in the movement, where they could be listened to – would have to be face-2-face – having training for how police talk to you – more in the bust card – how to deal with talking in front of the police

Group 6

we need a process to deal with this: stigma attached to it – again not a witch hunt, that is one of the tactics the police are using
-other comments: not the first movement to have to deal with –
with animal rights: came forward about being approached – lets look to other movements for ideas -another big issue: blackmail
-communicating confidentially: snail mail

Rounding up

need effectively a counselling service: respect the fact that it is very scary to come out – suggestion: tranquillity – look at how we formalise this into a process, with the named individuals – if tranquillity meet this afternoon could discuss this [yes they are happy to do so] – people can carry on this discussion with tranquillity this afternoon
-other points: distinction of mole and vulnerable informer: how do we deal with suspicion vs. confession -talk to tranquillity if you suspect an informer -other issue: what happens if we find out they have been an informer? – do they have to leave the movement entirely? – we need a process for answering this question
-maybe a working group on it – questions of process, and tranquillity working on counselling stuff – ‘suspicious working group’

6b. Working Groups’ Spokes council

Missing groups: festivals, medics, meetings, kidspace, outreach, council/police liaison, entertainments, faceoff, wellbeing. *Below is mainly a list, by working group, of liason that needed to occur.*

Media

Site about marquee, comms. Making sure site puts legal and media near each other. Can comms handle a wider remit in terms of phone communication for working groups, neighbourhoods.
Legal about proximity in camp, sharing resources, collaboration, communication
Website about how it facilitates media liaison

Website

Doesn't really feel like they need to talk to anyone, but other WGs probably want to talk to them.

Legal

Site: location

Comms

Medics

This year, are keeping a record of overall narrative of camp and personal accounts/testimonies that back up the wider narrative: liaison with media necessary

Kitchen

Site

Numbers would be useful but...

Site

Needs to communicate with everyone!

Fundraising

Need communication from WGs, neighbourhoods

Welcome and Tranquility

Site- Structures and location (at the front would be good)

Welcome booklet: Networking and workshops

Workshops- welcome sessions, trainings

Legal- ensure observers aren't doing welcome

Workshops

Booklet w/ networking

Still looking for offers

Site- Structures

Action Support

Legal- where remits meet

Workshops

Site

Proposal of having a big action share/training as accumulation of the camp

Mass Action

Need to speak to most groups as it's a new WG

Media: need to publicise (online vote about which station to shut down: maybe announce it at camp?)

Legal

Finance/fundraising

International

Website- need to update

Networking
Media
Action Support
Festivals

Space

Networking and Media: strategy and narrative
Action training- working with local people

Finance

Everyone: needs budgets! Especially Mass Action

Networking

Website
International
Action Support
Process about wording of some of the material

Process

Need Process Liaisons from each WG

LUNCH

7. Working Group Feedback to Gathering

Legal feedback

Kingsnorth legal challenge progressing nicely

Legal challenge being put together over G20 camp

Need to make some decisions about this legal challenge, there are some risks

Needed fundraising to get that challenge going: have already raised £11,500!

Legal challenge over the convergence centre at the G20 camp is still being investigated

Lots of individual complaints against police going ahead -trying to get more info about police process

looking at what happened to all those arrested at Kingsnorth: most are being let off without charges, or very low ones – very powerful for the Camp to highlight this -doing

Fol requests -doing media stuff: TV programmes coming up soon about policing and protest: panorama, Channel 4 dispatches -lots of official reviews into how police dealing with protest- another one coming up soon:

Her majesty's inspectorate of constabulary
Should we be inputting into that? There are pros and cons. Needs discussion.

[Discussed and tested for consensus on Sunday]

Clarification of the legal team's work

“to make climate protest easier by trying to get the police and government to scale back their anti-protest work. The police are deployed by the state to defend the status quo. Conflict is therefore inevitable. Yet the powers and tactics of the police can be influenced. Action on climate change is our priority: our work on police and protest should work to serve this”

Response: one concern from last time: how we talk about ourselves – ‘good protestor’ vs. ‘bad protestor’ – this statement doesn't seem to address that -or is that more for the key messages of the media, put together with legal?

talk to legal if you want this statement to be improved

Q; does this close yourself from other organisations who suffer from the same issues at the same time? Need to be able to share this sort of information -are people happy with this statement.

A few stand asides: need to work on sentence about not ‘good protestor’/ ‘bad protestor’, otherwise happy and consensus – will feedback later.

Site feedback

By the end of the weekend: want from every w/g structure and power requirements, and also want neighbourhood preparations feedback

Can also offer some skills training -toilets group

Want to know, do any w/gs have straw bales requirements so can buy on mass? Let us know by the end of the week:
site@climatecamp.org

Let them know if you are free for set up or tat down, want an idea of numbers.

Tranquility and welcome

Remit proposed: 'about supporting the camp as a whole to create a safe and welcoming space – easy and accessible to everyone on the camp – helping to resolve incidences through mediation and try and prevent conflict possible through creating safe and inclusive'
[tested on Sunday]

Stand aside: really hard to do that when its not in writing, people need to look at it -all remits are potentially changeable -this needs to be written down somewhere so that people can look at it -this is going into the open space time tomorrow

Tranquillity team say: could neighbourhoods think about responses to the fact there may be more people attending who are drunk, just curious of the camp – we need to think about how we react to that.

Festivals

Would like to apologise for the process they went through this year, particularly with Glastonbury – will improve process for next year

Media

Remit proposed

The Media Working Group should attempt to represent the camp's politics to the wider public through the all media channels, including the mainstream and independent media in order to further the aims of the camp.

- Process for setting key messages

The Climate Camp National Gathering decides a theme & location, which shapes the key messages which the Media WG will produce. The summary of these key messages should be ratified by a National Gathering. The final wording will be formulated by the working group and then shared with the national gathering. Word-smithing by the whole national gathering should be avoided.

- Statement of principles for the media working group

Misrepresentation will occur due to the nature of the mainstream media, but we will do our best to counter this and welcome feedback from the camp.

Media WG will try its best to communicate the politics of the camp bearing in mind the diversity of opinion within it.

Media WG will avoid creating celebrity personalities.

The Media WG will pro-actively try to reach out to as many people as possible through the press.

In the name of transparency and accountability, the Media WG will feedback its recent activity at every national gathering.

The Media WG will try its best to set our own agenda rather than just following the news agenda of the mainstream media.

Sometimes it may be necessary to spend time responding to related issues but the Media WG will aim to ensure that this is only done to further the core aims of the camp and that this does not detract from our key messages about climate change.

Responses: haven't mentioned on site alternative media – but does include 'and independent media' in the one line remit suggestion: insert 'politics and actions' in first line -wiggly hands! They have a remit

Key Messages presented

1. This year we have seen just how disastrous our economic and political systems are. They are unsustainable, disempowering, and causing catastrophic climate change.
2. At the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen this December, we cannot afford to let bankers and politicians dictate yet more false solutions, like carbon trading- which does not lower emissions.
3. The only way we can fight climate change is by ordinary people doing extraordinary things together. Come to the Camp in August and help us build another future. Now is the time for action!

suggestion: insert 'corporations', so not as individualising as 'bankers' and 'politicians'

q: are these key messages for the camp? When are we going to mention the mass action? (media team nod a bit, response unclear)

one of the messages was about copenhagen – but we haven't decided what we think about copenhagen and if we even care about it and whether or not we want people to go there

media response: maybe we can amend this later, if we come to a firmer position about Copenhagen

networking comment: but there has been a lot of discussion about 'take the power back'- some people don't like the use of that term at all

Space

we are now weeks away from having the place for 6 months
it is a lovely place – it is essential to get people to come down and help for some time

strong need to people to think about doing d/a training down there, talks, printed propaganda distributed there – some kind of exhibit - will be running for 6 months

when not thinking about the camp, they can think about it -let s make it look nice (not too squatter, not too ngo)

will have it soon: space will be present before the camp -location and date details: will be released soon

when is kingsnorth decision? Has been revealed that it is delayed again – billion pound competition to build the CCS opens in 2010, first plant planned to be up and running by 2014 -some opinion: looks less sure than it did this time last year

International

Remit proposal:

"Internationalise the Camp"

1. Internationalising the physical camp
2. Liaise with other climate camps and climate justice movements around the world
3. Strategy for Copenhagen
4. Beyond Copenhagen: making sure we're part of the global climate justice discussions and plans.

Need to decide about messages of solidarity to environmental groups around the world -are we going to Copenhagen: having a meeting, doing a call out there for another meeting in 6 months time

Don't international already have a remit? - are we constantly creating remits? Are there continuity issues: international people are often off being international - don't we need feedback from current copenhagen meeting?

internationalising the physical camp: is about workshops and inviting people from around the world -international: budget dangers! We need to know what it means in financial terms -what have international done so far

issue: diverse politics of different climate justice groups around the world: we may not all endorse them as a wider movement.

proposal: could we post the old remit and the new remit up next to each other?

Workshops

Don't have a written out remit, but are there to put on the workshops in the camp

sent out a workshops call out - forward it far and wide - the deadline is extended to june 29th - can also get info on the climate camp website: online workshop form

have met twice since hebden bridge

want a really good programme - want more participatory, representative debates - want more participation, more input

Have brainstormed 6 strands: climate science, DIY or die (alt living), economics, activist toolkit, ways forwards and solutions, and the movement

guidelines to help them look for workshops -and brainstorming plenaries and debates: copenhagen, the state, d/a, science, green new deal, -have had 50 workshops offered so far: so far not enough - need to come up with lots of suggestions!

There are debates about strategy and how it fits in with the camp's general political ideas -want help with how too make it more diverse: in terms of gender, race and class

Council and police liason

legal were asked to do it, but now a separate volunteer has come forward, someone from site - someone with a more legal orientation will be involved once camp starts - if anyone would like to find out more, ask legal

-legal remit: has been amended
Consensus, except one stand aside:
just want to emphasise that it is so difficult to do!

8. Land and actions discussion

Only way to free from police attention is to publically declare no direct action from camp. Strong disapproval.

Actions autonomous so will happen anyway. We are camp for climate action so of course some actions and action support. Difference is not actions on one target, but multiple actions. General approval.

PROPOSED – we state that we will encourage autonomous actions, but on range of possible targets. ---affinity group only is slightly elitist...

Technical- Police outside, wont leave

Camp should be about getting more people involved in action in the future, so not elitist. SUGGESTION – scrap the proposal

We are defined by our critique of capitalism and commitment to action. We must overtly be organising, not just say ‘it will happen’.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL – we confirm that we will support groups taking action, look towards list of targets for next gathering.

Q. Should we come back with a list of targets, or discuss possibility.
A Discuss.

4 standaside – we don’t need to do action at camp, we have discussed it before similarly and must focus on movement building -- Many of our best may be arrested and taken out of action needlessly. – we’ll get hassled by police. Consensus? Yes.

Spectrum lines

Q. Small & defensible, or larger? *Most bunched in the middle*

Contribution: Large – want many people coming in and out, training.

Ok even if police around. G20 much too small – small and defensible

is also very easy for us to be trapped inside, as few entrance points

Contribution: Small – cohesive, and better community spirit – we can set minimum capacity anyway. Defense has been v. important in all

past camps – very exhausting to run around defending a massive camp.

Contribution: Middle – correct size – defensibility and size different - Seem quite confused. Shift towards large site, though most still in the centre.

Q. Do we want a historical/cultural/politically relevant site (not necessarily related to climate change) very much? *Large majority say no*

Contribution: Yes – want the skyline of the city in the background, but not security-sensitive as will be attacked. GENERAL SUPPORT FOR LONDON SKYLINE IN VIEW –some have v. strong support!

Contribution: Middle – historical/political too broad. – But don't underestimate symbolism; Cheekyness of on doorstep of criminals.

Contribution: No – London is the site of significant. We shouldn't make it more difficult than we have to.

Q. What is minimum capacity of camp at peak? 2k, 4k, 6k? *Vast majority between 3k and 4k. None right up at 6k.*

Contribution: 4k – over bank holiday weekend in middle and no direct action. Contribution: 5k – we could have fitted 20k into kingsnorth site, lots came to g20.

Contribution: 3k – Near London so high peak, but lots will go home at night, and could drop quickly too. We often overestimate, should not exclude too many sites pointlessly

9. Announcements

Nobody is yet hosting July gathering... London say they will take it on. But this is when many people are bailed to Nottingham.

Weekend after is only one month before camp, so would make this the last Gathering - This is not good. Dates can be confusing, lets draw up a calendar. Look at it over dinner. Nottingham gathering could be good for people bailed there! The camp is in London, so national gathering should probably be somewhere else, everyone should talk about whether they are willing to do one

T shirts for Glastonbury make us look awesome – buy them! Bags also ‘quite good’ and on sale.

Rosspart need people as soon as possible. They also desperately need money. DVDs also available.

Cambridge Action Network also have fitwatch t-shirts for sale

Saturday evening powerpoint presentation on crabgrass use

Come to the social at the Blackhouse.

Sunday demo outside mcdonalds

Monday linsay oil workers unofficial strike, 11 others in solidarity. Solidarity action outside a local powerstation

Homemade solar showers are good to make if you have used up pesticide cannisters

[Working group time 5pm- 6pm]

SUNDAY

1. Kingsnorth Supply Chain

Written report read out:

Last autumn, we agreed to launch a new campaign against the construction of a new power station at Kingsnorth. This, it was agreed, would involve a ‘rolling blockade’ to stop the work, part of which would focus on supply chain.

Six construction firms have recently been identified as tendering for the contract to build Kingsnorth. They are:

- BAM Nuttall
- Balfour Beatty
- Laing O’Rourke
- A Costain/Hochtief joint venture
- Kier Group

- Morgan Est.

Action has already begun against the first company on the list, with an office occupation at BAM's HQ earlier this month. Another group plans to launch sustained action against this company to make BAM and the other bidders aware of the damage caused by the burning of coal, and more specifically, the widespread nature of the opposition to the Kingsnorth project.

The contracts are not expected to be agreed before Christmas, according to one bidder. Yet we do not have to wait until then. Now more than ever is the time to start disrupting the construction, and we can do so effectively by shifting our focus to the bidders. This gives them ample time to make an informed decision about whether they want to be involved in this unethical venture, rather than forcing them to break the contract at a later stage - at great cost to both their finances and reputation. It is easier and a more efficient use of our resources to focus on these firms now rather than waiting until they have made their decision and entrenched themselves.

While not as 'glamorous' as digger-diving or action against E.ON itself, targeting suppliers can be highly effective, as shown by successes in the animal rights movement. These have resulted in the closure of breeding facilities for lab animals, the abandonment of plans to build vivisection labs, and the severing of contracts between HLS and some of the world's largest insurance firms and investment banks.

We don't need to wait until the construction begins. Our group plans to continue campaigning against BAM, and calls for other neighbourhoods around the country to select their nearest supplier and launch the blockade with a sustained campaign against these companies.

A dossier has been written about the companies involved
Suggestion: the dossier should be on the e.on f.off website

2. Mass action feedback

Agreed in Hebden Bridge: Mass action in October against a coal fired power station, linked to the summer camp

Should be biggest thing CC has ever done

Date: 23rd – 24th October

Afterwards a massive coal conference in London – coaches maybe going down

Which power station? There should be a public vote between Ratcliffe and Drax. Take the piss out of “Britain’s got talent” – “Britain’s got direct action” ?

When to launch the vote? Perhaps after Drax 29 trial in July.

Will involve a coalition/collaboration of groups in order to get the numbers, similar to something that happened in Washington. Climate Rush and Plane Stupid already on board. Also maybe Age of Stupid.

Meeting on evening of 9th July in central London

There will be a questionnaire put together for other groups to go onto the mailing list

Could have a competition between student groups to see who can get the most there. Will link in to a tour of unis, towns, cities.

Lots of training planned across the country in the run-up

Maybe will have a “hotline” with automated information like travel details and where the big red button is!

Come to mass action WG time

3. Scotland/Wales feedback

Scotland feedback

A statement was read up dating the gathering on Climate Camp Scotland. It said:

Hello Cambridge!

Preparations for the camp in Scotland are coming on. Last weekend was Boiling Over, Scotland's Gathering for Climate Action, and around 100 people attended over 30 workshops, discussions and trainings. It was a great opportunity to get people from across Scotland together and build momentum for August. It has, however, taken a fair bit of time out of organising for August, but we hope that more people have been encouraged to get involved in the organising. It has also taken a bit of recovering from, hence why we're not there!

Site

We are a little behind in Site preparations, so would like to ask the UK process, much the same way that Cymru has, who is coming and can you help us out? Any offers to coordinate specific areas of the

site working group, or to 'buddy' someone from Scotland doing it would be great. Holes in our skill areas include: plumbing & grey water

Other Working Groups

Also, we'd like to know if anyone can take on the following working groups: Action Medics, Tranquillity.

Barrios

We're working on plans for the site, and would also like to know which barrios are planning to come to Scotland, and what infrastructure you can bring with you.

Publicity

We have a bunch of publicity for the August camp. Hopefully you saw some of the publicity we sent for Boiling Over. Are there specific addresses in each of the barrios that would be best for us to post publicity to, and are people up for distributing it in their areas?

Call Out

Last night (18/06/09) activists from Climate Camp Scotland occupied the site of Mainhill Wood in solidarity with communities in the UK suffering from the impacts of open casting and resisting new mines.

Scottish Coal have been given permission to mine 1.7 million tonnes of coal from Mainhill in South Lanarkshire, a decision by South Lanarkshire Council and later Scottish Ministers that enraged local residents who for years have campaigned against this mine.

Come and support us! See

<http://www.indymediascotland.org/node/15906> for more info.

Thanks and sorry for the poor attendance this weekend! Solidarity,
the Camp for Climate Action in Scotland

Wales feedback

Next gathering will be practical, building stuff

Going to Merthyr Tydfil where there is a huge open cast coal mine

Struggling in some areas, need to ask for some support

Would be useful to know which neighbourhoods are coming and what skills they can bring

There is a gap in legal skills, legal observers needed

Possibility of having the next UK gathering at the wales camp?

Discussion

Will be taken back to the next meeting, which is the same weekend as the next UK gathering.

Pros and cons for wales: On the one hand we might detract from the welsh focus, on the other hand we might bring a really big marquee!

Many people who want to come to the gathering would come to the camp early if it was in wales

Would be a way to get more people to the welsh camp possibly

What will this gathering be discussing, most likely? Probably some plenary decisions to be made.

Maybe there is a town nearby where we can have the gathering, then people can go to the welsh site easily

If it wasn't possible to have a big space we could just focus on working groups and spokes

Perhaps the agenda setting would need to take it into account

Ultimately it's the decision of wales

Is the indymedia stuff sorted for wales? Meeting coming up soon.

We haven't addressed the question of which neighbourhoods are coming to which camp

Please discuss in neighbourhoods and let Scotland know.

Maybe have an England neighbourhood in Scotland?

Wales: there will be 3 kitchens, neighbourhoods aren't asked to bring kitchens in particular, though that would be great of course

Scotland are asking for neighbourhood contacts to send publicity to

Site group has a list of contacts, so speak to them

4. Working group time

Groups meeting:

Site; Media; Workshops; Networking; Legal; Mass action; Process;

Fundraising; Kids space

Would be good to set up a group to do a training day about building bike generators – London is thinking of using them for lights at camp.

Should be a discussion over lunch about how to deal with suspected police informers

5. Anti Capitalism Discussion

Temperature checks to decide what are we going to discuss, to narrow down topic, then break into small groups.

Do you self define as an anti capitalist: *overwhelmingly yes, only a small handful tentatively saying no they don't self define as an anticapitalist*

Should the camp take a more anti cap position? *A big handful yes more anticap, pretty much nobody less anticap, a bout half or more happy with how it is now*

Should the camp explicitly self define as anticapitalist? *Roughly evenly between yes and no*

Should the Camp engage a lot more with workers struggles? *One person no*

What should we discuss?

Discuss position and messaging of the camp in relation to capitalism. *About half people expressing some interest*

The specific kinds of actions and activities we can engage in as anticapitalists. *A bit less than half*

How we engage with workers struggles. *Big handful yes*

Three people did not want to have this discussion at all.

Background on past discussions about anti-capitalism at Gatherings, and recent events which have thrown this discussion in relief:

In Nottingham in March, consensus was reached on a statement of what unites us.

Climate change is affecting millions of people worldwide, governments and big businesses can't fix it. Their grip on economic and political power stifles movement forward and struggles against climate injustice.

People must take individual and group actions against its root causes. We must act together and in solidarity with all affected communities.

Our four core aims are: Education, Sustainable living, Direct Action, and Movement Building

At the Oxford Gathering:

The failed economic system is causing climate change. International initiatives such as Copenhagen and others are bound to fail; we will oppose these events and build alternatives.

This past week: at Lindsey, the country's biggest oil refinery, 900 workers sacked in a highly unionised workplace. This refinery was in dispute earlier this year (which controversially gave rise to the British jobs for British workers rhetoric). There have been wildcat strikes in the energy industry throughout the year. There is a need to counter racist rhetoric and to share our politics, and to have a conversation about our relationship with energy industry and workers.

A third of people would like to talk specifically about Lindsey strikes

The Vestas wind turbine factory on the Isle of Wight represents a situation in which the interests of Climate Camp align completely with the workers in a particular industry. In contrast, the Lindsey layoffs present a more difficult situation because the oil industry is environmentally harmful.

Feedback of main points that came out of smaller group discussions:

Group 1 - Solidarity with Workers

We need to engage with waged and unwaged workers and communities (not just waged workers) – strong support
Concerns with Racism – Engaging with struggles is a good way to deal with concerns about racism rather than completely distancing ourselves from it – Strong support

We should be engaging with workers to talk about how we have a transition to sustainable/greener industry – Strong support
Prioritise engaging with workers struggles in the energy industry (as the energy industry is highly relevant to the environmental movement)– luke warm support

Group 2 - Anti-Capitalist Action

We should target consumerism
We should engage with the question of what constitutes “quality of life”

Proposal to do actions throughout the year as neighbourhoods/affinity groups targeting climate criminals, embassies and corporations that are largely responsible. Quick easy actions, not big mass ones. Temperature check – strong support

They discussed publishing a list of climate criminals and explanations on the website along with skillshares and support for affinity group actions.

Group 3 – Anti-Capitalism

Yes we identify as anti-capitalist, the camp is anti-capitalist.

Concerns about branding as anti-capitalist

Like the top media key message criticising the economic system (wiggles from the room)

Narrative in the camp – why are we here, why is this happening?

Moving through answers.

Group 4 – Anti-Capitalism

3 key points

We are inherently anti-capitalist in our actions, discourse and values

Term is not necessarily helpful in messaging (big wiggles)

This is a tactical not ideological issue (big wiggles)

We are aware that some people are strongly in favour of more explicitly messaging anti-capitalism but weren't present in our group so not much disagreement .

We should capitalise on the current economic crisis to promote alternative models

Anti-greed, anti-growth

Huge issue of class (didn't get time to discuss)

General feedback as a big group

We haven't had chance to discuss disagreements in this session

We should be finding out how we tackle the issues of creating green jobs

Does there need to be further discussion or action? (strong support)

Not primarily wiggles to what had been suggested by workers solidarity group, but quite a lot of support for both further discussion on workers solidarity and class and anti-capitalism.

Suggestion: interested groups could go away and discuss further and then bring back more solid proposals to next gathering.

Proposal: All those interested in how we engage with the labour movement and workers' struggles should form an official working group.

Counter proposal: we should have more discussion at next gathering

Alternative proposal: more time at the camp to discuss this.

A working group would isolate the discussions. The coal action means we need to engage with workers and communities – let's talk about it in those concrete terms. (Some support)

Suggestion: Smaller group to meet outside at 5pm at the Workers' Climate Action meeting

Workers outreach needs to fit in with our other messaging.

Can we go and work around power station strikes if we leave this discussion now?

No specific consensus, but lots of support for this kind of engagement – meet at the Workers Climate Action meeting at 5pm.

6. Open Space

Rosspport Solidarity Camp

reminder: they need people there. There has been an increase in security, and the Solitaire pipe laying ship has been sighted. People are urged to give donations to the Rosspport Camp.

National Gathering in July

July dates 18-19 of July – final weekend of Danish Climate camp – full month to prepare – London has offered to host. No other offers. Consensus for gathering in London.

Stand aside – London centric

Other point need to know where because Legal adviser training at next gathering.

AP Process group to check with Nottingham if maybe can host and will confirm where it will be.

National Gathering in August

will need to clash with Scottish and Welsh Camps and Earth First – possibility of national gathering at the Wales camp 15-16 Aug.

Wales knows that we propose a gathering at their camp they will discuss at Pembroke.

If they say yes – then is that where we would do it? (Remember that we could bring structures. Concern about site and if they would need to be near London.) Want to support the gathering and concern about not having constructive gathering - active consensus

If they say no - Where else? The weekend of Scotland, (Earth First gathering too close to camp.)

AP Process to ask Scotland if can do it there, if not perhaps Kent space offering to do the gathering.

This year we have seen just how disastrous our ec and pol systems are the are –active wiggleness
Bankers and politicians – Active wiggly
Ordinary extraordinary – lots of wiggly hands

Concern – not happy with amendment – too much of a mouthful and not to wordsmith

Concern - Bankers and politicians – also people – the text says we will not allow them to put forward false solutions

Suggestion – trust the media team that it addresses the concerns broaden it slightly

Proposal Accept the key messages, but would like them to be broadened and accessible.

Delegating the power to media team and be okay if says same. -
Active consensus.

Legal Proposal, re: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)

Issues that want to discuss in legal team yesterday – reporting back that in relation to judicial review legal will go ahead.

Proposal to re-engage with the HMIC and be a part of the reference group.

Always critical HMIC process because we said that police investigating themselves. We called for independent review, but not happening so this is the only way to have this. After last gathering small group decided to pull out because some people in the movement were not happy. HMIC came back and had off record meeting. New proposal from chair Dennis ... and asking to be a part of the reference group

We will consider. Think it will be more critical. There is something to gain – we're in, critique it publically, use it as a platform to critique police.

Downsides are – do we lend credibility to the process, but not coming in to support rather to critique. Some people in movement will not agree with engagement. On balance Legal's view is that should engage.

Discussions

Q Why have been asked to join?

A A lot of review next is climate camp activities, even if not join then we should have our perspective is fed into the process, because at this moment only the police perspective. There will not be an independent review of policing.

Comment - Go for it – never know what will find out.

Concern - about joining and the results and giving them the credibility. Trust the legal team to have thought of this and their messages.

Comment - If we don't engage they will say that we didn't talk to them.

Comment – Always have the option of walking out.

Comment - Be very wary of participating, because used to justify decisions. Everything we do in the enquiry is transparent and in public domain.

Comment - Trust for the legal team and judgement.

Q On point of transparency – will it be possible?

A Their first report is in house – stage 1 will set out narrative to the G20 – Kingsnorth, 114, look at Northern Ireland – what the reference group comes out with not sure because not engaging.

Facilitator concern that not enough people to make decision, rebuttal that this was on the agenda since yesterday

Clarification of process – HMIC will make decision, will use reference groups (media, professors, etc.) to critique their actions

This is an advisory report.

Proposal – re-engage with HMIC process. Active consensus

Workshops

Thanks for suggestions on the board, and on forms – if you have any more proposal please email workshops@climatecamp.org.uk by June 29.

Welcome booklet – workshops will contact various groups – legal, media, welcome, action support - to contribute to booklet.

Action Support

Anyone who is direct action savvy – please send offers of workshops to action support and tell everyone else to.

Tranquility – re: Police Informers

Best to have something on website – we should have a contact for people to contact if police has been approached. Create a support group for them and we know that they have been contacted.

Q – This could come from corporations as well?

Q – Contact discretely – maybe should be encouraged to not use emails, phones, so as not to disclose themselves.

Proposal to have something for mediation if not represented in process, may take edge off the police informers (point made that may turn some people off)

Does process play mediation work?

If worded carefully, we should not shy away from the fact that the police is on to us and spend a lot of money to police us.

Perhaps put something on about not being able to support about confidentiality. How does it work out face to face?

The proposal will need to thrash out the details

Support structures for people who have been approached.

Call out for people to help tranquillity make the communication more secure. Details

7. AOB

Thank you to the designers and printers who have produced publicity. WIGGLY HANDS

Thank you to Cambridge.