

Left Unity Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday 18th June 2016 - The Wesley, Euston Street, London NW1

Attendance: Kate H, Andrew B, Jon D, Janet G, Graham G, Steve H, Susan P, Richard F, Doug T, Len A, Terry C, Oliver N, Joseph H

Apologies: Eve T, Felicity D, Sharon McC, Kath O, Alice K, Bianca T

Chairs: Joseph and Kate; **Minutes:** Kate

1. Minutes and Matters Arising from EC minutes 21st May:

1e: Olly reported on Trades Council meeting and Sustainability and Transformation Plan footprints and likely impact

2i: Steve reported decision to allow fracking in Lancashire is imminent. Suggested speaking tour with TL Rothery. Graham agreed to get interview with TL Rothery for website.

vii: Steve queried what form the evolution discussion would take. Agreed to support Manchester conference.

3bii: Len reported DiEM group setting up in Wales.

8. Noted it was Ken's birthday and we had sent greetings. His film is coming out in November.

9. Noted two events not attended – NATO event and PCF Congress – owing to health issues of family members.

Additional points:

- Request for minutes to go on site
- Query about Rosa Luxemburg Foundation conference; possibly cooperate on something in autumn or link a European left conference to proposed national EL speaker tour.

2. Referendum Campaign

Andrew introduced discussion which was long and detailed with many contributions.

The following proposals were agreed:

- To promote Steve's video when it's ready
- To put out line strongly this week that under current circumstances a Brexit is a victory for the far right
- That we organise a national tour (towns and cities) with European Left speakers on a pro-migrant, pro-free movement theme
- That we step up our participation in European discussions in Europe
- That we step up our European context discussions here – in NC and EC

- That we focus our work on a pro-immigrant anti-racist action plan and a workers' rights action plan
- That we draft statements for both outcomes and agree via EC list
- That we encourage regions and branches to have post-referendum meetings before NC on 16th July

3. Lambeth local election

Joseph introduced the discussion on a local election contest where some Labour members/supporters backed a non-Labour candidate. Discussion also included Greater Manchester mayoral contest. Agreed that there is nothing in our current policy which prevents GM comrades playing a pro-active role in contest, up to and including standing on a broad anti-cuts ticket.

4. National Conference

- a) **Pre-conference timetable:** the following draft timetable was agreed and agreed to circulate as a draft to assist branches in planning:

16 July: NC decides timetable

18 July: Branches notified of start of pre-conference discussion period

16 September: Deadline for submission of motions

26 September: Motions circulated to branches

14 October: Deadline for submission of amendments

24 October: Motions and amendments published for Conference

29 October: National Conference – Liverpool

Agreed to propose to NC that Sunday 30th October be an open conference day (non-binding) for workshops, training, discussion etc.

b) Standing Orders Committee

Noted that we do not currently have a SoC. Agreed that Terry will start internal elections to secure one, for SoC and other vacant spaces. In the event that we don't get one by this route then NC to elect one from its own number, excluding national officers.

c) LU Constitution Commission

Noted that LU Constitution Commission has not yet met. Terry agreed to contact members to work out a work plan for actions prior to Conference.

5. Reports

- a) **Media:** some ongoing improvements to website; Richard reported on phasing of website/database upgrading; agreed social media user session would be helpful – suggested for 30 Oct in Liverpool and Stephen offered to run it.
- b) **Branches and membership:** Andrew reported – steady trickle of new members; process of visiting branches to assist development.
- c) **Finances:** the Treasurer had provided a set of figures. Noted that finances are stable. Agreed to make a financial appeal post-referendum; to ask for fundraising committee volunteers at NC, who could meet by skype; to promote the European tour to raise funds.
- d) **Housing:** Doug reported on Housing Act and campaign; some good work by LU members; some problems in the campaign; possible subject for a session on 30th Oct.
- e) **Health:** Liverpool Women's Hospital campaign march – Saturday 25th September at opening of Labour Party Conference. Olly reported on STPs as focus for national campaigning, linking health cuts and local authority cuts. Stephen reported that devolved NHS budget is £2 bn short.
- f) **Education strike:** Jon reported on likely strike July 5th; primarily NUT with some UCU support. Jon agreed to write on corruption around academies funding.

AOB:

- Wigan Diggers' Festival – 10th September
- Agreed to have international discussion slot at NCs
- Next NC meeting – 26th July in Birmingham