

CfFPT Monthly Meeting

The Cornerhouse

16/07/09

Present: Steph (chair), Chris, Geoff, Bob J., Stephen C. (minutes)

Apologies: Stephen Hall, Roy Wilkes

Roy couldn't make it as he's got swine flu and the room turned out not to be booked after all, so just had informal meeting in pub.

1. Minutes and Matters arising

The minutes were accepted without objection.

2. Discussion Paper

Bob revealed himself as a first rate researcher and a great asset to the campaign. He went over some of the more interesting points of his paper including some missed out. He showed a graph from a book referenced in the paper and available easily on tinternet, clearly showing a drop over time in the price of cars and an increase in the price of public transport going over several decades. The case is overwhelming and his paper was very well received.

3. Public events and petition

Agreed we should try to hold Bolton rally & leaflet (which should have happened on 27th June but was cancelled last minute) on Sat 8th Aug 11am – 1pm instead. Meet at Bolton Town Hall. Please let us know if you can/can't make it so we know if its feasible.

Chris is available to petition and distribute leaflets outside schools and FE colleges in Ashton etc, but needs help. Please contact him if you would like to help.

4. Towards a national campaign - forthcoming meeting with Dai Davies MP

Steph and Bob are going down to London to meet Dai Davies at the House of Commons next Tuesday. They will report back at the next meeting and the hope is that they will work towards a strategy for building a national campaign.

There was enthusiasm for aiming towards having a campaign stall and presence at the upcoming Convention of the Left in Manchester for activists who don't want to travel to the main one in Brighton where the Labour party is having its conference. We need to get the SSP, the Norwich campaign, the transport unions, and even the Greens on board for a unified national campaign on this issue. With regard to the Greens, Bob suggested that we emphasize our support for an expanded system of cycleways and things like walking programs for school kids.

5. Website

One ongoing issue with the website is the need for contacts in the various boroughs where we are not represented, such as Rochdale, Bury, Bolton and Stockport. It was hoped that we could find a contact in Rochdale from the emails available on the petition when we had a stall there.

6. Affiliations, finances and fundraising

Steph to help Stephen and Bill applying for a Change Grant available to new and emerging community voluntary groups and/or a Grass Roots Grant for organizations that have been going for a year already from the Community Foundation.

Bob suggested the idea of having a promotions officer whose role is specifically to reach out to other groups and try to increase membership and we agreed to consider this idea further and perhaps vote on one at the next meeting.

Steve C said Steve Hall had told him leaflets will cost more to print: £245 for ten thousand. It was agreed that he should go ahead with this, as we would just about be able to afford it from existing funds and affiliate fees coming in.

7. Any other business

none

8. Next meeting

Meeting room booked for Aug 20th & Sept 17th, but Steph has subsequently raised a doubt by email concerning the need for an August meeting. Please email the google group with your thoughts or check the list for confirmation nearer the time.