

Camp for Climate Action UK Gathering

19th-21st February 2010, Bristol

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Summary of Gathering

The February UK Camp for Climate Action gathering took place following our busiest year yet. It also took place after a month of regional gatherings taking place right across the UK. Judging from the themes emerging from regional gatherings, and the many proposals submitted (39!), it was clear this gathering needed to be wide ranging in its discussions. People saw this as a good opportunity to discuss our politics, while there was also a great deal of call to plot out our strategy for the next twelve months and beyond. The question of how we organise (or reorganise) was also a hot topic, especially the issue of regionalisation and the role of the UK-wide process. Furthermore, there were many ideas for actions and projects, some of these deemed to be 'time sensitive' as they concerned plans that would need to be enacted straight away to make happen.

With all this to cover, the planned agenda set out to work through these themes in the most logical means. The extra day on Friday was used for open discussions and analysis into the key themes the gathering sought to address, with the aim that such discussions would inform the rest of the gathering's work. The rest of the gathering was highly interactive, with a continuously revised agenda and people breaking away to form proposals on political statements, our process, time sensitive actions, and international participation. The gathering managed to discuss all the areas it set out to do (politics, strategy, process, 'time sensitive' actions), but decisions were not able to be made in all these areas and it was acknowledged a great deal of the discussions and decisions would need to be postponed till the next UK-wide gathering in April.

Key Decisions

Political Statement

DECISION: Three writing groups prepare draft Political Statements, all taking the same brief. They will present their drafts to back to the gathering, before they go online and out to neighbourhoods for discussion and input, to be returned to at the next gathering.

CONTEXT: This process was launched on Saturday morning, with the writing groups working solidly throughout the weekend. The writing groups went from three to two, presenting their drafts on Sunday afternoon. Following feedback, they went away to further amend, before circulating them for regional and online discussion in advance of the April Gathering.

Our Process

DECISION: All neighbourhoods are strongly encouraged to have representatives in the process group, to make the group more accountable.

DECISION: Create a neighbourhood resource working group to facilitate skill and information sharing with existing and emerging neighbourhoods.

DECISION: The next national gathering will be in April, and for the next six months we will hold national gatherings about every two months to create the space for regional gatherings and other initiatives. This should be as early as possible in April.

CONTEXT: A discussion group on 'How We Organise' took place on Saturday Morning, which led to a sub-group drafting a four part proposal to about how we currently organize. We reached consensus on three out of the four parts. Contact process@climatecamp.org.uk for more information about any of the above agreements.

Actions and Activities

DECISION: The Camp for Climate Action UK participates in the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights in Cochamamba, Bolivia, from 19-22 April. In order to do this we will request time at March regional gatherings to discuss the conference, Dedicate time at the April UK gathering to discussing the conference and what we want to get out of it, fund two UK Climate Campers and two global south activists to attend, if we find people who meet agreed criteria (budget capped at £4,000), participate from the UK via videoconference and social media, as far as is possible, and give weight within our process to proposals that emerge from the conference. Proposal: if we don't find two climate camp people, we should still pay for two people from Africa.

DECISION: Climate Camp supports the BP Fortnight of Shame and Fossil Fools day from April 1st to April 15: Putting name to it, newsletter, place on website, using our networks to mobilise.

DECISION: We empower regions and local groups to take action around May and Elections.

CONTEXT: The decision to participate in the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights followed discussions before the gathering within the International Group. This group met over the course of the gathering to flesh out the proposal eventually agreed on. It will now be the International Group taking this process forward. Contact international@climatecamp.org.uk for more details.

The gathering didn't manage to make any decision of organizing an action or event through the UK-wide process in the coming months. However the decisions that were made enable a space for decentralized action.

Minutes in Full

Friday

Introduction

Housekeeping/practicalities:

-Donations/meal tickets/travel pool/accommodation

Consensus process explained.

Group agreement is made:

- Listen 'actively' and not just think what we want to say next
- Respect diverse opinion
- Be aware of power dynamics stemming from privilege
- Mobile phones off/silent
- No aside conversations
- Contribute a fair amount to discussion
- Avoid getting agitated/wanting to interrupt
- All take responsibility for the group agreement

Agenda summary:

- It's been a very busy past 12 months.

- Before launching into another (even more) busy year, we need to reflect on our politics, strategy, process, and actions.
- We recognise that all the above areas for discussion are interlinked.

Four Years in Review

This session offered a chance to reflect on the past five years, looking at all areas of the Camp's work. The room split into five groups, discussing:

- Politics
- Strategy
- Process
- Actions
- 'Wildcard' -anything not covered in the above.

The aim of this session was to give context and focus thinking for the rest of the weekend's discussions of Where Next?

Copenhagen Debrief

About 50% of the room went to Copenhagen.

There was a large group 'go round' to see whether expectations were met:

- Held lot of ambition for it because of all the planning for the 16th. Initially I was quite disappointed, but have got a broader perspective on what can be achieved
- From a personal perspective it was quite disempowering
- Had really large expectations, which was a bit silly. Being faced with massive police repression was depressing. Lack of flexibility in action preparation was frustrating. Making affinities and feeling much closer to people was positive.
- Went to do media with CJA: it was exhausting. Feel like I'd like to come back to England and do some local stuff.
- Didn't go because ran out of time from the summer.
- Lot of outreach work and work on the coaches. Left feeling disempowered. Tactically I felt we didn't respond with much flexibility. Manchester and Leeds developed quite a big affinity, but we had to go to Copenhagen to get it.
- Wasn't planning on going and wondered why Climate Camp was going. Got asked to drive a minibus, and then wished I'd decided to go earlier. It was difficult arriving and not knowing what needed to be done. Felt like there was a lot of groundwork that needed to be covered and hadn't been. A lot of it being done by people from the UK, which seemed a bit mad. Lot of people were disempowered.
- Didn't go. Spent the time locally. Did feel like I missed out on some positive experiences.
- Didn't go. Lack of time. Friends who went got arrested. Apart from the quite impressive mobilisation of people I don't think I got the more positive perspective people are talking about.
- Did go. It was quite like an introduction for me. There were positives and negatives.
- Left feeling quite disappointed about the lack of success of the actions and the policing. Quite positive about the mobilisation of people, warm, housed and fed, so quite positive.
- Didn't go. From the outside it did open my eyes to the whole mobilisation of people. I don't think enough coverage of that was given by the media, too much about political disagreements

- Didn't go because I wasn't entirely sure there was enough point. But I think our message got out in the media more than I expected it to.
- Didn't go. There was an assumption that the talks would fail and I personally couldn't put my energies into imploring talks not to fail that were always going to fail. Climate Camp helped ensure people had even heard of COP15. Was incredibly happy and still am to have focused on having an outlet in this country in Trafalgar Square. Tourists and schoolchildren in particular knew that people in the UK cared about climate change.
- Didn't go because wasn't sure if spending that money and creating that carbon footprint would change anything. They weren't going to talk about what I wanted anyway. They were just going to talk.
- Wasn't there. Didn't have the money to go and wasn't sure about what was going to happen when I got there so was a little bit too anxious. Spent most of the week compiling videos and photos for the Rising Tide photo project. Getting videos of police violence. Overwhelming experience was one of complete and utter despair: all I saw was people getting beaten up and not achieving anything. Maybe the connections people made aren't being communicated back to people very well.
- I went and I felt really disappointed but not surprised by the lack of political achievement. Quite positive by the alternative events.
- Didn't go because I had to work.
- I went with the Trade Climate Caravan that went from Geneva to Copenhagen. It seemed very separate from Climate Camp, seemed very difficult to get any links made once we got to Copenhagen. At the Klimaforum afterwards some people made links, but there's been some very negative talk about the mobilisations in Copenhagen being very Eurocentric and embodying imperialist ideas and that's disappointing.
- I went to Copenhagen cos I thought it was quite important to try to undermine the legitimacy of the UN process because so far climate is not perceived as a political issue. These protests made Climate Change seem a more political issue. I went for the Reclaim Power action, it was not just about protesting but about starting an alternative political process. What happened I'm still trying to work out. Lots of people were really positive but in private lots of people were very frustrated.
- Didn't see the point in going. Went to the Climate Camp in Hamburg after Kingsnorth and they were discussing Copenhagen then and there didn't seem any chance of agreement
- The thing that depressed me most was the amount of people I knew who were flying over there. On the police response I know an awful lot of people who were completely taken by surprise by the strength of the police response. People local there didn't give enough info about expectations.
- I went on the Leeds coach. Outcome was as we had anticipated so wasn't elated or disappointed. I arrived motorway-lagged in the south of the city to find there were a thousand people shitting into three black bin liners and was quickly recruited onto a sanitation committee and was immensely relieved when Climate Camp was relocated to the school which had almost one toilet per person. I didn't go on Saturday so didn't end up at Guantanamo like many others. Did go on Wednesday and spent most of the days before then planning in a number of groups. Was on the blue march and helped a little with the floating bridge across the canal. Disappointing in that we only got a few people across and they were arrested. But powerfully symbolic. Sound system on lorry: seemed to be a deliberate attempt by them to provoke the police into arresting them and the sound system so the People's Assembly took place with only one megaphone.
- Copenhagen for me epitomised the toxic division between hopeless insurrectionist nihilism and hopeful liberal hopefulness. By that what I mean is on the one hand nothing has any point so

let's just destroy, on the other everything is possible and we're being completely deluded by the last 10 years of summit protest and what we can knowingly lead people who aren't as experienced about that to achieve. In the past the strength has been where more militant and more fluffy tactics have worked in unison. The reason that CPH epitomised this division was that the different actions were on the different days. You lot can go do your thing this way and you lot can go and do it your way. That's the logic of late capitalism, which is that everyone can do their thing. There are certain times when we need to have a hard discussion about how we're going to do things and we didn't do that and for that reason I think we failed to achieve what we were trying to do

- Copenhagen was in my line of sight for most of last year. I spent a lot of time out in Colombia working with communities that were dealing with fossil fuels and also biofuels. Thinking about how relevant is COP15 there – the words they were using were about land and food sovereignty and extraction. Certainly not talking about leaving it in the ground, you lot need fuel and we're providing it to you. Coming back to England and mobilising in advance were powerful in saying should we go or not. Quite a successful mobilisation in Bristol. It was about continuing that conversation for me. It was about trying to get people who don't usually have those conversations about these issues to have them. At the same time on the ground and on the streets it felt really disempowering this dichotomy that was present between militant and fluffy. There was no middle ground and I think the space for that wasn't there. Two positives: I didn't end up in a cage. Second, was the no borders day of action. It wasn't just people who label themselves No Borders activist. It included people from Via Campesina and the Indigenous Environmental Network. Also interesting to go the Klimaforum: really surprised that some of the inspiring conversations we had and people from the South talking about their communities being on the move and if they want to stay how do they do it was really inspiring – people in the South have to work for NGOs to be able to travel. Still trying to figure.
- Didn't go because I had to finish my dissertation but my impression from my friends was there was a lack of organisation.
- What went on inside: for me there was no hope that there was going to be a good deal: it was a capitalist trade summit and I'm an anti-capitalist. The failure of the talks was as a result of years of mobilisation from people in the South who got together and refused to accept the bad deal. What was interesting was the way it changed my view: it wasn't just we were on the outside and we were opposed to people on the inside. There was a lot of coming together from militants from Europe and people from all round the world who are involved in struggles that wouldn't identify as being about climate change. The only place that the political discussions were happening were inside the Klimaforum. The System Change not Climate Change idea was quite exiting, but we as autonomous anti-capitalists didn't really engage with that because we thought we were going to have really exciting actions. The actions were not good.
- I went and brought back lots of great ideas it was a great ideas sharer for me. I also thought that the logistics were from another planet. It was something of an introduction for me cos I hadn't been involved before. I saw a lot of people attempting to do things that were impossible. We didn't try to get in on the 16th I just got arrested straight away. The whole pointlessness of it. I just sat in a cage for 12 hours thinking how pointless this is. I didn't come back feeling terribly empowered. I just feel that logistically maybe the ambitions need to be downscaled to something that's actually possible given the number of people there.
- I didn't go as I have bipolar disorder and was down from before Climate Change last year and January this year. Since January I've been looking into it online. I reckon I first heard about the COP process in 2002. In 2009 I was hoping to go with the Zero Carbon Caravan. There was a 100,000 strong march on the Saturday with the backing of the unions and the European left.

There were about 4,000 people on the direct action day on the Wednesday. That's a big contrast with the numbers we can mobilise at the moment. The tar sands actions sparked the formation of the UK tar sands network. That's a really positive international solidarity step out of it. Movement building: Reel News footage. My impression is that in the same way that Seattle sparked anti-capitalist movements the world over. Some people are quite optimistic that the CPH protests are going to spark a real Climate Justice International. People's Assemblies. First practical step on direct democracy in action. We've been hot on direct action but so far not on direct democracy. Hopefully more folk will think we've got to come up with a direct democratic alternative. Practical example to build on with People's Assemblies in the UK.

- As someone who didn't go I think we all anticipated that it wasn't going to lead to a deal. From our movement's point of view it was disappointing that the reasons why it failed weren't 'our reasons'. Actually the commentary that was fed back to the UK public was 'Do you blame China or do you blame US?' This is instead of citing corporations and carbon trading as the problem – this was a failure but not even our failure
- From a tactical point of view: didn't go but saw some of the bike bloc preparations
- I thought it was a great testing ground for the bike bloc. Very fortunate that there wasn't an agreement. Danger that the carbon market gets through anyway.

Ponder-Bubbles

Ponder-Bubble: an open and participatory think-tank.

This session serves the purpose of delving into some of the key themes we'll return to over the course of the weekend. It allows for a more open and discursive discussion, asking 'Why?' 'What?' 'How?'

Split into rotating groups, around the themes of 'Politics and Strategy',

Politics and strategy

Questions:

- What are we for?
- What stands in our way?
- What are our values?

What are we for?

- Table 1:
 - Civil Resistance
 - Social and environmental justice
 - System change
 - Anti-capitalism
 - Living in peace
 - International solidarity
 - decentralisation
 - Community control
 - Decision making, empowering local communities
 - Local radical democracy
- Table 2:
 - Stopping climate change

- Non hierarchy
- Direct Action
- Education
- Demonstrating alternatives
- Alternative energy sources
- Sustainability
- Developing positive social relations
- Table 3:
 - Discussion highlighted tensions within the Camp for Climate Action with regard to where people have come from in their journey to join the Camp's work.
 - Identified two distinct areas where people have arrived from: many have come from ongoing movements for social change, whereas others have come because they care about Climate Change.
 - The tension was unresolved.
 - This tension could damage the movement and provoke a split.
 - Tipping point around Climate Change and movement building, if and when.
 - Some felt these factors were a strength of Climate Camp. Others a weakness.
 - Using this as our basis, discussed the difficulties of moving beyond such as skeletal overview of what we're doing and the big ideas, towards a more nuanced understanding of our demands and how what we do relates to politics more generally.
 - Question: How do we influence government action? Whether we want the state to sort things out given sense of urgency? How we view ourselves as a social movement?
 - The dividing line does not seem to be capitalism, but the relationship with the state.
- Table 4
 - Shifting power away from big corporations and to us, normal people.
 - Democratic control. We're for people having control over the decisions that affect them.
 - We're for a sustainable society.
 - We're for a more co-operatively organised society.
 - We're for having more common ways of organisation that can be used for other people: we're for an open democratic process. Empower people to have those tools to realise what they're for.

What stands in our way:

- Table 1
 - The free market economy.
 - Neoliberal politics.
 - Public opinion.
 - Skepticism -common or garden skepticism.
 - Mainstream media.
 - Greenwash.
 - Peoples' lifestyles.
 - Denialism.
 - A lack of viable alternatives.
- Table 2
 - Hierarchy.
 - Systems of endless growth.
 - Imperialism.
 - Societies where people compete instead of working together.

- Mass consumption.
- Some people being ignorant of the issues.
- Internal power dynamics of class, gender, age and experience and other stuff and the fact that we need to overcome society's conditioning even in our own groups.
- Apathy and inertia.
- Lack of action even when people know the issues.
- The police (literally).
- Table 3
 - A lack of examples of social movements in our vicinity that we can learn from.
 - That we have to make it up as we go along rather than feel like there are broader social movements that we're part of.
 - A lack of role models.
 - Broadly a disagreement about the root causes of the problems.
 - The words that we use might be the same broadly, but the detail of how we understand it might be very different.
- Table 4
- Our difficulty articulating what we are for.
- The media.
- The watering down of politics.
- We struggle to express ourselves.
- We struggle to engage with other groups.
- PR talk of NGOs and companies to reduce it to not a social and economic issue.
- Legal system, fear of repercussions, things become remote and abstract.
- Taking ourselves too seriously and taking science too seriously.

What are our values:

- Table 1
 - Non-violence (question mark around this one).
 - Anti-hierarchy.
 - Inquisitiveness.
 - Liberation.
 - Plurality (instead of diversity).
- Table 2
 - Felt they've already covered this in earlier questions.
- Table 3
 - We do value innovation and imagination.
 - We don't always implement it but do we value it.

Questions about process of session

- Should we try and have one discussion group that doesn't answer questions directly?
- Response: It'll happen anyway.
- The group not answering questions directly is better placed to identify key strategy questions that we're going to need to decide about tomorrow.
- It might be useful to try and pick out the underlying questions in these areas rather than answer the questions directly.
- Response: we're not trying to resolve all these issues in the ponder bubbles, we're trying to do the work of getting the key things down so that in the rest of the weekend we can do the nitty gritty of hammering it out.

How We Organise

Overview of section:

- Bear in mind the discussions about strengths and weaknesses this morning, what are the key issues we need to consider in changing our process?

Feedback from groups:

- Table 1
 - Are we a national organisation with regional subgroups or are we a bunch of regional group with a national network?
 - How do we continue the national process while trying to focus on more regional campaigning and actions?
 - Skillsharing: how can we spread the skills across all the networks?
 - How do we keep people motivated to participate in skillsharing weekends?
- Table 2
 - How do we regionalise while retaining a national network? Also address the question: why are we regionalising?
 - What do we need to regionalise: we need more permanence, need to be face to face in our communities.
 - Maybe we've substituted local for radical. Meaning as a process for organising rather than the way to organise and discuss things.
 - If people want to regionalise it will happen. It feels a bit funny for the national process to be saying 'do it'.
 - Need to think on who takes on the name Climate Camp: are there criteria or not?
 - When do the regional groups have to go back to the national process? Slows things down.
 - Talked about spokes: people can be reluctant to use them. What do you do about someone not being representative of your views.
- Table 3
 - Mostly what we talked about was regionalising and national/central.
 - If we do have local ones that they should meet up in a meeting at least once a year with everyone to be kept up to date with what's been happening.
- Table 4
 - We spoke quite a lot about class.
 - We're perpetuating the class structures within society within the camp. And informal hierarchy has evolved.
 - A kind of middle class clique is controlling the decision making at national gatherings.
 - They're the people who have the time and money to get there. Too many decisions being made at national gathering, which when they're fed back to the regional groups they're not happy with and it feels disempowering.
 - We also talked about if we need a national gathering. More decision making to be made in the regional groups.
 - Having occasional national spokes councils. But we did say we didn't want it to be elected spokes or anything. It can either be whoever wants to go or rotating spokes.
 - We also spoke about the need to break down the divide between the more fluffy and the more militant elements in the Camp, who can work together.
 - They don't have to be in conflict. We've got RACE written in big letters because you can look around the room and see that nearly everyone is white. Needs to be addressed.

- Table 5
 - We tried to structure our debate around the proposals in the agenda.
 - Proposal 2 was that there should be co-ordination between the various national organisations.
 - UK should read England.
 - If that working group were going to involve skill-sharing it would be good. Proposal 4 on regionalisation tied in with 2.
 - Climate Camp has become an organisation that is big enough to be able to split up into regional groups and still survive, while the national one might have been essential when it was still small.
 - Tension in the group that Climate Camp doesn't live up very well to our bottom-up aspirations, we should be doing a bit more of implementing what we believe.
 - Proposal 5: two summer camps: not a decision for national gathering.
 - Proposal 6: let the regions decide.
 - Proposal 36: felt that there was a slight about the Camp in Trafalgar Square that wasn't merited.
 - We said that there are power dynamics about class and gender and race within working groups: while we recognise it's because people are working really really hard and don't have time to rotate roles but we really need to if we're going to address these.

Activities

Feedback from groups:

- Group 1
 - Key decisions to be discussed.
 - Media impact, economic impact, emissions reductions – which should be focused on?
 - Thought economic was most important.
- Group 2
 - Media stunts or direct action?
 - Less pressure on action for actions sake – need clear realistic goals
 - Be honest about aims
 - More autonomous actions
 - More focus localising/regionalising
 - Q: are we going to have another big camp?
- Group 3
 - Q: should we have a plan for election based action? What do they say about our politics – lobbying framework.
 - Q: regional / national debate – possibility of having many simultaneous regional actions with national goal.
 - Create regional networks – skill share etc.
- Group 4
 - Q: Meaning of numbers, do we need more numbers to make mass actions work?
 - Q: Need for training and skill share vs. one person shutting down Kingsnorth
 - Q: What should our measures of success be, are they the same as our goal
 - Economic damage has value
 - Skilled activists – seems elitist
 - Sustainability of doing more actions? Legal, time commitment etc
 - Haven't covered transport, meat, construction

- If goal is co2 cuts, targeting demand not supply is key
- High energy users? smelters etc
- Group 5
 - Q. affiliate with other groups? Eg Rising Tide
 - Q. regional airports protest good example of how to regionalise – coordinated regional actions – have national element by being simultaneous

Saturday

Introduction

Basics

- Housekeeping
- How consensus works

Review of group agreement

- Add in “be prepared to be challenged, but make sure we challenge the idea not the person
- Use of twitter/micro blogging acceptable. No specifics about actions should be micro-blogged. Won't attribute to any person, only what is minuted
- Undercover cops and journalists aren't welcome
- CONSENSUS on group agreement

Things to run through

- Agenda outlined
- Feedback from Friday

What are our politics?

Splitting into three working groups, each dealing with a different area that encompasses the political concerns that have arisen with the Climate Camp:

- Our written and political statement
- Our activities, actions, and communications: what we do, how it appears, and how we want it to appear.
- How we organise and what are our internal dynamics.

Process of session:

- Working Groups will feedback with ways to move the process forward for the rest of weekend.
- The focus will be on the political statement as there will be time to discuss the others over the course of the weekend.
- There will inevitably be lots of interlinking issues, for example communications would need to be discussed in the context of both our activities and actions, and how we organise.
- Q: Does communications really fit within the activities/actions group?
- A: Yes, it is a part of actions.

[Split into the three groups.]

How We Organise Group:

- The group raised many ideas, ranging from the role of national gatherings to the process group.
- A small sub-group is going to flesh out a proposal for changing how we organise over lunch.

Political Statement group:

- Talking about the importance of and how we go about writing a political statement.
- Not completed yet.
- Why is it important to have a Climate Camp statement?
- A: Unites us, trust in each other, opens alliances, excludes those we don't want to work with, tool for working through decisions, let's people know who we are.
- In some way timeless, in some way not set in stone.
- Aims, Values, objectives, context, critique, success, history and who we are.
- Way forward: Text will be put together by different writing groups (each working on a different section) over weekend, and will then go out to neighbourhoods and others, to be brought back to next UK gathering.
- This process is how the CJN made their decisions.
- It can also be posted on the online forum/
- Q: What will they use to write the statements? Is there space to input?
- A: There's loads of source material: feedback from Friday and Saturday's discussions, and also previous political texts. The best way to input is to join the writing groups.

Comments on proposed political statement process:

- As a large group, a lot of people weren't here yesterday and so we need that discussion. It's very important and we shouldn't rush.
- Response: We haven't got enough time. The only better idea would be to push the agenda back. Or the current plan would be that groups are the forum to work on the statement, and it could then be discussed in the
- Suggestion that people are made aware of where the groups are, and then they get involved in discussing it.
- General point: we have to trust some people to take something forward, otherwise such a large process simply won't go anywhere!
- After this meeting people will meet to form drafting subgroups.

Concerns:

- Do we need to have discussion about what our politics are, as we're not sure on this.
- If we're going to resolve these issues, we need to have more discussion.
- One of the issues raised in the how we organise group is how long it takes to organise gatherings, and we spent a lot of time on it last year. Why are we rewriting what we agreed (What Unites Us)
- Response: The groups will be taking that statement into account.
- Response: Elephants in the room: relationship to capitalism and relationship to the state. We need to bring this out through the drafting process, and discussion, and we can set aside time at a later stage. Proposal we carry on the proposed process for writing.
- A lot of people are linked in neighbourhoods, and this discussion should be an activity of neighbourhoods -these are better avenues to have these discussions than national gatherings.

Suggestions:

- A way to move forward with the three groups is to take three political viewpoints.
- Suggestion that we don't fetishise the Political Statement, and that it only acts as a unifying basis for us all.
- Neighbourhoods can add more to it if they want, depending on their viewpoints.

Moving forward:

- What do we want statement to do?
- There was a long list of ten key areas.
- Some things got more emphasis than others. It's complicated. Shouldn't be too much pressure but on writing groups -it can't solve everything.
- Importance of this being thrashed out in neighbourhoods, because this is where the diversity of our movement lies.

PROPOSAL:

- **Three writing groups prepare draft Political Statements, all taking the same brief. They will present their drafts to back to the gathering, before they go online and out to neighbourhoods for discussion and input, to be returned to at the next gathering.**
 - **Two stand Asides: both citing the fact we need to have the discussion properly.**
 - **CONSENSUS!**

Lunch

Strategy Discussion

The process for the session:

- The aim of the session is to take the first steps towards forming a Climate Camp Strategy for 2010 and beyond.
- There is an opening presentation outlining what Climate Camp has achieved so far, in terms of its effect on UK Coal Policy, but how this only came about through hard work and personal sacrifice. The importance of taking this process seriously and being diligent is emphasised.
- The session begins with everyone splitting into random groups of ten or so participants, and asking the question: What are our key goals for the next three years? By goals we mean things we want to have seen happen.
- Each group then feeds back a couple of the key goals they consider to be most important, and these form a list.
- From this list, people have the opportunity to say which goals they consider most important. Although this doesn't really work because there is equal energy for all goals.
- This leads to groups being formed to discuss strategy for the majority of the goals listed. Some groups merge during the discussion period.
- The groups are asked to think what strategic aims are required along the way in order to achieve the three year goal, and then to consider specifically both which aims it is Climate Camp's role to address and which of the aims can be aimed for in the next twelve months.

Feedback from 'Key Goal' groups

- Group 1: No new airports and shutting an airport down.
 - Shutting one down would be quite an important step.
 - There's issues with trying to pick the right airport.
 - Working out what level of action, and what parameters to work with that are 'safe'
 - Aim for companies that are pushing for airport expansion, like RyanAir and FlyBee.
 - Target airports with short haul flights, better 'moral mandate'
- Group 2: Solidarity. Nationally and internationally
 - Climate Change is an interconnected issue.
 - Not just interested in Climate Change, but have investment and passion in other issues as well.
 - Conceptualise as an internal and external process.
 - How much is done in regional neighbourhoods: make a booklet about how climate change is related to other issues.
 - Q: Did you explore role Climate Camp with have alongside
 - A: We explored both internally how we'd educate ourselves, and externally how we work with other groups.
- Group 2: Discredit Car Culture
 - Reduction in motor vehicle mileage
 - Reasons: Safer streets, better public transport network...
 - Direct action: Positive Direct Actions.
 - More disruptive: attacking car manufacturers and road builders.
 - To achieve reduction we need to promote alternatives, eg cycling.
 - Only a few steps were directly relevant to Climate Camp.
- Group 3: 10,000 on a direct action.
 - Established national network.
 - More neighbourhoods to increase
 - Unstoppable tactics, such as decentralised actions.
 - Appropriate target.
 - Publicity, education and training.
 - Previous positive experiences.
- Group 4: BP pulling out of Tar Sands
 - Major areas:
 - Daily operations unworkable for them
 - Investor pressure
 - Social license to operate
 - Raising awareness of Tar Sands
 - Thinking about action ideas, that can contribute to these areas.
 - Will bring proposal to gathering tomorrow and supporting the BP Fortnight of Shame.
- Group 5: How regions can become networks for pulling in more people.
 - Regions want to have skills, so demand being asked for.
 - Existing sets of skills need to be communicated, through different means: handbooks, workshops, etc.
 - Within regions, if Climate Camp was to have more links with other groups this could lead to better communication.
 - Outreach being open and accessible.
- Group 6: Permanent offgrid space available for use.
- Economic factors to enable them to be going concern.
- Don't need to take ourselves, but contribute to existing spaces and have Climate Camp days of

action where we contribute to these spaces.

- Rural or urban settings currently being discussed.
- In three years, the first year could just be learning.
- London already has a spaces group looking to set up a space.

Way forward:

- Someone from each group will email yellanna23@yahoo.com (Anna) who will collate this into a strategy document.

Announcements

Legal Announcement

- We won judicial review.
- There's information on the website as to how to claim.

Who are we?

Introduction to session:

- It's become apparent there are people who really want to talk about certain issues.
- There are people who really want to talk about these issues.
- Need to hear peoples' vents, about what people are pissed off about.
- We also need to identify our common ground.
- Discussion to revolve around: Are there any ways that people feel betrayed by statements or activities of the Climate Camp?
- Before we get to this question, we're going to have spectrum lines.

Spectrum Lines

- Climate Camp should openly communicate it is anti-capitalist
 - People spread right across the room, but with biggest number towards the 'yes' end.
- Climate Camp should explicitly use the words anti-capitalist.
 - People move further down towards 'no' end, with largest contingent in middle.
- Climate Camp should actively oppose any solution to climate change from the state.
 - People once again move further towards the 'no' end, with the largest contingent past the middle towards 'no'

Open chance to comment:

- At Blackheath, someone went to workshop given by an advisor to the Labour Party Government, boosting reformist
- London Climate Camp Twitter urged people to vote Green.
- Media team tried to sanitise the actions.
- As part of international network of Climate Camp's, HSBC sponsoring Vietnam Climate Camp.
- Response: It's only the name!
- Tour around the riot police training ground before Blackheath Climate Camp.
- In relation to media, there was statement on website urging injured police officer a speedy recovery. Lot's of people didn't agree with this, and there is no way to hold these people to account.

- Platform given to media friendly speakers for workshops at Climate Camps, as opposed to grassroots solutions. They have been given an unfair platform
- Not betrayal, but in terms of our concept of movement we could be a lot stronger
- Every time the assumption is that Climate Camp owns the entire Climate Movement.
- Point of caution: on tour around riot training ground and website having pro-police statements, an alternative would be betrayal if it had gone the other way (ie, there was any
- Response: the issue was with mentioning it.
- We're putting politics first and Climate second, and it's our last chance. We need to do what needs doing, not what we want to do.
- Betrayed when divide emerges between good and bad protesters.
- Betrayed when the Camp is treated like a festival and neighbourhoods slack off from important work such as
- Similar to good protester/bad protester -using terms such as violence and non-violence. Need to educate ourselves in terms of why it is bad to frame things in these terms.
- I felt disappointment that we didn't do enough at the Vestas occupation.
- Unhappy about how there's a small group up for doing the radical things (running into a police wall)
- The way we've dealt with peoples' feelings of being let down, by not being active in addressing these issues.
- Failing to address problems when we can see they are there. Such as post-action support and well-being.
- Great Climate Swoop: people needed more education about potential consequences.
- People felt Blackheath was a let down
- People advocating state based solutions.
- Betrayed when resisting oppression by the police at events has led to being criticised and this has led to physical and mental.
- The way the process works: secretive as to how decisions were made.
- Slipped into easy labels at Blackheath camp by the way we dealt with police issues.
- Before national climate camp, decision on cops on site was deferred to camp and this left working groups in difficult positions.
- At Blackheath, member of media team felt upset that they were trying to push radical message while being given lobbying actions by activists.
- Feel betrayed when small group of people take on lots of work and others don't, and those who haven't criticise those who have.
- When people read stuff in mainstream press
- Feel betrayed that our politics have moved slightly to the centre.

Analysis of discussion so far:

- Communication and Process appear to be the main areas of concern.
- London Anarchist Movement: they agree with Climate Change issue, but don't like their approach to the police.
- We all overlook the fact we're just human beings, and we lose
- Don't like all the drinking that goes on -consumerism, health, and social problems caused!
- Feel betrayed that you can't say anything about the police, because of criticism, but they are human beings too.
- Feel like we sometimes try and lobby, and our Direct Action becomes watered down.
- We need a more ecological politics.

- Everyone collaborates, and the site work is only done by a few.
- Annoyed at how we let the differences between each other get in way.
- We fetishise the illegal things, and we assume that if something is legal its not right.
- It's evolved into a more clique exclusive organisation.
- Scared about doing things on Climate Camp's behalf.
- Over focus on movement building.
- Whenever we say we need to discuss our politics, there is a groan, and it should be
- Kids block needs to decide whether it is a tactic or not. Ratcliffe loads buggered off to do action unplanned and not pre-announced.
- We haven't been able to build or explain the future we want. We don't talk about it. At the moment it's not happening.
- Political discussions excludes people more.

Ways forward:

- We need better skill sharing -at the moment it is not in enough regions.
- Mistake to ban any state solution, because the camp is a space for debate. Instead, no pro-state person should be able to have platform without a counter argument from a radical anarchist perspective.
- This session is great solution in itself. When people have problems, people need to engage and not disengage from these processes. Remember it is an open process.
- Capacity: Being proactive when it comes to the police.
- Big issues not discussed: ie on violence and the police never comes up in plenary discussions. So media team take responsibility by default.
- We need more check ins (like this session) to realise we have more in common than we think.
- People come in with concern about climate and leave with radical view on the climate. This is partly due to strong internal culture: face to face culture,
- Session where people can say what is pissing them off is vital, but so too is it important to say when people have done well or what is going well. Either on national or regional level.
- Small groups of people trying to take on a massive amount of work. Everyone should always have a buddy when they take on work, in order to share work. Every working group should publish guide for the job for the next person.
- Addition: Could go on website.
- Alternatives to capitalism.
- Big thank you Legal team, and they shouldn't be scared of us!
- If view of our politics, we should maybe change our name.
- Massive respect to all the work done so far.
- We should have a five minute slot to say all the positive stuff!
- Problems with communication, this is partly down to language -we need to teach ourselves and others: Class, capitalism, state anarchism, environmental, ecological.
- Communication: media team needs to be emailed or contacted if there are concerns.
- When you work with a boss you get told you've done well, but this doesn't happen in non-hierarchy. We should start!
- Work in more sustained way with communities in struggle here and internationally.

Summary:

- Really healthy
- Feed into writing that's been done.

- Agenda didn't go smoothly today, but this chat has helped. People have said that it should be done again. If not the best way this time, a good start.

Sunday

Regional and national

Spectrums

Begins with a spectrum line with the division: One side of the room regularly attends regional meetings, the other side never does.

- The result: very evenly spread all across the room.

Comments from the spectrum line:

- Cambridge: have a group but not a Climate Camp group.
- How many people at the 'never attend' side actually have a functioning neighbourhood they just don't attend. Why don't they attend.
- Nottingham based group -found neighbourhood has no practical application outside the camp as it has too wider catchment area. Need to drop this word.

New spectrum: Do you feel you have a neighbourhood or regional meeting you could easily get to?

- Most people at the 'yes' side of the room, a few in the middle, and a few still at 'no' end.

Comments from the spectrum line:

- London meeting: dropped out to take a break but still attending gatherings.
- Very difficult for Devon and Cornwall to come together given their geography.

Proposal from sub-group

Context:

- This came out of the regional and national process discussion group, where points were raised and a smaller group went away to flesh out the ideas and prepare proposal.
- Consensuses were reached in the discussion group on
 - Regions needing space to grow
 - Lots of us can help through skillshare to make this happen.
 - Ruled out that there would be an exclusively spokes national system, but need to find a way to enable maximum democracy.

The proposal:

- NB: This is intended for a trial period of six months
1. Neighbourhoods are invited to have representatives in the process group, to make the group more accountable.
 2. Create a neighbourhood resource working group to facilitate skill and information sharing with existing and emerging neighbourhoods.
 3. The next gathering is in April and for the next six months we will hold national gatherings every two months to create the space for regional gatherings and other initiatives.

4. To support wider dialogue, proposals for the national gathering and brought by regional neighbourhoods or working groups. Exceptions can be made from time to time.

Clarifying questions:

- Would it be a strict alternation between regional and national gatherings?
- Answer: Understood it to be fairly flexible, so an action could mean a national gathering could specially come together, just like the swoop.
- Extremely pertinent proposals were put forward, and they seem to be missing. Such as a proposal from Westside that working groups shouldn't have too much power, and that they should turn into training groups.
- Answer: Feel this is covered in the proposal, and discussion is coming later in the process.
- How will time sensitive decisions be made, such as financial?
- Answer: Process group could be more empowered as it would be more representative. But also the back and forth between regions and national would enable this.
- Only regions would be able to put in proposals, this wasn't discussed in the discussion group.
- Answer: They are just proposals at the present time, not decisions. This is the decision making forum now. We need concrete proposals in order to make decisions.
- Is the regional meeting every two months envisioned as vast geographical areas or local groups?
- Not up to us to decide, but up to the regional groups to define as they wish. The proposal is given in the spirit that there is time to experiment.
- We don't have full regions existing yet.
- Answer: That's not a clarifying question.

Way forward:

- CONSENSUS that we take it forward part by part.

PROPOSAL 1:

- Neighbourhoods are invited to have representatives in the process group, to make the group more accountable.

Discussion:

- Don't think that's anything different hypothetically, as anyone can join the process group if they want. It should be stronger.
- If we are arguing that every group is represented that it needs to be made clear what a 'local' group is -regions, neighbourhoods, etc.
- It doesn't help us move forward towards regionalisation, but just does something to change things being overcentralised.
- Clarification: this is only a temporary stage to manage what we are doing for the time being.
- Should we be saying that neighbourhoods have to part of the process group? Can we be mandated to demand this?
- Does it deal with regionalisation?
- Response: There are other proposals to deal with that, but this proposal is still a positive thing.
- Suggestion that we say 'strongly encourage' rather than 'invite' but we shouldn't go further than this.
- Process group isn't the only working group with a large concentration of power. Media groups also have a lot of power, and others. Maybe it shouldn't just be power.
- Suggestion that we have alternative wording: all should be thinking about this.

- Although anyone who wants to join the Process Group can at the moment, they are currently only representing themselves.
- Flip the proposal round: it should be made up for rotating spokes in the Process Group. Rather than Process Group is made up of some individuals and
- It has to include the work (handovers etc) to make it happen.
- Reiteration: Rotation important.
- Quick rotation is not a good thing.
- Is a year a good time to get good at a job, before rotating?

Proposed amendment to proposal:

- Change 'invited' to 'strongly encouraged'.
- **CONSENSUS!**

Clarifying questions:

- Is there a limit to the amount of time someone can spend in the group?
- Answer: NOT in this proposal.
- Is it meant to be equally weighted across the regions.

PROPOSAL 1:

- **Neighbourhoods are strongly encouraged to have representatives in the process group, to make the group more accountable.**
 - **2 Stand Asides: both don't think the Process Group is a 'hotbed' of power and found even addressing the issue ridiculous.**
 - **CONSENSUS!**

PROPOSAL 2:

- Create a neighbourhood resource working group to facilitate skill and information sharing with existing and emerging neighbourhoods.

Discussion:

- How do we address skillsharing from those groups
- Potential risk to become a service delivery system, rather than a national process. Skillsharing can be very simple (local groups ask: it happens!)
- We need to keep good records who has what skills.
- Service provision not a bad idea, as we need a standardised model for actions, etc.

PROPOSAL 2:

- **Create a neighbourhood resource working group to facilitate skill and information sharing with existing and emerging neighbourhoods.**
 - **Stand Aside: Action support, legal support all exist.**
 - **Stand Aside: Other projects have tried to achieve this and failed.**
 - **CONSENSUS!**

PROPOSAL 3:

- The next national gathering is in April and for the next six months we will hold national gatherings every two months to create the space for regional gatherings and other initiatives.

Clarifying questions:

- Regional groups would meet whenever they wanted to anyway, and strong feeling it shouldn't be rigid.
- NOT a clarifying question.

Discussion:

- Don't feel ready to take this one yet. Maybe later in the day, once we know where our action is going to be taking place. We should have action discussion.
- Reponse: two months isn't that explicit. This can be amended.
- Proposed amendment: April too late to decide on actions, let's have national gathering first, Spokes Council meetings should be added in as well.
- Concern about
- Being put forward as trial period. Regionalisation is occurring. We can use this period to work out what the national gathering for, who its for, etc. It is a period of experimentation, and we also have
- National gatherings should be all across the UK.
- Six months could be too high a number perhaps.
- Agree with points about need to get ourselves organised, but this is a good model to test.
- Getting consensus about regions
- Could be have a composite gathering with regional gathering + minibus + national gathering in one weekend.
- Sometimes our organisation needs to be flexible, and this proposal allows for this. Ie, if people decide to do something around the election that

Temperature Check:

- April or Later: Mixed!

Further discussion

- What about early April?
- Bad time: lots of Tar Sands/Fossil Fools going on.
- What about late April?
- Let's decide later on in the day.
- Should it be parked?
- Lots of support, so it will be parked till later along with Proposal 4.

Time Sensitive Actions -Part 1

This is taking place because there are time pressures for some actions.

PROPOSAL:

- Climate Camp supports the BP Fortnight of Shame and Fossil Fools day from April 1st to April 15: Putting name to it, newsletter, place on website, using our networks to mobilise.

Clarifying question:

- Do what extent is there space to go beyond Tar Sands still in BP?
- Answer: Local groups can decide messaging themselves.

- Is there a reason for singling out BP?
- Answer: Shareholder resolution presenting on the 15th that could prevent the action for happening.
- Are you asking for money?
- Answer: no.

Concerns:

- Wouldn't want a 'well done BP' to come out of it should they pull out.
- This would never happen from those involved in the Fortnight of Shame, such as Rising Tide and UK Tar Sands Network.

Further Context:

- Tony Haywood, new BP Chief Executive, is really going for Tar Sands. Abandoning all the Beyond Petroleum PR strategy.
- This is a continuation of work Tar Sands
- Who is currently supporting it?
- Answer: Tar Sands Network + Rising Tide

PROPOSAL:

- **Climate Camp supports the BP Fortnight of Shame and Fossil Fools day from April 1st to April 15: Putting name to it, newsletter, place on website, using our networks to mobilise.**
 - **No blocks**
 - **No Stand Aside**
 - **CONSENSUS!**

PROPOSAL:

- Climate Camp participates in Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights in Cochabamba, Bolivia 19-22 April. In order to do this we send 2 Climate Campers, pending agreement on criteria for choosing, and 2 from activists from the Global South.

Presentation:

- Discussion in Climate Camp international working group about whether we should have some people involved in Climate Camp going to this meeting of social movements.
- Proposal is to send 2 people to the Conference in Cochabamba in April.
- Not only about globally rich going, but we also pay for two participants to go from African countries.
- Was thought there should be criteria: time to get there in good time and stay for a while, sustained recognised involvement in Climate Camp, commit to write up experiences and give talks to national and local meetings, preference that one person has never been to something like this before, positive if one person can speak Spanish.

Clarifying Questions:

- What is expected to be achieved by people going, and why can't it be done electronically?
- Response: They (the conference participants) want us to go!
- It's the next stage of the Global movement that came out of Copenhagen.
- While acknowledging that electronics are great, there's nothing to beat one to one face to face

communications.

- Is it not selling out?

Discussion:

- If we agree to do this, we should sort out the process for choosing as well as the criteria.
- There are all kinds of compromises to be made in going to the conference
- Doubt the use of the whole idea: think we can deal with our own problems
- What is it all about? What outcomes?
- Response: We don't know. It's the first time something like this has happened, and so we have to wait and see.
- By sending delegates we recognise the struggle Latin America has been fighting. Bolivia is a country that has suffered years of imperialism.
- Concern: Representation and regionisation. How does it fit in with our regionalisation process?
- Carbon cost: having criticised NGOs and world governments for taking flights.
- If we do send someone, we should do the Peoples' Assemblies first and send delegates with a mandate from that.
- To add real value to this, we need to build in what we'd get from it. We could build excitement on the issues. People going should be using new media and communicating back home.

Temperature check on sending people from Climate Camp:

- Lots of support.

Temperature check on on small group taking it forward and bringing it back to the Bike Rack:

- Lots of support.

Is there anyone who would block this decision?

- Some have strong concerns, a few stand asides, but no blocks (although this first requires what a block actually is to be explained)

Ways forward?

- Can the concerns be addressed in the working group working on it, and bringing it back?
- The proposal should be decided now, but with budget. The process can be worked on later.
- Estimated budget: £4-5000
- Finance Group input: perhaps cap it at £4000
- We need to comment more on eligibility: those chosen need to be able to take it forward properly, and not just give a couple of talks.
- It's not worth doing unless there is a wider process (regional and national) before and after.
- Concern: that is needs to be built in as strategy, not just a stand alone action.

PROPOSAL:

- **In principle we send four people from Climate Camp UK to Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights, with a budget capped at £4000. A working group will go and flesh out the details and address concerns, to be returned to later.**
 - **No blocks**
 - **Stand Asides: We haven't thought about how strategically this will work/ Just googled it and can't find it/ We had a chance to make lots of networks at the Klima Forum, and we failed to make links there.**

- **CONSENSUS!**

Small group to take it forward.

Time Sensitive Actions -Part 2

Presentation of relevant Proposals (see proposal document)

Announcement:

- A group in Manchester is going to explain why we reject democracy by running in the elections. If you want to get involved check out the blogspot?

[Split into three discussion groups to explore ideas, and respond to proposals.]

Feedback from discussion groups:

- Group 1:
 - Ruling out Bonfire of the Ballots: Don't think it's developed as a proposal.
 - Middling feeling about Parliament Square
 - May Day Bank Occupations and coordinated regional actions.
 - Decentralised haven't worked in the past
- Group 2:
 - BANKquits -free food in a bank. Unsure where that would be -regional or national
 - Idea of a march with action afterwards -middling support
 - M1: Only 2 keen, concerns about pissing people off.
 - Need to ensure that the bank actions lead to positive follow up -alternatives, credit unions, etc.
 - Bank occupation idea: people are keen on.
 - People are also keen on May Day idea.
 - Felt we needed more information about what was happening on May Day.
- Group 3:
 - Went through every idea and temp checked. Similar ideas.
 - Consensus on creating working group on the Peoples' Assembly.
 - What is the Aim of doing something around the election? Movement building people disillusioned with the election.
 - Some form of centralised action around the May 1st -leaning towards London, over M1.

Synthesis:

- A few key themes emerge... banks, May Day.
- We've already agreed the International Group will meet over lunch, can they also discuss Peoples Assemblies?
- There's been no consensus over taking anything forward yet.
- There isn't yet enough clarity over organising a big thing for May Day, but we can say the regions will go away and do whatever they want to do. Let's leave May Day itself for now, and people can bring back ideas for April about how Climate Camp might contribute. But not as a big national project.
- Do we want big national action or decentralised regional actions that we leave up to neighbourhoods?

PROPOSAL:

- Monday before May Day there are regional actions targeting banks.
 - Stand Aside: Could take energy away
 - Stand Aside: Hippies giving away free food and getting nicked.
 - Stand Aside: Symbolic occupations of banks doesn't get press or achieve anything else.
 - (No consensus)

Ways forward:

- Suggestion: The two could link together very nicely.
- Lot's of local stuff is happening on May Day.
- Process point: We're trying to rush. De Ja Vue from the 1990s, we could make the same mistakes now.
- National day of action specifically on May Day...
 - Majority of people have high energy.
 - Only of couple of people not keen at all.

LUNCH

Time Sensitive Actions -Part 3

Two proposals:

1. There's already a lot of proposals around elections and bank holidays, so we don't need to take this process further as a national process, but leave it to come from regions and others.
2. Empower a group to go away and come up with a process (or even better, an action plan) to bring back in the Bike rack.

Temperature check on these:

- Mixed response on both.

Comments:

- There was strong feeling that we should do something nationally, and this will only into this.
- Peoples Assemblies is the main idea that has come out of Copenhagen. We should go with it.
- All for regional stuff, but we've got to stop pushing things back and forth and never doing anything.
- The option of sending it to the region
- If we think we can do something, we should give it a go! But the fallback option of not doing anything in the regions, then that's ok.
- We've got a discussion forum online, that's what its there for: use it!

Shall we try for consensus?

PROPOSAL:

- **We empower regions and local groups to take action around May and Elections.**
 - **CONSENSUS!**

Questions:

- Do we want to do something around May, and secondly do we have time and energy to put something on?
- There was a strong feeling that we should aim to do something on May 1st. We should capture the feelings we generated in the previous discussion.
- Is anyone keen to go away and form a working group to come up with a proposal to bring back what we do in May?
- Response: Yes!
- Do we want to do something as a group?
- Do we feel that as a national gathering we should organise around May period?
- Response: It depends (what it is)
- Response: A group needs to go away and come up with a clear proposal. Is there enough people to form this break out group?

Working Groups

Defence and Comms:

- There isn't officially a Comms group
- For a broader feedback, speak to Comms group.
- Most people attending camp expect services, few are able to provide practical support and even fewer join in the group's work.
- Comms needs to feel supported: they don't feel this at the moment.
- Those doing the jobs will stop doing them unless things change.
- There should be time to discuss this properly at the next gathering.

Medics:

- Not precisely a working group.
- Needs more people to get involved.

Legal:

- -
- 3 judicial reviews: if you arrived before Wednesday or earlier at Kingnorths, fill in the form on the website. G20: Still going ahead, significant legal case. Raid: 60 people should get over £1000 each.
- Cases progressing: 26 in Nottingham in court for the case for the autumn -interesting case about Justification + Denial offences. Blackheath: summons have arrived for RBS action, so those heading to court. Swoop down to 14 people: magistrates court on 12th March.
- There's work going on to network different groups to monitor the police: groups including FitWatch.
- Group of people working on Climate Racism -the police is a uniting issue. This is linking many groups together. They are proposing an action that brings together all these themes

Finance:

- Treasurer took over in November.
- Presentation of Financial report (appended to this document)
- Finance spoke system that was set up around April works really well. Different working groups should look after their own finances as much as possible.

- Need fundraisers, as previous very successful fundraiser dropped out.

Media:

- Had space in COP and UK during COP.
- Focus on media
- Neighbourhood guide to media available, working on a bumper version.
- Q: Are they going to amend messages and use of words such as anti-capitalism in light of discussions.
- A: Messages are agreed at national gatherings in advance of

Website:

- There's a website.
- Not more people are involved in the website group at present.
- If you're interested in getting involved, then get involved. Email website@climatecamp.org.uk

Political Statements

Two versions:

- Started in three groups, who started writing statements.
- The groups developed from three into two, as the key sticking point was the debate between what comes first: climate change or capitalism

[At the present time, both drafts are being amended following the feedback given during this section. The full text will be circulated and posted online very shortly.]

Discussion:

- Why was there two?
- The writing teams couldn't agree at first, so splitting into two groups was the most productive.
- The starting emphasis was the main difference splitting the groups: is it Climate Change mentioned first, or Climate Change.
- There seemed to be a lot of support for taking it back to the regions, can it be sent out and put online with an explanation about why there is two.
- There was feeling in the groups that it wasn't quite finished in the working groups, and that it should be worked on for a few more days before going out. Is this ok?
- Response: Yes, you've already been empowered.
- What is this for? To place 'What Unites Us?' (our current statement of beliefs/intent)
- Response: Yes.
- Part of the feedback should be what we are using this for.
- Why don't both go to another separate group, who can work on synthesising the two?
- Important to note: One of the statements only had phraseology that has come from the climate camp website.
- Important to note that this is about how climate camp sees itself, with two different options.
- Let's agree it goes on the website with the two separate ones?
- Response: we've already agreed this process (it goes on the discussion forum)
- Does anyone who wasn't in the groups think there is anything fundamental they didn't agree with? Can we hear these thoughts?

- Response: not enough time, process has already been agreed.

Bike Rack

Announcements

- Pat O'Donnell is now in prison for seven months. Letter writing campaign has been launched. Ongoing letters of support. There's an event of support of 17th of March. Everyone get involved in letter writing campaign.
- Ghana is having Climate Camp. It's being hosted by a village, over the course of two or three months. They'd like our support with literature, etc. abiedgar@hotmail.com
- India mining operation: will destroy communities. Good opportunity for solidarity (email into minutes -Tim!)
- Tomorrow is the last day for objections to new nuclear power stations (any one of eight). If anyone is interested in looking at nuclear
- Mainhill Camp: 45 people evicted. The end of the beginning. Now it's the new phrase: a whole series of direct actions. If you're up for getting involved get in touch.
- Premier of film Dirty Oil: 15th March, at Picture House venues across the country. Film on Tar Sands.
- Ian Tomlinson campaign: the family campaign have asked that if people are doing any actions around April 1st they message about what happened, as it was a difficult day.
- Festivals: Last year, loads of festival successes. Let's do the same this year!
- Anyone part of the writing group, meet afterwards.
- In solidarity with CJA we're developing the Peoples Assemblies process. A small group has formed, email jody.boehnert@gmail.com to get involved
- A group of Climate Campers in London found a building, where they are going to do a utopian art squat. Looking for resources at present, to use the place in a sustainable manner.
- Climate Camp being organised by WWF and HSBC in Vietnam.

Our Process and Actions

What problem were we running into?

- Politics, process, strategy, actions all trying to be discussed separately.
- More time and space needed, to discuss strategy and actions.

PROPOSAL:

- We propose to have a national gathering that focuses on strategy and actions in March.

Questions:

- What do we want to achieve through nationally coordinated actions?
- Do we want a nationally coordinated action around the time of the election?
- Dates? Didn't decide.

Temperature Check:

- Lots of people felt there should be a national gathering in March.

Discussion:

- We've just spent too days writing political statements, what will happen to these at this gathering.

Comments:

- Time constraints for people already committed to regional gatherings in March.
- Backtracking on what we've agreed already.
- Need to also consider the Cochabamba decision.
- This should be our few months to sort our politics and strategy, and so national gatherings should focus on this for now. Nervous of it going ahead.
- We need to consider 1st April Fortnight of Action

PROPOSAL:

- We will have a national gathering in March, agenda and focus to be decided.

Concern:

- It should alternate between national and regional. Concern about the level of discussion given to regional groups.
- Proposal was to talk about action strategy as this is needed to make actions happen by May, this is the only point of having it so soon -if not, we should leave till April. We need to agree focus as being action strategy now, or not bother at all.

PROPOSAL:

- We have a national gathering, which focuses on strategy and actions in March.
 - Third of the room stand asides.
 - Are people standing aside because they think the gathering should be focusing on the politics?
 - Response: No.
 - There are too many stand asides to test for consensus.

Concerns:

- The reason for having a national gathering in March would be to make May happen. There was a lot of support for regionalisation in May. Therefore, lets take it as no support.
- If there is no energy for national stuff, let's embrace the fact that regional stuff is happening.
- Support to move on, and leave this issue. No consensus needed, as default is regional stuff.
- Remains unclear what the reasons were for opposing
- Feel unsure, so can't give it full consent.
- Can we wait until we alternate between regional/national until autumn/winter period?
- The difference is not huge, the question is when we start this process, not the process itself. We are not far away, its just when we start the six month cycle.
- There needs to be another national gathering before we start this process.
- The Climate Camp needs to evolve, and there's always an important day action (and thus national planning), and we need respect our intentions to decentralise.
- Facilitator: There's a split in the room.
- There's no option but to continue the process. Next national gathering in April?

PROPOSAL

- **The next national gathering will be in April, and for the next six months we will hold**

national gatherings about every two months to create the space for regional gatherings and other initiatives. This should be as early as possible in April.

- **Stand asides: many reasons already given**
- **CONSENSUS!**

PROPOSAL:

- To support wider dialogue, proposals for the national gathering and brought by regional neighbourhoods or working groups. Exceptions can be made from time to time.
 - Deferred until future gathering

Cochabamba Group

Feedback from Cochabamba breakout group

- We need to take seriously the commitment made by the people who would go to feed back properly. It is only worth doing if there is this kind of commitment.
- Before: regional gatherings making agenda time to discuss this – what to say, what to find out about other movements around the world; the next national gathering should dedicate serious agenda time to discussing this to inform what those two people take with them to Bolivia; need to find people who meet the criteria. If we only find people who don't fit, shouldn't go.
- During: we should participate ourselves from here in whatever ways we can.
- Afterwards: proposals that come out of the international process should carry significant weight. There is no point in engaging with this process unless we take on board what comes out of it, eg. Supporting a day of action.

Clarifications:

- These things need to be agreed now, otherwise people aren't going.
- Surely we need to find the people first?
- We need more information.
- It's not necessary to spend lots of agenda time next gathering.
- Proposal: if we don't find two climate camp people, we should still pay for two people from Africa.
- Info: the process for choosing the people would happen before the next gathering.

PROPOSAL:

- **The Camp for Climate Action UK participates in Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from 19-22 April. In order to do this we will request time at March regional gatherings to discuss the conference, Dedicate time at the April UK gathering to discussing the conference and what we want to get out of it, fund two UK Climate Campers and two global south activists to attend, if we find people who meet agreed criteria (budget capped at £4,000), participate from the UK via videoconference and social media, as far as is possible, and give weight within our process to proposals that emerge from the conference. Proposal: if we don't find two climate camp people, we should still pay for two people from Africa.**
- **Stand asides: don't want to commit agenda time at next gathering (2); they aren't representatives, don't speak on behalf of climate camp; not quite convinced, too tired to support something not fully convinced of.**
- **CONSENSUS!**

Criteria amendments:

- Spanish essential, not optional
- Proven networking skills

Way forward:

- Having a meeting to decide this isn't practical; an interview panel is too controversial.
- So process is: breakout groups hammers out call-out to include in newsletter; March 1st is deadline for nominating yourself, put applications on the forum and people can comment, a conference call amongst the international group to decide, on 7th March.
- If people don't like the process for choosing, they need to join the international working group to help make the decision.
- Suggested extra criteria: Need to declare other political allegiances.
- Question about the nomination process: would it be acceptable to nominate someone else, with their consent? Yes!
- Process for choosing the people from the global south: makes more sense to use the conference's existing way to support people from the global south, not do our own call-out. So we should give the same amount of money as we are spending on our two people to the conference and let them choose. That's the best we can do.
- Some people had strong concerns about this. Don't want to give money to something that's in part organised by the Bolivian government.
- Solution? We do the call-out via networks we already have, and use it as an opportunity to build connections.
- J making sure UK process happens.
- S making sure international process happens.
- Anyone with concerns or suggestions, get involved with international working group.
- Everyone happy? Yes.

Climate Camp Finance Report Jan- Dec 2009

Overview

	Total
Start Balance	24364.80
Money In	135979.44
Money Out	133785.90
Balance at End	26558.34

Break Down

	Expense	Income	Totals
Working Group Summaries			
Process	86.31		-86.31
Legal	5131.74	10690	5558.26
Action Support	1645		-1645
International	31745.78	29906.33	-1839.45
Festivals		3024	3024
Networking (Publicity)	3263.8		-3263.8
Media	728.6		-728.6
Events/ Actions			0
G20	2308	1622	-686.21
Blackheath (Inc. Kitchens, Workshops + Medics)	20628.95	36596	15966.68
Swoop	5222.42		0
Space	11832.77	13000	1167.23
Donations From CfCA			0
Scotland	1000.00		-1000
last chance	2000		-2000
northern van	1000		-1000
Bike Bloc	2000		-2000
Undercurrents (Camera Support)	600		-600
ATC	300		-300
Skint Fund	2000		-2000
CJA	5000		-5000
Tachanka	500		-500
Bindmans- G20 challenge	12150	4730	-7420
Donations To CfCA			0
Private Donations		11354.1	11354.1
Group/ Fund Donations		10100	10100
			0
	109143.38	121021.86	11878.48

