

Minutes

Climate Camp National Gathering

Manchester, 27th-28th September

CONTENTS

SATURDAY.....	1
Welcome.....	1
Working group feedback.....	2
Neighbourhood feedback.....	5
Legal, finance, Copenhagen feedback.....	8
Action round up.....	10
Our process.....	10
Kingsnorth Part 1.....	12
Process Group.....	16
Politics - part 1.....	16
Open space – introduction	17
Announcements.....	18
Finance Meeting.....	19
SUNDAY.....	20
Introduction.....	20
Kingsnorth – part 2.....	20
Priorities.....	22
Announcements.....	24
Gender spectrum.....	24
Gender spectrum feedback.....	24
Other projects –breaking into groups.....	25
Politics – part 2.....	27
Fifth aim Proposal.....	28
Kingsnorth – moving forward.....	28
Next gathering.....	29
Final Announcements.....	29

SATURDAY

Welcome

- Group Agreement:
 - Turn off phones
 - Stick to using hand signals
 - Show respect for others
 - No lobbying
 - Safer spaces, free expression and no repression
- Anti oppression policy still applies here

- Try to keep to time, try to stick to agenda

Working group feedback

- Site group
 - Making the site work...
 - Not enough attention paid to 'hand over document'
 - Police stole lots of infrastructure
 - Not enough people helping out, particularly on site
- Networking
 - Get people to come to camp through various media
 - Lack of group mentality
 - No clear strategy
 - Need sub groups
 - Lots of enthusiasm
 - Good speakers course
 - No clear budget
 - Remit became complicated – too much influence over policy
 - Channels of outreach primarily through NGO's, problem?
- Kitchen
 - Organising food ordering, coordination of food on site, advise on hygiene
 - Work load spread
 - Support group good
 - Policing, not letting food on site
 - Finances – need credit
 - No knowing numbers on site
 - Difficulties with transport
 - Snacks, people depending on bread, peanut butter
 - Lots of gas for drinks
 - Central kitchen being able to tat down good
 - Cooking load could be spread a little better
- Process
 - Overview of process, filling gaps, admin of camp
 - 4/5 people, more then less
 - Went well
 - Think they were responsive to peoples needs
 - Instigated new e-letter, very good
 - Spent a lot of time checking on working groups
 - Site had gaps
 - Networking was a shambles
 - Didn't maintain a formal set of meetings, meet at least every 2 weeks in future
 - Need to be clearer with people
- Workshops
 - Putting on workshops, organising plenary debates
 - Process spiralled, lots of workshops, strengthened anti-capitalist workshops, used it as a movement building tool – other campaigns and struggles
 - Lots of radical discussion and debate
 - Process wise, too few people
 - It is one of the most political areas of decision making

- Agro fuels
 - Organising direct action on Wednesday
 - As an action very successful
 - Action support group were very helpful
 - Only 30 people
 - Journalists were there, good as people attacked by police
 - Large scale affinity group actions are very powerful
- Legal support/legal observers
 - Around 4 people mainly involved in pre-camp set up in last 2 months
 - Key role: training and organising legal observers, supporting arrests
 - Larger group at camp 12 with 100+ as legal observers during camp
 - Busy after camp for 6 or so people for probably 3 months (much more than previous camps)
 - Hard on camp to develop strategy to meet post camp needs and to be pro-active rather than reactive to police tactics
 - Not yet as a group debriefed
- Liaison
 - One group for camp and another for caravan
 - Liaison with council, police and outreach for workers
 - Camp – 5 people before and 5 at camp, with some crossover
 - Easy to organise by email lists
 - Team worked well, very good briefing document
 - Tight group, good for continuity
 - Lots of forward thinking e.g. recycling
 - Good balance of old and new people
 - Not smooth transition from before site to onsite
 - Communication with camp as a whole
 - Police didn't help the police liaison process
 - Caravan - policy of no advance liaison, met police wanted meeting, good thing, no mandate, no budget, stated that people would be bailed away from camp if arrested, no arrests, as told them what they were doing as they did it
- Caravan
 - Caravan was movement of people on foot and bike from Heathrow to Kingsnorth
 - 15 people doing ongoing work beforehand
 - Lots of organising,
 - Very good at creating affinity between people on caravan
 - Handled police well
 - Reclaimed street as they travelled
 - Journey more than demo
 - Good outreach, creative, accessible
 - Bit of a rush
 - Maybe not spiky enough?
 - Publicity on caravan could be transferred to blockade
- Medics
 - Northern action medics – pre existing group
 - Held training, not enough people from neighbourhoods sent
 - At least 1 person from each neighbourhood should go to training
 - Very draining, but very tight group
 - Not enough money or kit

- People expected to be provided with a first aider
- Kids
 - Not much coordinator – someone new needed to take it on 2 weeks before camp
 - Not much handover
 - Didn't really involve parents
- Activist trauma support
 - Issues with people with long term mental health issues
 - Drunk or sick people
 - They all need to be helped but could do better next time
- Action support
 - Organise a large programme of training workshops and info tent
 - Seeds for Change for support during year
 - 1 person took on quite a lot before camp as gathering were in South
 - Equipment got seized at beginning, caused lots of problems
 - Sustainable working groups
 - Got unmanageable time constraints from other groups
 - Issues with mass action group, no clear remit and contact
 - Need to look at how sensitive information can be exchanged
 - Felt like direct action dropped off the list
 - Needs to be re prioritised
- Meetings
 - Coordinate and facilitate meetings on camp
 - Lot of work on camp
 - Meetings happened!
 - Process on first few days
 - Communication problems, phone networks...
 - Arrests and bailed away
 - More continuity between off site process group and on site meetings group
 - Meetings may be easier in blockade scenario
- Gate
 - Only existed on camp
 - Gate group made sure gate was secure and there were people on it also roaming security
 - Comms took over gate and it was far too much
 - Gate worked ok
 - Issues about people saying police on site
- Welcome
 - Was no welcome group
 - Problem getting donations on gate
- Entertainments
 - All events in main marquee
 - Started about a month before camp
 - 3 in group, easy to organise
 - power and generator x did lots of the work, sorting power, equipment etc
- Tranquillity
 - promoting the safer spaces policy, facilitating the camp policies, e.g. power down
 - always 2 at tent
 - 2 walking around

- workshops were really great for active outreach, e.g. addressing male privilege
 - name ambiguous, led to being charged with things that were not remit
 - more autonomy on part of neighbourhoods with solving problems
- Heathrow conference
 - Event 2 weeks before
 - Small group, to bring together cc activists, locals...
 - Worked with locals to make conference happen
 - Change from usual style of conference
 - Lots of people very successful
 - Has been taken forward by local residents
- Land group
 - Deal with taking site and everything that involves
 - 6 people 2000 hours of work
 - Highly organised and well networked nationally
 - Not enough thought about interim period of taking site
 - If site is needed for rolling blockade, site could sort
 - Happy to skill share if new land group is needed
 - Need another group to sort defending the site
- Media group
 - Media team does things to do with media
 - 'Be the media' and 'mainstream media'
 - Press releases, q and a sheet, press list, media access policy, key messages, doing interviews, update website etc.
 - 10/15 core of people
 - Numbers at meetings on camp was an issue
 - Concerns about core group, doing too many interviews
 - Media access policy didn't work particularly well
 - Something similar for blockade
- Be the media
 - Various groups and individuals who had been involved in indymedia in previous years
 - Ensured camp being well documented
 - Lack of clear remit
 - Lack of communication between related groups, media, documentation, comms
 - Power issues
 - need to examine needs of legal team
 - Work could be applied to rolling blockade
 - Gathering planned in October in Leeds
- Tat-down
 - Wasn't a working group
 - Three people shovelling shit at the end for the whole camp
 - Vital to have a working group with support for any future camp
 - Did amazingly!

Neighbourhood feedback

- South west
 - Were happy that S-W had a neighbourhood!

- South coast
 - Mainly Brighton – organising from a month before – trying to sustain this year
 - Not enough formalised communication between neighbourhoods and national gatherings in run-up to the gathering.
- Oxford / Thames Valley
 - Working on Thames Valley as well as Oxford
 - Did the camp achieve its aims? – impact on power station, but not the whole point.
 - Camp as draining on energy.
 - But brilliant for climate action in Oxford!
- London
 - Meeting weekly now; big post-camp gathering.
 - Camp neighbourhood as a bit unwelcoming; problems with main marquees; people doing other stuff.
 - Coped with large numbers; good food; outreach successful.
 - Could have been more pre-camp community outreach incl with workers; issues with alcohol; possibly too reactive to police.
 - Camp meetings & decisions worked well; press coverage good; fantastic socially, for networking etc..
- Westside (incl. South Wales)
 - Gathering planned for October.
 - Pleased with structures – nice dome! New people involved, with positive feedback.
 - Should be taking on tranquillity & other stuff. Questions about amount of publicity produced – surplus boxes; about early site take.
 - Nearest to gate 5 – draining on energy, including being woken up.
 - Issues about the political position of the camp.
- Wales
 - Thanks to Westside for annexing kitchen!!
 - Issues with the gate rota – making sure it was staffed, and dealing with potential threats; false alarms etc..
 - Generally, the camp went well. Bit more space to chill out in the evenings (less seize the day!).
 - Wales not representational of Wales – lots of English – future movement building needed.
- Eastside
 - No feedback
- West Midlands
 - Generally positive; good for networking – linking up within the West Mids.
 - Did well getting own infrastructure, including capacity to donate a marquee to Wales.
 - Two feedback sessions post-camp – Leamington / Birmingham.
 - Food good; orange march could have been better protected

- Should celebrate camp's response to police violence, celebrating autonomy.
- North-West (Manchester)
 - Amazing that we kept the police off site – a lot of people were radicalised, but were also burnt out. May have been better having cops on site and getting sleep, but was felt the cops weren't up for negotiation this year.
 - Great people, great food!
 - Pre-camp capacity problems – too few people. Was really just Manchester and Liverpool – need to reach out to people throughout the northwest.
 - Tat down – should have been planned in advance.
 - Concerns with capacity for the Kingsnorth blockade. Worries that a lot of energy is expected from the northwest. Wouldn't be able to help run a base camp, though could come for a weekend. No big event to bring everyone together.
- Yorkshire
 - Post-camp meeting in Leeds.
 - Neighbourhood was good – mainly from Hebden Bridge, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford. Infrastructure was great.
 - Rolling blockade – how will this relate to other climate camps globally? Yorkshire quite remote from Kent. Concern about keeping all the elements of camp. Need large numbers for real pressure. Kingsnorth used to discuss wider context.
 - PGA letter – came with cultural baggage, damaging inclusivity but good basis to start talking.
 - Copenhagen – positive, but need to know more, including about the global North/ South relationship, and involvement of the South.
 - Next meeting on 5th Oct at commonplace in Leeds.
- Scotland
 - Positive – Guardian blog said we were the best neighbourhood!
 - From 60 last year to around 150 this. Skills and resources up; cycle cinema.
 - Felt a bit exposed down the hill, but did well defending the site.
 - Good co-ordination with Newcastle.
 - Major concern – missed the site take the second year running so sensitive stuff seized at a police roadblock – need to be aware of regional hierarchies.
 - Hooray for the camp. Rolling blockade needs to be equally decentralised.
- Newcastle
 - Camp super, did well with the cops, good focal point for discussing politics.
 - Cons – inability to use toilets; problems with legal support, e.g. what to do with searches. Kids area great, but not enough kids. Concerned with cliques in organising.
 - Improve planning; defending site with action – forward planning.

- Ireland
 - About a dozen people. New people radicalised by standing up to cops. Great camp; great for Irish activists to tap in for Mayo, and possibly for a camp for next year.
- Non-neighbourhood neighbourhood!
 - Felt unable to participate in neighbourhood organising because of workload. When attempted to, this was damaging because of meeting clashes.
- Continental Europe
 - Issues about inclusivity – we need to think about this.
 - Belgians commented on difficulty with fact-finding as people organising running round.
 - Generally positive. People coming long distances and we need to make them feel at home.
 - Felt included in the London neighbourhood.
- Convention on the left.
 - John Macdonald impressed with what went on at the camp.

Legal, finance, Copenhagen feedback

- Legal
 - Planning for Kingsnorth on the basis of Heathrow – upped the training for legal observers. But, completely different on the day. Core people were burnt out by early site take.
 - Now, have potential litigants for a judicial review on the stop and search - section 1 and possibly section 60. Waiting on the legal aid board before can move forward. Still collecting search forms and working on web-based questionnaire about stop & searches – will be up on site soon.
 - Other pre-action letter on treatment/exclusion of legal observers and property seizures – probably won't go anywhere.
 - Arrests:
 - Most are going through, still looking at getting witnesses.
 - Aware of three personal injury claims, one in relation to Heathrow.
 - Reclaiming property.
 - Still working on this.
 - Kent police dragging their heels on collection of property from site search.
 - Some progress as now only need to sign a disclaimer rather than providing photos.
 - Submitting evidence to joint parliamentary committee on human rights looking at protest.
 - Working on a report going to MPs.
 - Looking at other routes – whether to go to Kent Police professional standards dept; FOI requests; possible action on seizures but not sure – focussing more on the lobbying aspect.
 - Still to meet as a group to discuss what's been learnt and future strategy.

- Finance
 - Two people for most of the year, part of the process group.
 - Fundraising happened late; not very integrated into the whole process.
 - Good to have a fundraiser to start soon.
 - On site, worked well.
 - Back to the 2 people managing finances until the end of the summer. Need a new treasurer.
 - Current policy - £300 can be approved by Finance Group; more has to go to a gathering.
 - In general, working groups only have access to funds. Land group and action support aren't centrally funded.
 - Three finance proposals at 5.30 pm meeting.
 - Accounts (1st Jan – 31st Dec) – see budget breakdown.
 - Started £21,000 now have £24,000.
 - Income was £54,000 – large donations at camp, particularly on the way out.
 - Kitchen made huge profit – Stuart on the case about donations.
 - Expenses – huge - £56,500 (not including land & action support – spent less than £1,000), so real cost possibly approaching £70,000.
 - Site group biggest.
 - Recommending transport as separate working group for next year.
 - Reasons for overspend (c£10,000)
 - Original structures co-ordinator lunched out.
 - No-one co-ordinating transport.
 - Networking did strange things – spending money pre-agreement.
- Copenhagen update
 - Poznan meeting – leading up to UN meeting next December in Copenhagen.
 - Meeting of 'climax' network in Copenhagen – about 100 people from 21 different countries.
 - Went through issues about what we want to do – lots of discussion, no real conclusions.
 - Not clear cut – might be bad to be seen to be shutting down something potentially positive vs. is a corporate vehicle.
 - Copenhagen is a radicalised city since eviction of the youth house. But, deficit on logistics – may be specific requests, such as kitchens. Don't have marquees etc, but do have buildings.
 - Four themes
 - Mass march – 5th December 2009.
 - Shutting down the talks.
 - Getting an idea of what the global South want; shutting *in* until agreement is reached.
 - March for the excluded to the centre. People from the South getting into the centre.
 - See call to action agreed at the gathering. Take back to local groups.
 - Debates with ESF – did something to put direct action back on the agenda.

- Question is how does the Camp for Climate Action fit in with global day of action in 2009.

Action round up

- Rossport Solidarity Camp
 - Shell is trying to bring in a gas pipeline in Rossport, Co. Mayo
 - Lots of direct action happened and lots of solidarity action
 - On 15th September a London Rossport Solidarity Action happened, at Allseas and Irish Embassy
 - Groups from Bristol Rising Tide, went to Irish Consulate for Protest in solidarity with Rossport and Maura Harrington
- Bristol Rising Tide, action on coal, as part of ongoing campaign
- Climate Rush
 - 13th October, 5.30 Parliament Square, rush at 6.30
 - www.climaterush.co.uk
 - target government, energy and aviation
 - Target 60,000 people in Parliament Square
 - Action at Labour Party Conference, Interrupted speech

Our process

- General points for discussion
 - Ways to challenge hierarchy
 - Ask people who are established to remember ways to be inclusive
 - Working groups to answer emails, make sure to be listed on website, publish times of meetings
 - Strategy group, not listed on website
 - Concerns re: accessibility/ secrecy of group

PROPOSAL:

The Camp for Climate Action working groups should be closed or secret only if necessary for them to do their tasks.

Comments Made:

- Some way that closed groups can be held accountable, and a point of contact
- Oversight committee
- Specific criteria should be laid down for closed groups
- Closed groups can only be agreed at a gathering
- Tactical reasons that it needs to be closed
- What if friends have a chat?
- Open groups should be defined and should be contactable and on the website
- Groups should be actively open, letting people know when they need more people
- Perhaps this discussion can happen informally when a closed group proposes itself

PROPOSAL:

The Camp for Climate Action working groups should be closed only if necessary for them to do their tasks. Closed must be agreed at a gathering and their remit must be clearly defined on a case by case basis.

-4 stand asides:

- 1. Oversight group to check remit, needs to have accountability**
- 2. Should hear amendments first**
- 3. Wording of secret – removed so no longer stand aside.**
- 4. Biofuels working group would not have been able to do action if proposal was passed**

-Consensus!

PROPOSAL (Read out):

Decision making for national gatherings:

At the moment, any individual is invited to participate in the decision making of national gathering with equal weight.

Proposal: It would make sense to me to have representatives (limited to 2 or 3 persons) from each group part of the network for climate action, rising tide, plane stupid, and others to participate in the decision making.

Representatives can be rotated or chosen depending on what points the meeting will cover. This of course should be left for each group to decide.

Why?

- Decision made at the gatherings have a great impact on the activities of existing active groups all over the UK (much more than on individuals).

- This would help create space for other debates than "What event are we putting up next year?" such as movement building, overall strategy, evaluating resources, skills and number etc...

- It makes sense to practice our democratic / participatory principles at the national level.

- This would avoid having members of one group (where or near where the gathering is happening) having a larger representation, hence a larger weight in the decision.

- This could effectively mean a transition from a loose network based structure to something resembling a movement.

- When decision are made at the current gatherings it is hard to evaluate the resources (time and

energy) available to carry out these decisions. Presence of representatives would improve this.

- This would smooth the process and ensures everybody present is familiar with the context and the process being used.

- When agenda are drafted in advance, the people who are part of a group who feel the more strongly about the agenda points and those who have the more energy to participate in the activities being discussed can effectively be present when the related issues/activities are being discussed.

But!

- Individuals should still be welcomed at the gathering and looked after. A Space could still be found for them to participate in the decision made at the gathering. Maybe they could be included by being invited to listen to the deliberation. They could go in a different space to gather comments and choose a couple of representatives for the day. Then once or twice a day, the one or two representatives (for the day) could voice their ideas, concerns etc..

- *If more than 2 or 3 persons are present from one group, the additional individuals could sit with the individuals with no representatives and feed back their ideas to their spokes and go through the same process as the individuals mentioned above.*

Temperature Check:

- Lots of people wiggle down (Ie. No support for Proposal)
- 1 person said they're willing to be point of contact during open session tomorrow.

Kingsnorth Part 1

How we are going to move forward with Kingsnorth? Part one of the discussion to find creative solutions to issues and problems being identified.

The history to the camp at Kingsnorth and to the blockade proposal and the political context, NGO action, and the need for continued pressure were briefly highlighted. The last decision agreed at the July national gathering is read out:

1a (modified), We commit publicly to plan for a "rolling blockade" involving other groups to halt construction of the new Kingsnorth power station, starting from the anticipated start date for the construction in march 2009, (or whenever it begins if later), recognising the capacity implications of this decision,,

There was then a short session with shout-outs on why the blockade would be positive:

- Faslane a positive example.
- If we want to inspire activists in India and China need to take a lead.
- Tactically lots of people keen to take direct action.
- Even if smaller numbers on blockage still make hard to get deliveries to the site.
- Edf – nuclear powers stations – need for actions on this too.
- Kind of action if plan well, may not have to do!
- Doing exactly what Gore is asking youth of America to day.
- Builds on all the aims of the Climate Camp.
- Good practice for future campaigns.
- Camp brilliant but once a year, need to now move to ongoing culture of action and the blockade will kick start this.

The whole room was then asked to stand up, swirl around in order to breakaway from people they work with, drink with, sleep with, etc, and form into smaller 'random' groups around the room.

In small groups the following concerns were identified, amongst others:

- Feedback from groups:
- Not enough people, money, time,
- What about workshops and learning
- What is the impact of Kingsnorth being built
- Impact on other actions
- Negative media attention
- Is strategically the best next move
- Logistics

- Action all the time, permanent camp
- Pressure on legal team
- How working people can get involved
- Regional impact – too Southern
- Communication with workers and locals
- Police and how to have a positive peaceful camp
- Backwards for the movement
- How would the blockade would work with sea deliveries?
- What if the first is not Kingsnorth?
- Need to target Eon more generally and other baddies
- Decentralised action
- Might lose our wider agenda and involvement of those not interested solely in coal
- How will children and families be accommodated?
- How to keep the educational aims?
- Will the message on demand reduction be lost?
- How to focus on the supply chain?
- How to get the media to pick up the message?
- Is it too focussed on coal?
- Need victories?
- Practicalities and capacity
- Too far from North
- Terminology of blockade
- Faslane model not workable
- Is Kingsnorth the best target?
- Attracting people
- Energy and resources
- Regional momentum may be lost
- Links with locals and workers
- How to keep open and accessible?
- Need to challenge wider issues?
- Burn out of key people
- Pressure on local groups
- If decision delayed risk of no action for a long time
- Not enough people
- Energy – loss energy and loss of climate camp and opportunity to radicalise people, need to be radicalised to come a blockade
- How to communicate what a blockade is?
- Danger of co-op by NGOs and need to stay anti-capitalist
- Does not meet the four principles
- Can it be more positive for local people?
- Can it relate to people with jobs and children?
- Capacity
- Local v national actions?
- Energy and commitment

- Needing a base camp – needs a core group and hierarchical issues involved
- Security of base camp
- How to link to wider picture of climate change
- Coal focussed
- Loss of another Camp
- Bailed off the Hoo peninsula
- Long and sustained – may fall off radar
- Form – squat? Police?
- Loss of focus on nuclear
- What form is best?
- How committed are we?

Discussion in small groups about how to overcome these concerns: feedback to the whole gathering including:

- Local vs. national tension: will be regional targets too, lot of outreach can be regional.
- Do we have enough people radicalised?: Faslane radicalised more people, have speaker structure in place, base camp could become an activist factory.
- Local relations: share skills, disliked the police, more engagement on transition.
- Loss of camp: may be OK, camp without action could still be done. Blockade would grow the numbers.
- Police & bail conditions – go do other actions elsewhere!
- How personal committed – need to find that out. Show of hands?
- More questions than answers: Are we being used by the NGOs? What format to the blockade? Etc etc
- Coal focus: important international issue, timely, other actions become focus later.
- Decentralised structure for actions.
- Capacity: may attract more and share skills.
- Timescales: may drag on for too long?
- Four principles: educational/media centre as a permanent base with annual camp.
- Attract more people: do we need more for actions?
- Concern about tranquillity? Burn out. Decentralise. Need clarity about needs from other regions.
- Local and workers: focus on transition. Decentralise actions to take the pressure off.
- Delayed decision: need plan B.

- Climate camp: not action based but educational? Or use base on blockade for that.
- Regional balance: could have regional camp and regional action against supply chain. Decentralising may increase outreach and numbers.
- How to keep the momentum? If burn out, reduce our activity. National action will keep momentum and overcome bail conditions. May need more secrecy for actions.
- Base camp – may be temporary ones if not enough energy, but good for education and skills sharing.
- Base camp – rent the building.
- Geography unfavourable but near human centres.
- Human capacity – have a rota.
- Have regional actions.
- Need for good media to get the wider messages across.
- Draw on expertise of road protestors and others.
- Blockade – what is it and how to communicate it. Need to change thinking around that word. Needs to be decentralised.
- Coal focus – link to Copenhagen, keep key messages of camp to help get wider messages across.
- Camp benefits – could have mass convergences for networking benefits.
- Capacity – need steady stream of people, need to fit with normal lives. Need actions that fit with that. Lots of energy needs to go to getting more people involved.
- Capacity – may not need for small base camp, may need weeks of action alongside them, may segment people, are able as movement to adapt to resources available, energy will come in spurts. Climate camp possible may be in regions.
- Too centralised: need to develop media abilities, need positive action and carry through our actions.
- Educational messages: always needs to be part of the plans.
- Delay or changes by government: need flexibility.
- Resources?: need to accept interim goals and review, start small and build, pledge to action, need a good plan, need to be decentralised organisation.
- Attracting people? local actions on supply chains may involve others.

- Accommodate families: family weekends, legitimate base camps, could help with community outreach.
- Educational messages: would help with legitimate base camp.
- Need a boat.
- More flexible interpretation of blockade. Not a permanent camp.
- Movement of positive and creative people can overcome these!

Process Group

Process point: There is a process group, it is open with lots of new people involved and will meet at 5.30pm. (Finance meeting now at 6pm.) Remit: general overview of wider process, there is an account of the processes, gathering agendas and assisting with national gathering etc. Points about transparency of national gathering taken on board – minutes of gatherings will be available on website.

Politics - part 1

Concern that core politics of the Climate Camp may be diluted and overlooked.

Letter to neighbourhoods at Climate Camp 2008 was read out:

We are a large group of anti-authoritarian participants in the climate camp. Many of us have put a great deal of time and energy into preparing and setting up the camp this year.

We are writing to express our deep concern with the direction that the debates at the camp have taken in the past days. In more than one workshop we have heard calls from the podium for command-and-control and market orientated measures to address climate change. The responses to these proposals have been far too polite.

While we recognise the importance of creating a welcoming and non-sectarian space, we feel that the camp risks losing contact with its anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian roots and appearing as a gathering that lends its support to top-down, state-centred responses to the crisis that climate change and energy depletion pose for capitalism. As a result, even the mass action is now likely to be interpreted as a gesture of support for tightened social control and austerity measures visited upon the population, rather than expressing resistance to the exploitative obsession with economic growth that has precipitated the present crisis.

In order to re-establish the crucial place of a radical perspective married to action at the core of the climate process, we therefore propose that the camp adopt the following principles as a statement of unity that will guide current discussions and future convergences:

- 1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalization.*
- 2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.*

3. *A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organisations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker.*

4. *A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism.*

5. *An organisational philosophy based on decentralisation and autonomy.*

Proposal Ratified at EF! read out:

1.a That the underlying basic political stance be reiterated and adopted for all future working groups eg, media, site crew, facilitation etc, before, during and after the camp. It is to reflect our analysis of the root causes of climate change and the most efficient way of dealing with it in a non-hierarchical way.

1.b To make explicit that anarchist principles are embedded in how we organise and take action rather than to water down our political stance to include more people.

There was also a broader proposal to adopt some principles of Unity, possibly being the PGA Hallmarks.

People for Global Action Hallmarks: came out of the social movements organising against the World Trade Organisation. These five principles supported all the social movements to talk to each other and work together on actions.

The following comments were made:

-Proposal at Climate Camp to discuss a just transition, concern that it has been pushed off the agenda. Facilitation team responded: sounded it was like a five aims of the camp rather than an organising principle would be addressed later.

-Distinction between organisational and political principles need to be borne in mind.

-Some principles did lay behind the camps, broadly: this is the key issue, need direct action to affect change and solutions need to be sustainable and equitable. Adopted by Campaign for Climate Action – source details for Sunday.

-Rising Tide has endorsed PGA Hallmarks.

-There were reasons why Hallmarks were not adopted by Climate Camp: set of principles of an earlier movement.

-The main discussion would take place on Sunday in part 2 of the session.

Open space – introduction

There were 11 proposals to be discussed in the open space. The full details are in the detailed agenda. Most of these proposals were briefly introduced:

- GRRRR at the BERR: in year 4 let's shut cut down the government department – the voice for business in government which has the core aim of economic growth, will take the Kingsnorth decision, involved in carbon trading etc ...

- Copenhagen Caravan: zero carbon caravan to Copenhagen, cycle etc and sail and so forth with outreach as go.

- Danish Summer Climate Camp: at Christiania, take a UK neighbourhood.

- UK based action for Copenhagen

-Day of action against Eon: for momentum in next two months.

- Giant get together: how to keep movement building and education and skills sharing, how to make it happen.

-City/urban convergence: change tactics, more targets, more outreach potentials, not London and more Northern.

-A camp in the North.

-Another large scale Climate Camp 2009

- Day of action against Green Capitalism: to widen message.

Comments on the proposed process:

-Need to have time to combine these ideas and synthesise discussions afterwards.

-Need to have time to discuss priorities first.

-A lot of the ideas do not have to happen within this Climate Camp process – could be pursued separately.

-Proposers – if they want a notetaker to ask before tomorrow.

-Add a space for discussion about an Irish camp.

-Need to discuss pros and cons too.

-Process: The idea of the breakaway sessions empowers people to bring ideas forward and either to do separately or to make a proposal to do the next gathering.

-Will be a plenary session: most will not need a decision.

Announcements

-Thanks expressed to the people who prepared the agenda – 7 hours on planning.

-Proposal to have a gathering in Wantage, any other area interested in hosting a gathering enquire about what it involves.

-On Sunday will decide about the October and November gathering.

-Entertainment in evening – need MP3 playlist.

-Problems with Bush demo?

-CorporateWatch TechnoFix report available: fucking amazing report!

- Join the Climate Camp mailing list: see website homepage for how to subscribe.
- ID cards starting: No2ID. See website for local groups.
- Toxic greenwash banner missing – needs to go back to LARC asap for an action.
- Treeresponsibility event in November.
- Copenhagen questions informally in evening.
- Gatherings: Northern gathering better than Southern. Coventry – Eon HQ there – so may be good place for gathering.
- London E-on T shirts: F trade, not organic. £10 each.
- Facilitation training on Sunday 5th October in Newcastle. Accommodation available.
- Real News – film on Climate Camp.
- 25th October: mass trespass picnic in Derby open caste mine.
- Queer climate camp mailing list.
- Wantage proposal for gathering – small town outside Oxford. To avoid to burning out neighbourhoods with social centres. 25th November possible.
- Carry own loo paper – focus minds on water shortages.
- Leave it in the ground gathering in 2 weeks in Manchester.
- £5.9 million and counting on policing a Climate Camp
- Conference on building sustainable communities.
- Day of action October 12th – Latin America.
- Offer of singing in evening.
- Direct action pamphlets on welcome desk.

Finance Meeting

PROPOSAL: Carpet damaged, costing £600 at Putney Church during Caravan.
Request we cover costs –may get some back from bicyclology.
-AGREE!

PROPOSAL: Process group continues to use process budget remaining from Camp 2008. Request that new budget is submitted.
-AGREE!

PROPOSAL: ESF trip by Climate Campers.

-50 Euros to register Camp for Climate Campers. Those representing Climate Camp there are not claiming their money back. Only group mentioning Direct Action at the event.

-140 Euros to hire hall for Climate Camp for Copenhagen Poznan.

-100 Euros for an “Organising the Movement” talk.

-Total: 290 Euros

-AGREE!

SUNDAY

Introduction

An introduction was made to the revised agenda proposed by the Facilitation Team. A new agenda item on priorities had been inserted to allow discussion on what should we do next. There was a new item on gender spectrum. The session on politics had been shortened as it was anticipated that the discussion would need to go back to the neighbourhoods. The Process group was plans to summarise the gathering in a form helpful for the neighbourhoods.

Kingsnorth – part 2

The session was to enable a focus on the more practical aspects of the blockade. The session started with an exercise on capacity, followed by discussion about four core areas:

- action planning;
- base camp;
- media, outreach and networking;
- admin, process and co-ordination.

Exercises on capacity to support (in a variety of ways) the Kingsnorth blockade over the next year:

-First the spectrum was done with representatives from the neighbourhoods’ level of capacity and support:

- a. Wales: distance and cost more likely to focus on actions in Wales.
- b. Westside: occasional rather than big ongoing presence, actions on supply chain.
- c. West Midlands: blockade and supply chain from half and half need more family stuff.
- d. Manchester: local actions and promotion, about 20 occasional only.
- e. London: quite a lot of energy especially for outreach.

-Individual spectrum exercise: circa 80/100 people in room – most bunched in middle section, none at the totally dedicated end, some at the not at all end.

-Question: Was there ever a decision to do the Rolling Blockade?

-Response: The decision to do a blockade was taken at a previous gathering but there not a decision that the sole focus of activity. There was vagueness of what form the rolling blockade would look like.

-A temperature check indicated a high level of support for the rolling blockade.

Small groups discussions then took place on the four core areas, with the groups rotating so everyone spent time in each area. Each core area aimed to have proposals to put to the wider group by the end of the gathering.

Feedback to whole group:

Action Planning – proposals:

- Need to start actions now across the supply chain.
- Update action support resources on website and map of targets.
- Neighbourhoods adopt specific supply chain targets.
- Need direct action skills training.
- Research on skills for water-based actions.
- Proposal for human chain on flooding, phone jamming.
- Action support working group proposed, maybe link to Eon day of action.
- Neighbourhoods need to be supported ‘centrally’ to have action training days.
- Need Eon day of action discussion time.

No clarifying questions.

Additional practical suggestions:

- Combine training with visible training (like army war gaming) so has a practical deterrent.
- Proposal to form an action support working group to take ideas form.
- Needs an action strategy group. [High levels of hands in support.]
- Huge area may need sub groups on action research, action training, support, strategy etc.

Co-ordination Functions – proposals:

- Needed some concrete decisions.
- Form a working group to flesh out what the blockade is and bring proposals to next gathering with plan to start actions.
- Liaison with local community needed asap – need to empower people.
- Need festival in Kent for fundraising.
- Legal group may need to be decentralised and may be need to focus on information sharing.

Base Camp – proposals:

- Form a working group (not called the land group to avoid confusion, not closed) to look at purchasing/renting/squatting/getting permission to get land and property in a town; and research sustainable living/educational possibilities on land and boat: and look at how to establish regional entry points in neighbourhoods (local hubs).
- This group would ask for feedback from the Land Group.

Media, networking, outreach – proposals

- Set up networking group now with intention to later split itself into sub tasks.
- Working group with sub-groups for:
 - f. Launch event and direct action pledge.
 - g. Decentralised networking by neighbourhoods.
 - h. Donation campaign to get people involved.

- i. Welcome groups on-line and on-site.
- j. Info shop on the Hoo peninsula.
- k. Local Hoo peninsula working group.
- l. FA cup and Eon's sponsorship.

Proposals to be fleshed out and go to neighbourhoods for feedback and considered at next gathering. Only specific proposals can be considered now.

Proposal to set up networking group now with intention to define its tasks and split into sub-groups.

Moving the process forward...

Clarifying questions and then concerns:

- Is this specific to Kingsnorth or a general Climate Camp Kingsnorth?
- Does this group define its sub-groups?
- What does networking encompass?
- Need finance working group for finance control.
- Time limit to return with sub-groups and budget.
- Not decide now, come back with specific proposals later in gathering. Agreed.

-Facilitation Group over lunch will add working group proposals to open space in agenda: space (previously base camp), networking , process, action support, action strategy, finance & fundraising so that more work can be done on making the proposals specific.

Agreed to come back to this later.

Priorities

Various projects proposed (outlined on Saturday) for the year to be discussed later in the open space time in the agenda. Six broad categories:

- a. Campaigns e.g. Grrr at Berr;
- b. Convergencies urban, North, camp;
- c. Copenhagen (three proposals);
- d. Decentralised events;
- e. Days of actions and other actions;
- f. Kingsnorth blockade.

Quick shout out of aims/priorities:

- Movement building
- Identifying a direct action gain that can be rewarding for 1,000 of people.
- Getting lots of new people doing direct action.
- Economic re-education.
- Building international connections.
- Doing a few things very well.
- Building credibility. (Alternative to coal)
- Swift and fair air transition.
- Increase politic understanding of the world.
- Stop new generation of coal fired stations.
- Avoid reaching tipping point.

- Building direct action groups.
- Build acceptance of direct action and change terms of debate.
- Focus debate on core causes.
- Engaging energy workers
- Challenging link between capital owners and workers
- Stop runaway global warming by any means necessary
- Just transition
- Raising awareness of alternatives
- Engaging the global South
- Legitimising direct action with lots of people willing to get arrested to stop Climate Change
- Making anarchy a good word
- Undermining power hierarchies
- Include those affected by climate change
- Climate change will make people poorer
- Making a lovely world
- Keeping good energy in movement

Temperature check on six projects to inform discussion in small groups. Where do you think your energy will be over next year?

Campaigns: some [note-taker's subjective relative assessment of temperature]

Copenhagen: more

Convergence: similar some

Days of action: similar some

Decentralised events: smaller than some

Rolling campaign: more

Work in small groups to discuss capacity and strategy eg. percentage on each project.

Feedback from small groups...

- a. Lots of things can work together. Two clear proposals
 - i. Copenhagen: International Working Group to liaise with other camps.
 - ii. Focus on making the Kingsnorth Blockade as good as it can get, in January reassess the other proposals (Urban Convergence, etc)
- b. Establishing international links. Urban Convergence: nothing we can do in the next three months. FA Cup a priority. BERR campaign. Lots of support for Rolling Blockade.
- c. The Blockade is a bad name: EON Face Off (perhaps). Blockade as main focus, with Copenhagen as secondary thing.
- d. 50% each on two projects: Enthusiasm for the BERR.
Local/National/International conflict: broad. Does City Convergence need day of action? Could a caravan be the link to Copenhagen.
- e. Lot of support for Copenhagen related things. Lot less for the Blockade. Lots of people can't go to Copenhagen however. Outreach and Communication should fit into everything we do. Need to link to things like Agrofuels, flooding.
- f. Rolling Blockade got must priority, then days of action. Convergence and decentralised camps couldn't work together. Climate Camp a subgroup of wider identity. Concerns about losing identity. All actions we do need to be identified together –possibly by a colour system.

- g. Main point: whatever we do needs to be rolled into one identity –not lots of fragmented projects. Possibility that we become a network –name change? Recognise that we can do more than the camp. Proposals should come from neighbourhoods and working groups. Do something now!
- h. How do we fit ideas together? Idea we form a group to form a timeline. Space for people from different regions to discuss concerns.
- i. Clear priorities emerged. Rolling Blockade and more. All felt that some kind of convergence is really important. Between the group more energy for Blockade than camp. Copenhagen, Rolling Blockade and Convergence –given gathering time. Other proposals not so much so.
- j. Undercurrent of Copenhagen to everything we do –all direct actions link to Copenhagen. Ideas of getting Blockade off the ground –put it into implementation now! Convergence: skill-sharing, energy pushing, maybe just weekend –loads of energy to make blockade happen. All regions do actions towards the blockade. Movement build by doing all these things.

All proposals (eg Convergence, Copenhagen) to meet after lunch.

Announcements

-Common Place: council have taken away alcohol licence (was main way to make money with large) so CD for donations available –please buy! Also distribute around.

-Gathering announcement.

-Changes to agenda to accommodate gathering needs.

-UN world food day action 16th October. Largest European Agrofuel Conference in Newark, near Nottingham. Contact www.biofuelwatch.org.uk

Gender spectrum

This was a five-minute exercise:

Spectrum done –people place themselves across the room based on how much they contribute to large group discussion.

Spectrum explained: was done due to feelings that there may be gender inequalities. Tally taken during previous day's gathering – circa 145 men and 65 female contributions.

-Concern: that people have been gendered based on how they look, based on how an individual has gendered people. Offensive: there are a number of trans people in the room for instance.

-Response: that this will open up this debate, and acknowledge this. People can reach their own conclusions on the exercise, and bring perceptions into this.

LUNCH

Gender spectrum feedback

- Concern that identifying people as gendered is oppressive, as there are many sexes and buys into the system of binary gender.
- Response: Apology for the gendered statistics. There was a lunchtime meeting, and a proposal will be put forward to the next gathering for proper discussion.

Other projects –breaking into groups

Split into interest groups...

- Copenhagen
- Rolling Blockade
- Convergences/camps
- Days of Action
- Other campaigns

Groups asked to think about

- Organising models
- How it can fit into the camp process

Interest group splits take place

Small groups feedback:

Campaigns:

- Grrrr: needs own fundraising, need to promote alternatives, BERR not well-known, networking challenges, police, loss of focus from involvement of other groups, energy from Climate Camp, meeting 5 October and email list. January focus for campaign.

Decentralised events:

- Separate events and accounts in regions, idea not to suck energy but build energy, help avoid Southern focus, decentralised camps good idea but lack of knowledge would need skill sharing.

Copenhagen:

Support for Copenhagen, two proposals: one international working group to plan for Copenhagen and liase with countries setting up Climate Camps, second that Climate Camp back Copenhagen call out for climate action (leaflet circulated during Gathering –see text below). Would like decision now.

“Call to Action” leaflet read out – refers to root causes of climate change, false solutions and previous lack of action – mobilisation during Copenhagen UN conference in November 2008:

We stand at a crossroads. The facts are clear. Global climate change, caused by human activities, is happening, threatening the lives and livelihoods of billions of people and the existence of millions of species. Social movements, environmental groups, and scientists from all over the world are calling for urgent and radical action on climate change.

On the 30th of November, 2009 the governments of the world will come to Copenhagen for the fifteenth UN Climate Conference (COP-15). This will

be the biggest summit on climate change ever to have taken place. Yet, previous meetings have produced nothing more than business as usual.

There are alternatives to the current course that is emphasizing false solutions such as market-based approaches and agrofuels. If we put humanity before profit and solidarity above competition we can live amazing lives without destroying our planet. We need to leave fossil fuels in the ground. Instead we must invest in community-controlled renewable energy. We must stop over-production for over-consumption. All should have equal access to the global commons through community control and peoples' sovereignty over energy, forests, land and water. And of course we must acknowledge the historical responsibility of the global elite and rich Global North for causing this crisis. Equity between North and South is essential.

Climate change is already impacting people, particularly women, indigenous and forest-dependent peoples, small farmers, marginalized communities and impoverished neighbourhoods who are also calling for action on climate- and social justice. This call was taken up by activists and organizations from 21 countries that came together in Copenhagen over the weekend of 13-14 September, 2008 to begin discussions for a mobilization in Copenhagen during the UN's 2009 climate conference.

The 30th of November, 2009 is also the tenth anniversary of the World Trade Organization (WTO) shutdown in Seattle, which shows the power of globally coordinated social movements.

We call on all peoples around the planet to mobilize and take action against the root causes of climate change and the key agents responsible, both in Copenhagen and around the world. This mobilization begins now, until the COP-15 summit, and beyond. The mobilizations in Copenhagen and around the world are still in the planning stages. We have time to collectively decide what these mobilizations will look like, and to begin to visualize what our future can be. Get involved!

We encourage everyone to start mobilizing today in your own neighbourhoods and communities. It is time to take the power back. The power is in our hands. Hope is not just a feeling, it is also about taking action.

To get involved in this ongoing and open process, sign up to this email list: climateaction@klimax2009.org

PROPOSAL:

Climate Camp backs the Call to Action for Copenhagen 2009 -Consensus

To bring a formal proposal at next gathering for a working group.

Days of action:

Ask neighbourhoods to consider following questions:

- Decentralised days of action or mass actions?
- Against Eon or coal or energy?
- Day or week?
- Sooner or later?

Email list going.

Convergence:

Lots of interest in urban convergence. Sense of loss over some aspect of usual format. Need time at next gathering to discuss urban or rural whether it includes mass[es of] action or not. Possible partnership/support with Earth first [in addition]. Timing issue around how it would fit in with and support the rolling blockade.

Email list going.

Blockade

Need decision at next gathering on name, feedback from neighbourhoods on possible ideas. (Coal scuttle etc). Need more clarity on what the blockade is. Meanwhile use name rolling blockade. Email list going.

Politics – part 2

Time has been shortened to ten minutes due to working group time getting priority.

Need to work out politics. Request for speaker to say why it is important we discuss this...

Speaker: From a practical point of view, networking and media teams need guidelines as to what we stand for, to not put them in the position where group members are decided on the spot what the camp's politics is.

Member of the group that put the PGA Hallmarks letter together at climate camp outlines the importance of the discussion.

The only time we use the word anarchist is in the negative context. Emphasis that we are anarchist and should be proud of it.

Decision that it will be discussed at a future gathering, if someone provides the gathering group with a proper proposal to give frame of reference for gathering.

Proposal that we discuss that the three core principles that were set awhile ago be used as the basis for discussion. Emphasis that the three core principles are separate from the four aims.

The core principles, agreed previously, are read out...

- *Climate change is already happening and its effects will be catastrophic if we don't act now.*
- *New technology and market-based solutions are not enough to address the problem - tackling climate change will require radical social change.*
- *We all need to work together in our communities to come up with solutions. We cannot rely on business and government to bring about the radical changes that are needed.*

Concern with the wording of the second point.

Request that proposal be put to the next gathering.

Fifth aim Proposal

Speaker from Workers Climate Action: meetings held at climate camp, one of which agreed to a fifth aim: workers led just transition. Media team put out info about just transition. Workers Climate Action will produce briefing document to be put out on email list, and it will be discussed next gathering.

Question: can we agree on 'just transition' and not 'workers led'?

Response: up to the process as a whole.

Kingsnorth – moving forward

Asking people to get together in working groups they might not be interested in. Working groups might not exist in the same way eventually, but this is a time to test the water.

Working groups arise from discussions in morning.

-Networking umbrella group –with subgroups to form later on.

-‘space’ group –researching, finding, looking into acquiring ‘space’

-Actions group (strategy/support)

-Process/Finance/Fundraising group

Discuss proposed remit.

Feedback from working groups...

Action Support and Action Strategy groups

PROPOSAL

To form an Action Support working group and an Action Strategy working group. Both are open working groups.

-Consensus!

Networking Umbrella Group

This will soon divide into formally approved sub-groups.

Space Group

PROPOSAL:

Create an open space group who would, having liaised with other working groups around potential needs and connected with locals and previous land group members, research and return with options, feasibilities and costs to the next gathering the acquisition (rent/buy/squat/use with permission) of a permanent property and/or land for a hub and/or base camp in/around the Hoo peninsula, not forgetting the boat.

-Consensus!

International Group

PROPOSAL:

For the next month, will be one working group –may move into being more than one as time goes on. Liaison with other groups, domestic and international outreach, mobilising people around the world to join us there, practical presence at the climate camp (neighbourhood? Do we want do contribute tat?)

- Question about how the outreach will relate to the main networking group.
- Is the networking group just for the Blockade, or for everything in the camp process?
- Zero carbon caravan? Is happening anyway: does climate camp want it in its process or not?
- Proposal to take out transport bit.

-No Consensus!

Will bring a remit to propose to next gathering, continuing discussions in the meantime.

Process Group

Continuing its work beyond the camp and into the new process. Open working group: anyone welcome to get involved. Meeting being held 19th October.

Next gathering

Two possibilities:

- Wantage (All gathering logistics in place for gathering for the weekend of the 25/26 October 2008)
- Bradford (not researched but not possible for 25/26 October 2008 but OK for following three weekends – 8/9 November best for Scotland and Newcastle as a neighbourhood gathering booked for 1/2 November at the Climate Camp).
- Potential clashes identified affecting lots of weekends in October, November, December but especially in October/early November.

PROPOSAL:

Next Gathering held on 8th/9th November in Bradford

-Consensus!

16. Day of Action on E.ON

PROPOSAL:

Day of action on Eon – 29th November with support of Climate Camp

-Consensus!

Final Announcements

Call outs:

- Real news tour...
- Climbers.
- Copies on Shell to sea
- Volunteers for clearing up.
- Anarchist book fair.
- Shift magazine.

- Leeds communal bonfire.
- Networking email list.
- 13 October – climate camp rush.
- Crash space for tonight.
- Various lits...
- 7 October – court appearance for Drax coal train people.