

DEFEND THE WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL COALITION MEETING
26th April 2010

1. Apologies from Zozi Goodman, Dave Morris, Alistair Smith, Kevin Doherty and Janet Shapiro

2. Minutes of last meeting - approved

3. Treasurer's Report

The coalition has received £4,094 in income, mainly from Trades Unions. Expenditure was £3036, mainly on the Day of Action (megaphone, balloons, badges and leaflets).

4. Reports of recent activities

Almost all the 20,000 **leaflets about the Day of Action** have been distributed.. A big effort has been made in leafletting and networking on the staff side at the hospital, and there has been a **meeting about the closures** attended by 50 people.

People are still signing up to the **petition** which now has 13,300 signatures.

Katy and Shirley have attended **MP's hustings**. All the candidates say they are against the A&E closure. Emily has spoken to Andy Burnham who is promising only a clinical review.

Local schools, voluntary bodies, churches and GP's have been sent letters or Emails asking them to write to the candidates and also support the Day of Action.

LINK have events on May 25th and 27th which will feed into the consultation. They have asked for speakers from the coalition and Jan and Frank agreed to cover these. People in Barnsley and Glasgow have asked for badges and a speaker.

5. DAY OF ACTION

The rally will be outside the hospital on 29th April from 12.00- 2.00. The hospital security will not allow use of the forecourt, so the pavement and road will have to be used. Police are happy with this and will attend. Jan will organize a soapbox and there will be the usual stall for leaflets, badges etc, and also one with tea.

Publicity materials - There are lots of placards, badges and helium cat balloons (badges to be sold), but balloons will be free, given out as people arrive to be released at the end of the rally. A new leaflet to be produced which gives information about the DWHC and forthcoming events.

Speakers currently lined up are Jeremy Corbyn, Emily Thornbury, Lynne Featherstone, Andrew Lansley, James Humphries, Catherine West, Terry Stacy, Darren Johnson, Gary Heather, Janet Burgess, Paul Brandon, Dave Webb, Terry Wogan, Dave Carr, Carol Moon, Jane Shallice, Barb Jacobson, Mark Boothroyd, Wendy Savage, Rich Moth, Candy Udwin and someone from the Highgate Society. Speakers to have a maximum of 3 minutes each.

DWHC song to be performed by Dave Plummer and the words printed on the back of the leaflet.

Activities in the morning before the rally

- Ballot at the bus garage on the A&E closure; results reported at the rally
- Demos at the Metropolitan University and City and Islington College
- Demos by Unison at the Town Hall and post office workers at Almeida St
- Events at two GP surgeries in Laycock St and St John's Way
- Group outside the hospital at 7.00 am to publicise the rally with staff

Press coverage

Shirley is getting LBC, Radio 4 and Channel 4 interested in covering the rally and all the events. There is a lot of interest.

Stewards to be organized by Richard on the day.

6. NEXT MEETING - 10TH May

This will report back on the Day of Action and also think about the future strategy. Matters to be considered include involvement in a London wide NHS campaign, attendance at the next NHS board, and greater co-operation with the Haringey Whittington group.

Kathleen Greaves