**East London Peoples Assembly: Minutes Wednesday 3rd July, London Muslim Centre, Whitechapel**

Facilitators: Rhiannon Colvin, Sam Fairburn and ?

Participants: 60-70

**Key Decisions**

* Next Meeting: Newham Wednesday 14th August
* East London Peoples Assembly/ Rally to happen in Tower Hamlets on Thursday 12th September.
* Boroughs that want to can organise their own assemblies/ rallies in the same week and don’t need to be part of the big one in Tower Hamlets.

**The Meeting**

*Section 1: What do we want to work on?*

(Big Group discussion)

Big Mobilisations:

* Tory party conference. Manchester, 29th September.
* Day of Civil Disobedience. Countrywide, 5th November.
* East London Peoples Assembly/ Rally

Issues:

* Education
* Housing
* Benefits cuts
* NHS
* Anti EDL/ Anti Racism
* Democratic Processes
* Use of Technology
* Engaging Unions/Strikes/ Trade Councils.

Question: What is the end goal/ what does the alternative look like? We would like to create more time and space for a discussion on that.

*Section 2: Borough Discussions*

* What are the key issues in our borough?
* How do we want to work on them? What is it important to prioritise?
* How can we link into/ mobilise for national mobilisations and processes?

**Hackney** (Contact Person- john.haworth3@btinternet.com)

* Outreach and connecting with people not already engaged as well as linking up with the multiple groups that already exist is important.
* Specifically in Hackney there is stuff happening around the Bedroom tax, NHS and Fire station closures.
* Would be keen to build towards a big East London Peoples Assembly and rally day.
* Have created an email list and would like to come together before and at next ELPA meeting.
* Would like to have a space for people to advertise and communicate the different events and struggles happening.

**Tower Hamlets** (Contact Person- john.mcloughlin@btopenworld.com)

* Prioritised building for national demonstration at Tory party conference on 29th September through engaging unions and getting publicity out there.
* Think the mobilising rally in early September is important.
* Important to facilitate local initiatives turning into action and to have borough assemblies as well as the whole of East London.
* Want to connect with communities of people that aren’t normally engaged as well as with organisations that already exist and are working on issues.

**Newham** (Contact Person- rachelnewton144@btinternet.com)

* Key issues in Newham: poverty, racism and closing of libraries.
* Housing top priority and important issue to focus on.
* Would like to put energy into civil disobedience day of action and link local action to national such as occupying housing, stopping bus depot or taking action at banks in Canary Wharf right on their door step.
* Do a mapping of groups that already exist and how they can be supported.
* Build for big demo- would like to get a coach going from Newham.

**Waltham Forest** (Contact Person- raygoodspeed@yahoo.com)

* There is a big action happening against the Bedroom Tax on 27th July.
* Important NHS campaign happening that should be linked up with.
* Important to link up with existing groups
* Want to also mobilise towards Tory party demo through petition and leafleting.
* Going to meet as local organising group and feed into East London Assembly.

**Barking/ Dagenham/Redbridge/Essex**

(Contact Person- bobarcher46@btinternet.com)

* Important to work on local issues but also want to feed into bigger national campaigns.

**Closing Points:**

* Connecting and mobilising people at the grassroots and local level to build a truly diverse movement of people that are not usually engaged in politics is crucial and a key role that borough based assemblies should play.
* Engaging, supporting and encouraging trade unions to strike, take action, support national demonstration very important.
* Need to create helpful tools and materials for local groups. Perhaps online each group could have its own local section, with contact person, map of groups in area and access to useful information and leaflets.
* Need to create a structure to enable borough-based groups to feed into East London Assembly and up to National Level.

**Upcoming Events:**

* 5th July- Save Our NHS: Day of Action Against Privateers.
* 10th July 6:30pm @ St John at Hackney Church- Local doctors consulting with local community about what kind of GP out of hours services they need.
* 13th-20th July: Dalston Peoples Festival
* 18th July- FBU Demonstration
* 18th July- The Monument- London Fire station
* 19th July 7:30- Redbridge Trade Union Council, RAF Club, Cranbrook Road. Guest Speaker from ‘Defend Council Housing’
* 20th July- Stuff the Banks! UK Uncut Action
* 27th July- National Day of protests against the Bedroom Tax. Demonstrations happening in Waltham Forest, Tower Hamlets and Hackney.
* 25/26th August- EDL planning to march in Tower Hamlets. We should oppose/ resist and stop them.