

Notes from Save Our Services Steering Committee  
8<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Present: Paul Couchman, Helen Couchman, Pat Brocklehurst-Burton (RMT), Kye Gbangbola (TAZ), Thelma Snelgrove, Lee Belsten (FBU), Sue Bryer, Veena Silva, Alex Houden, Kelvin Foote, Sheila Wright, John Tester, Brian Creese, Liz Mansfield, Ginny Eaton.

Apologies received from: Fiona Harkin, John Hadwin, Iain Raymond, Matt Clarke, Adrian Mitchell, Paul Thompson, Jerry Mitchell and Joanne Tester.

#### Truth About Zane

Kye gave the meeting an update regarding the fight for truth and justice and an independent panel inquiry into the death of his son Zane. The meeting agreed to continue to support and promote the TAZ campaign.

#### Updates:

RMT – No change in the situation. Still a stalemate with management refusing to meet to negotiate a settlement to the long-running dispute over safety and the role critical role of the guard. It was agreed to publicise future strike days and invite people to show solidarity with the picket lines and to circulate the RMT petition. Future strike days include the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### FBU

Following an inspection of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the great campaigning work of the FBU and SOSiS amongst others, it looks likely that the level of proposed future cuts to the service may be reviewed. This should be seen as a victory but the service is still understaffed and cuts are still planned. The FBU focus is on the safety of their members (and by default the public) by pushing for a return to fully staffed (5 firefighters) appliances.

#### UNISON

Surrey County Council are currently consulting on a range of cuts and austerity measures, including closing Childrens Centres and making cuts in Special Educational Needs Provision, Adults Social Care, Waste Services, Bus Services and Libraries.

#### Treasurers Report

We have £778.05 in the bank and a donation going in from UNISON of £100. An appeal was made to other trade unions and organisations to make donations. It was agreed to spend what was necessary and what would be helpful in making the 15<sup>th</sup> December demonstration a success.

#### 15 December in Woking

After a lot of discussion and various ideas thrown around, the following actions were agreed:

A March from Woking Borough Council Offices to the Town Square  
Assembling at 11am, marching off at 11.30am, with speakers from 12/12.30pm

The FBU will seek permission to set up their 'campaign wagon' in the Town Square as a focal point and from which people can speak. If this is not possible we will improvise a speaking platform, stalls etc.

#Austeritykills will be the main branding for the event, with the SOSiS logo.

We will also use the FBU logo and 'We Rescue People not Banks'

We will also use the RMT logo and 'Keep the Guard on the Train'

We will also use the UNISON logo and 'Save Our Services'

Kelvin Foote will ask the Christ Church whether we can use their foyer/facilities on the day

All present will use their press contacts to send out information to local papers and radio/TV

Unions will target their members working in most affected services and aim for some of them to be speakers. Local FBU, RMT, UNISON, Labour Party, Green Party and Socialist Party will have slots on platform. Paul will approach the mother who recently took SCC to court over cuts in SEND provision.

This will mostly be promoted via Social Media but a flyer will be designed and emailed out to all for printing where necessary. If costs are to be incurred please contact SOSiS for reimbursement if needed. The leaflet will just have the main details of the event, the logos and slogans and contact details, FB etc for SOSiS.

A banner for the head of the event will be commissioned linked to the general branding.

Paul will approach Sian Manaz (PCS) to design the flyer and banner. He will also ask her if there are any good contacts in Surrey DWP PCS.

Kelvin will also ask his partner.

Paul will set up a WhatsApp group of those present to coordinate the work leading up to the event.

Sue Bryer will source some SOSiS Red Balloons for the day to give to children.

Paul Couchman will look at sourcing little bells to make it a bit christmasy

Helen Couchman will act as Chief Steward on the day. Trade Unions and Political Parties will be asked to provide names of volunteer stewards.

Paul Couchman will seek permissions from Woking and the Police regarding the march.

Paul Couchman will set up and promote a Facebook Event for the day – all present to actively promote and share.

Weekly emails will go out to group with updates.

Next meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm again at the Maybury Centre – Thelma to book.