

Camp for Climate Action Oxford Gathering 7th to 8th June

Key Decisions

Liaison

-Police liaison will only communicate with the Kent Police relating to the policing surrounding the camp and site practicalities. There will be no direct meeting with the Met, and “grey areas” will be dealt with at the Liaison Group’s discretion.

-The Liaison Group will meet with the Kent Police in advance with 3 purposes:

- a. To present a critique of last year’s policing
- b. To present an exposition of climate issues.
- c. To establish a working relationship to facilitate set-up of the camp.

Next gathering

Proposal that gathering is held in London July 12th-13th

-Consensus!

Onsite Issues

Alcohol – OK to have alcohol on site but locally sourced if possible.

Dogs – strongly discouraged. Those that must bring dogs must register in advance and will be required to be part of a dog working group.

Live-in vehicles – must be registered and part of a neighbourhood.

Post-Climate Camp 2008

Whatever new large-scale coal-fired power station they start building first, we will stop them with some form of on-going blockade.

This campaign will not just be about Kingsnorth or E.ON but about the fossil fuel economy and false solutions, as the camp has always been about. We will continue to incorporate the 4 aims of the camp (i.e. education and sustainable living as well as direct action and movement-building).

A Strategy Group would continue to work on the practical implications of the post-climate camp proposals and, in doing so, would aim to address the concerns that have been raised.

Working Group

New Action Support group, to provide action training (i.e. similar to the role previously provided by Seeds for Change but this time doing it from within the camp process).

Anti-oppression

Proposal to adopt Anti-Oppression Policy with agreed amendments made.

Mass Action

There are four blocs with equal weight: Choose your Adventure. They'll make flyers.

- One Stand Aside
- Consensus!

Research

- Working group to research
- Social research: not irrelevant information, not questionnaires etc, but other more useful information.
- Asking the questions
- Permission to agree this in principle, will then bring something more detailed to the next gathering.

NGOs/Political Parties

Networking are responsible for liaising with NGOs and decide which NGOs will be invited. NGOs will have a marquee space in which they can have materials and stalls, but are not able to canvas or recruit, even within this space.

- Two Stand Asides
- Consensus!

Political parties are not allowed to have representation at the camp.

- One Stand Aside
- Consensus!

Reply to E.ON

The letter is amended after the meeting by a small group, maintaining the same content but altering the flippant tone.

Full Minutes

SATURDAY

Introduction

-Housekeeping, etc

-Group agreement: listen “actively”, don’t repeat ourselves, no mobiles, respect: don’t attack individuals, favour people who haven’t spoken (if running out of time)

Police Liaison

Proposal:

-Police liaison will only communicate with the Kent Police relating to the policing surrounding the camp and site practicalities.

-The Liaison Group will meet with the Kent Police in advance with 3 purposes:

- a. To present a critique of last year’s policing
- b. To present an exposition of climate issues.
- c. To establish a working relationship to facilitate set-up of the camp.

It was explained that:

- The liaison group would not be liaising with the Metropolitan at all – Kent police are in charge of the operation
- It would not be doing liaison for the biofuels action
- There will be ongoing liaison during the camp itself, plus a police liaison support group. Volunteers wanted for the latter, but it was also proposed that this group should become a closed anonymous group once we’re on site

Noted that there may be situations where the liaison group wants to meet Kent Police (or vice versa) but the Kent police also want someone from the Met to be there.

On point 1 of the proposal, it was suggested that the agreement be amended so that there would be no direct meetings with the Met, but it would be at the Police Liaison group’s discretion on how to deal with “grey areas” in between.

Restated proposal:

-Police liaison will only communicate with the Kent Police relating to the policing surrounding the camp and site practicalities. There will be no direct meeting with the Met, and “grey areas” will be dealt with at the Liaison Group’s discretion.

-The Liaison Group will meet with the Kent Police in advance with 3 purposes:

- d. To present a critique of last year’s policing**
- e. To present an exposition of climate issues.**
- f. To establish a working relationship to facilitate set-up of the camp.**

Consensus!

Workshops Programme

-The overall workshop programme was laid out (a very large display panel!)
-Attention was drawn to the themes for the proposed programme of evening plenary discussions:

- Mon – Capitalism and climate change
- Tue – Capitalism's false solutions
- Wed – Carbon reduction frameworks: what do we feel about frameworks internationally (e.g. Kyoto), nation-state (e.g. carbon bill, individual carbon quotas)
- Thurs – How to stop new coal

-Other topics we hope will be included elsewhere in the workshops programme include our views on NGOs, religion, non-violence.

-Feedback requested.

Media Access Policy

- Need to review the policy in the light of last year's experiences.
- Last year's policy was going to admit journalists only for two hours a day (11-1), not to admit them to workshops, to be clearly identified so people could avoid being photographed etc.
- Also, to ensure some coverage of camp life, there was a policy of having 3 trusted journalists who would be allowed to live on the camp (but still not allowed to stay on site once action planning got underway)
- Following the injunction and massive journalistic interest, the policy became hugely problematic and the idea of embedded journalists was dropped.
- The result was that potentially supportive journalists (which might have added positive coverage) were deprived of access to the camp and we faced complaints from potentially supportive journalists and the NUJ, who accused us of being spin-doctor control-freaks.
- Conversely, a more open policy risks undermining the smooth running of the camp and could raise security concerns etc.

-We divided into small groups to discuss whether the policy be changed and if so how.

Feedback

Group 1:

- Last year's large press conference was a good move – plan it this time.
- We cannot control journalists – they will do what they want.
- It was absurd that supportive/ compliant journalists were restricted/ undercover journalists got more access.
- We will probably get less media interest this year, but probably also less hostility.
- So we should be more accessible to those who we think will be supportive.
- Unresolved issue.

Group 2:

- Need a better relationship with neighbourhoods
- Escorting journalists needs to be better organised

Group 3:

Pros of existing policy:

- Good to have some control over action planning
- The control actually makes the story all the more appealing!

Cons of existing policy:

- Hostile journalists got more access than supportive/compliant journalists
- Suggestion that we try to provide positive incentives for those journalists who comply with our ground-rules – although this will be quite difficult to manage.
- Need to be better organised for managing foreign media – e.g. line-up media spokespeople with foreign language skills
- Open up some bits of the workshop programme? Interviews with speakers might be one of the incentives we can offer to compliant journalists.
- Whatever we do, we will still need to assume that any meeting might include undercover journalists, cops, spies etc.

Group 4:

- Any rules we set will be unenforcible.
- Can we provide incentives for those who comply? E.g. a press pack.

[End of Feedback.]

Some temperature checks showed that:

- People were about equally divided between maintaining a similar level of access, and increasing it. Nobody supported the idea that it should be more restrictive.
- Some support for both a longer media “hour” and also for more live-in journos, but concern was expressed that this should be subject to clear ground-rules over photography and note-taking.

Message from the land group

The following was read out by someone from Process Group (NOT the land group):

“Hi campers.

We've heard some people have been talking about doing independent actions at Kingsnorth just before the climate camp.

Obviously, direct action should be encouraged, and we would hate anyone to think that we were discouraging groups from actively disrupting the power station.

However, we ask everyone to consider of the remit of the land group, which is to secure a site for the climate camp. This was agreed at a national gathering; by consensus.

We ask that groups do not do anything to jeopardise this; for example, by bringing additional police attention to the the area before the camp, or risking the success of the site take.

As soon as the camp is operational, all groups should take action in whatever way they think is appropriate; but please, until then, be mindful of how your actions could affect our task; and therefore the whole camp!

The land group.”

Exclusion Issue

-An individual was excluded beforehand from attending last year's camp. Process group is calling an open meeting in the evening. All are welcome to attend, where a decision on the issue will be made.

Gathering

-There were offers to hold the next gathering from Manchester on July 3-4th or from London on July 12th-13th.

-Advantages of the latter were that a) it helps groups to bring tat towards Kent before the camp itself and b) it means we are potentially ready to do an action on the E.ON-sponsored Guardian Climate Summit in London on July 16th.

Proposal that gathering is held in London July 12th-13th

-Consensus!

Onsite Policies

Alcohol – OK to have alcohol on site but locally sourced if possible.

-Consensus!

Dogs – strongly discouraged. Those that must bring dogs must register in advance and will be required to be part of a dog working group.

-Consensus!

Suggestions re dogs:

- Dogs, like the police, should be registered.

- Dog-owners should be encouraged to walk their dogs by escorting journalists and any on-site police.

-To be considered by the dog group

Live-in vehicles – must be registered and part of a neighbourhood.

-Consensus!

NGO policy – Last year's policy put forward

Last year's policy read out:

“This document sets out some guidelines for how NGOs can get involved in the Camp for Climate Action, both in the run up to and during the camp, with the aim of building good working relationships before, during and after the camp.

This document was ratified by the March Bristol Climate Camp Gathering 2007. The same gathering decided that all political parties are excluded from the guidelines below. Political parties are not welcome to join the climate camp process.

Principles that underlie this document

- The camp aims to help to build a mass movement to fight against climate change, and aims to be inclusive of all kinds of people. We want the camp to be as big, effective, and well-run as possible; this means things like good publicity, getting hold of equipment, reaching out into different communities – lots of which NGOs can help with.*
- The camp is also committed to non-hierarchical, autonomous, consensus-based ways of organising, and has a particular outlook on the problem of climate change and where solutions lie (see key messages). We want to maintain this critical and radical position.*

Overall sentiment guiding working relationships

The Camp for Climate Action is organised by a collective of individuals, some of whom are members of groups. No one group has a central or leadership role in the process, and all voices are equal, whether or not they represent a particular group. At all times, and guiding all of the suggestions below, people are free to act collectively as members/supporters of a particular group, but should take every care not to give the impression that their group has had a central or leadership role in organising the camp (or any part of the camp). This applies to all kinds of groups, from big NGOs to smaller grassroots groups. Practically speaking, the main decisions to be made here are whether or not to have NGO neighbourhoods, and how to ensure that both the internal and ‘public-facing’ landscape of the camp and the organising process are not dominated by any particular group, its messages or its branding.

Definition of NGO

In this document, when we say NGO, we mean large-scale organisations, with paid staff, a centralised organising structure, significant budgets, and in which membership is primarily defined by donations/dues. Examples would be Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, People and Planet, World Development Movement etc. as well as organisations such as the Women's Institute.

NGO Neighbourhoods

Careful consideration must be given to the following pros and cons when approaching the issue of NGO neighbourhoods

Pros

- *Good potential to reach into large, receptive communities that we might not otherwise be able to attract, increasing the camp's numbers and building links with these communities.*
- *The camp has the potential to be a powerful experience for people who attend – education and inspiration in our radical analysis, direct action and non-hierarchical ways of organizing. Think of students who came to the G8 with People and Planet.*
- *NGOs could provide a lot of resources, and are more likely to do so if involved at this level (eg. equipment, publicity, etc.)*

Cons

- *It could be difficult, and cause conflict and bad feeling, for NGOs that normally run on a hierarchical basis to fit into the camp's non-hierarchical, consensus-based ways of organising.*
- *Given their legal status and constitutions, etc., NGOs may struggle to 'hold their nerve' when it comes to breaking the law, police relations, etc.*
- *Having separate physical spaces where NGO members all hang out could cause segregation, actually emphasising barriers that we are trying to break down.*

We decided that we do not want to close the door on the idea of NGO neighbourhoods. We decided it was important to think about the implications of our decisions on small NGO's – instead of narrowing our thoughts only to very big NGO's. However significant concerns were raised in this respect, and these are addressed in the following conditions.

Any neighbourhood must agree to the following:

- *Absolute commitment to horizontal decision making throughout the camp.*
- *A commitment to ensure every individual person in the NGO neighbourhood is made aware of the horizontal process.*
- *Members of the process group and/or on site facilitation group must be allowed to make announcements at any neighbourhood meeting. This includes announcements with the purpose of ensuring everyone has the knowledge and skills to participate in a horizontal process.*
- *That members of the on site facilitation group will be monitoring the extent to which neighbourhoods are organizing horizontally, and will be given the time and space to offer support and training to all neighbourhoods who need it towards this aim.*
- *All neighbourhoods are open and inclusive- so everyone is free to move neighbourhood if they so wish.*
- *NGO's should not, through or at the climate camp, promote their own campaigns if those campaigns conflict with the core aims and values of the camp.*

Guidelines for other forms of involvement

Below we have tried to address some specific forms of involvement that have or are likely to come up. These are useful to 'ground' and focus the discussion, and can act as the guidelines for negotiations with NGOs.

Conditionality/reciprocity

- *Donor conditionality: whatever NGOs offer to the camp is accepted on a 'no strings attached' basis. This goes for money, workshops, equipment, access to newsletter space and email/press lists.*
- *Reciprocal web links: we already link to the major NGOs. New web links can be added at the discretion of the website group.*

Branding

- *Publicity. No logos/branding of any NGO on any national climate camp publicity (neighbourhoods can create their own publicity, as happened last year).*
- *At the camp. If we have NGO neighbourhoods, a banner outside the main neighbourhood marquee can announce what neighbourhood it is, and NGO materials can be displayed in their marquee. Care should be taken not to dominate the landscape of that neighbourhood with branding.*
- *Mass Action. Every care should be taken not to dominate the visual landscape of any mass action with the branding of a particular group.*

Canvassing and leafleting

- *Workshops. Members of NGOs are welcome to offer workshops on either their own behalf or representing their group, and distribute info/canvass for membership during the time and space of that workshop. Please do not canvass for membership outside the workshop time.*
- *Leafleting. A central space will be provided to display leaflets etc. Please do not leaflet or distribute promotional material in other locations.*

Media

There will be a media liaison team dealing with mainstream media in the run up to and during the camp. This team will represent the camp and not any particular group. Individuals are free to speak to the media, but we request that they speak as participants in the climate camp and leave their group affiliation 'at the door' – and especially take care not to represent any particular group's views or messages as those of the camp."

There was general agreement to reinstate policy, but some concerns about:

- Why political parties were being treated less favourably than NGOs
- We need a more sophisticated critique of NGOs, political parties and their role in propping up the current system
- Whether to amend the policy to allow NGOs to hold a stall where their members can come and find that NGO (specifically, World Development Movement are requesting this, as they are encouraging their supporters to attend the camp).

Proposal: To maintain policy, but allow NGOs to hold stalls, though not to recruit members but provide info to their existing members.

-8 Stand asides

-No Consensus.

-Small temporary working group formed to form new proposal for Sunday.

LUNCH

Lunch, cooked by the marvellous Oxford crew, was eaten in the sun.

Action round-up and announcements

Food and climate day actions:

- Bristol did a “Bakers on the breadline” supermarket leafleting action.
- Cambridge did an action on NIAB opposing their growing of GM potatoes.

On Sat 31st May there was a “Big NOise” demo at Heathrow, c4000 people there, linking west Londoners, Sipson residents, climate campers.

Forthcoming action: Guardian Climate Summit on July 16th. Greenwash guerrillas will be there. Meet 8.15am at Business Design Centre, Islington, London. Come dressed in white toxic protection suits and equipment for detecting and decontaminating toxic greenwash (vacuum cleaners)

“53 Weeks a Year”

-At the last gathering, there was a consensus that:

“We will be back if they try to build a new Coal Fired Power Station at Kingsnorth.”

1. We will stop them building Kingsnorth through some form of rolling blockade.
2. This campaign will NOT be just about Kingsnorth or E.ON but about the fossil fuel economy and false solutions, as the camp has always been about.
3. A recognition that this represents a strategic shift for our movement, meaning that the rolling blockade will become the climate camp process’s main priority.

-Strong support for the first two, fairly strong support but more luke-warm on the third one.

-Small groups break off to discuss.

Group 5

Concerns:

- If we took decision before the camp, people attending the camp might feel they had missed out on the decision
- Risk of losing sustainable living and outreach.
- Overall generally enthusiastic. Some concern about losing the camp, but the words “in its current form” doesn’t preclude other forms of camp.

Group 4.

-Generally enthusiastic.

Concerns:

-Feasibility

- Loss of the opportunity to bring the movement together
- Retaining the elements of education and sustainable living.

Group 3

- Generally v positive, despite concerns.
- On the 3rd point, prefer to reword this as “enlarging” the focus rather than “shifting” it.
- Also concerns about access to Kingsnorth for people from the north.
- Maybe set our ambitions down to 3-4 months?

Group 2

Concerns:

- We might need to relocate if Kingsnorth isn't the first place they try building
- Solution: OK to be flexible.
- We should pick the brains of the Faslane 365
- Don't want to say “no camp ever again”.

Group 1

- Very positive about a rolling blockade. Useful spur to re-open questions of how to engage NGOs.
- Need to build a local support base – have an info-shop.
- Agreed about the need to avoid being a single-issue. We can provide a template, which groups working on other issues (e.g. aviation) can follow.
- We need to keep the “forum” (i.e. the coming together of our own movement).
- Need to see how this links to Copenhagen – resource-wise does it conflict, or does it strengthen?

Summary of concerns:

- How to keep engaging people
- Risk of being marginalized into single-issue
- South-east bias
- Loss of our annual big bang

Revised proposals:

- 1. Whatever new large-scale coal-fired power station they start building first, we will stop them with some form of on-going blockade.**
-Consensus!
 - 2. This campaign will not just be about Kingsnorth or E.ON but about the fossil fuel economy and false solutions, as the camp has always been about. We will continue to incorporate the 4 aims of the camp (i.e. education and sustainable living as well as direct action and movement-building).**
-Consensus!
 3. A recognition that this represents a strategic shift for our movement, meaning that the rolling blockade will become the climate camp process's main priority.
- 8 Stand asides

-No consensus.

Reasons for stand-asides:

- About point 2: if they don't do Kingsnorth, we should review whether the focus should necessarily be another power station, or whether we should focus on something else altogether.
- The wording "the climate camp process's main priority" may be over-prescriptive.
- We need more time to take the decision about what the movement's main priority should be. People outside this meeting need time to input on this decision too.
- Given the previous debates about the priority for the current climate camp (between coal, biofuels and other priorities e.g. incineration), there is a risk that people with those other priorities may be missing out on the opportunity to shape priorities beyond the climate camp.
- We haven't had enough time to reflect. The process of making this decision feels rushed.
- The camp is amazing and just beginning to get going – it would be a real shame to kill it now. We need to grow the movement fast, can we do it as quickly without the camp?

A Strategy Group would continue to work on the practical implications of the post-climate camp proposals and, in doing so, would aim to address the concerns that have been raised.

-Consensus

Working Groups

-The following groups introduced themselves and said would meet now: networking, structures, process, caravan, legal, police/council liaison, meetings group.

-Workshops group will meet tomorrow

-Medics, Well-being, Gate are also functioning but not meeting this weekend.

New Action Support group, to provide action training (i.e. similar to the role previously provided by Seeds for Change but this time doing it from within the camp process).

-Consensus!

Groups needed for entertainment, tranquillity and welcome groups.

SUNDAY

Housekeeping

Be nice to this new space. Distribute the flyers. Everywhere.

Anti-oppression Policy

Context presentation:

-In response to the discussion around cafes and worries about groups.

- A positive way of talking about exclusion.
- Based on similar policies in place in the American and Australian Climate Camps.

Anti-Oppression and Safer Space Policy Proposal read out.

Proposed amendments

- Reference to Institutions muddies the personal conduct message.
- Language around Religion needs a little work – include “No Religion” in the options!
- Further policy about Tranquillity Space
- The Anarcho feminist women’s space in London might take responsibility for improving the Tranquillity policy. will make contact.
- perhaps language around “jokes” needs work. Done. Change to “Inappropriate Humour”
- Add Speciesism to the “-isms”. Does this alienate some humans?
- we’re already alienating dogs! (with an un-enforced policy) we don’t want to offend the *people* who would put “Speciesism” in...
- widen “faiths” to Views or beleifs”
- The policy language needs to acknowledge that some oppressive behaviour may be un-intentional. Legal language required here.

All our policies need to be available to everyone who comes in.

The reason for having “policies” and the difference between “policies” and “Rules” should be clear at those access points – welcome, workshops, tranquillity. History of the policies – the Gathering Process.

Proposal to adopt Anti-Oppression Policy with agreed amendments made.

-Consensus!

Amended policy (edited after gathering):

“The Camp for Climate Action believes that anti-oppression work is vital to building a movement to eliminate the exploitation of people and the planet. Our society rewards those with power and privilege while exploiting and oppressing according to gender, class, sexuality, race and other lines. To resist oppression and present an alternative vision, the Camp for Climate Action will create a pro-active Safer Space.

Safer spaces are welcoming, engaging and supportive. We want the Camp for Climate Action to be a space where people support each other and can feel free to be themselves. The Camp should be a place where abuse, discrimination and assertion of privilege is not tolerated.

People attending the Camp are expected to be aware of their language and behaviour, and to think about whether it might be oppressive to others. This is no space for violence towards participants, for touching people without their consent, for being creepy, sleazy, racist, ageist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, able-bodiest, classist, sizeist or any other behaviour or language that may perpetuate oppression.

Definitions

We define oppressive behaviour as any conduct (typically along lines of power and privilege) that demeans, marginalizes, threatens or harms anybody on the basis of ability, activist experience, age, class/income level, cultural background, education, ethnicity, gender, immigration, language, nationality, physical appearance, race, belief or no belief, sexual orientation, status as a parent or other such factors. Oppressive behavior comes in a wide variety of forms, from interrupting to verbal abuse, from inappropriate jokes to threats of violence, from unwanted touching to rape. Some forms are more extreme and irreparable than others, but all are unacceptable under this anti-oppression policy.

*What we need to do to create a safer space:
respect people's physical and emotional boundaries
be responsible for your own action. Be aware that your actions do have an effect on others despite what your intentions may be
recognize your own privileges and understand how you may, even inadvertently, be asserting them in an oppressive manner*

*Dealing with problems
Any individual engaging in violence (including sexual harassment) towards Camp participants will automatically be excluding themselves from the Camp.
If you witness oppressive behaviour, Camp participants are expected to take responsibility and be pro-active in calling out and challenging it.
If witnessing behaviour that crosses your or somebody else's boundaries please contact the Anti-Oppression contact point in the Tranquility Space.*

*Participating Groups
All groups participating in the Camp for Climate Action must explicitly reject oppressive behaviour and institutionalized privilege and support the principles and implementation of the Anti-Oppression & Safer Space Policy.*

This policy was developed at the National Gathering in Oxford on Sunday 8 June and is not intended as a set of edicts."

Letter from E.ON

E-on Letter from Kate Ainsborough, Environmental Stakeholder Manager:

"Dear Sir/Madam,

E.ON UK understands that the Climate Camp 2008 event you are organising to be held between 3 and 11 August 2008 will focus principally on Kingsnorth Power Station and Heathrow Airport. Those who participate in the Camp are being encouraged, amongst other things, to take direct action against Kingsnorth Power Station in a day of mass action on 9 August 2008 with the objective of shutting down the power station.

Whilst E.ON respects entirely your right to peaceful protest within the law, we are very concerned that individuals' - including protestors and our employees and contractors - health and safety is not put at risk. In particular we would urge you not to put yourselves and others at risk by attempting to enter the power station site. The

site is an operational power station and those that work at the site are required to comply with E.ON's strict health and safety rules and procedures.

We are also concerned about the potential for severe disruption to the local community, to which we pride ourselves in being a part of.

The power station provides enough power for around 1.5m homes, and plays a vital role in supplying electricity to the South East. Any interruption to the generation of electricity at the power station could put at risk the continuity of electricity supply to the public.

E.ON acknowledges and understands your concerns about its application to build a carbon capture ready cleaner coal fired power station at Kingsnorth, Kent. E.ON would like to reassure you that the decision to pursue the development of these new coal units has not been made lightly. In fact, it represents a fundamental commitment to helping the UK - and indeed the world - reduce its carbon emissions.

At E.ON we are keen to engage with you and would therefore like to offer you the opportunity to meet with us to discuss these complex issues in further detail. If you would like to accept this offer then please contact me Kate Ainscough E.ON's Environmental Stakeholder Manager on [number removed]

We are sure that we are all agreed on the benefits of maintaining an open and constructive dialogue between our two organisations and we look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Kate Ainscough”

Suggestion as to how we deal with it:

Why have they that written us that letter? They want PR they want to be able to say that they're engaging with us, care about climate change. They want to take up our time.

- If we want to meet with them, we have to think about how it might benefit the camp.
- It's not worth bothering with, if we don't get much out of it.
- We could write a bolshi spoof comedy reply,
- We're concerned about health and safety too, so could you please let us know the correct procedures about shutting down your power station, or mention flooding due to climate change.
- Or we could say we'll met publicly – we'd have to all come, because there's no one leader.
- ONLY if we'll get enough out of it in terms of publicity etc.
- It doesn't matter if we don't reply...

Break into Small Groups

Feedback from Small Groups:

-We could just turn up to E-on Offices with cake and tea, and say “Hi! You invited us! We’re here to see Kate Ainsborough”

-Let’s anticipate the prospect that we’re not just shutting down the powerstation. July 16th is a very good date to have this on.

-We could have a Climate Camp Health and Safety officer responding to their concerns

-We can use media – let the Guardian etc know that E-on have got in touch with us. There’s the July 16th guardian event. We might disrupt our own action/arguments though...

-Public standoff BEFORE the camp, help to build out momentum, media profile... We could ask the local MP to mediate/chair the debate. Have it near the power station on Neutral ground. It’s a way we could engage with the scare campaign from E-on and the Kent Police.

-Health and Safety – we could approach the Union Health and Safety officer at the work place rather than engaging their official Health and Safety executive

-E-on are running a slicker PR Campaign than Heathrow. We must engage somehow – we must send an eloquent reply. BUT They’ll say we’re being unreasonable however we respond.

-We WILL engage. We’ve got positive suggestions... We can agree to reply. We will meet with them publicly. In principle, we agree. Let’s write to say we’ll meet you on July the 16th, at the Guardian summit. If you refuse that public meeting, name your date.

-Are Networking planning a meeting in the local area? Yes.

-Let’s discuss this during Parking Lot Time

-Meet, NOT on July the 16th, but at an open meeting, with the media. Eon will not be able to control the debate or spin it. Our responses will be as available as

-The people trying to plan the July 16th action don’t want the controlled meeting with Eon to happen at the same time.

-Just writing a letter takes no time at all.

-Local event, with local MP there. Eon really did build a local school there. Locally, we are already really losing the PR battle.

-Media team will support whatever happens, but they don’t have the time to put their own energy into it.

-If we said “Yes, we’ll talk to you but only at the camp.” It can be a day’s story.

-Don't wear your official E-on badge, as you might get pied.

-If our meeting is revoked, we really lose faith,

Mass Action Proposals

Proposal One

At the last gathering it was decided that to help decision making be more effective, we would not seek camp-wide consensus on action, but have a system of people-blocks, like to G8.

-Meetings group came up with colours for the different blocks they are proposing. We will advertise them. Others will come up at the camp and between.

- Orange, kid friendly, could be the kids on their own if they wanted to.
- Yellow, Visually interesting spectacle, (eg to blockade the main entrance).
- Green, getting through the fence and into Kingsnorth by land.
- Blue, trying to get into Kingsnorth by Sea.
- Deep Blue, trying to get into Kingsnorth under water
- Blue Sky Block. Getting into Kingsnorth by air.

The groups can break down into smaller sub-groups at or before the camp. Next gathering, we might allocate facilitators to each block. In everyone's neighbourhood, they can already start planning.

- If someone comes just for the day of action, how do they get involved?
- Response: Well, maybe people will be able to find out in advance which block they want to join before they get there. Vague, but the best we can do.
- Having slots each day when people plan and organise for their action.
- On Monday, people choose which block they want to be in, they develop plans throughout the week.

Proposal two

*“THE GREAT REBEL RAFT REGATTA
Climate Camp 08 - Day of Mass action – 9th August.*

The vision:

A strange fusion of futuristic flotilla, activist armada and charity raft race floats down the river Medway. Hundreds of rebel rafts of every shape and size are swarming towards Kingsnorth power station, like a giant shoal of disobedient fish with a single aim, to shut down the climate criminals.

For weeks leading up to the camp and during the camp itself, affinity groups and neighbourhoods have been building rafts. A multitude of different themed rafts are being constructed out of recycled materials, drift wood, plastic drums, inner tubes and every kind of bit of scrap imaginable. There are pirate ship rafts, musical rafts,

desert Island rafts, migration rafts, polar bears floating on ice-berg rafts, apocalyptic rafts, yellow submarine rafts, car wreck rafts, Robinson Crusoe rafts, battle ship Potemkin rafts, Viking rafts, Kontiki rafts, life rafts and love rafts, dark rafts and hope rafts.

On the day of action, just as the tide is right, affinity groups launch their rafts from different points along the river Medway. The flow of the river takes this bizarre carnival of rafts down stream to the Power station. The police are unable to contain so many rafts coming from every direction, arrests are hard to make in the water, in the resulting confusion several groups of rafters make it to the coal jetty, climb on and shut down the power station. It makes a good accessible story and we have won another victory in the fight for climate justice and despite getting wet, have had great fun doing it.

Meanwhile, a smaller supporting land based action, which has been decided upon openly at the camp (like last year) takes place for the landlubbers amongst us.

Safety Issues:

Public Safety is paramount in this action. There could be numerous systems set up to ensure that everyone is safe in the river:

Every one will be required to wear a life jacket. There is possible funding for these and it looks like we could get about 500 jackets.

Everyone involved should take part in a water safety workshop that would be held at the camp and run by professional waterborne activists and sailors.

There will be several safety boats (high speed ribs with outdoor motors) with trained lifeguards, safety teams onboard. Crews would have all relevant RYA certificates and a medic present (GP are looking into helping on this)

The key safety issue is to get the tide right.

Tide times: Rochester

High tide – 06.47am: 7.6m

Low tide - 12:32 : 3.8m

High tide – 19.03: 7.5m

This means a launch around 0930 / 1000 hrs, from locations upstream of Kingsnorth, rafts would catch the last of the retreating tide to help bring them downstream towards the power station. Rafts would then have the slack water period (say an hour and a half) to take advantage of operating during slack water will probably be easier and safer than during tidal currents.

This would bring us to about 1330 hrs, around which time slack water will be over and tides will reverse.

The flooding tide can then be used as a safety feature, as it should help to ensure that all rafts still water borne will be pushed back upstream and away from the estuary / open water / shipping lanes.

Practicalities:

A working group is being put together to sort out the complex logistics of the operation. This group would be responsible for developing safety strategies, designing and building rafts, sourcing materials and transporting them to the camp, organise trainings in building rafts and water based actions, and begin to work on the strategies of how to get rafts out of the camp.

One idea that has been suggested is that we try to rent a warehouse type space in one of the nearby towns (perhaps on the waters edge) which becomes a kind of raft making convergence centre (an Aladdin's cave of recycled materials) and local outreach space for the week leading up to the camp. Perhaps the caravan could end up there ? There is even an empty (squattable or borrowable) pub called THE SHIP !! in the next door village to Kingsnorth – Lower Stoke.

Maybe - if handled right – having a town presence could be a great opportunity to engage with local people and expertise through the use of constructive craft, potentially showing appreciation/ respect for boating know-how.

There are also the possibilities of expanding the idea to a bigger flotilla and making use of the maritime culture /history of the local area. Other vessels yachts and boats of locals / anyone who wish to show dissent against the new power plant could take part and it would be a good way to encourage local participation on the day, giving local residents etc an opportunity to join us, which doesn't involve marching into police lines and through which they can control their level of involvement by self determining how close to the power station they sail etc. this could, if done properly, also act as a good safety feature.

Affinity Group Building:

Raft building is a great way of building affinity groups, it's an excellent cohesive activity (the sad truth is that loads of crappy business team building course use it !!) . If it was taking place at the camp, then people would be able to visibly see each others affinity group whilst building their rafts, communication would be easier and new people might be attracted by certain raft designs and want to join in, collaborate etc..

The action itself would be fun, reduce frontal confrontation with the police and crewing a rebel raft together would be a further cohesive activity for new affinity groups.

Strategic advantages:

The weakest point of defence of the power station is via the water. The fences on land are easy to police.

The police are able to mobilise large numbers for public order events on land, this is not the case for water based actions. Water based policing is extremely expensive and a specialist activity, and the special marine teams are not used to policing public order. We would be at a great strategic advantage, especially if the rafts are launched from different points along the river Medway. Decentralisation and swarming being our great strengths.

Kent Police have no marine unit but use Essex police, who have several boats but seem to have only 16 members of the unit. The Met has 22 boats in their Marine Support Unit, but do not normally operate below Dartford.

The action also gives space for the 'diversity of tactics' already agreed on, both within and outside the flotilla. A simultaneous but a smaller land based action, which is only decided during the camp, will further split police forces.

Wildlife:

A lot of the intertidal zone (the area that covers and uncovers) is particularly important for wildlife, some of it SSSI. we need to have adequate mapping and give a suitable briefing to all raft crews so that they can take sensible informed decisions about where to launch and recover their craft. We don't want to trample though important habitats.

Imagery:

The image of hundreds of beautiful rafts being built and then launched like a shoal of fish drifting downriver, of people running across fields carrying rafts as they try to dodge police lines, of conflict in the water as people start to attach themselves to the jetty that carries the coal, these are all images that are profoundly different from the traditional land based confrontation of people marching into a line of riot police and trying to get over a fence.

They are images that speak of creativity, audacity and everyday pleasures. Rafts also have endless cultural references from the raft of the Medusa to Huckleberry fin, the refugees crossing the Mediterranean to popular charity fundraising events, Noah's Ark to Kevin Costner's water world. It's a story that links to the flooding of our world, the rising tides,xxx the quest for survival and adventure is bound to catch the media's attention, something that will be a lot harder to do this year seeing as we are not next to Heathrow airport.

Launching the idea:

A special web site is being designed.

www.thegrrr.net

Publicity material needs to be prepared. Social networking tools need to be set up ...

An idea is to find a curator who will be up for having an exhibition of all the rafts post camp – partly this is to encourage artists to get involved !

Next Meeting:

*QUEEN MARY BOAT PUB ! Waterloo Pier, Victoria
Embankment, London, WC2R 2PP - MONDAY JUNE 23rd..7pm”*

The group who have made this proposal would like it discussed.

-It's all out in the open now.

-It'll be a very visual way to form affinity groups – pirates,

-How can we get locals involved, will it impact badly on the camp? We'll look like a right bunch of loonies. Unsafe. Our Safety measures must be really well re-stated.

-The Police will spend a packet. The Medway is a very different river to the Thames.
-They don't have the boat capacity.

-Will we pull it off? How does this fit in with the Bloc's?

-The success of the rafts proposal depends on the quantity of rafts. The Blue Bloc hope that this will be the main narrative of the day's action. Rising tide, survival, media-attention...

-The group want camp money to go towards the emphasis of this narrative, a very appealing one-day-out narrative for day-of-action visitors.

-Concerns about the use of river in terms of safety and accessibility for the untrained.

-However the chaotic nature could be a very effective tactic if done by trained people who knew what they were doing.

-Good to have the media focussed on this kind of event. Need for inter-bloc coordination.

-How effective will it be against well trained boat police?

-Lots of safety concerns. Concern that if the boat bloc was the main focus then it might seem inaccessible to the general public.

-Do we have the capacity to organise the rafts on top of everything else?

Break into small groups.

Feedback.

-In general, it would be really useful to pre-publicise plans for mass action in terms of media, accessibility...

-We should go with four blocs, with the rafts as one element. It might come off, it would work with 250 people. The people who are passionate will make it happen.

-All Blocs could be given equal weight in presentation, but the narrative of boats can be prominent on flyers.

-“Choose Your Adventure”

-It will work really well as part of the Rolling Blockade if it doesn't happen at the camp.

-Logistical nightmare. The proposals have to be really good – renting a warehouse, how do we protect that from total police lock-down. Financial Resources – they need to persuade us, with specifics. The Finance of the Climate Camp does not spend any money on Direct Action.

-Rafts can be both built there, and built elsewhere and transported. Big planning, careful planning. It's not impossible.

-The Police will know it's going to happen, what's to stop them confiscating all our rafts, they won't be restrained by actual legal analysis.

-It should not be the main thing, but it can definitely be a Bloc, and receive promotion as for all the Blocs, as for the whole event...

-They have raised funds for 500 life-jackets. They think they'll find all the funds they need (For real boats to be our own safety stuff). It's publicity budget money that they want for their own information and outreach.

-The Website should show these ideas in development.

-Generally, all agree it should not be the main focus of action. There was some thinking that it could be a stronger push of publicity than other elements of the camp.

-All rafts should have messages, readable from the air!

Proposal:

We will have a water based action as one of four/several Blocs. A part of the Bloc System. It is one of the Blocs, not the main thing in terms of publicity, but it is a media spectacle. It will have space on the website, alongside other blocs.

We will let this Bloc then decide exactly how it runs itself.

Boats do not have to take part in blockading.

We had Consensus on the framework of these specific Blocs, and the framework of Blocs, last meeting.

**Proposal: There are four blocs with equal weight: Choose your Adventure.
They'll make flyers.**

-One Stand Aside

-Consensus!

Blue Bloc can separate into levels of fluff/spectacle/legality. All Blocs can split when they no longer have affinity. That's the way affinity groups work.

This gathering has a lot of support for the raft action, forming part of the Blue Bloc. They want to make a mass-action flyer. This could go to Networking group for Flyering money.

Lunch

Another amazing lunch from the amazing kitchen crew!

Announcements

Research proposal for Climate Camp

-Working group to research

-Social research: not irrelevant information, not questionnaires etc, but other more useful information.

-Asking the questions

-Permission to agree this in principle, will then bring something more detailed to the next gathering.

-There are people doing the academic research: will the data be available to these people?

-Comment that this shouldn't be 'market' research

-Response: Not Market.

-Art idea.

-Consensus!

Agrofuels:

-Walking tour: doesn't require police permission anymore.

-They want to emphasise they are inclusive and

Organising for Copenhagen:

Sunday 13th September European social forum

Good for UK climate camp to have representation

Feedback of exclusion, discussion was made that the individual would not be able to attend the camp because of the feelings of other people attending, a letter will be written

NGO policy proposal

Networking are responsible for liaising with NGOs and decide which NGOs will be invited. NGOs will have a marquee space in which they can have materials and stalls, but are not able to canvas or recruit, even within this space.

-Two Stand Asides

-Consensus!

Reasons to Stand asides:

-One for the reason that a manned stall is different from leaflets

-One because they didn't feel we should be working directly with NGO's

Comment that Funding should be found from NGO's to pay for the structure.

Political parties are not allowed to have representation at the camp.

-One Stand Aside

-Consensus!

One stand aside: for the reason that NGOs aren't better than political parties. Voiced concerns about the movements attitude towards these groups. Requests space for discussion of the issue of how we engage with political parties at the next gathering.

Apart from these amendments/clarifications, the policy remains the same as previous year (see earlier in minutes).

Leaflets

Getting a list for the distribution of leaflets

Leaflets may be moved to London if there is storage

A guy on Death row, into environmentalism, would like penpals, and wrote specifically to the Camp for Climate Action, via it's Oxford mail box.

Anyone could write to him, he sounds like a nice chap liking reading, arts, politics, life, sport, anything that is important to everyone.

Terry Williams AY/3626,
175 Progress Drive,
Waynesburg,
Pennsylvania
15370/8082

Working Group Time

E.ON Letter

Small Group working on E.ON letter reply present their proposed reply:

"Dear Kate,

We're concerned about Health and Safety too – the W.H.O. report states that an estimate of a hundred and fifty thousand people are dying each year through the effects of human-generated Climate Change.*

If you could please supply us with the Health and Safety information for your Power Station, we shall endeavour not to risk any lives while we are neighbours. Also, full schematics of your Kingsnorth Power station, with dangers highlighted, would be invaluable.

Unfortunately, your organisation can't meet our organisation yet, as our organisation doesn't exist until the Camp For Climate Action is happening! We have no leaders who we could send as a representative to meet with you, or even a group of peers who could meet with your Board of Executives. We aren't really an organisation as you'd understand it; we're a movement of concerned and pro-active individuals.

We could meet in open, mediated/facilitated meetings, on neutral ground, nearby and during the camp, perhaps on the 3rd, 4th or 5th of August. A large group of volunteers from the camp could come to answer any of your questions, address your concerns, and pose our own, with inter-national media present too.

You are very welcome to attend our camp as human beings (as opposed to representatives of your corporation). Our Camp has four aims:

To create an autonomous space, where people are interacting on all levels, and not just consuming.

To live in as low-impact and globally conscious a way as possible, using minimal resources and sharing the responsibilities of site management and mutual care.

Also to teach and learn from each other and wider organisations about climate science, false solutions and real alternatives.

And finally, to take direct action against the unmissable offenders in terms of global warming: There is no clean way to burn coal and the BERR Report states that CCS technology is unproven, and 15 years away, at least.*

Sincerely

The environmental stakeholder managers of the Camp for Climate Action

P.S, please tell us how we can safely shut down your power station, to minimise risk! Feel free to put us in touch with senior engineers/button-pushers etc.

**UK Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (referred from <http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/carbon-abatement-tech/ccs-demo/page40961.html>)*

-Concerns raised that tone is too flippant, and that the letter needs amending.

Proposal: The letter is amended after the meeting by a small group, maintaining the same content but altering the flippant tone.
-Consensus!

The amended letter is as follows:

“Dear Kate

Thank you for your letter dated 13 May 2008 inviting us to enter into dialogue.

Like you, we are concerned about Health and Safety – the W.H.O. report states that at least a hundred and fifty thousand people are dying each year through the effects of human-generated climate change.*

You are right that we plan to close down Kingsnorth power station during the week of the camp, but this is only a small step towards a much wider aim. We need to set our society on course for a more self-sufficient, lower carbon economy. Our camp will be a model of sustainable living, educational outreach, participatory decision-making and acting on our convictions.

*Branding your planned new power station “clean coal”** does not get round the fact that it will increase total greenhouse emissions. You say in your letter you are genuinely committed to reducing carbon emissions “in the UK – and indeed the world”. If you are sincere in this, the last thing you would be doing is increasing the amount of power generated from coal burning, when renewable solutions are chronically under-utilised.*

The camp is not an “organisation” in conventional terms, but a loose and informal movement of concerned and pro-active citizens, who come together for the camp. Once the Camp For Climate Action 2008 is up and running, those who attend might be willing to explore the possibility of a facilitated, open meeting on August 3rd, 4th or 5th in Hoo. They could answer any questions, address your concerns, and pose our own, with international media present.

In the meantime, as health and safety is at the core of our planning, we would welcome any information you are willing to send us in advance. A full schematic of the power station, with the dangers highlighted, and details of how to safely close it down would be particularly useful. Feel free to put us in touch with the relevant personnel.

In any event, you and your co-workers are very welcome to attend our camp. Would you like to receive further details of our programme of events, workshops, plenaries, talks and entertainment?

Yours sincerely

The Environmental Stakeholder Managers of the Camp for Climate Action

** The W.H.O. report we are most aware of is The United Nations Climate Change Human Impact Report, which is released every five or six years*

***The BERR Report states that CCS technology is unproven, and least 15 years away. (UK Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (referred from <http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/carbon-abatement-tech/ccs-demo/page40961.html>))*