**OXFORD & DISTRICT LABOUR PARTY**

Secretary

Ann Black

88 Howard Street

Oxford OX4 3BE

Tel: 01865-722230 (home) / 07956-637958 (mobile)

e-mail: annblack50@btinternet.com / annblack2001@gmail.com 7 February 2018

**To: Members of the Oxford & District Labour Party**

You are invited to a meeting of the Oxford & District Labour Party at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday 9 February 2018** in the St Clements Family Centre, Cross Street, Oxford OX4 1DA. A map is attached – there is limited car parking, but the centre is close to the Cowley Road and St Clements. All members are welcome to attend, speak and vote on all policy issues including resolutions. I hope to see you there.

Ann Black, Secretary

**REVISED AGENDA**

*7:30* 1. Attendance, apologies and welcome

*7:31* 2. Agreement of agenda and timings

*7:33* 3. Minutes of the all-member meeting on 12 January 2018, attached together with the submission to the party democracy review on black, Asian and minority ethnic organisation. These include the full text of Sian Errington’s speech, which members may find useful.

*7:35*  4. Matters arising

*7:37* 5. Urgent business, including any other business.

1. **Motions**. Summertown & Wolvercote have asked for the motion at 10.2(a) on Haringey to be taken as an emergency in place of motion 10.2(b) on the NHS (branches are only entitled to submit one motion to each all-member meeting). The meeting should vote on which motion they prefer to debate tonight and which should be deferred to March. Greater Headington have asked for their motion on immigration to be taken in March.

*7:40* 6. **Speaker: Giampi Alhadeff** will introduce discussion on Brexit and the way ahead for Labour.

Giampi Alhadeff is currently honorary vice-president of the Labour Movement for Europe and a party member in Hackney North and Stoke Newington.  He is a community activist, networker and campaigner with 25 years’ experience of successful campaigning in Britain and in the EU. He was formerly the secretary-general of the European Parliamentary Labour Party, and before that, general secretary of War on Want (after George Galloway) and the founding general secretary of Solidar, the European alliance of NGOs linked to socialist parties and the trade unions where he led campaigns on social rights, and for "decent work' and including labour and trade union rights in trade agreements.

*8:30* 7. Motion - Brexit proposed by the Greater Marston branch

This meeting believes that the Labour Party's policy on Brexit should be to remain in the Customs Union, and hold a second referendum on EU membership: either to accept the final deal and leave, or to remain in the EU."

[*Secretary’s note: propose making points on this in the discussion under 6, and then vote on the motion in two parts: for or against remaining in the customs union, and for or against a second referendum on the final deal*]

*8:40* 8. Fundraising collection

*8:40* 9. **Parliamentary report**. Anneliese Dodds MP.

*9:00* 10. Motions

10.1 **Afrin** proposed by the East Oxford branch

The Turkish army is engaged in illegal cross-border invasion of the Syrian-Kurdish region of Afrin and indiscriminately bombing all the villages and towns. There are scores of civilians deaths and casualties. The graphic pictures emerging in the past few days, are horrifying, so many children massacred so violently. The Turkish State, an EU candidate, ally of the West and second largest NATO army, launched an act of aggression against the same people who earned the world’s respect for defeating ISIS with their courageous sacrifices and historic resistance. The military campaign includes pro-Erdogan Syrian Jihadist mercenaries, and poses a dire threat to 800,000 civilians, half of whom are internally displaced people who sought refuge in Afrin from regions like Aleppo and Idlib, as Afrin was the most safe and stable region throughout the 6 years bloody war in Syria.

**The members of OKSA and I urgently want our British government**, as a member of NATO,to call on Turkish government to stop the military aggressions and invasion, that undermine the current peace efforts in the region and threatens so many civilian lives and instead seek a peaceful political solution to the Kurdish issue.

10.2 (a) **Haringey and the NEC** proposed by Summertown & Wolvercote branch

This meeting supports the recent decision of the Labour Party NEC to intervene in the issue surrounding the controversial Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV). The measured and conciliatory intervention was made in response to a request from a number of Haringey councillors and union representatives, and was called for given the outcry of the local community against the HDV, and its lack of democratic mandate (having never appeared in a manifesto). The motion, which called for mediation to resolve the matter amicably, and advised a pause in the process, was carried unanimously by the NEC. Against a background of the failure of Carillion and problems in Capita, we welcome the actions of the NEC in acting within Labour Party rules to uphold Labour’s commitment to stop all outsourcing.

10.2(b) **NHS** proposed by Summertown & Wolvercote branch

This meeting notes:

a) that overwhelmingly agreed 2017 Labour Party Conference policy commits all sections of the Party to actively oppose the government’s Five Year Forward View. This includes the vehicles for this known as Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships, alongside the Accountable Care Systems being brought in as undemocratic replacements of a single English NHS. Current Conference policy commits the next Labour government to restoring our NHS along its founding principles as per the NHS (Reinstatement) Bill.

b) this meeting further notes Shadow Health Secretary Jon Ashworth’s words: “we’ve committed to halting STPs and at our Annual Conference we made clear our opposition as a Party to American style so-called Accountable Care Organisations which will see an expansion of private providers in the delivery of care”.

This meeting resolves to take this commitment forward and to take every step necessary to ensure that Conference policy informs Labour party, Labour councils’ and trade union campaigns in aiming to stall and stop current government policy. This action also constitutes preparation for implementing Conference policy for the restoration of our fully publicly-funded, publicly-provided, comprehensive, universal NHS by the next Labour government.

This meeting calls on the 2 CLPs

a) to campaign actively on the Labour Party Conference NHS policy from now on;

b) to call upon CLP representatives on the relevant Policy Forum to take these policies forward and ensure they are fed into the next Labour Party manifesto;

c) to call upon our MPs to publicly support the NHS Bill, and/or sign up to the #NHSTakeBack pledge;

d)  to call upon Oxford City Council, Labour councillors on the County Council, and our local Trades Unions to do everything in their power to implement the Conference decision to prevent the replacement of our national NHS with new unaccountable bodies and their models of private-public partnership.

10.3. **Rough sleeping is a national emergency** proposed by South West Central branch

a. This meeting notes:

* + 1. Levels of rough sleeping have increased dramatically in recent years, both nationally and locally.
    2. Funding for homelessness services have been slashed by the Conservative government and the Conservative-led County Council.
    3. Community-led initiatives in Oxford, like ‘Iffley Open House’, Oxford Homeless Project, and ‘Homes4All’, have helped to alleviate the harm rough sleepers are forced to endure.
    4. Oxford City Council has maintained its funding for homelessness services, and has secured additional funding for preventing homelessness.
    5. Oxford City Council published a report entitled “The Use of Empty Buildings as Temporary Accommodation for Homeless People”, which concludes that the Council should work with stakeholders to provide innovative solutions to end rough sleeping.
    6. Oxford City Council currently activates its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) only when temperatures are forecast to fall below freezing for 3 consecutive nights.

b. This meeting believes:

i. Rough sleeping and homelessness will only be solved by a radical shift in government policy towards housing, as called for by the 2017 Labour Manifesto – especially regarding its house building programme (focused on building council house), rent caps, and strengthened rights for renters.

ii. Until government policy significantly changes, Labour led councils should do their utmost to alleviate the worst effects of the housing crisis, especially in terms of alleviating the injustice of people being forced to sleep rough.

c. This meeting resolves to support the Labour-led Oxford City Council, and Labour groups on County & District levels across Oxfordshire, in their efforts, specially including effort to:

* + - 1. Support existing community-led initiatives and provide an enabling environment for future interventions to take place,
      2. Investigate how to use more Council-owned properties for temporary accommodation of homeless people,
      3. Actively engage with property-owners – especially large institutions like universities and faith organisations – to identify suitable buildings,
      4. Help to coordinate amongst property owners, community groups, charities, outreach services and the homeless to ensure the successful development of guardianship and shelter schemes.
      5. Remain open and innovative to ensure the best use of empty spaces not only for homeless accommodation but for other purposes as well, such as a soup kitchen, social enterprise hub or community art fair,
      6. Take steps to allow SWEP to be activated whenever temperatures are forecast to fall below freezing and not only after three days.

[*Secretary’s note: this motion mainly concerns the city and county Labour groups, with the meeting asked to support them. If no amendments are submitted it could be passed quickly.*]

*9:25* 11. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 18 January 2018 are attached.

*9:27* 12. National executive committee. Reports from NEC members Ann Black and Pete Willsman are attached for information

*9:29* 13. Future meetings. **Friday 9 March 2018** (Rose Hill community centre, AGM and, provisionally, discussion of the party democracy review), **Thursday 10 May** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, review of elections and speaker on co-housing), **Thursday 14 June** (Abingdon United Football Club, speaker from the Labour campaign for electoral reform), **Thursday 12 / Friday 13 July 2018** (venue and topic to be arranged), **Thursday 6 / Friday 7 September 2018** (first Thursday / Friday to meet deadline for conference motions, venue to be arranged).