**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 31 January 2019

**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 8 February 2019** in the Dean Court community centre, Pinnocks Way, Botley OX2 9DH.

A map and directions are attached – if you can offer a lift, or would like a lift, please contact me and I will try to matchmake. All members are welcome to attend, speak and vote on all policy issues including resolutions. **Please bring the papers in hardcopy or on phone / tablet / etc.**

All members are welcome to attend, speak and vote on all policy issues including resolutions. Amendments to any of the motions must reach me by 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 6 February, and it would be helpful to have corrections to the minutes and notice of urgent business in advance.

Ann Black

Secretary

**AGENDA**

*7:30* 1. Attendance, apologies and welcome. We hope to be joined by Rachel Eden, a former co-chair of the Oxford & District party and current parliamentary candidate for Reading West.

*7:32* 2. Agreement of agenda and timings

*7:33* 3. Minutes of the all-member meeting on 10 January 2019, attached.

*7:35* 4. Matters arising.

1. **11 Motions**. The motions carried have been posted at <https://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/mental-health-3>

<https://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/anti-racism>

<https://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/debt-trap>

In addition the motions on making Oxford an anti-racist city and on the debt trap have been sent to the city and county Labour groups, and that on the debt trap to Anneliese as well.

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

*7:40* 6. Oxfordshire County Labour Group. Leader Liz Brighouse will speak and answer questions on the budget, fighting the cuts and other developments.

*8:05* 7. Oxford City Labour Group. A report will be circulated before the meeting, and councillors will respond to questions and comments.

*8:20* 8. Fundraising collection

*8:20* 9. Parliamentary report including Brexit - Anneliese Dodds MP

*8:45* 10. Motions from branches

1. **Brexit** proposed by the Old Marston branch

"On April 26 1975 Labour, under the leadership of Harold Wilson, held a special 1-day conference to decide whether or not to support remaining in the common market, and how to campaign in the upcoming referendum. As we approach the March 29 deadline it is essential that the voices of ordinary party members are heard and used to inform policy. The September conference motion called for a general election, and leaves all options on the table if forcing an election is not possible; it does not specify what Labour's position on Brexit would be going into a general election.

Now that Theresa May's withdrawal agreement has been voted down in parliament, regardless of whether we manage to force a general election, Labour should hold an emergency conference to decide how to proceed, and what position to take on Brexit."

1. **Brexit** proposed by Abingdon branch

This meeting welcomes the call of 2018 Labour Party conference to halt and reverse privatisation, expand common ownership, protect migrants' rights, tax the rich to fund public services and abolish the anti-union laws.

The Tories' Brexit agenda will deregulate and destabilise the economy, attack our rights and freedoms, and undermine our ability to implement a radical manifesto. We welcome the call of conference to put a public vote firmly on the table as a means of stopping this agenda, not because we are fanatics for referendums, but because we need to stop the process by which Tory free-marketeers are driving British society off a cliff.

Any public vote on Brexit must, to be meaningful, include an option to remain. Labour should campaign for such a vote - and to remain. Meanwhile, we must defend every right under attack from the Tories' Brexit - whether workers' rights, environmental protections or freedom of movement between the UK and Europe. We must commit to reversing any attacks on these rights the Tories implement.

If we are serious about ending the hostile environment for migrants we must extend, not limit free movement. We must end detention, deportations and denial of access to services. As conference 2018 said, "stagnant wages, crumbling services and the housing crisis" are caused by "government and employers making the rich richer at working people's expense, and not immigration." The answer is united workers' struggles; migrant workers are often in the forefront of such struggles.

We cannot campaign for the status quo - either here or across Europe. We want a battle for levelling up of wages, conditions, services and rights across Europe and beyond, and for democratisation of European and international institutions. This would require participation in those institutions.

We therefore resolve:

1. That all Labour MPs must vote against any Tory Brexit deal

2. That Labour must demand, and to prepare for, an immediate general election

3. That Labour must campaign for a public vote on Brexit with an option to remain, and include such a vote in our manifesto

4. To notify the NEC, NPF and Party Leadership of this motion's passing.

5. To make this policy part of our constituency, doorstep and street campaigning activity, and to contact Another Europe is Possible for materials, branch speakers and assistance in campaigning.

6. To welcome the letter similar to this motion published by Labour activists in the Guardian on 10 December, calling for the creation of a campaigning network for these goals, and will cooperate in that project, adding our name to the letter. [<https://bit.ly/2SV18EZ>]

7. To support calls for a half-day Emergency Conference so that members can clearly decide Labour's Brexit policy.

*9:15* (c) **Housing** proposed by the South West Central branch

1. This meeting welcomes the Shelter report 'A Vision for Social Housing' published in January 2019, which sets out a clear path for restoring the place of social housing as a part of the fabric of our society rather than a tenure of last resort.
2. The impact of the housing crisis can be seen across the country, but particularly in Oxford and Oxfordshire, with the young and old trapped in unaffordable privately rented homes and an increasing homelessness that scars our society.
3. Evidence of house building figures since 1945 shows that this country has only built enough homes when both the private AND public sectors are contributing to the total; the catastrophic decline in investment in social housing has been the direct cause of the current housing crisis.
4. At the same time as government investment in social housing has fallen so the cost of government support for those in private rented accommodation has risen, meaning that spending on housing has been shifted away from providing homes and towards subsidising private landlords.
5. Shelter's commission, draw from experts and politicians from across the political spectrum, recommends a 20-year programme to deliver 3.1 million more social homes; this Branch believes that such a programme would be financially efficient as well as socially and morally necessary, and moreover that it would form the basis for a Labour Party manifesto that is genuinely for the many not the few.
6. This branch therefore calls on Oxford and District Labour Party to campaign on a platform of building more social housing, and calls on the Labour Party nationally to put the recommendations of "A Vision for Social Housing", in particular the building of 3.1m new social homes and the training, recruiting and development of the skilled workforce required to deliver those homes, at the heart of its manifesto at the next General Election.

*9:25* 11. Executive committee, 23 January 2019. The minutes are attached. Members are asked to note arrangements for the AGM and future all-member meetings, and to endorse the executive committee’s support for the Sudan Doctors’ Union UK in their struggle against the dictatorship and for freedom and change.

*9:29* 12. Future meetings. **Thursday 7 March 2019** (Rose Hill community centre, AGM), **Friday 10 May** (Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, possible speaker on anti-racism / anti-fascism), **Thursday 14 June** (GLOW, Blackbird Leys, Claire McCarthy, general secretary of the Co-operative party)**, Friday 12 July** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, motions for annual conference, submitted by branches following their June meetings), **Thursday 12 September** (Exeter Hall, Kidlington, further conference business and speaker to be arranged), **Thursday 10 / Friday 11 October** (including conference reportbacks), **Friday 8 / Thursday 14 November**, **Thursday 12 / Friday 13 December**. Venues and topics from October to be arranged.