

# Defend Whittington Hospital Coalition

## Report of the General Meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010

@ Whittington Park Community Centre, Yerbury Road, N19

**Present:** Jan Pollock, Zozi Goodman, Catherine Greaves, Shirley Franklin, Katy Gold, Les Watts, David Webb (Unison), Rich Moth, Peter Draper (Highgate Society and Green Party), Frank Jacobs (Radical Islington), Leslie Smith, Monica Schwartz (Better Archway Forum), Hilary Ayling, Liz Morris (Highgate Soc), Gary Heather (Islington TUC and Labour Party), Arthur Graves (Lib Dems).

**Apologies:** Emma Dixon (Green Party), Katherine Budgett-Meakin (Highgate Society), Jeremy Corbyn MP, Dave Morris (Haringey Federation of Residents Associations), Candy Udwin (Camden KONP), David Wilson, Mick Gilgunn (Secretary of Islington TUC), Apala Chowdhury, Rosie McCartin, Adam Lambert, Melanie Toogood (St George's Church, Tufnell Park).

**Minutes of last meeting** read and approved with following amendments: Candy Udwin and Rosie McCartin to be added to apologies, correction to spelling of Jan Pollock's name.

**Haringey Council Scrutiny meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January** – attended by MPs & Whittington Hospital senior management. Haringey demanded transparent show of documentation on website and to be kept informed. Rob Luckman said he wasn't expecting any action to be taken over Whittington before General Election and expressed concern over leaked letter with proposal for A & E closure. No decisions made but more information required from Rob Luckman.

**Other Campaigns:** Both Labour & Lib Dem councillors have petitions running, as well as staff and users of Whittington Hospital. Petition stalls being set up in Highgate, also around pubs and hospital out-patients. Stalls planned on Saturdays from 11.00 to 1.00 pm outside Tesco's on Stroud Green Road, outside Morrison's at Nag's Head, Holloway Road, in Wood Green and Crouch End.

**Everyone** being encouraged to collect signatures at tube stations on weekday evenings, from neighbours and nearby streets, from their GP surgeries (if agreed, can be left with Receptionists & collected later). Online petition has 150 signatures so far.

**Publicity leaflets:** Black Cat logo for Coalition Campaign being designed. Leaflet for lobby of **Labour Party meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January** needs to publicise lobby for **Islington Scrutiny Meeting at 7.00 pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February at Islington Town Hall**. Shirley Franklin offered to find cheapest printer for leaflets in various formats– A5 fliers, A4 for windows, A3 for placards & petition-collecting. Leaflet to list all possible activities within Campaign and include website details.

**March on 27<sup>th</sup> February:** Will assemble at Highbury Fields and go up Holloway Road to Archway and Hospital. Discussion about exact route and end point, strong wish to include forecourts of A & E and main entrance. Shirley Franklin will negotiate with Police about exact route. Discussed need for well known speakers at end Rally.

**Labour Party Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm at Archway Methodist Hall:** Rachel Tyndall will answer questions around Whittington proposals. Shirley Franklin hopes to be on platform to represent Coalition. Everyone encouraged to lobby & attend meeting.

**Black Cat masks:** Shirley Franklin has found suitable mask on sale for 69p. Agreed to fundraise by selling them for £1 on March.

**Finances:** In view of Sue Sechers's absence at this and last meetings, another Treasurer is needed urgently to receive Unison donation if agreed by Branch. Agreed that Katy Gold be appointed Treasurer to open Co-op Bank Account, with help from Zozi Goodman. Unison needs named Treasurer & bank detail information by 7<sup>th</sup> February. Another volunteer for Joint Secretary would be very welcome.

**Islington Council Scrutiny Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.00 pm:** Very important to lobby with home-made placards, publicity email to go out. A Highgate resident with specialist knowledge of corporate finances has requested a cost-benefit analysis of proposals from Hospital Management – details to be emailed to Chair.

**Whittington Hospital Stakeholders:** list drawn up by Sarah Mills was discussed and need for speakers at various meetings. Jan Pollock volunteered, other people prepared to speak should let Sarah Mills know.

**Online:** We now have sitename ([www.dwhc.org.uk](http://www.dwhc.org.uk)) & provisional one will be transferred by Dave Plummer. Also on Facebook and Twitter (dwhcoalition).

**Press Publicity:** Letters have gone to local papers. **NHS Islington** is holding **Board Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30 a.m.** at **Goswell Road** office (Angel end). Need as many available people to lobby as possible to alert non-executive Directors. Zozi offered to find out and circulate details.

**Day of meeting:** Need to change from Thursday which doesn't suit many people. Agreed to change to Mondays.

**NEXT MEETING – 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00 pm at Whittington Park Community Centre**