NOTES from Planning Meeting 26th November

Maybury Centre Woking

1. Attendance: Helen Couchman, Paul Couchman, John Tester, Sheila Wright, Ginny Eaton, Liz Mansfield, Kye Gbangbola, Kelvin Foote, Rosires Skopnik
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Apologies received – Fiona Harkin, John Hadwin, Alex Hovden, Lee Belsten, Sue Bryer, Thelma Snelgrove
4. Recap on last meeting and where we are at with preparations for 15th December – Secretary, Paul Couchman. After some discussions the following was noted and agreed upon:

* Our banner has arrived
* Alex is still trying to source a street band
* Paul is in contact with police. They are aware
* The route will be dependent upon weather and numbers of people etc. Ideally we will march around the pedestrian areas to Jubilee Square. The last resort will be a very short march straight to the Square
* The new banner will head up the march, followed by a dozen placards all saying DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS and with individual services affected by austerity on each one, followed by Truth About Zane, Trade Unions and Political Parties
* Speakers will be: Liz opening and closing by singing a Xmas Carol and speaking/MCing on behalf of SOSiS, Jonathon Essex (Green Party), Stephen Spence (Farnham Residents), Robert Evans (Labour, invited), FBU, RMT and UNISON. Truth About Zane will also have a speaking slot. There will be an open mic but we don’t want too many speakers. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes each. Liz will ask Louise Irvine for a Health Campaigns Together speaker and contact Stephen Fash. and John will approach some of the local Asian Labour Councillors.
* Publicity – there has been a lot of sharing and circulating on social media. At least 3 Fire Station FB Pages are actively promoting the demo. The Green Party has set up and event on FB alongside our official one and they are moving their regional meeting to Woking that day so they can attend. Paul has put out a press release and had contact with Surrey Advertiser and Eagle Radio so far. Agreed that all organisations, unions, political parties etc. should put out their own press releases too. Truth About Zane are actively promoting the demo to their supporters list. Paul will circulate the press release to supporters. Paul will bring UNISON stewarding waistcoats.
* Agreed to spend £30 on top of the £30 already spent by Paul on FB advertising and promotion of the event.
* On the day: Kelvin has secured agreement from Christchurch for us to leave some of our materials there overnight. All to be encouraged to bring banners, flags and homemade placards etc. Paul will bring Megaphones (one for march and one big one for the rally), blank UNISON placards for the DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS services and UNISON banner and flags. Sue Bryer has offered to help make placards. Agreed to meet up at 9.30am in the car park at the WWF for Nature on the other side of the canal (Brewery Road) where we can help carry stuff, do final planning, write placards etc. Bring big black and red marker pens.
* Kelvin will source some printed versions of the poster as postcards with the list of threatened services on the back: FIRE SERVICES, HOSPITALS, SOCIAL CARE, LIBRARIES, RECYCLING CENTRES, POLICE, CHILDREN’S CENTRES, DISABILITY SERVICES, SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS, SCHOOLS, GUARDS ON TRAINS. We will get around 2,000 printed.
* Kelvin and John (and anyone else who is free) will give out postcards in Woking Centre a week or so beforehand. John will also circulate them around the local Mosques.
* We will have 100 small sets of sleigh bells to ring on the day and we will give out whatever postcards we have left.
* It was agreed to put a further press release out nearer the day calling for an immediate general election to end austerity – “General Election – Tories Out!”
* Paul and Liz will give the megaphone a dry run before the day to test it is suitable for singing and we can operate it.

1. At the end of the meeting a photo was taken of the group holding our new banner. Paul will forward this to the Surrey Advertiser.

