



Save Our Services in Surrey

Meeting Notes

10 June in Woking

- **Present:** Paul and Helen Couchman, Subhi Al-Zuhairi, John Hadwin, Gordon Douglas, Sally Palmer, Olivia Palmer, Thelma Snelgrove, Fred Greaves, Sheila Wright.
- **Apologies received** from: Liz and Steve Mansfield, Mick Dawson, Alan Clyne, Ginny Eaton, Howard Kaye, Fiona Harkin and Teresa Bowers.
- **Paul introduced SOSiS** to the new members present and welcomed the involvement of the Surrey Green Party.
- The **notes of the last meeting** were read and agreed.
- Thelma gave a **Treasurer's report** – we have £1,364 in the bank.
- **What now after the election?** Paul introduced a wide-ranging discussion on the aftermath of the Tory election victory. There was general agreement of the key issues that we need to develop the fight against austerity, working together across party boundaries within SOSiS.

Cuts Updates:

- **Fire Services:** Recently announced a further £6m in cuts to Surrey Fire and Rescue Budgets. Surrey aims to be among the first to go to a private fire service. Agreed to invite FBU to send a speaker to our next meeting to update us.
- **Care Homes:** Now awaiting outcome of legal challenge. It was generally agreed that we had done all we could and that, apart from the outcome, it had been a model campaign. We had managed to push the decision to a phased one and to delay implementation considerably. We also galvanised a group of relatives who are continuing to challenge using the legal route.
- **Childrens Sure Start Centres:** Due to damaging Ofsted Report, SCC have put the decision to close the Sure Start Centres on hold. We know this will still be their intention so we have to be ready to mobilise if and when this comes back on the agenda.
- **Surrey Bus Routes:** SCC are making changes to a number of routes and there have been protests and petitions. The Surrey Bus Users Network (SBUN) do not appear very active in campaigning but they are meeting with SCC regularly. SOSiS will support any of these campaigns if asked. Paul will write again to SBUN.
- **Appeal from the Truth About Zane (TAZ) campaign.** Paul explained that the family of little Zane Gbangbola had been in contact asking if SOSiS could organise a

supportive protest outside their pre-inquest hearing on 3rd July at Woking Coroner's Court. Although not strictly within SOSiS remit, the meeting agreed to organise the protest and will spread the word on Social Media and a press release.

Key Dates:

- 20 June – Peoples Assembly March Against Austerity
- 3 July – TAZ Protest outside pre-inquest hearing, Woking
- 4 July – National Shop Stewards Network conference in London. Agreed to send Paul and Thelma as delegates.
- 8 July – Budget Day – Agreed to organise an anti-austerity protest outside County Hall in Kingston.

AOB:

- It was announced that the introduction of TTIP has been postponed due to some MEPs challenging.
- It was pointed out that Surrey Choices (local authority trading company providing services to people with learning difficulties) were behaving poorly as employers and that this was the danger of outsourcing public services.