



Minutes of Meeting 13th July 2015

Present: Chris Eddowes (chair), Richard Eddowes, Diana Wanduragala, Lynn Fletcher (minutes), Bill White, Jennifer Kerridge

Apologies: Martin Green, Sheila Deacon, Keith Gorton, Michael Unwin

1. Minutes of meeting 8th June 2015 – accepted as correct record.
2. Matters arising:
 - a) Climate lobby of parliament 17th June 2015 – those who attended reported that it had been worthwhile, although not particularly well organised. There were a good number of young people there. Iain Wright had been welcoming and supportive. Lynn reported similar views from NE-CAP committee members who had attended. It was agreed that the event will have raised the profile of climate change amongst MPs. Other positive events were noted: David Attenborough's recent interview with Barack Obama (shown 28th June 2015 and available on BBC iPlayer for 28 days after transmission) and the recent encyclical by Pope Francis.
 - b) Asda and Fairtrade coffee – Chris passed on a message from Martin that Asda has Fairtrade instant coffee on its shelves again.
 - c) Catcote Academy – Chris reported that this is now a FairAchiever school. The Academy has also taken over 'The vestry' café at the Art Gallery, doing good business during a recent exhibition there.
 - d) Better Cotton Initiative – Jennifer followed this up with Marks and Spencer's but got some very poor information from them.
 - e) NE-CAP events – Lynn reported that the Eve of Great North Run event from 4.30 – 5.30 on Saturday 12th September at St Thomas church in Newcastle would also be the Third Newcastle Jubilee Development Lecture. The speakers will be Tim Jones, Senior Policy Officer at JDC, Diarmaid McDonald, Advocacy Manager for STOPAIDS and Chris Venables, Programme Manager for Medact.
3. The UK's role in refugee re-settlement – Chris shared the content of letters prepared by Keith on behalf of the group to the 3 MEPs and to Iain Wright on this subject. The group endorsed the letters and so Chris will send them on.

4. Correspondence:
 - a) TTIP – Chris reported that the email from Global Justice Now listed how MEPs had voted last week on a position statement re TTIP. Unfortunately, the vote was for TTIP but our MEPs did vote against. GJN also encourage us to keep an eye on how this is being regarded in our local council.
 - b) Greece – Chris noted recent communication from JDC re Greece.
 - c) Tax dodging – Chris noted a recent email re this from 38 Degrees and also mentioned the need to check emails from 38 Degrees carefully as some issues are sponsored by companies.

5. Update from NE-CAP – Lynn reported that a date of Sunday 29th November had been given for a 'climate change mobilisation' in London, Edinburgh and Cardiff and a possible pilgrimage from London to Paris. More details to come.

6. AGM – to be held 14th September

7. AOB – none

8. Date of next meeting – 10th August 2015 at 7.30.