

Minutes of Space for Change

22nd – 27th February 2011

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Mandate for Space for Change

At the Manchester Gathering, 4-5th November 2010, it was decided to hold an event with the following mandate:

- * The event should be between 5 and 7 days long.
- * It should be sometime in February (suggestions for Feb half term).
- * It should be somewhere beautiful.
- * The majority (or entirety) of the Agenda should be set during the event itself, through a method such as 'Open Space' or otherwise.
- * Decisions can be made for Climate Camp as a whole, including financial decisions, but that there is not a requirement or pressure for decisions to be made.
- * It is to be different from our usual gatherings, and the name should reflect this.
- * The week should include a big party and social event (possibly a day without any formal discussions/workshops).
- * It should be hosted by Climate Camp, but we should invite other groups and people who are involved in 'the movement' and could contribute valuable experiences and ideas.
- * A working group will be set up to organise this event.

This can be found in the minutes on the climate camp website.

There was some confusion as to whether the decision at Manchester was for the event to be able to make decisions as climate camp just at the end of the event, or throughout. In the end, we didn't try to make any decision until the end anyway, so this point became dud!

Preparation for Space for Change

After the Manchester Gathering a working group formed to organise this event. It was open for anyone to join.

It was decided that organising would start over the 'how-we-organise' climate camp email list.

This was then openly advertised over the main climate camp list (through the newsletter) for anyone to join if they wished to.

A large part of the organising then moved over to the 'Crabgrass' group, a decision made over the

email list.

There were conference calls each week which were advertised over the 'how-we-organise' mail-list and crabgrass to discuss issues, make decisions and take action points.

Because of the clear mandate, there were no decisions made about the content of the weeks discussions.

There was one face-to-face meeting in London on 21.01.11 to discuss how content and facilitation might be dealt with (not to decide content). Minutes of this meeting can be found here:

<https://we.riseup.net/aspaceforchange/minutes-from-meeting-21-1-11>

The working group made decisions about Venue, Booking, Travel, Food, Publicity, Meeting structures for the first day, and other logistics. All minutes from phone conference meetings and

discussion had over crabgrass can be found here: <https://we.riseup.net/aspaceforchange> (you'll need to join the group to see these, but it's open so anybody can do this. If you are unfamiliar with we.riseup you can sign up here: <https://we.riseup.net> and get help here:

<https://we.riseup.net/crabgrass>)

To clarify what was said beforehand about what the event will be, below are two of the messages sent to the climate camp lists beforehand.

The initial text about Space for Change sent over the climate camp newsletter 23.12.2010 to publicise this event was as follows:

“

1) A SPACE FOR CHANGE - FEB 2011

In February 2011, Climate Camp will be hosting ‘A Space for Change’. In a beautiful setting somewhere in the UK (tbc) we will create a space to reflect and re-assess climate justice activism, re-dream what a radical movement can be and re-invigorate ourselves and our network.

Don't worry, we won't be braving the cold in a field, we'll be warm and cosy indoors!

It will probably be 5 days long, some time between 19 and 27 February 2011. The format is mostly to be decided there by the people that come. We will be inviting other people and groups that we feel could contribute valuable experiences and ideas. We'll have the option of making big decisions about Climate Camp, but are under no pressure to do so. There'll be space for walks, talks, creativity and partying! Watch this space for more details.

GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to get involved in the preparations for A Space for Change, please email spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk. “

The following message was sent 28.01.2011

“Space for Change – bookings nearly full!

Those of us active in organising the logistics of S4C know that S4C is almost booked already! It's great to see that so many people feel like now is the right time to get together for a solid 6 days and get creative together.

What is it?

Space for Change is for people who have in some way been involved in UK climate activism on an anti-capitalist, grassroots level that sees the limits of state-based solutions and organises non-hierarchically along anarchist principles. Although it is not strictly for people who have been involved in the Camp for Climate Action, it has been organised along a mandate from a CfCA gathering which wanted a space to deal with issues and concerns that had built up in CfCA over five years' of political organising.

This message is to clarify two things: Firstly, if you have booked on the online form, remember that before we can confirm a place for you, you need to pay your £15 deposit. Until you receive a confirmation of your deposit, we can't guarantee you a place. Secondly, we'd like to clarify that S4C will be organised using open space style techniques; therefore the agenda will not be designed beforehand. If you would like to share knowledge at the event, come prepared. There is a crabgrass group where people can get involved in pre-event discussions, see we.riseup.net/s4c_agenda

Please feel welcome to come to the event if this is what you expect from it – and get booking! If you have already paid a deposit but in light of this email think that this event isn't for you – no problem, we can reimburse you.

And another thing...Our hosts have offered us a rock-bottom price with the understanding that we can all help with some of their building projects, so please be prepared to spend some time pitching in.

And finally...Can you help facilitate?

It would be great for facilitation during the week to be shared out as much as possible, particularly with people who have not already facilitated lots at Climate Camp gatherings. So, if you have some experience and would be up for helping out with this please email spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk . If a facilitation training would boost your confidence, some are being organised in Manchester and London, let us know if you want to go to one. It would also be great to hear from people with skills beyond facilitation, with experience in open space discussions and trust-building processes.

Thanks!

The Space for Change crew “

Minutes

Disclaimer

Regrettably, for the first three days of this event, minutes were not taken in the usual way. This was because no-one ensured minutes were taken and no process was put in place to keep track of all the notes made on paper from the many small group and large group discussions. Most of the notes made below about these first three days are from transcribed paper notes and from memory. For the final 3 days minutes were taken during the meetings in the usual fashion. Please note that all decisions made at the gathering were in these final three days and are fully minuted below.

We have made our best effort to gather all the minutes that were taken for the first three days, however in particular places in this document you will see that we ask people if they were taking minutes during that session to send them to us. We don't want to reject minutes sent in late, so please send them in by 19th March 2011 and we will update the version on the website.

The first day: Tuesday 22nd Feb

Initial Structure

An initial structure was put in place here to get the ball rolling. This was planned as follows, and it went according to plan:

Welcome and icebreaker

How the event has been organised

Manchester gathering decided to put on this event with...

- A working group formed out of this and organised the event by....
- Those involved in organising the event make themselves visible
- Explanation of the remit of the week: its purpose and who it is for

The structure for the week...

Point to massive piece of flip chart paper on the wall: the crew who put this event together were very keen to make as little decisions as possible about the agenda as possible, given our remit from the Manchester gathering. We have made some decisions, such as:

- We've got a suggested structure for this first day. We haven't dealt with content at all.
- the start and end date
- meal times
- base groups – a small group of people that you can check in with at the end of each day for half an hour. Explain in detail...
- a break in the middle of the day for physical work, or rest, or play. Monkton Wyld have given us a very low price on the understanding that we do some building work while we're here.
- A plenary session at the beginning/end (or both??) of the day for reflections and announcements
- In order to get a sense of who we all are, and why we're here, we have structured this first session.
- We can have a party on one of the nights – we can choose between Friday and Saturday, and there are benefits to both. We suggest that we hear 2/3 comments from anyone who is strongly in favour of each, then we take a vote on it.

Aside from that, as you can see on the massive piece of paper on the wall, its open for everyone here to decide. We have some suggestions of methods that we could use to decide on the content. One of these is called Open Space. It is a method of creating space

for people to have discussions on the topic that they have energy to hold. We'll explain this in more depth later on. We felt that a big open discussion on the agenda is a very exclusive way of making a decision, as many people simply will not get their voice heard in such a large discussion.

The facilitators...

The bunch of people who have offered themselves as facilitators are by no means the facilitators for the whole gathering – there will be many discussions and activities that may have different or even no facilitator at all. Apart from the first sessions today, these facilitators are here to set up open space – style sessions and to offer their service if its wanted.

Those who have already offered to facilitate, or would like to facilitate during the week, make themselves visible.

Logistical stuff

Announcements

Questions and comments about set up

We're going to spend some time in small groups to talk this all over. Before we do that, are there any **CLARIFYING questions** about this structure?

To give everyone here an indication of how we're all feeling about the agenda and facilitation, wave your hands in the air if you are **happy enough with this as a structure for the next couple of days?** If there are any concerns we can deal with that in a minute

Find 2 other people and spend 5-10 minutes talking over the set up for the week – this isn't the chance to talk about the next campaign that you want to work on. If you have any questions about the week, see if your group can answer them. Are you happy with the layout proposed by this group? If not, why not? How can this be resolved?

Any group that wants to will have the chance to feedback – if you aren't happy with this then please give us a solution to the problem if you can.

Feedback from small groups.

Break.

Why are you here? What do you want to get out of this week?

Small random groups of 5-6 (number off to break up friend groups): 25 minutes share, take notes, then be prepared to feedback with 3 or 4 main aspect for each group. Make sure you all have a chance to speak – choose a facilitator if you want to.

Put each aspect on a separate A4 paper.

Feedback to plenary and put A4 papers onto wall.

Once every group has fed back, ask the gathering to cluster the reasons.

Lunch / site jobs

Explain Open Space and set agenda wall

Open Space session 1 (4-5 facilitators on hand if needs be)

Open Space session 2 (4-5 facilitators on hand if needs be)

Feedback from small group sessions:

3-5 mins verbal feedback from each group

Home groups check in

Dinner

Evening shenanigans

Explanation of Open Space:

On the wall was a big, empty grid: with time slots (simply marked 1 and 2, at first) down the side, and different symbols representing physical meeting spaces along the top.

There is initially a space for anyone to propose a session, on something they'd like to run a workshop on, or discuss. This is done by writing a title for the session on a piece of paper and sticking it up in one of the spaces (assigning it to a meeting space and a time). Then there is space to announce and briefly describe what their proposed session is to the group.

People are free to move between sessions or have a break at any time.

The person who proposed the session is committed to being there and starting of the session, but may leave and join other sessions or take a break at any time once the discussion is going (or not going, if nobody turns up).

This allows everybody to take part in setting the agenda, and people are only in discussion that they want to be in, when they want to be in them. People 'vote with their feet' for what they want to discuss.

An Open Space session can be framed with a question, or a set of questions, that the session topics should be around; or it can be completely open for discussions or workshops of any kind.

Explanation of 'Base Groups':

Groups of 5-8 people that get together at some point each day, to discuss anything they like. So that everyone gets a chance to express themselves and feedback to people their thoughts from the day.

Summary

After the morning discussion of 'Why are we here' and what we wanted to discuss this week, we had a discussion about what question should frame this first open space session. In the end it was decided to leave it completely open, and people could take forward items from the morning discussion if they wanted to.

Many of the sessions wrote up some notes on flip-chart paper, but not much comprehensive came out of them and not all of these bits of paper have been kept track of. This is part of the reason for such poor minuting of these first 3 days. Some of the suggestions for things to discuss were:

- What has Climate Camp done so far and what have the problems been?
- Has Climate Camp lost the plot
- How to integrate more with the movement against cuts and attacks on people's lives
- Internal/external
- How can we structure this week so we look at where we've been and where we want to go, deal with internal issues and find targets and strategies for the future?
- A strategy for the future and structure, or lack of structure, to deliver it

One of the Open Space Sessions was 'how should we structure this week'. Out of it came a proposal of a progression of questions to address, with a loose time-line for addressing these. They included:

- Where are we at and what's going on around us
- Leverage points, targets
- Our structure
- Specific areas of work eg Tar Sands, Palm Oil,
- Concrete options for action. .
- What do we think we can achieve in 1 – 3 years and what might the climate movement look like then
- How to deal with inclusiveness

In the plenary session in the evening, there was not time to discuss this proposal in full, so it was presented to the group and a meeting was called for that evening for anyone who wanted to flesh out the proposal to be discussed the next day. It was estimated at the time that about one third of the gathering took part in this evening discussion.

Feedback from other Open Space Sessions was:

- Finding the spark. UK Uncut energy needed for climate based actions. Form more important than target. Hypocrisy a target. 26 March could be good time to get something going.
- What are our values, jarring effect due to difference from society's. Look at ourselves and our intentions in doing direct action. Future of Climate Camp? It does have a lot to offer
- Spend more time on how does social change happen and what role do we / could we play
- What creates change now? Has that changed? Need to keep true at a spiritual/emotional level. Advertising. Are we still committed to preventing runaway climate change or have we given up on that after COP?
- Degree to which you need to share values/aims/tactics in order to work together. "Anti-capitalist", "Stop climate change", and "Direct action" All need more definition to highlight what we share and what our differences are.
- Successes and failures and does Climate Camp change anything. Successes: Heathrow, Kingsnorth, inspiration across the globe. Building a movement? Certainly exposing people to radical politics. Exposing police and state. Linking climate change and capitalism. Raising public awareness. Failures: haven't stopped climate change! And is the movement growing? Failure to contextualise climate change in cuts etc.
- What would be better than Climate Camp? Being in a supportive and constructive organisation, ongoing constantly growing, broader, connected to wider movement. How we assess our wins. Are we radical lobbyings eg at Kingsnorth and Heathrow or working towards revolution. Other successes – building up skills and people who trust each other. Crude Awakening – people ready to come out en masse to a blind target. Trust and social capital. Education. Offshoots: Plane Stupid, Green & Black Cross . . . Maybe camps still need to happen and we need to set up another organisation relevant to other work. Hard to do everything at once.
- Climate Camp – feed into other camps or existing activists spaces including internationally and with others fighting for climate justice. Sucking energy . Earth first a positive model. People do their own thing? Permanent spaces. Look at Sumac, LARC.

Wednesday 23rd February

Proposal of a structure for the week:

In the morning the proposal from the 'how should we structure this week' sessions the day before were put to the group.

Proposal of a progression of questions to address, with a loose time-line for addressing these:

Where are we at? [Wednesday am]

Broad question of both the external context of the current situation with climate change, climate justice, political contexts in the UK and around the world; as well as the internal context of Climate Camp, what we've achieved and where we are at.

How do we effect change? [Wednesday pm]

Ideas of social, political, economic change and how we think we can, have and could effect them.

Structures / Structureless-ness [Thursday am]

Looking at the way Climate Camp organises, addressing questions of: Structure, power, hierarchy, responsibility, acknowledgement, process.

Where do we want to be in 1 – 3 years?

Strategy, broadly about climate camp, climate justice movements, anti-capitalist movements.

Personal sustainability [Thursday pm]

Addressing issues of burn-out, sustainable structures of organising.

This plan was to be flexible and open to change.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday were left open in the proposal to move forward with things that came up over these 2 days or so.

Exact form of meetings and facilitation methods were not included in this proposal.

Open Space sessions would be run in parallel to these for anyone who did not wish to take part in these discussions at any given time.

There would be a plenary every evening for feedback from each of these groups, any discussions which it was felt need to come to the whole group and for housekeeping announcements.

With emphasis for the parallel open space sessions not being any lesser than the discussions under this structure, with space to announce these sessions to the entire group every day in the morning and the afternoon, before splitting off into these various groups.

There was an objection that this was a result of little groups “meeting outside” and ‘deciding an agenda’. However,

CONSENSUS was reached for this proposal, with one stand aside.

It was later decided that we would have plenaries at 6pm, and 'base group time' at 6.30pm each day before dinner.

Spectrum Line

We went outside and did several spectrum lines, with points and responses taken from different people along the spectrum. Have no records of the exact questions asked and no record of the balance of where people positioned themselves. However the idea was to try and deal with big controversial themes, and to allow people to speak with their feet rather than just their voices. For example there were questions on whether people thought that the climate camp was redundant in the context of the economic crisis and cuts. There were questions about whether people wanted there to be a climate camp this year. There were questions about people's capacity to put on a camp. There were questions about peoples view on tactics, like breaking windows, and politics, like whether people felt that they were anti-capitalists. This morning spectrum line became a morning feature. As people made points people could move if they had been persuaded. As the week went on themes were revisited and people were able to change and evolve their positions. If you have any records of this please email spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

Safe Space Agreement

We agreed on a safe space policy that was almost identical to the one used at the 2009 Blackheath Climate Camp. This included some discussion about inclusively and respecting each other in the process. There was also a reminder that we could expect the police to be present and to watch, provoke or attempt to disrupt what we were trying to achieve: it would be surprising if they'd decided to give this event a miss.

Where are we at?

(About 40 people in this session, 10 or so in open space or otherwise occupied)

We broke down into small groups and were given a piece of flip chart paper where we had about five minutes to brainstorm thoughts on where the climate camp movement was at right now. After about five minutes these pieces of paper were passed as if in a circle around the small groups. You could read what the last group wrote and add extra ideas. This repeated. There was no feedback but the flip chart paper was put on the wall. One repeated theme was the need to know what neighbourhoods and local groups are doing.

Back to full group discussion:

Go around the room – everyone asked to tell the group about actions/ groups/ projects happening in their area:

Two climate camp neighbourhoods and many other groups give updates including ongoing resistance to a biofuel power station, blockaded runway trial, Tar Sands campaign, anti-cuts, anti-oil actions, anti-food waste group, anti-coal actions facing eviction, Green and Black DA training and skill shares, anti-GM starting up, squatting and trespass law threat.

The group then collectively brainstormed all the external issues and events that could have a bearing on climate camp and climate/social change politics. Once we had unearthed the issues people were asked to volunteer to prep over lunch a 3 minute summery presentation for the whole group. They might have previous knowledge, and if not they should use lunch time to research/ ask others.

The issues that were covered were:

- Egypt/Libya/Tunisia
- Students UK and International
- Anti-cuts / Austerity
- Network X
- International Climate Camps
- Resistance to Political Policing
- Decline in the Media around Climate Change
- COP process failure
- Organising for welfare benefits (disability and single mothers in particular)
- Wisconsin
- European Austerity (Greece, France and Ireland in particular)
- Climate Science, mitigation and extreme weather
- Place based struggles in the UK
- Energy Sector
- EDL and state racism
- Climate Capitalism and World Bank

How do we effect change?

Ideas of social, political, economic change and how we think have and can effect them.

[Wednesday pm]

(about 40 people in this discussion, 10 or so in open space or otherwise occupied)

For this session we did a 'Hot House': 7 cushions in the middle of the room, at any one time 6 people are occupying them and only they can talk. If someone comes and sits on the vacant cushion, someone else from the middle has to leave. Once you have spoken a few times you should give up your cushion.

This Hot House broadly addressed the question above.. Issues raised included: (Currently do not have any more detailed notes taken from this session)

- The science: increasing CO2 and its effects are both at top end of previous estimated predictions
- High oil prices and the results: road traffic down but unheated homes, investment in tar sands, arctic, biofuels, nuclear, fracking
- Stoppers, reformers, implementers; demands and reformism;
- Who can you join forces with; scabbing
- Austerity and climate change; equity; if we ignore cuts who are we for?
- Million climate jobs
- Building a grassroots movement
- Public awareness of climate going backwards
- Increasing political clarity now
- A proposal to have a climate camp this year, in conjunction with other groups, on austerity and climate.

People were enthusiastic about the hot house system.

Open Space Sessions on Wednesday

There were sessions on possible action ideas, which later developed into the Climate Caravan, see

later notes and proposals below. As well as other sessions. If you have any notes from these please email them to spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

In the final plenary an objection was raised that the open space was a “washout” and there was really just one thing going on as few people had gone to any of the other sessions. It was suggested that it was up to the facilitators to make more diversity happen. An evening session was planned to address this, with one of the facilitators.

Thursday 24th February

In the morning we did several spectrum lines. See section on yesterday's first spectrum line. If you have any records of this please email spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

From the evening meeting on “Open Space” process, it was decided that time would be set aside for anyone who had anything they wanted to discuss to spend two minutes presenting it to the whole meeting, both in the morning and after lunch (if they hadn't thought of it yet they would have five minutes to do so.) This was to put all the discussion proposals on a more even basis.

As decided the previous day, there will be parallel discussions:

Addressing the questions in the structure laid out in Tuesday night's proposal: In the 'pine hall'

Open Space sessions: In 'The old library', 'The piano room', or anywhere else.

History of climate camp and story telling

A session of filling in stories and events related to climate camp on a big timeline in the middle of the room. (Currently have no notes from this session). These were written up on to flip chart paper; one sheet for each year. These were put up in the dining room where people could add their thoughts. It was suggested that there should be some sort of document or zine to record these memories. [I have quite a few notes on this tho far from complete (under one page, III 11) Ruth]

Structures, power, hierarchy, process...

[Thursday am/pm]

Looking at the way Climate Camp organises, addressing questions of: Structure, power, hierarchy, responsibility, acknowledgement, process and any related issues.

For this session we first paired off to talk broadly about these issues for 5/10 minutes then did a variation on 'Hot House', where there were two spaces in the middle of the room and someone could get into the middle and speak about an experience or opinion on anything broadly under the topic above. Then a second person would join them to respond to this in any way they see fit. They then both sit down. And the process repeats. Only those in these middle two spots should speak.

Notes of this session taken by a participant, not intended as minutes:

- I was at Heathrow, Kingsnorth. May be part of informal hierarchy.
- I'm part of informal hierarchy. Involved since before Drax. Have knowledge and

experience which marks you out from first-timers. Have to at least acknowledge that more strongly.

- Respect for your elders (not just age, experience as well) moves you forward. No problem with that.
- Lack of trust in our work is a major reason why we are getting stuck. What has already been said touches on why we're not able to build trust. There are elders we don't respect. Can't pick apart when we need elders and when we don't.
- [Later it was suggested we use word "old-timers" rather than "elders"]
- My experience of non-hierarchical groups is amazing. But there are issues like what you've mentioned. Radical left can be hypercritical. This can get pushed towards people who are more involved. This can be really hard. Doing things non-hierarchically and effectively is the way forward. We can solve it. How people view groups is important, whether it's true or not. It can be from a rumour. Can be really destructive.
- Sometimes you don't trust elders because you don't know if they have another agenda. Some people have turned out to have one because they are police.
- I see people making assumptions about secret agendas. If you are working hard for people to work together, the idea of a secret agenda is put on that. Meetings take place in the open, in the room.
- Engage in trust. Choose to trust.
- I wonder if I am legitimately here.
- Anti-hierarchy can be like a religion.
- Need to keep what's good but tweak what we've got. Need more accountability and need to value responsibility. Eg Process Group could report to National Gatherings, be open about who was involved, be given time to do report, and time for people to discuss it, agree, disagree, criticise, acknowledge the work.
- [Several points by one speaker:]
- There is a terminology issue. Aversion to the words "hierarchy" and "leader". My experience is that when I came in in 2007 I was empowered by having to take responsibility. Non-hierarchy is the reason you have to take responsibility. You expect to be told what to do but you're not. -
- Downside is that I don't come any more because it drives me nuts. I don't have time and energy and brain space to engage in so many decisions. But I feel I have to be there to support the people who can make those decisions well. Need to make it easier for those people to do that.
- I look to A to organise things. An organisational leader. Y and X are media leaders. Don't do what used to because have gained experience but not empowered to use it. Need to trust the people who we know can do the job.
- I've worked in very hierarchical organisations. Some fucked me up because the person above me allowed no autonomy. In current one I trust the person above me to be able to advise me. My brain doesn't melt. Otherwise you lose people that are leaders. It's not that the person is in charge permanently. But we persecute skills in Climate Camp.
- [New speakers:]
- Can go along with philosophy but rather express it in terms of respecting expertise, allowing specialisation and division of labour, then not necessary to think of people as leaders. We need a word for it.
- We have one. We have been so afraid of seeing people as being at the top that we call it "bottomlining". The people who take responsibility and pick up what others drop, who spend six months planning for camp. Commitment. We are so afraid we're not all exactly the same, so fundamentalist about being horizontal, that we can't move.
- Lack of trust, some want more, some less. Don't see how we can be in the same organisation.

- It's a lot about resentment directed at Process Group. Certain people have taken a lot of unmerited criticism. Lot came out when trying to sort out 'are we national?' I put forward ongoing focus on Kingsnorth. People from the north said it was too far for them. It's right to debate whether we want to be centralised or not, local roots. Need very autonomous local groups and at the same time we need to be strong and visible. Should we be both or go separate ways, *aim* is both. I'd love to be part of . . . but presently can't because I don't know what national *is*
- If every person is involved in every decision we're at our size limit. Peddling an illusion leads to disillusionment. As soon as a decision is made that doesn't include someone who thinks they should be included, there are problems. I don't feel I need . . .
- I agree with most. Respect for people who've been running the process group, impossible at times. Russians had an open meeting which led to the Russian revolution, so it can work on a big scale. Continue with real equality of opportunity, so someone coming in doesn't see a hierarchy or see something advertised as open and then see that actually there's people organising things. Process need to keep in mind what it's like for someone coming in, rather than have people come in and then go badmouth us. Got to resolve this. Non-hierarchical nature is a strength. If you turn up you're valued.
- We're a bit like fundamentalist Christians. Stick religiously to non-hierarchy. Legal team is really hierarchical: we have lawyers. But we never get bitched at for it. Why not?
- Legal team I feel disengaged from. They don't listen to me. I might know more than them.
- Most important thing about hierarchy and power: it's only a problem if someone exerts power over someone against their will. Can have a hierarchy, I go to the doctor, respect what he says.
- Difficulty with the term "non-hierarchy". Can't have achieved it. Use "*anti-* hierarchy" instead.
- Informal structures are inadequate for decisions we need to take. People come in and don't know how things happen. Need to be more formal. Also friendship networks develop.
- Is there a hierarchy on how we relate to rest of society? Could we be putting people off with vegan food, etc, is that a barrier?
- Don't have to beat ourselves up because a lot of people have left. It's ok. Things change.

After lunch continued (some people went elsewhere for open space action planning).

- Hierarchies need to share information.
- Put in formal processes to feed back so people are responsible and accountable, can go off somewhere and then feed back.
- Why are people part of consensus decision making from the word go when they don't know much? Do we need some kind of induction before they are part of that?
- Not having to consult everyone for every decision is good. There are some people you *do* want to consult.
- Non-hierarchical doesn't mean having no structure, no recognition for commitment, no accountability.
- No rigidity – can't have people making decisions over other people because they are more senior.
- But this can't be a stick to beat people showing leadership. People are entitled to take on leadership roles but we need to constantly challenge them. We do have leadership, only it's informal.
- Should we meet nationally once or twice a year to do something together?
- Any statement is not the way to go.
- Should have acknowledged, formalised structures

- I don't like the idea of saying now we've decided to have leaders. Can we instead say we are willing to follow people who have great ideas, and recognise their work? Emphasise these things – that we are happy if people take initiative and we won't demonise them for it.
- At national gatherings we could have two things: sharing skills and networking between local groups, and also decision making meeting for national actions
- Having a structure with some level of formalising so we have accountability and names. People can reject this and decide not to be part of it. We would lose out on the people who don't want it.
- Within an accountable structure, not everyone needs to be involved in every decision.
- Need more skillsharing now. Documentation project.
- Separate organising space from events space.
- Be clearer about who we are and if people want to join us they need to be clear about our aims and we need to be clear we want this person to join us. Will increase trust, make it easier to let others make decisions on our behalf.
- For this we'd have to stop and start something new.
- Be less afraid of conflict, not take things personally.
- Cultural values shift away from self exploitation and self flagellation to valuing and acknowledging what . . .
- Need to make a structure to fit what we want to do, not the other way round.
- Change name – take out the word “Camp”.
- Need to be responsive. Camp this summer would hold us back. But not lose our strength as a group.
- But do more together with the groups, too.
- Not formalise hierarchy. Have structure and formalise *roles*.
- Having big gatherings where everyone has to come and participate in all decisions isn't working. Different people taking on clear roles who can coordinate groups around them and feed in to others where they can is the only way I can see it happening. The question is who coordinates these different groups? That's why there are hierarchies. Spokes system only worked short term. Be honest – we have to be coordinated.
- Trying to work across distance, internet communication can get fractious. Decentralise. Let . . .
- Formal roles, yes. Delegation, yes. Don't assume the same person being in a role for a long time is a problem. They may be doing what people want. It can be an advantage if they keep doing it. Have to be accountable. Not being recognised or having their work recognised -- or people complaining that they shouldn't still be there -- doesn't help accountability. Could use reports on website and at gatherings, for discussion. Also need space for secret organising where necessary. But working groups should be accountable.
- Institutionalised hierarchies are there for a reason: Control. Coordinating what's happening in different places doesn't have to be because we need to control each other, what each bit is doing. Look at other models of social change.
- Disband Climate Camp. Need genuine new group.
- Agenda setting?
- More online, less frequent gatherings
- Structure has to allow us to work with other groups
- We need to be better at mentorship, eg buddying, and have more formal mentorship roles. This doesn't make us an NGO.
- What we want to do in medium term: decouple climate from austerity, and work with anti-cuts movement
- Look at models of social change. “Kill climate Camp” –self identity – want to be something new. Those who want to continue and do a camp identify selves.
- If we never did anything like Climate Camp again, what aspects of it would we want to take into the future?

Report back to plenary (joined by people who had been planning climate caravan)

Discussed ideas on lines of making people empowered but accountable, not everyone being in every decision doesn't mean you are hierarchical. Tried to come up with different/improved structure, assuming we'll be doing similar/different things.

Some people scared it sounded more formalised. Made clear if some things are formal it frees up other stuff

Related points that came out in later sessions

- Big problem defining who "we" are. Can't do anything till we address that problem. We're too held back. Even if we camp we need to restructure and reform ourselves. Then we might even choose to DO a camp.
- Address lack of diversity. Addressed only in order to move on. Do we actually want a broadbased movement? Where you have to deal with people who don't think the way we do?
- Impression other activists have of us mean we can't just rebrand.
- Concerned with the speed of this. The meeting was not advertised, there was no agenda published. Now turned into a national meeting abolishing ourselves. That should be advertised, so if people feel strongly about it they can turn up before you shoot yourself in the head.
- I wouldn't have voted for it if it equalled disbanding.
- Re agenda – we were very conscious we had no remit to propose content.
- What will we do to have national impetus, communicate, bring in new people, support local groups. True as was said that some people have to break up their relationship before they can find someone new. But some of us screw around to get up the courage to break up.
- You do lose your identity when you give up your name. We'll disappear if we lose the name. Looking back, it will look like: the cuts happened, the world forgot about climate change, and climate camp collapsed.
- It's because of the dysfunctionality of the process that we couldn't put dissolution on the agenda.

Structures, ... continued [Thursday pm]

Split off into groups to further discuss all the issues raised in the morning session, and to discuss possible ways of resolving some of the associated problems.

Some notes from two of the break-off groups (the other notes were either not salvaged or not comprehensible).

Group 1

Principles of structures that could resolve these problems:

- not everyone needs to be involved in every decision
- empower people and groups to make decisions and hold them accountable
- formalised roles, not necessarily rotating frequently, but sharing skills
- process group (co-ordination group?) made up of spokes from working groups (and others?)
- encouraging and supporting 'bottom-liners', facilitators and roles

Methods of accountability:

- reports at gatherings and website for discussions
- space for secret organising where necessary

- working groups/affinity groups accountable (rather than individuals)
- formalised roles

Noted how similar much of this is to the climate camp organising structures, with notable differences of formalised roles and encouraging and supporting bottom liners and facilitators, not involving everyone in every decision, spokes in process / coordination group.

Group 2

What kind of structures do we want?

- reactive, quick, flexible, simple
- national coordination
- using the internet – link in person&online groups
- like GBC, No Borders, UK Uncut, ...?
- Rising Tide: - Working Groups – local groups – coordination by spokes

What restricts our process / participation?

- Cost?
- Time?
- process fatigue?
- frustration?

What could provide a spark (in the climate movement/climate camp)?

- working with UK Uncut, students?
- not restricted by camps
- how do we partner with other groups?
- we are difficult to work with because of openness
- pure responsiveness not good either

Then groups came back together and had a large group discussion and feedback from break-away groups:

-Should structure gatherings by splitting:

- Skill sharing, networking between local groups
- UK wide decision making, mass actions etc...

- accountability process, with explicit aims/politics that allows rejections, therefore losing openness, but gaining focus
- not everyone needs to be part of each decision
- documentation project to collect skills and knowledge from previous work
- organising space different from event space
- clearer idea of 'we'
- people joining need to agree xyz and group gets the ability to reject also
 - makes trust easier and more in built
 - current structure doesn't allow that
- instead of formal hierarchy, formalise structure and roles
- decisions get made, and people join on the basis of if they agree or not
- current need to be together to make decisions not working
- is a spokes model adequate to resolve some of these?
- internet communication not always clear
- problem of accountability. Same people in same role, can be ok, but must be accountable

Friday 25th February

(Minutes from this point forward taken in the usual fashion

Notes before this point are taken from paper notes and memory of the person collating these minutes. See 'Disclaimer above')

Spectrum lines

In the morning we did several spectrum lines, with points and responses taken from different people along the spectrum. Have no records of the statements/questions asked and no record of the balance of where people positioned themselves.

If you have any records of this please email spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

Name Game

Played a game which generated ideas for possible names other than climate camp, which were then added to a list on the wall which anybody could add to at any time after. Don't have records of these, but of the suggestions which weren't jokes, Network for Climate Action or similar were quite popular.

If you have any record of these please email spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

Idea Storm

Laid out several pieces of blank flip-chart paper on the floor and with very little talking, people moved around the room writing down ideas for actions, or projects for the climate movement. Don't have records of these, but amongst the many ideas were 'Radical Regeneration', 'Climate Caravan', new kinds of structures of organising, and many others, some of which are discussed further later in the week (see below, in particular Saturday Morning session).

If you have any notes or records of this session please send them to spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

Transitions of past movements:

Short talk from people involved in movements in the past that have undergone transitions of some form:

Road protests to reclaim the streets.

First bit of this section was not minuted, due to problems with the laptop.

-
- Carnival against capitalism
- had lost the ability to convey message
- anger turned inwards "I'm more anticapitalist than you"
- people who weren't interested in machoism left.
- Q – should reclaim the streets have ended before it did?
- A – London group should have ended earlier, it was hard as lots of groups nationally
- A - many people drifted away
- A - However, this time (cc) we've got a strong will to work through problems, much more positive, we do need to refresh our tactics
- A - First Meeting was a reclaim the streets meeting – 80, 1 year later 6 people, the process

- was painful and slow. Could have been stopped on a high rather than slow collapse
- A - We failed to recognise the problems that were terminal
- A - the group turned on itself, a group that is losing direction can turn on itself.

Earth First

Started in the UK 91/92

- national network of local groups
- antiroad protests brought loads of people into that network/ movement
- what do we do now after
- conscious effort to move into something else – GM
- high point of taking relevant action
- parallel to it was reclaim the streets and car stuff
- sometimes messy how they fitted together
- wave of anti-capitalist stuff brought lots of people into EF
- ideologically shift, instead of strategising about what it could be it decided what it would do (2002)
- cc could institutionalise itself similar to EF and just do a camp each year
- Reclaim the streets, high point, lots involved, small number of people, ideologically it wanted to fold itself out and not be a concentration of power
- lots of groups and tactics came out of it, e.g. samba, indymedia, wambles,
- but then there was nothing left to keep the ethos of reclaim the streets going, diffuse out to not very much for the group

Landless Peasants, Brazil

- squatted land and then lived on the land
- they were losing the land when farmers went into debt
- shift of tactics, not to get more land, concentrate on what we have and make them centres of action.
- Q - Did it take everyone in the movement?
- A – they have a much more hierarchical structure, federation, organisers, centralised power around them...

CIRCA

- It had a very specific principles which would have required enormous amounts of work and training
- very quickly the core principles got lost and groups turned up being entertainers and moved away from core principles, things the first people who started it didn't recognise
- the starters left CIRCA
- this can be what happens in a decentralised network “be careful what you wish for”
- leaving it without saying anything wasn't good
- CIRCA wasn't given a chance because the people who thought about it most left
- it has become what the critics said in the beginning.
- Q do you regret leaving it
- A I regret leaving it in the way it did, it left people disempowered
- We need to avoid this

2000, mobilisation for world bank IMF summit, Prague

- key groups, reclaim the streets, Yobasta Italy, MRG Spain,
- Prague was a big deal, post Seattle anti globalisation
- MRG had a big crisis post this
- summit hopping problematic
- big meeting, committed institutional suicide
- very shocking from the outside
- for them a very celebratory event
 - inspiring communication
 - Barcelona formed a new group Lacenetras which went on to many actions
 - more dynamic creative thing.
- preempted the post globalisation, Sept 11 crisis in these groups.

Class War

- Anarchist Federation in the 80's
- militant stance against the police
- 10 years ago had a meeting when they decided to fold
- recently one of the groups decided to reform again
- In 1997 one group who were key organisers suggested they should dissolve, and caused quite a horrible split
- a smaller group tried to keep it going, on a tiny scale and really badly.

Feminist Movement

- started with an upsurge of people looking at their own lives, women, men, ...
- after 10 years it got swept into a direction by women who were well off and looking for careers
- from that misdirection/ direction it got swept into funded organisations
- some groups broke away – a leader said they were going to go in another direction
- a split happened, one group continued, one group folded.

Points from others

- if we think of this as a psychological or emotional issue we miss our shared politics
- important to remain open to each other
- Adding on to Earth First, it was a place for new things and a glue to hold things together. Glue may be less sticky now. EF has become a group of people who are growing old together, how do we make sure we don't just do that, How do we find our NEW GLUE.

Speak to other if you want to learn more
Suggest an evening activity of more stories

Political Mapping

This session saw drawing out big 'power maps' in groups, and placing climate camp on them. The idea is not so much about producing a good or correct power map at the end, but the discussions about who the players are and how much they all affect each other.

Group split into 3 (and many went for a break before going to lunch):

1. Fossil Fuel Economy
2. Climate Change
3. Capitalism

Decide who the 'players are' and place them on the map in the following way:

size of circles – show their importance.

straight line connecting them – positive influence

zigzag line – negative

Thicker the line – stronger the relationship, influence

Add arrows to the lines/zig zags if power is more in one direction

We have no record of these power maps and the discussions had producing them. If you do, please email them to spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

“The Big Question” - Continue as we are, or change tactics and branding?

The spectrum lines and previous discussions had shows that many people in the group want to work together in some form; maintain entry points, process etc. However some wanted a big change in the process, tactics and branding and others didn't.

For discussion, the group split into these two broad groups:

-those that wanted to keep the current *modus operandi*, and

-those that wanted something completely different (process, tactics, branding)

Most people in the room chose the “something completely different” side (split at about 40 people in “something completely different” & 6 people in “to keep the current *modus operandi*”)

A third group formed (about 10 people splitting out of the “something different” group, to discuss the ‘Climate Caravan’ idea (see below)

Discussed ‘SWOT’: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. In these three groups.

Change the tactics and branding

Strengths

- Experience / personal connections
- Horizontality
- Education
- Structures logistics
- Economic freedom
- Experience of presenting

Weaknesses

- Education
- Privilege
- Non-hierarchy

- Not good at mobilising
- Intra-movement baggage
- Lack of grassroots movement / network building
- Lack of focus & definition
- Don't appeal to workers or wider community in general
- Don't understand diversity
- Internally hyper-critical and don't defend ourselves against external critics
- Arrogance

Opportunities

- Liberation from status quo
- More people joining movement due to lower living standards
- UK corps in climate crimes
- Upsurge in civil disob. and DA
- Define who we are
- Revolutions from Middle East
- Oil prices high

Threats

- Sensitivity to criticisms
- Difficulty making narrative clear in cuts / relevant
- Process
- Denial of mainstream and our own things
- No easy climate targets any more
- We get left behind by not changing
- Perceive ourselves to have a duty to maintain Climate Camp
- World moves on from Climate Change
- Activist energy to other issues
- We're not reflecting the international nature of the problem
- Can be easily marginalised
- We can weaken movement and network if we don't do this well

Keep the tactics and branding

Strengths

- Create space to bring people together
- We know how to do it

- Still captures the public's imagination
- Truly sustainable model
- Flexible in messaging & opportunities
- Brand is known, associations with excitement & positivity

Weaknesses

- Requires a lot of work, and knowledge is still concentrated around few people
- Not new

Opportunities

- Could work with other groups e.g. students or UK Uncut
- Capitalise on new situation

Threats

- Difficult to move on from unsatisfactory process
- Can be infiltrated
- People don't want to do it

“Climate Caravan”

Strengths

- Empowering local struggles / build support in local areas / possibly lose middle-class image
- Flexibility
- Lighter load for the movement
- Diverse tactics / targets / allies
- Strain police
- Increase local actions
- Ownership of local groups
- Less burnout

Weaknesses

- Lots of travel
- Small team of dedicated organisers needed
- Building enthusiasm for each target
- Logistics of tat
- Catering to weekend warriors

Opportunities

- Can return to Climate Camp if we want to

- Lower financial cost
- Outreach / training
- Doesn't have to be exclusive with Camp
- Weekend actions more suitable for working people

General Discussion

Polite, reasonable discussion on the future of the movement, continuing to use SWOT. Observation that we shouldn't feel we have to make a decision in the next 30mins – we have more time.

Weakness that we have our tactic, and even thinking of something new we're influenced by that. We're not considering other ways of doing DA.

Weakness – we don't have an alternative to the Camp. Proposal that the “caravan” idea doesn't have space for mass involvement. What can we do with national impact and inspiration to let us feel happy moving on from CC.

Weakness – fail to realise where the energy is.

Have we really heard any new tactics from the “end climate camp” side of the room?

- brief was not to devise new tactics; discussion was over where we are as a movement

Should we maintain our capability to have a camp, even if we don't plan to have one?

Change necessary, with predictable results. Either we'll fizzle out or we'll have “institutional stasis”. We can't decide to affiliate with groups without them. We need to build our structure to respond to ideas well – we can't necessarily pre-decide our tactics and we might have to step into the unknown.

Climate Camp has always been more than just the camp, it's been about information sharing and teach-ins etc. We need to think of ways to make holding camps easier – potentially we could do it indoors, or we could get help from other groups. It's not appropriate to need to know ahead of time if other groups will be interested, because it's all unknown.

We haven't managed to build strong local neighbourhoods, and the successful events have all been national. Student movement has done very well locally and regionally; feeling the vibe of things at the moment, decentralisation is important.

Fear of the unknown, we need to be able to respond to changes quickly. In 2 months' time we might find that UK Uncut is dead & oil crisis is v important. Shouldn't stick with Camp just because it's known.

Does the group that is pro-camp have the capacity to do it? If not, is it a moot point?

Strengths listed with the camp no longer applicable? We need something new and different to have the advantages we used to. It can't do those things at all anyway.

Lack of ability to have strong international networks. Moving away from camp structure may give that advantages

Conflating feeling that we're sick of doing a camp with saying it's no longer a useful tactic. We shouldn't confuse those reasons.

Systemic critique most important, building capacity to share that with anyone getting involved is most crucial. Action on climate change will be superseded in the near future by more pressing issues for most people in this country. Change climate narrative?

Problem defining who we are, and we can't do anything without addressing that problem. We need to start again to do things; we may even end up doing a camp again but the most important point we need to sort out first is addressing who we are.

Diversity is used as a feel-good issue; if we want a really broad-based movement we will need to be more accepting. Sometimes it is better to be more clearly-defined, and recognise the diversity problems inherent in that.

Organising a Camp would play into government / corporate hands – doesn't have the impact it used to. Everything secondary to impact & real power. Huge potential of people in the room; systemic critique is our strongest tool.

“When there's a crisis, what happens next is a product of the ideas that are lying around”

Need to do something this summer that resurrects regional neighbourhoods. Big idea that uses all skills & energy is necessary. Many important campaigns across the country, and we need to energise and link up. Diversity of tactics with diversity of targets. Look into ways of connecting internationally; broadcast our visions.

Note: lots of emotional and emotive language being used. Separate out burn-out issue and 'tactical' critical analysis. We should be careful not to stop what we're doing with no plan going forwards, in case we do drift off into other activism. We need a definite idea to move on to; fear yes, but justified fear that movement will dissolve.

Camps have been flash events, and that has been a weakness. This leads to burn-out because it's not part of a coherent campaign. Internal structure of trust needed, and that means not leaving the S4C without a clear idea going forward.

“Radical Regeneration” to mass squat a neighbourhood to embed something long-lasting, and goes beyond just climate change to address the compound crises.

PROPOSAL

We will continue collectively to organise together, we will attempt to refresh our strategy and structure and we won't organise camps for the foreseeable future.

Questions?

what is meant by foreseeable future? A bit vague

we're talking about the national camp process so smaller groups can organise a camp in this year

Suggested amendments –

we won't for the foreseeable future organise a national camp.

We don't envisage organising a camp

- not strong support

In this year

- some support

We don't want to do a camp for climate action (a big annual summer camp)

- strong support

We will not organise a national climate camp in 2011

- lots of support

Our identity will not be based on organising a climate camp

- drop the words for the foreseeable future

- same first 2 parts, we change our identity and name, we're not soely about organising climate camps.

Get rid of fuzzy last line, no time frame.

Concerns

Camp may again become useful – IPCC 2014

2 decisions we could make

1. not to do a camp
2. dissolve the camp for climate action

Response – the 2nd clause addressed a strong feeling for change

Another response – we need to be clearer on this.

The decision should be whether to dissolve it or not, why are we making a decision in this room for something for the future. Some people had an idea for the future yesterday, we should get on talking about this.

- strong dissent for this.

Why are we committing to not doing a camp?

- there is nothing that says we have to do a camp every year. However committing to this forces us to move on (strong support for this)
- maybe we need to talk about restructuring or dissolving.

How do we filter this to neighbourhoods who are not here?

- we have sprawling social networks that are really important
- we need a good strategy for this if dissolving.

Wording needs to be clear otherwise washy.

Again this shows the fear, us thinking of ourselves as the camp that doesn't do a camp. We need to stop, celebrate and then move on.

- If the current structure is dissolved – as a national structure, that would mean going to do something new
- very strong support.
- current groups can of course still continue to meet and do local camps and actions if they want

Check in with “dissolving the current national structure.”

Temperature check on

The national structure will come to a close and we will start afresh.

- lots of hands high
- small numbers of hands in the middle.

– One or two low.

New proposal

***We will continue to collectively organising together,
we will attempt to refresh our strategy and structure but
we will no longer organise as the camp for climate action.***

9 stand asides

I object to the process, we need to hear concerns, clarifying points...

agree with above and I need to know that the next topic for discussion is can other groups organise as CFCA

I agree with first and I'm concerned that by giving up a name we're giving up a lot
attempt to refresh – something more upbeat

it sounds like a re-branding proposal – I thought there was more consensus on “we'll dissolve” we
need to start new in a very real way

I would be satisfied by an amendment that will plan our dissolution, party, website, networks et.

I'm ambivalent about too many aspects, too many people in this room feel a particular way.

Initially I feel uncomfortable with process, now I feel it should be a stronger statement.

3 blocks

Gone from we're not having a camp to we're abandoning climate camp.

My main concern is the speed of this and also this meeting was not advertised and no agenda
published. This was organised as an open space type event and now its a national event that's
demolishing itself and neighbourhoods need a chance to input. We need to at least have an open
process that has an advertised agenda.

Facilitators

Open up to discussion so people can respond to the concerns and blocks raised and then we'll go to
dinner. It needs to be thought through, it needs time it needs to be carefully thought out.

15 minutes to talk through ideas and concerns and will continue tomorrow.

5 who we haven't heard from.

1. we seem to be coming close to consensus on 'we won't organise a camp this year'

- strong support

2. I thought we were starting a conversation for the rest of the weekend

3. I helped plan this, we didn't make any decisions on agenda before this as to make it an open
process – in response to one of the blocks

1. we've come on this collective journey in the past 4 days that has brought us to this

point now.

4. The last climate camp gathering gave decision making power to this, as far as if people would know if we were going to disband this, no but this is what happened after 4 days. The climate camp needs to adapt to new context. We need to dissolve in order to do that, its a good thing.
5. If we make the decision to dissolve, a group will work on most affective strategy and another on new structures.
6. Should we be polling the whole movement for this decision, its always the case that we have hierarchies of travel, money etc. this is the most legitimate we'll get.

New stack

1. having said that we should throw ourselves into the unknown we should consider how this will be perceived outside. We need to manage a good transition. We still need to discuss:
 - other people using name, other people having the ability to respond to this.
 - People may respond in a challenging manner, and decide to do a climate camp anyway
 - we need to ensure we don't have a split
2. we should make proposals of new ideas tomorrow
 - so other groups that have proposals on specific things can bring them forward.
3. We need to think about this carefully about how we manage this and communicate this outside.
 - anyone who had have put forward this proposal would have been shot down as trying to steer the process.
4. We need to think about how the needs climate camp filled will be met if no camp for climate action.
 - What is the positive type of change we want to make.
5. How many people wanted to come to space for change who couldn't?
 - Answer – 12 that are known of.
 - Name – we've got a clumpy name I think we'll disappear if we don't loose the game
 - what might it look like in history, the cuts happened, climate change went off the agenda and climate camp collapsed.
6. It seemed that given the magnitude of the decision there was a huge amount of consensus in the room, its just about wording.

A question of what we ditch and what we keep.

7. I'm with above, we're there and we make a decision tonight, even if that means not having base group time.
8. I was talking about equality of opportunity not polling, we didn't say we were going to do it in. Its like a company that got bad news and decided to hold its AGM in the hauknies.

6.10

Time for closing plenary – to hear from groups that may have been talking elsewhere today.

Plenary

Feedback from Open Space Sessions today:

How climate change affects you personally and mentally, emotionally:

5 people Hopes and Fears about climate change

very productive.

Its hard what we're doing, we need to take care of each other and ourselves, acknowledging things.

Caravan Idea

Proposal will be made for tomorrow.

Need feed in from other people - meet in pine hall at 8.

If anyone wants to talk about the cuts march I'll be chatting about it tomorrow.

Feedback from the 'Pine hall discussions': The group addressing the questions laid out in the "proposal for a structure of the week":

Morning:

Did a name game in the morning, and an ideas storm of new ideas

Stories from people who had been involved in movements that have gone through transition and lessons learned.

Power Mapping -

who are the players, power relations... discussing where climate camp fits.

Afternoon

Discussions split – people who wanted to continue a camp, people who wanted to continue in a new way

- strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- group talking about camp was 6
- big group talking about continue in a new way
- also climate caravan

That then formed into a proposal:

The national structure will come to a close and we will start afresh.

as a temperature check high support for the idea.

Concerns around legitimacy, rushing decision and how it would be communicated after.

Ideas of names – climate action collective.

This evening

- History of feminism chat this evening, 8.30 in old library
- Facilitation meeting tomorrow morning 9am piano room
- Is there a way of feeding into facilitators meeting without going to it – big decisions about structure
- blank piece of paper on the wall that anyone can add to, and can chat to people who are going to be there (number of people put there hand up saying they will be going to the facilitation meeting and are happy to chat to anyone and feed-in their ideas.
- no one down to do washing up
- 7.45 in old library, chat about Dale Farm – largest traveller site in UK – trying to evict, probably in April, presence for 2-3 weeks need skills of climate camp to support.
- Bar, 7-7.45 in dining room.

Facilitators from previous discussion back.

Proposal that we miss base groups and test for some proposals – 30minutes to continue this process.

- temperature check on if we'll use the time for decision making
- decision we'd be trying to make – to not organise a national climate camp in 2011.
- mixed room, not enough to go ahead with that.
- If you want to speak to someone about tomorrow's structure M is ready to hear 3 concise points from each person who wants to feed in.

Its valuable that we got to where we did

- space for groups tomorrow to put forward ideas tomorrow for what next
 - make sure they're developed for tomorrow.
- Quite a lot of people were addressing facilitators and not room, it would be nice to address room esp if negative.

Saturday 26th February

Ideas for big actions, projects and structures

'bring back hitch-hiking'

Bank Invasions - scale up to occupations

- to tie in the anti-capitalist message to climate
- get people involved other than through meetings

Questions and Comments:

- how would we do it? - RBS
- would they be day long? - scalable

lots of support

Green & Black Cross - get involved by doing

- we need people and energy
- we don't need to wait - just do it.
- use experience to help new activists
- G&B cross - legacy project, the best of what we have to empower new networks
- What we want from CfCA - to use skills for all year round

Questions and comments:

- How the values of CC are being embedded in other real struggles now
- Great example of how we are flexible, parallel in anarchist disaster relief in Katrina in New Orleans. Then how use our skills to response to disaster.
- Open space session?
- 'Rapid response unit' - discussion was started last year
- Lets just set so we can do it!
- Historical example of this kind of organisation: Civil Defense Organization / 'Civil Aid' in the 60s.

Gandhian approach to direct action.

Taking everything the law can throw at you. You announce in advance what you will do. You publish your intention, a pledge. 'This law is so stupid we will do this...' // How to harness working class anger and middle class righteousness. Quote: "without knowing it is impossible they just did it'.

Questions and comments:

- what is the end game? - i don't know, put it in the movement's toolbox
- 'Sack Parliament' Already tried to organise invading parliament on mass. Thousands of police and failed. How to plan in ahead. Hard - 1) target needs to be indefensible, 2) how to defuse responsibility.
- Great idea

New structure: Nurturing small groups. Affinities groups, -

commit to each other, know each others politics, know issues and arrestable or not. Come together every six months. Spokes council meeting. Problems acknowledged of affinities groups - alienating for those not involved. Importance of supportive relations with each other.

Questions and comments:

- Loses the inclusivity, Maybe this is a good things
- The G&B Cross would work well with this proposal to fill in gaps
- Importance and solidarity built through affinities groups.
- Could affinities groups be beyond direct action/ for other things we do? - Education/sustainability?
- Comment: Encouraging affinities groups is the biggest weakness of cfca.

Temp. check - 'fairly positive'.

How to do mass national action?

Couple of ideas:

- Oil could be the issue of the year
- 'occupation of a bastion of privilege and power that has to do with the future'.

Questions and Comments:

- Does this tap into the zeitgeist of what we are up to?
- Specifics??? Response- don't want to divulge any specific information here.
- Would fit in well with rapid response idea? -
- False solutions as potential targets? - Key - ability of mobilise loads of people

Radical Regeneration

a national network of regional groups that organises local actions. - a space that is about creation and resistance. Learning from CfCA - ground your values from the start - DIY, anti-authoritarian, mutual aid and solidarity,

How it might work? 90 percent of work would be regional

Mapping areas that we could squat.

The national call out to national network to take site. And then the regional

Why now?

- we need to set up to resist criminalisation of squatting
- movement resources and capacity.
- radicals coming together
- challenge the politics of austerity
- risk of gentrification
- there is a proposal that is flowing around / 3 copies. very positive response/

Questions and comments:

- Where is the climate?
- Attempt to provide for our basic needs? we are not able to
- Creating our own ghettos

Temperature check -Very positive .

Crabgrass group: called radical regeneration, join if you'd like to get involved.

'Climate Caravan'

We go from area to area to link up to local struggles.

to link local projects and linking up local issues to climate.

Long list why it would be useful...

- 1) Empowering supporting local struggles based on their needs and wishes
- 2) Using diversity of tactics especially DA and skill building
- 3) Holding events that use collective creativity and encourage free expression
- 4) Promoting environmental issues, sustainability and climate justice
- 5) Challenging the cuts agenda
- 6) Being flexible to accommodate arising issues and respond within capability
- 7) Organising events schedule with and around local groups
- 8) Travelling as light as possible
- 9) A schedule to ensure activist sustainability, including not all getting nicked
- 10) Outreaching to activist networks.

Questions and comments:

- Do we have the capacity to do this? It might be difficult
- : We should only go if we are wanted. We should not go somewhere without an invitation. People might not want to be radicalised.
- How we could be creative in this model? Comment: love the idea. - give us ability to tap into local stuff as regional people
- Generates lots of practical skills training.

Replies.

Flexibility is key! travelling light is key

Idea is very flexible, people will make what they want out of it.

Project always arrives by invitation/co-ordination only.

Project is somewhere between "coal caravan" and list of summer radical events.

Variable levels of input, different tools where applicable and different workshops attending appropriately.

Not necessarily a core group for whole of summer.

Honest feedback, support in principle?

Temporary check – Positive: “6 or 7”.

New Structures? Issues to address:

[Saturday afternoon]

Since many of the concerns raised from the proposal yesterday (Friday) were about how a transition or change would be managed, we will now discuss how we might manage a transition or change, if that is what we decided to do.

Note: A decision to make such a transition or change has not been made, this is a hypothetical discussion so that any decision would be more informed.

How to transition into new forms

Creating structures which clarify roles, responsibilities and accountability

Role of gatherings

Communicating the transition

How to take the resources we have to our new structures: group resources, network resources and “reputational resources”.

Material resources include: tat, money in bank

Network resources include: people who feel attachment to climate camp, website, local groups, email / crabgrass groups etc

“Reputational resources”: our name and brand. What would replace it? What happens if others continue to use climate camp name? How do we communicate our transition as a positive decision? Need to document our story.

Discussion:

Possible narrative on climate camp website.

Ongoing legal processes - what would happen?

Sorting material resources is probably relatively straightforward, but network resources maybe harder to transition - don't rush this.

The narrative must be that we're in transition, under reconstruction, rather than we've folded or that we have a new plan (we haven't yet).

Other groups link to and value a lot of our web resources.

There is a strong will (but not 100%) for fundamental changes in what Climate Camp is and does. We risk losing some people if change is perceived as rushed, equally we risk losing people if they are frustrated by lack of change. Four proposals have emerged, and it's late in the process so there are risks that the process of deciding on them may feel rushed. Request to be respectful and calm in addressing them.

Process of proposals:

We will go through proposals in the following way:

Presenting the proposals.

Clarifying questions, to clear up the meaning of the proposal for anyone.

Space for concerns to be raised

Suggested amendments to the proposal

Restating amended proposal

(Clarifying questions, concerns and amendments if necessary again)

Check for 'stand asides': Which means that you are not personally happy with the decision or would not put your own time and energy into implementing it, but are happy for the group to go ahead with it if that is what others want

Check for 'Blocks'. A 'Block' means that you believe the decision is disastrous, goes against the 'core aims of the group' or that you could not be part of the group if this decision went ahead.

Check for Active Consensus: Bearing in mind any stand asides and blocks, wave hands if you are happy for the decision to go ahead, and don't wave them or wave them low if you are unhappy for the decision to go ahead. Then it is the judgement of the group if there is active consensus or not. There are no absolute rules about how many stand asides means that the decision does not go ahead, or if a block automatically means the decision is not made, but allows the group to use their judgement depending on the decision.

Four proposals:

1. We will not organise a camp in 2011 to free us up to organise new things
2. We will establish interim working groups to take our skills, experiences and resources forward with us.
3. We will establish an interim working group to propose new working structures

4. We will stop using the Climate Camp name from the date when we next convene.

Discussion of:

1. We will not organise a camp in 2011 to free us up to organise new things

Add "national"? Yes, it should have been there

Does this preclude the proposal for camps with other groups (i.e. not purely climate camps)?

Happy to go with an amendment to add "climate".

Amended to:

1. We will not organise a national climate camp in 2011 to free us up to organise new things.

Concerns:

Doesn't go far enough.

No amendments.

3 stand asides:

Unhappy with the process of reaching this decision.

Not what I want but respect that it's what others want.

Doesn't go far enough.

No blocks

CONSENSUS:

We will not organise a national climate camp in 2011 to free us up to organise new things.

Discussion of:

2. We will establish interim working groups to take our skills, experiences and resources forward with us.

Questions:

1. Need to clarify what we mean by our skills, experiences and resources.

2. Do we have the capacity to fill these groups - i.e. are there the people willing to take on these tasks?

3. How will this relate to existing working groups and neighbourhoods?

4. Who will set up the working groups?

Answers:

Q1. Some working groups to take care of the material, repetitional and network resources described earlier. We can work out tomorrow morning how to do this. Membership to be self-nominating.

? What would their mandate be?

Groups can work out their mandate. Perhaps tomorrow morning. They would be interim groups so their mandates could be revised quite quickly.

Q2. Re capacity. We need to give ourselves permission to set up the interim groups before we can really see who wants to get involved.

Q3. Re the concern about transitioning existing groups including neighbourhoods. Restated as an amendment: "To take forward the transition". Some of those groups already exist and may not need transitioning.

Suggest using the word "transfer" the resources into interim working groups.
Need to think about how to involve people who aren't here in this transition process.

Q4. How long is interim? Probably till we next meet (i.e. the same as the interim use of the name).

Some tasks need doing now, and working groups don't exist to do them. E.g. communicating the decisions we are currently taking.

Shouldn't we make the decision about the end of climate camp before making all these transitional arrangements?

No, some of the decisions about what we do next have yet to be made. But the decision to not have a national climate camp this year is a major decision in its own right. It needs communicating. But there are other decisions still to be made.

Q: Would all existing working groups be disbanded?

A: Any which are currently functioning would continue at least for now; interim working groups would only be set up to take on work which needs doing where there isn't a group to do it. An immediate group would be to identify what tasks need doing and what groups are needed to do them - this needs setting up straight away.

Concerns:

We're opening up a complex can of worms and I'd rather spend the time working out what we do next, rather than designing a complex interim organisational arrangements. But it would be useful to hear the concern about the process of reaching this set of proposals.

2. We will establish interim working groups to take care of the transition i.e. to take our skills, experiences and resources forward with us.

Further concern: not clear what "transition" we're referring to.

A: transition to working on "new things" as per proposal 1, i.e. whatever we do instead of a camp. Are we glossing over the uncertainty about where we're going? Possibly.

We need to respect the chronology of the decisions we've been asked to take - it has been carefully crafted to respect people's concerns.

Suggested rewordings: We will form interim working groups to take forward the decisions made at the space for change.

OR

We will establish interim working groups to take our skills, experiences and resources forward with us while we work out what new things we will be doing.

First one has more wavy hands.

Concern about first one:

It's too vague. What are the decisions made space for change? We haven't made all the decisions yet.

One concern about the process:

This was meant to be a space for change, not an agenda-driven narrowing down of options.

Second option restated:

We will establish interim working groups to take our skills, experiences and resources forward with us while we work out what new things we will be doing.

More wavy hands this time.

Stand-asides:

The interim stuff can be done by existing working groups.

We're ducking the issue of whether to end climate camp.

No blocks.

CONSENSUS:

We will establish interim working groups to take our skills, experiences and resources forward with us while we work out what new things we will be doing.

Discussion of:

3. We will establish an interim working group to propose new working structures.

This proposal is to reflect discussion over the last few days about the shortcomings of our existing structures.

Questions:

Q: This includes the process? A: Yes.

Q: Does this include redefining our aims and objectives? A: No.

Q: Will we ensure there is openness and accountability of who is involved in the new structure?

Yes. The group tomorrow can input its thoughts, e.g. which groups should be open or closed. It shouldn't be an exclusive process.

Comment: One of the interim groups will need a mandate to set up a next gathering.

Concerns:

That we spend too long on this decision! Let's test it, but if it doesn't get consensus, it's largely covered by the previous decision anyway.

Maybe it's too limiting, a lot of people have views on the issue of our structure.

- Response: it's about making sure the job gets done, not about excluding people who aren't in the group from having input.

We're still ducking the real decision.

There's a risk that we'll only end up with a serious lack of structure.

- Response: De-structuring is not what's being addressed. It's important that we have a process for sorting out our process, rather than leaving this to a future gathering (which would be draining).

Suggestion that it needs amendment that the working group's job is to take in ideas from others, not just to come up with them. A: But you can join the group. (That's an OK solution).

Proposal restated

3. We will establish an interim working group to propose new working structures.

2. Stand-asides

Concern that the process needs to be input

Interim is unclear due to the lack of a decision to dissolve the camp.

No blocks.

CONSENSUS

We will establish an interim working group to propose new working structures.

Discussion of:

4. We will stop using the climate camp name from the date we next convene.

Q: What if we fail to come up with a new name by the time we next convene?

A: We'll be "the movement formerly known as the climate camp".

Suggested amendment:

We will decide to dissolve climate camp when we next convene.

Unease over this.

Also pointed out that we stop using camp for climate action as well.

Q: Does this mean that neighbourhoods stop using the name?

A: That will be an issue to be addressed by an interim working group, but if any neighbourhood wants to carry on using the name, that's up to them (lots of wavy hands).

Concerns:

Legal team will still be doing work which needs to continue under climate camp name.

We may be fudging the decision.

Q: Is this just a rebrand? A: No we've just decided to do new things.

We shouldn't preclude the possibility of a national camp event with other groups, and it may be sensible for climate camp to participate. A new name may not work as well.

Responses:

It's essential to have clarity about what we're doing. We mustn't adopt a lowest common denominator decision.

Do those who want to go further (i.e. to dissolve climate camp) have the patience to await the proposals from a working group?

We're trying to find a democratic consensual way to involve lots of people in creating a new structure. This doesn't work, as this week has shown.

But we need to recognise people's fears. And let's face it, if others don't like our decisions, they can reverse them. This process and these decisions are about a bridge to our (uncertain) future.

Suggested amendments:

We will decide on a new name when we next convene.

We will decide on a new name once consensus has been reached on a suitable alternative.

We will not organise as the Camp for Climate Action in 2011.

None received support.

Back to original proposal.

15 stand-asides.

Noted that the stand-asides are probably from diverse perspectives. Decided not to proceed with this decision.

Another proposal:

We will not organise as the national camp for climate action / climate camp in 2011.

Questions:

Q: Can we organise as "space for change"?!

Q: What happens to twitter account etc? A: That's for an interim working group to address.

Q: Does this mean that we're also moving away from the climate camp process?

Q: How do we then decide what to do in 2012?

Q: If we can decide on another name, does that take over?

Q: What's left if we take this decision as well as the other three we've taken? (Lots of wavy hands)

A: This proposal is about much more than just a name. And as for 2012, we'll decide that in the light of this year's activities.

A: The wavy hands for the last question suggest that people think proposals 1-3 have largely addressed what proposal 4 was trying to do.

A: We need to level the playing field so that we all come through this process together.

Discussion in 4 subgroups

New wordings proposed from two of the groups (the other two supported the original wording).

1. We will not organise as cc/cfca in 2011 but we agree to work together on something new.
- 2 ...to give space for new structures tactics and structures to emerge.

Combining these proposals

We will not organise as the national cc/ccfa in 2011 to give space for new structures tactics and processes to emerge, but we do commit to organise collectively this year.

Facilitators suggest starting at stand-asides. Lots of wavy hands.

Stand-asides:

Unclear who "we" is.

It's a fudge. Maybe we need it but let's see if we can drop the last phrase.

We need a clear-cut decision.

We need a different "we".

We should be clearer about dropping the identity, not fudge it with "in 2011".

No need for the negative wording.

Try this wording:

We will not organise as national cc/ccfa in 2011 to give space for new structures tactics and processes to emerge.

Stand-asides:

We could loose our capacity to organise nationally impactful action on climate change in 2011.

So many questions and misunderstandings.

We should drop "in 2011"

The last bit of this sounds like we're stepping back passively in the hope that new structures etc will emerge.

Test on:

We will not organise as national cc/ccfa in 2011 to give space for new structures tactics and processes to emerge.

5 blocks.

Not achieve active consensus

One additional reason to the earlier stand asides: need to see how those outside this process feel.

Consensus test: not passed.

Several people suggested they would walk away from the process (including the interim working groups) if this decision was not passed (an 'anti-block').

Suggestion that the "blocks" and "anti-blocks" meet to discuss and see if they can come up with a new proposal before tomorrow morning. Agreed.

Agreed to restart at 10am tomorrow.

Discussion of practicalities of clean-up tomorrow.

Announcements

20th March, Climate Week, NGOs, trade bodies and celebrities involved. Sponsored by RBS. Anyone interested in doing some actions that week

Anti-cuts space opened up in London

Friday: climate-related student action, UCL students went to careers fair and disrupted greenwash.

7.45 this evening, discussion of radical regeneration proposal.

Grow Heathrow's 1st birthday tomorrow

DSEI in London this autumn. There are likely to be themed days of actions - how about one on

Idea for a website on reasons to hate the Tories, pointing them towards our solutions.

Squat-tastic, meeting in Colorama (SE London) on 6th March.

Palm oil plant planned here in Dorset. Eric Pickles gave go-ahead to a similar plant in Bristol 2 weeks ago - all legal options exhausted. Time for site occupations, loads of support. 200-400 people coming out on marches. People locally feel the battle has been lost but some outside energy could really revive energy.

Presentation on "The true cost of coal"

Liz Snook organising a "quiet victories" bike tour.

In London, come for a karaoke and soup fundraiser for Corporate Watch, at LARC (E London) tomorrow evening from 6pm.

If you know people arrested on student demos on 6th March, check details of get-togethers on Green & Black Cross website.

G&BC will be short of bust-cards for 26th March, so please spread info to anyone who is coming.

Anyone wanting to be on Dale Farm email list please speak to Jonno.

Rebel Alliance (Brighton) wanted to invite Climate Camp to be part of a Mayday action. Not sure who we'd be inviting now, but the invite is still open. It's over the Royal Wedding weekend.

Respect to all the energy here. Please bear in mind the nuclear issue. Government is skewing the market in favour of nuclear, replacing one nightmare future with another. We must stop it now. Nuclear network is there but quite old and needs new energy. Camp at Sizewell this Easter (24th/25th) and at Hinkley in the summer.

Discussion of Caravan idea, to facilitating learning about neo-liberalism etc. 8.15pm this evening in Old Library.

3 actions in London in April:

1. Action to mark anniversary of BP oil spill. April 20th
2. BP's AGM on April 15th. Action planned.
3. Climate Rush to be planning a railway-based action.

Glastonbury has invited Climate Camp to organise its presence - 20 places available.

Mothers March on 12th March in London. Leaflets from Ruth.

Bike ride going from Grow Heathrow on 19th March to cycle to Palestine.

12th March: Reclaim the Fields gathering. info@transitionheathrow.org.uk

Sunday 27th February

The Big Decision

Blocks meet 'anti-blocks'

Feedback from the meeting the previous evening between the blocks and the 'anti-blocks':

Some people had blocked who thought that the proposal was too strong, there wasn't a clear enough route for them to move in a new direction, and others who felt it wasn't going far enough. Some other concerns about the clarity of the proposal. As a group and for ourselves, is it better to have no agreement on this at all, or to have some agreement from which to be able to carry on. We looked at modest rewording of the proposal, but after 1.5hours the wording didn't change much, but many peoples understanding did, and some people moved their position. We'll hear from two of them now.

1) I was one of the people who blocked it. The wording was bit unclear, especially if you weren't in the room when the discussion was going on. I felt that the amendment we came to is a substantial change, because the wording made it a lot clearer about what it means. I'm really glad we did it, felt positive.

2) For me, it was a breakthrough. I felt that I finally understood what was going on here. I came here suspecting that we would split on process. Quite a lot of people have come to the end of the

line – people with huge commitment and experience who have been doing the bulk of the work have no more right to speak than those who have just arrived or are distrusted. Some people were really unhappy with that. On the other hand I knew some people were completely wedded to the advantages of being completely open, and didn't want any distinctions to be made, or any agendas. I thought it would be very hard for people on those two ends of the spectrum to work together, and I thought we would split, and that's ok. I guessed it would be about half and half. I was surprised and really glad that there are so many people that want to keep the best of what we already have, but not be absolute about it, if it's not working at this size or at this stage, if it's undermining their work, they want to move on and find some new structures instead.

After that, I really didn't understand how, having got that far, so many people were saying they wanted to 'kill climate camp'. Last night this was explained to me:

a) we couldn't move to create a new process from within the process that we're working within now (which I don't think is necessarily true), and
b) being so open and horizontal is so fundamental to CFCA – something we are promoting, and teaching to others -- that if we we're changing that we're really not the same organisation and it would be misleading to continue as if we were. This makes sense. But I expressed in the meeting that if we don't think this model is working for us, we should be open about that and say why rather than simply promoting it to others. Maybe we should keep our identity and tell the world we are looking to find new organising principles.

I don't feel strongly, we can dissolve or not, that's not the issue. The issue is whether we decide to organise together on another basis. We might want to move beyond “self-appointed” people, and find people who we can appoint who will be accountable and supported, and we might want to be open to people who accept that and accept the aims of the Camp, and we might not give everybody equal weight.

In the end I found that most of us blocking and anti-blocking really had the same aims. The wording of 'proposal 4' doesn't have to be that contentious. The question is whether the working groups can work effectively in order to sort out a structure and process that will enable us to get done what has to be done.

Proposal: Amended proposal 4 from previous day

Proposal as amended by the group who met on Saturday night:

We will not organise as the national Camp for Climate Action in 2011. This means not organising national gatherings as Climate Camp. This is intended to allow space for new structures, process and tactics to emerge. This decision has no direct influence on local groups using the Climate Camp name.

Concerns:

- Glad to be part of discussion last night. I learnt that some of the concerns about the process isn't just about how we make decisions, but also about disruptive behaviour. I was seriously unaware how big that issue was. If we were able to identify that openly much earlier I think it would have helped. I fear we might not crack this problem. Replicating structures might not solve the problem.

Wavy hands to:

- we could have got to this point better than we did
- potential to communicate to the outside world how we got to this decision (including about disruptive behaviour).

- if we hold on to cfca it'll stop us from moving forward in the way that's needed. its about allowing us to move forward in a bigger and better way having learned from the structures and process.
- if we change the way climate camp is organised, it can still organise as climate camp, and as a national organisation. I think we need to think about the smaller neighbourhoods who aren't represented here.
- really important to consider how this decision impacts local groups - people in local groups will feel that this decision does impact on them.

Amendment:

We will not organise as the national Camp for Climate Action in 2011. This means not organising national gatherings as Climate Camp. This is intended to allow space for new structures, process and tactics to emerge. This decision is not intended to direct local groups who organise using the Climate Camp name, who have always been autonomous.

Concerns:

I think this is less clear, last night there were no concerns about this.
I'm glad this was brought up

Stand asides: 4

- I've said it before. an element of people wanting to throw the baby out with the bathwater. There are a lot of people who are happy with the process even though it can be frustrating at times.
- What I've said before. (Issues with process)
- A step too far. We need to maintain a national support structure for local groups. We'll experiment with new ways of doing things but we need to leave ourselves the opportunity to work together again as the bigger group. I'm happy to go along with this decision.
- I fear we may be losing a hell of a lot of capacity without fixing the problem. I accept I may be proved wrong, which is why I'm standing aside not blocking.

Blocks: 1

- I took some advice last night from people in Wales. We're very deeply worried here about what's going on. There's another way of interpreting what's going on here that there's another project afoot. We in Wales are concerned about this. A similar thing happened to us last year and it was a disaster

Active Consensus: Achieved.

Clarification of 'Active Consensus':

As stated above, before the proposals on Saturday, the process for decision making is as follows:
Presenting the proposals.

Clarifying questions, to clear up the meaning of the proposal for anyone.

Space for concerns to be raised

Suggested amendments to the proposal

Restating amended proposal

(Clarifying questions, concerns and amendments if necessary again)

Check for 'stand asides': Which means that you are not personally happy with the decision or would not put your own time and energy into implementing it, but are happy for the group to go ahead with it if that is what others want

Check for 'Blocks'. A 'Block' means that you believe the decision is disastrous, goes against the 'core aims of the group' or that you could not be part of the group if this decision went ahead.

Check for Active Consensus: Bearing in mind any stand asides and blocks, wave hands if you are happy for the decision to go ahead, and don't wave them or wave them low if you are unhappy for the decision to go ahead. Then it is the judgement of the group if there is active consensus or not. There are no absolute rules about how many stand asides means that the decision does not go ahead, or if a block automatically means the decision is not made, but allows the group to use their judgement depending on the decision.

In this case, there were no objections to 4 stand asides and 1 block achieving active consensus for the decision.

Working groups

Break off into working groups to put into practice the decisions that we have now made.

- 1) **Material issues - money, bank account, tat**
- 2) **Communications, external and internal, including social**
- 3) **New Working Structures and how to work with existing working and local groups**
- 4) **Work out the mandate for the next gathering**

Things to add to that list:

- What happened to sharing skills?

The way of bringing skills forward would be within these structures, mainly of the 'new working structures' working group, and would be worked out at the next event. (agreed)

40 mins in working groups to come up with the mandate that they require.

Materials - Tat and Dosh

audit of accounts (£12k) - presentation at next meeting

Temperature checks here were given an approximate value out of 10, 10 being 100% positive high-up hand waving.

Three proposals:

- 1) keep the account/freeze it till 2012 - low response
- 2) make money available for project(s) coming out of this group – Temperature check: 6/10
- 3) Split money in half / creating two seed funds – Temp check: 8ish/10

Money won't be used until next meeting

Tat groups – Activist Tat Collective will continue to manage existing tat, two members with of this working group will liaison with ATC.

Ask neighbourhoods to share tat lists and availability

email list / anyone wishes to get involved come and give us your email add.

new signature on bank account - Brian

large donation for Space for Change, about £750 left over, where should it go?
£250 to Monkton Wyld, the rest for organising the 'next meeting'. Agreed.

Next meeting

Date - two - three months from now

anyone can get involved - open group, will advertise how to get in touch and get involved.
Discussed how long it should be - two day weekend space
next meeting - maybe not a party (celebration of The Camp for Climate Action) at the next meeting, to discuss then when a party may be suitable
open to anyone
countryside meeting - some support

Mandate - Learn the lessons of some of the challenges we faced this week (no structure in place to facilitate decisions, leaving decisions to the 11th hour; lack of transparency on what would be discussed at this space). So want a mandate to plan and advertise the agenda in advance, and to plan facilitation tools to get us through the weekend productively together. Agreed.
Invite external facilitators like Seeds for Change etc - some concerns but overall support.

Proposed rough outline of agenda

- reflect on impact of our decisions this week across our communities
- aims and objectives of new entity that we are forming
- action planning for this year and beyond
- reviewing and implementing proposals for new working structures
- feedback from and taking forward of what interim working groups have been doing
- taking forward our skills / plan for skill sharing

Structures and process

We start with a fresh page for taking forward what we have learnt from the past, the strengths and the problems we've had, and working out something entirely new.

We do this by:

- Crabgrass groups/ email list
- Documentation of discussion and direction on structures and process coming out of S4C
- We first try to lay down some organizing principles in relation to:
 - accountability, responsibility
 - representation/delegation
 - decision making processes (eg consensus)
 - roles
 - groups
 - meetings
- We then suggest proposals for structures (eg the affinity groups & spokes proposal and others anyone can think of), which may or may not include relations with local CCA groups if any.
- Discuss these proposals on-line. No decisions on line. At the convergence we're just bringing ideas. But to help, we should try to synthesise proposals and point out which proposals conform to desirable organising principles discussed this week.

Communications

write a communiqué by Friday latest, ideally by Tuesday.

media team will be mandated to respond to journalists and media team will continue responding till next convergence, with more than 'no comment'.

concern: are there enough people in this room to make this decision?

Aiming for Tuesday.

people hold off communicating on email lists and public web

media team will say 'a holding statement before communiqué comes out

- a transformation of all our tools

- the tools can continued to be used by local groups

- we are taking on communications - we are taking on communicating with local groups.

- documentation of climate camp.

- communiqué in positive, inspiring but honest explanation of what happened
- recognise changing context of time we live in
- organising tactics changing
- climate change is relevant is ever
- acknowledge the limitation of structures that have evolved
- we are still committed to non-hierarchy
- the world is moving fast we need to be more nimble to change
- response to climate change cannot be a one year camp every year
- space for change the decision was made and the legitimacy of this
- there were differences of opinions
- that climate awareness has grown dramatically since 2005
- we have had successes – list them
- list projects
- coming together of multiple crisis.
- the tactics of antagonist camping was never ours to own.
- this is not a retreat from national organised worked on climate
- it is great if people continue to do climate camps wherever they are, but we wont do one in 2011.
- we are moving, changing.
- try to learn from the past/ groups that have not change.
- emanation inspired by recent events - students, middle east.
- interim structures that accelerate facilitate change

Comment: do not make it long and academic.

Lots of support.

Fast - wit will be crafted by the media group

space for change -

feedback from space 4 change requested. Please email feedback to

spaceforchange@climatecamp.org.uk

After Space for Change

The Communications working group sent out this communiqué on 01.03.2011:

Metamorphosis: A statement from the Camp for Climate Action

The near-collapse of the financial system; droughts in the Amazon, floods in Pakistan; a new government in the UK; a violent programme of unprecedented cuts; food prices rising and real incomes eroding; revolutions across the Middle East... This is all very different from 2005 when the Camp for Climate Action first met to spark radical action on the greatest threat to humanity, climate change.

In 2011 the climate science is as strong as ever – and the need for action on climate change never greater – but the political landscape is radically different. As a movement, to be relevant, we need to move with the times. Therefore the Camp for Climate Action has decided, after much discussion and reflection, to change. To that effect,

1. We will not organise a national Climate Camp in 2011.
2. We will not organise national gatherings as ‘Climate Camp’ or the Camp for Climate Action in 2011.

This closure is intended to allow new tactics, organising methods and processes to emerge in this time of whirlwind change. With the skills, networks and trust we have built we will launch new radical experiments to tackle the intertwined ecological, social and economic crises we face. To that effect,

3. We have created interim working groups to manage the transition.
4. There will be a major meeting in the near future.

An explanation

In 2006, 600 people camped in the shadow of Drax power station in West Yorkshire, the UK’s biggest, single source of carbon dioxide, for ten days of learning and sustainable living, culminating in a day of mass action against the power station. Our aim was to kick-start a social movement to tackle climate change. This experiment – its organisation and the form – fitted that moment and proved a success. Instead of a one-off camp we then went on to target planned infrastructure projects that showed the suicidal nature of ‘economic development’. In 2007, we made the daring and difficult decision to join the campaign against the expansion of Heathrow Airport culminating in 2,000 people camped on the site of a proposed third runway. In 2008, we opposed the building of a new coal-fired power-station at Kingsnorth, Kent, the first in the UK for 20 years. Despite police infiltration, repression and violence, plus regular media attacks, these camps, in alliance with diverse campaigns, won. Neither looks set to be built.

As the financial crisis unfolded we moved to directly targeting the root cause of airport expansion and coal-fired power stations: our economic system. We had a hectic 2009. When London hosted the G20 in April, the European Climate Exchange (home of EU carbon trading) had to close its doors after 4,000 people set up camp on Bishopsgate, in London’s financial centre. Later that year we organised a camp at Blackheath overlooking the

City of London, attended by over 5,000 people. There was no mass action at the camp – we separated it to be more effective – so in October 1,000 people swooped to shut down Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station, in Nottinghamshire, a major carbon emitter owned by E.ON the energy giant behind the Kingsnorth plans. In December, many travelled on Climate Camp coaches to Copenhagen as part of our affiliation to the international direct action network Climate Justice Action, against the skewed UN negotiations known as COP 15. Despite much success, weaknesses in our organisational structures and processes were exposed within our networks.

There had been a dramatic surge in climate-related action, understanding of the root causes of the crisis, and developing truly sustainable and socially just solutions. But many worried that using the same tactic – mass squatted action camps in antagonistic locations – would become ineffectual. Yet, these camps were an inspirational experience for large numbers of people. So, again we camped, taking aim at RBS, the now publicly owned ‘Oil and Gas Bank’. For the first time we actually squatted the land of our target – RBS global headquarters near Edinburgh – a massive success. But the decision, target and form of action were being hotly debated within the movement.

As a result, we continued a process of deep reflection and in November 2011, at our national gathering in Manchester, it was decided that we needed additional time to think and strategise together about the future of Climate Camp. We therefore held a week-long ‘retreat’ type event at Monkton Wyld in Dorset to figure out what to do. Fittingly, the Manchester gathering named the event ‘Space for Change’.

Over six days, about 70 people shared their experiences and critical reflection. We should not pretend that these discussions were easy. We talked about the limitations of an organisational model built to plan one camp a year, when we now have both the will and capacity to do much more. We debated the constraints of this model, which was devised when we were much smaller in numbers. We discussed how other movements and groups have responded to changing circumstances in the past to learn from those experiences. Here is not the place to repeat the discussions: extensive minutes will follow on our website. But the premise is worth repeating: how do we best harness the energy, dynamism and commitment to fight the root causes of climate change at local, national and international levels? How do we best grow a climate justice social movement that is relevant, vibrant and successful over the next few years? What organisational structures, consistent with our desire to tackle hierarchy, will take us to a new level of participation and action?

The decision not to organise a camp, nor organise as Climate Camp or the Camp for Climate Action, will be a shock to some, and may provoke a lot of questions. We hope these decisions will give space and time for those questions to evolve into new forms of effective and inspiring action and organisation. This is no retreat from organised large-scale action on climate change, rather a freeing of our energy to organise much more effectively all year round. For local groups using the Climate Camp name, these decisions are not intended to direct them, as they have always been

autonomous.

Internationally, it has been amazingly inspiring to see that climate camps have happened from Ghana to the US, France to Australia. Wherever people are, we urge them to use the organisational tools and tactics that have been popularised or developed by Climate Camp if they are useful and relevant: these were never ours to own.

What next?

To make sure that we don't lose what we have learnt over the years, nor the capacity, relationships, networks and skills, we have created four interim working groups to help us in this transition:

1. A group to maximise the usefulness of our material resources.
2. A group to address ongoing communications plus learn from and document our experiences over the past few years.
3. A group to investigate new organisational forms, structures and tactics for possible next experiments.
4. A group to organise a meeting to share ideas about these next experiments.

The next newsletter will let everyone know how to get involved in these, with all information also posted on our website. Details of the meeting will also be made available shortly. Separately, the Climate Camp legal team will continue ongoing legal actions against the police.

Nothing lasts forever. Movements have to move. That doesn't mean there won't be grieving: many of us have given heart and soul to Climate Camp. But we can't demand that society changes radically, while we ourselves do not. As everyone who has tried something daringly new knows, it can be scary and there are no guarantees of success. But that didn't stop us before the first Climate Camp, nor did it stop the students at Millbank, nor the people of the Middle East. And it shouldn't stop us now.

Yes, Climate Camp leaves a space. What fills that space is up to us. This is a unique opportunity to work together with others to create a more co-ordinated, dynamic and stronger movement against climate change and its root causes. Now is a chance to team up with the anti-cuts and anti-austerity movements and play a crucial role in the revolutionary times ahead. Anything but co-ordinated action is doomed to fail.

See you on the streets.

The Camp for Climate Action. Monkton Wyld, Dorset. 27 February 2011.

“When storms come, some build walls, some are thrown by the wind, others build windmills.” Lao Tzu

And this Message on 04.03.2011

DISCUSSION SPACE

The 'discussion space' on crabgrass is the place to share comments, concerns and ideas about the decision(s) made at Space for Change. Here's how:

- 1) Go to https://we.riseup.net/discussion_space.
- 2) Click 'log in' at the top right corner
- 3) Once logged in, select 'join group'
- 4) And you're in!

If you don't already have a crabgrass username and password you can quickly get one by going to <https://we.riseup.net> and selecting 'new account'.

3) INTERIM WORKING GROUPS - get involved!

The following interim working groups were set up at Space for Change. They are still very much open for people to get involved:

- Tat and Dosh: to maximise the usefulness of our material resources
- Communications: to address ongoing communications and media issues. To learn from and document our experiences
- New structures: to investigate new organisational forms, structures and tactics for possible next experiments.
- Next meeting: to organise a meeting in the next 2-3 months to share ideas about these next experiments

They each have Crabgrass pages that can be found by putting the following after <https://we.riseup.net/>

tat_dosh
communications
new_structures
next_meeting

Then click 'request to join group'.

All of these groups are part of the interim Crabgrass Network 'After Space for Change' which you can join here:

https://we.riseup.net/after_space_for_change. Having groups be part of a network is useful to be able to see what other groups are doing.

You can either join the whole network or just one of the working groups.

If Crabgrass is a bit strange to you, check out the help pages here:

<https://we.riseup.net/crabgrass>

4) METAMORPHOSIS STATEMENT

In case you missed the statement coming out of Space for Change at Monkton Wyld, it can be read on the Climate Camp website here:

www.climatecamp.org.uk/2011-statement

The Interim Communications Working Group