

Action Against the Cuts

Haringey Unite Community Branch

19 January 2015

I am writing on behalf of Haringey Unite Community Branch regarding the campaign against Haringey Councils proposed £70 million worth of cuts, under the blatantly dishonest title of "Creating a Stronger Haringey."

Various groups around Haringey have united together under the HAPS (Haringey Alliance for Public Services) banner.

Various actions are being planned and organised, some of which are outlined below. In order to build support amongst local residents in defence of their services Haringey Unite Community has agreed to take on the organisation and coordination of stalls and leafletting in the borough.

This is where you come in. We need volunteers.

Stalls

We are proposing to organise 5 stalls at weekends, initially for the next 3 weekends (24th 25th Jan, 31st Jan and 1st Feb, 7th and 8th Feb). They are at:

- Green Lanes outside Salisbury pub on corner with St Anns Road
- Seven Sisters Tube outside High Road exit by West Green Road
- Crouch End outside Budgens
- Wood Green outside Library
- Muswell Hill by the Odeon

We are suggesting that they be held on Saturdays/Sundays or both from 12 noon. obviously it's up to those who volunteer to decide on the precise details. Other stalls with anti cuts material will be run by various other groups.

We would like at least 2 people per stall, although more people will add noise, create attention and make it more fun.

If you can make any dates at all please reply to this e mail;

haringeyanticuts@virginmedia.com and state what stall you'd like to do, what dates you can make (as many as you'd like) and a contact number or e mail. We will then be able to fill in a rota and send it back so you know when and where the stalls are happening, and sorting out how to get you the leaflets etc for the stall. We will also send out checklists of what you need. We currently have 2 tables and need to source more, if anyone can help?

Leaflets, information literature, window posters, petitions and red cards (to be held up outside the protests) are all being produced. We are proposing to have a ballot box on each stall with voting slips so people can vote if they are for or against the cuts, so we can release the result of a Peoples Referendum on the cuts. We are organising Collection buckets. Each group can

put their own publicity on the stall. Other ideas are being formulated at the moment to involve the public in the fight.

We already have a list of volunteers, but please can those that are already on the list also respond so we know your availabilities.

Leafletting

Even if you can't make weekends or don't wish to do stalls, we need volunteers to do leafletting. You can leaflet your own and or neighbouring streets. We will arrange mass leaflettings outside tube stations in the borough and in particular around the proposed services being cut.

Again anyone who wants to volunteer to leaflet, whether it be there street or beyond that, respond to the same e mail address haringeyanticuts@virginmedia.com identifying what you can do, which street so we can mark them off, dates and times you can make and contact details.

Events and Updates

Below is a list of coming events we are organising for. There will be updates and more coming out in the next few weeks. I have also included a list of updates of what is happening so far.

Tuesday 27th January, 6.30pm - Coordination Meeting, North London Community House, 22 Moorefield Rd, N17. All welcome

Tuesday 10th February, 5.30pm - Lobby the Council's cabinet meeting, outside the Civic Centre, High Rd N22. Bring friends, neighbours, colleagues + placards, and things to make a noise!

Monday 23rd February, 5.30pm - Demonstration through Wood Green to Defend Our Public Services; 5.30pm Assemble at Ducketts Common - March to the civic centre for 6.30pm: rally outside full council meeting

Bring friends, neighbours, colleagues + placards, and things to make a noise!

Updates on campaigns:

The UNISON-organised Anti-Cuts Meeting on 12 January was attended by about 60 people from trade Unions and Community Organisations. It endorsed HAPS's decisions to call a **Rally on 10 February and a March and Demonstration on 23 February**. Unison will circulate the attendees with details of HAPS meetings and is likely to produce its own leaflet.

Chestnuts Community Centre – The council has issued an eviction notice to evict the current management committee from the centre on 22 January. Campaigners to keep the centre under community-management have invited supporters to attend a Consultation Day on 20 January, 6.30pm. Check <https://www.facebook.com/chestnutscommunity> for updates.

Haringey Defend Council Housing – Met on 8 January, will be leafleting estates to oppose the threats of demolition/“redevelopment” of housing, mainly Council housing.

Defend Youth Services & facilities: The Council held a consultation meeting at the Bruce Grove Centre on 15 January. HAPS activists leafleted the meeting and spoke to young people before the meeting. There is a petition by users. Everyone urged to publicise and sign it.

Marcus Garvey Library – Library threatened with reduction to only first floor of the building due to Council moving functions from Apex House as part of a deal with a private developer who plan to build private housing and destroy Wards Corner and its indoor market. There would be a loss of much of the Children’s library and activities. Mothers have launched a campaign to save the library.

www.change.org/organisations/save_marcus_garvey_library

Haringey People First – social care users – show Haringey the Red Ca Card: opposing cuts to and closure of Learning Disability services and centres. They have a deputation to the Council’s Scrutiny Committee on 22 January.

Save our Autism Services Haringey – Group of carers and learning disability& autism service users. Have over 6,000 signatures to petition against closure of day centres. There will be a Guardian feature next week. They are making a formal challenge to the (sham) consultation. The document does not mention the closure of 3 out of 4 day centres. Council must reply by 16 January.

Older Peoples Reference Group – Have written to Councillors with detailed objections to the cuts to older people’s services.

Children's Centres Network – met last week to discuss and oppose the cuts

And Finally.....

If anyone who isn’t already on the Haps distribution list wants to be included, contact Dave Morris at HAPS_news@haringey.org.uk.

Can I also ask anyone who is considering giving up their time to volunteer for the stalls and leafletting to reply asap, so we can get on and organise stalls for this weekend.

If anyone wants to have a chat about what is needed or any new ideas, my number is 07956 334141

Please don’t forget to forward this e mail to anyone you think may be interested.

Many thanks,

Phil Rose,

Haringey Unite Community Branch