

#### 4 the Common Good Notes for Meeting held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Present: Andy Weller, Cathy Betoine, Hilary Southall, Pierre Betoine, Sally Ingham, Tess Satchell, Tim Nicholls, Wendy

Also Sally to copy following in to these notes – Jo, Nicola (Tess to forward to her), Richeldis, Caroline, Maya.

And attach draft of publicity leaflet for comment, YM epistle and link to interview with Ellis about pilgrimage. NOTE: Any action required in yellow

#### 1. **Introductions** including from Wendy who joining meeting for first time.

Wendy - Vibrancy in Meetings worker – one of 4 in country – a sort of pilot project – her role in brief is to connect up people – Wendy covers 6 AMs in North West:

- i) Hardshaw and Mann
- ii) Manchester and Warrington
- iii) Lancs Central and North
- iv) Pendle Hill
- v) Sedbergh and Kendal
- vi) Swarthmoor

#### 2. **Yearly Meeting:**

2.1 We were pleased to note that the display about the pilgrimage and plans for next Easter led to a lot of **positive responses from Friends** (150 leaflets given out and a list of emails gathered. Also positive conversation with people at Friends' House – Krishna, Maya, Ellis (who did podcast on the pilgrimage), Paul Parker (recording clerk).

Also In the YM epistle the words 4 the Common Good were included.

**NOTE:** Sally went to lecture by Quaker socialists and has contacted them

2.2 **Display boards** on pilgrimage with updated poster on action (**Sally to ensure attached**) to be in Briggflatts Meeting rather than stored and offered to other AM meetings if would like to have for a while. **Sally/Tess to raise at AM.**

2.3 Some helpful **feedback from discussions at YM** was considered:

#### i) Need to **be clear about our message.**

After discussion it was decided that rather than focus on one issue we should have a broader message.

Originally the focus on Welfare and the dismantling of the Welfare

State; but our concern also arose out of increased deprivation and the sense that there is less respect for and valuing of people, especially the more vulnerable – see original Declarations.

We felt that we need to give witness to our belief in that of God in everyone and to our testimonies of equality and social justice.

Our message to be - “Ride for Equality” and then need words to capture the idea that we are all of human worth not just economic worth/We have value as humans, we are more than just economic units to be discarded when no longer profitable. **Words to be worked on so snappier.**

Possible line for a banner – Stop taking us for a ride!!

Reasons for broader message:

- a) Our original intentions were to:
  - i) Challenge the current narrative which denigrates the more vulnerable groups in society and over-rewards those with wealth.
  - ii) Give Quakers a higher profile eg. in the media, and make what we value heard, so a general message would reflect our principles – belief in that of God in everyone, in equality and social justice.
- b) A broader message would be more inclusive and hopefully draw in all Quakers working for equality and social justice eg. those campaigning for a living wage, concerned with poverty, concerned about welfare reforms, working with refugees . This could offer an opportunity to publicise all these concerns.

Tess spoke to many people who actively pursuing concerns and keen to draw these in.

#### 2.4 In planning next Easter’s action – we **need to be clear what we want to happen and be inclusive**

eg. ride could include walk or use of disability scooter or even public transport. Tess to see if possible to have a horse – using RDA – be particularly striking in London, and relevant in Coventry (reminiscent of Lady Godiva – statue in middle of city (erected 68 years ago).

Apparently nearly 1000 years ago she rode through the city in protest against excessive taxes levied on the poor).

### 3. Support needed for a national action:

3.1 Someone from Southern Marches AM in Sustrans offered to support with **route planning** – see Tim

3.2 Already one Friend at Coventry Meeting has offered to take on organisation in his area – Sally has name.

3.3 Calligrapher (Southern Marches AM) who willing to **write declaration** – see Tim

3.4 Offer from Yealand Friend to make **sashes**.

3.5 **Social media link** - Cathy has a contact who would advise but also Nicola (through Tess) interested.

Media workshop on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September with Anne van Staveren (from Friends' House) which worth going to.

Tess to ask Nicola from Dalton (has done and apparently can't go).

Sally to consider but may be difficult.

Fund from pilgrimage fund granted by AM could be used for training/links

#### 3.6 QPSW:

i) Maya offered admin support. **Publicity to be drafted by Sally based on suggestions at meeting, checked with group by email and then sent to Maya to email out to clerks of AMs to be forwarded to clerks of LBMs.**

ii) Gurpreet recommended as a contact – **Sally to check emails for email address.**

ii) Minute from Meeting for Sufferings usually ensures some time given at Friends' House to support a concern. Note – Pendle Hill got support for action on fracking. **Sally to ask Jo if Tess and her can give a brief report to AM (September 9<sup>th</sup>?) and ask if they would consider formulating a minute to be forwarded to Meeting for Sufferings**

### 4. Next meetings:

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August** – date and venue to be confirmed.

May just be Sally and Tim, possibly Nicola. 3 key focuses:

i) Grant application ii) Drafting of Declaration iii) Guidance booklet

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept** at Cathy and Pierre's at 8pm.