

People's Assembly on *Where We Go From Now*

22/04/2019

Minutes

Present: EVERYONE!

1. **Tiana** introduces the idea of the assembly and welcomes everybody to the space.
2. **Skeena** gives a vision-holding speech about our three demands and the movement.
3. **Stephanie** briefs the assembly about the role of the Rapid Response Team. She outlines the purpose of 'hollocracy' and reads out the mandate of the Rapid Response Team. She reminds the assembly that this is something new and there will, inevitably, be complications along the way. We are trying to do something brilliant.
4. **The Rapid Response Team** introduce some of their members. The people to introduce themselves are: Roger, Sarah, Clare, Gail, Farhana, Mothiur, Sophie, Robin, Kofi, Savannah, April and Ronan.
5. **Tiana** introduces the testify section of the People's Assembly. Everybody has two minutes to give their information to the assembly.
6. **Skeena** introduces the question we are looking at: how do we move forward into the next phase? She encourages people to think about their dream and think about their vision. Dream big.

Testify...

7. **Amy and Roman – Action Strategy** – Tomorrow we have meeting in parliament square to meet the MPs returning from recess. On Wednesday, also at Parliament Square. On Thursday, we go to the financial industry. On Friday, we want to focus on why we are here. On Saturday, we want a regen day.
8. **Paolo – Police Liaison** – Not directly confronting the police. Thank the police for trying to maintain their professional standards. Section 14 notices on sites and are still considering whether to extend that to Marble Arch or not. Over the last week, we have had over 1,000 arrests and no injuries to police. This rebellion is totally peaceful. For arrestee support, you can call: 07919882601
9. **Savannah – Youth** – Recap of actions from previous week, including Heathrow and Piccadilly Circus. Youth planning an action in Westminster.
10. **Kofi – International Solidarity** – Wants the movement to now become part of what the International Solidarity teams are doing, embedded deeply into every affinity group in an organic way. Updates people on actions in Ghana.
11. **Sarah and Farhana – Political Strategy** – Best case scenario is that government comes to us and asks us to engage with them on a discussion of our three demands. The second scenario is how do we move on if the government refuses to engage with Extinction Rebellion and for that we have two options: 1) we continue at Marble Arch with an escalation strategy, Sarah warns there is a risk here, 2) looks at how we withdraw from this situation with solidarity and strength, non-violent direct action would still continue in this scenario and we would go on to set up our own Citizens' Assembly. If the government then fails to respond again, we would step in and launch another phase of rebellion. Farhana says rebellion will continue whatever option we choose. She raises issue of London Assembly and mentions pushing forward the idea of a Citizens' Assembly in London.

12. **April – Guardianship Team** – Callout for people to go to Parliament Square where some climbers are still in trees. She says she has another place for people to go.
13. **Jasmine – Regenerative Culture Team** – We need to keep on focusing on regenerative culture and a callout to embed this into the strategy.
14. **Sophie – Media and Messaging** – The public perception around the climate and ecological emergency has shifted. The focus has shifted from our arrest tactics towards why this tactic is necessary, serious discussions starting to happen in the media of how we can make this change. Sophie asks: 1) how we continue to message action 2) how we end this phase of the rebellion and to demonstrate that this is not actually the end of our ongoing rebellion internationally and 3) how we platform the important voices of majority world activists. Invites people to come to a media and messaging meeting at 4pm tomorrow.

People's Assembly...

15. **Linda and Mark** introduce the People's Assembly. Mark explains that this is about getting your voice heard. Asks people to breakout into groups of seven or eight. Linda runs through the various hand signals of the rebellion.

Everybody breaking into groups to discuss...

16. Anon - Supports a new occupation in the financial district. Supports action in Parliament Square. Supports the idea of expanding out of Marble Arch.
17. Rachel – Wants to focus on demands now. Want to have a ceremony to end this occupation.
18. Jen – Wants to include unhappy commuters and locals in strategy. They do not want to disrupt ordinary people and want to respect their views.
19. Clare – Wants to approach Mark Carney and hold an assembly within the finance sector.
20. Anon – Wants more true human emotion through the use of grief circles in city of London.
21. Anon – Want to reclaim Parliament Square on Wednesday.
22. Eliot – Wants numbers on how many people are prepared to carry on, wants clarification on what meaningful engagement from the government looks like.
23. Anon – Wants to withdraw from Marble Arch on our own terms and follow up with a large action later in the week.
24. Anon – wants to take the trees from Waterloo Bridge and plant them in a beautiful place.
25. Anon – Create new and inclusive slogans, wants to encourage people to join.
26. Anon – Wants a clean, sharp, short exit. People are so tired. Important to keep it fresh. We now need to consolidate with local groups.
27. David – Wants a minister to speak to them by end of the day on Thursday. If they do, they want to leave Marble Arch. If not, they want to escalate.
28. Anon – Wants to hold up major financial sectors of London.
29. Anon – Wants to keep momentum, making sure that people now go away and are trained to spread learning.
30. Anon – Wants the power to decide their own fate, one big event in Parliament Square to say goodbye and then go away cleanly. Come back later in the year, much bigger.
31. Anon – Take sites for a couple of hours.

Linda says she is hearing a lot of “wanting a clean, clear exit” and that “we want more of a focus on finance and banking”. She says we have now got those messages.

32. Anon – Wants fourth demand in line with the fourth demand of Extinction Rebellion US. Huge cheer for this. New fourth demand centred on climate justice and global South voices.
33. Anon – Wants to stay at Marble Arch and continue to actively disrupt.

- 34. Anon – Wants a people's assembly in Parliament Square.
- 35. Anon – Wants people to do what they want, either leave or stay.
- 36. Anon – Wants to leave end of this week on a high note.
- 37. Anon – Wants to retreat for now, focusing on regeneration and learning from this. Come back later.

Linda: we've heard "we want to move off now" lots of times now and so we should make room for other points

- 38. Anon – Wants to leave next weekend and then focus on political strategy. Move on and further clarify aims of the movement.
- 39. Dominic – We need to move out and target transport hubs in local areas, we need to specifically target industry, and create online forum for sharing of views.
- 40. Anon – Wants to pause direct action now, but stay at Marble Arch until the end of the week.
- 41. Anon – Wants to leave Marble Arch tomorrow, but carry momentum forward.
- 42. Anon – Wants to leave site at end of week, but have permanent base somewhere in London.
- 43. Anon – Wants the energy not to dissipate, carrying it on through creative and education actions.
- 44. Anon – Suggests maybe keeping Marble Arch in some way as an educative place. Wants to focus on the people this issue is affecting right now.
- 45. Anon – Wants to keep up momentum with people's assemblies. Lots of people are going back home now, we have to look after ourselves. Keep taking action.
- 46. Anon – Wants to hold Marble Arch until end of week, but that people now need to go back into their communities and a lot of hard work has to be done to help diversity.

Linda: we've heard a lot about "diversifying the movement" and "keeping momentum" so that does not need to be repeated.

- 47. Anon – Says Parliament Square is an important place and wants to retreat gracefully and with style.
- 48. Anon – Says people all over the world are finding hope in this. Says we cannot just become another Occupy movement. Wants to go to the banks and Buckingham Palace.
- 49. Anon – Wants to stay for one more week and then leave with love and peace. Wants to build this movement as inclusive and diverse, reaching out to different communities.
- 50. Anon – Wants to leave as soon as possible, but do a big action every time there is a new full moon. In between those actions, we do small tactical actions.
- 51. Anon – Says we also need that fourth demand that Extinction Rebellion US has adopted.
- 52. Anon – Want three different actions to speak to every demand very specifically.

Linda: big support for "decentralising movement across the country and taking time to do so".

- 53. Anon – Wants local actions, blocking polluting roads around schools.
- 54. Anon – Wants to thank business around us and leave cleanly. Wants to increase diversity and inclusivity. Wants to have a way to seriously engage with government.
- 55. Anon – **(representing 8 different groups that collated feedback)** – wants to leave now, after one big action. Wants to continue rebellion, pause, and come back later. Wants Citizens Assemblies everywhere, says it might now be trialled in Oxford.
- 56. Anon – Wants to leave with dignity, open a public organising space in London, and be ready to return if negotiations fail.
- 57. Anon – Wants more actions against financial sector. Wants involvement from international solidarity group on actions.

58. Anon – Wants a shopfront in every city and town across the UK, so as to now enter a phase of learning from other movement and growing publicly.
59. Anon – Wants to switch to vision-holding actions, more important that the presence in Marble Arch is strong, in favour of focusing now on negotiations.
60. Anon – Supports a graceful withdrawal from Marble Arch, with possibility of coming back if demands and negotiations not met.
61. Anon – Wants to focus on how we now go away, expand, and create better communication channels. Wants to leave end of next week with a beautiful closing ceremony.
62. Anon – **(representing 6 groups)** – Wants to leave on Friday with a big procession and a date in mind to come back.
63. Anon – **(representing 10 groups)** – wants to focus on financial sectors, focusing on maximum economic damage but not affect ordinary people. Leave next week in a dignified exit.
64. Anon – Wants to target the embassies en masse.
65. Anon – Want to get more Extinction Rebellion groups in local communities, importance of reaching new people, also need to empower young people
66. Anon – Wants to offer gifts to people who are being disrupted, free hugs and flowers to people. We can do this decentralised.
67. Anon – **(representing 8 groups)** – Wants to turn Marble Arch into a learning hub, wants a concise end with a closing ceremony. Set up government in exile in the form of a Citizens Assembly.
68. Anon – Wants another assembly to end.
69. Anon – **(representing 8 groups)** – Wants to use Marble Arch as a wellbeing hub. Want another assembly at the weekend to decide on exit. Wants to relinquish with dignity. Use this as a hub to go out from.
70. Anon – **(representing 4 groups)** – leave Marble Arch now, but wants to retake Parliament Square. Talk to local MPs and focus on mass mobilisation.

Linda says thank you to everyone for all of their contributions.

Conclusions...

71. **Mark** says it has been a really good event and thanks the assembly. You can also email feedback@rebellion.earth
72. **Linda** say all ideas will be fed into 'citizens.is' and that these ideas will be fed into the Rapid Response Team.
73. Tiana concludes the assembly. Invites everyone to the feast.