

OLDHAM 9 SUPPORT GROUP MEETING - BRADFORD 20/7/86 8pm

Attendance: Geoff, Nordeen, Mark, Trish, Bob, Terry, Pat, Liz, Maria, Dave(H), Mark(T), Dave(S), Amanda, , Marsha, Anwar, Saba, Sabjid.

1. Report back on what actually happened at Oldham on Saturday 19/7/86.

9 arrests - court hearing 6/8/86 Oldham.  
3 charged malicious wounding, affray, breach of peace  
3 charged affray, breach of peace.  
3 charged breach of peace.

2. Report back from defendants meeting earlier afternoon of Sunday 20/7/86

3. Discussion on structure/organisation.

There was considerable debate throughout the meeting on how the Defence Campaign should be organised/structured. The following structure was proposed.

1. The Defence Committee should be centred in Bradford.
2. The Defence Committee should be composed of defendants and activists who would jointly discuss the direction of the campaign, although it was recognised that defendants would need to meet separately on specific issues.
3. Support groups would be set up in Oldham, Rochdale and Manchester which would be accountable to the Defence Committee in Bradford.

It was suggested that in Bradford the Defence Committee should follow the model of the Anti-Fascist Defence Committee. It was agreed that since the defendants meeting had decided on a different structure, no decision could be taken until all the defendants had met and discussed the issue again. Marsha agreed to draw up models to be discussed by the defendants. The discussion would take place on Wednesday 23rd July at 7pm in the Saati centre. The support group would meet again on Thursday 24th July at 7.30pm at the Saati centre to hear the outcome of this discussion. Until then the group would be known as a support group and literature would be issued through Anti-Fascist Action.

4. Other Tasks.

1. Typing. The solicitor, Bridger, requires help with typing if the statements are to be ready for the defendants meeting on Wednesday. Maria offered to type them and arrangements were made for her to use the Saati centre typewriter.

2. Leaflet. The basis of a campaign leaflet was agreed. It was stressed that it was particularly important to mobilise support for the court hearing on 6th August, since it was likely that the fascists would mobilise against the defendants. Dave(S), Bob and Terry agreed to produce a leaflet. There is a need for the leaflet to be distributed at the Leeds mobilisation on Saturday 26th July. Maria

offered to distribute the leaflet in Manchester on the weekend of 26th/27th July.

3. Research. Need for immediate research on racist attacks in Oldham for leaflet. Need for long term research into the background of racism in Oldham for the court case. Dave(S) and Dave(H) agreed to undertake research.

4. Contacts in Oldham. Need to build support in emphasised Marsha to look into contacts. Amanda and Anwar to spend some time in Oldham building support after 29th July.

5. Legal. Suggestion that Bridger be asked to contact Network to comb area. Need to find out names/addresses of possible witnesses.

6. Press Statement. On similar basis as leaflets. Dave(S) to type out. Nordeen to issue press release concentrating on leftwing/community press.

7. Need for flyposting in Oldham to mobilise for court appearance and public meeting. Mark(T) to contact someone re. posters. It was agreed that discussion on money, petitions, speakers etc. should be postponed until the issue of the structure of the Defence Campaign had been settled.

The mobilisation on Saturday 26/7/86 in Leeds was mentioned - defendants were urged not to attend.

Announcement was made regarding Belle Vue attack. Court case 28th July 10am Leeds crown court.

Meeting closed.

Next defendants meeting: Wednesday 23rd July 7pm Saati centre.

Next Support Group meeting: Thursday 24th July 7.30pm Saati centre.