



ROCHDALE PIONEER

Members Newsletter from ROCHDALE UNISON

November 2014

JOIN THE LOBBY - STOP THE CUTS

THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER

5pm onwards@ Number One Riverside

On 27th November Rochdale UNISON, UNITE and GMB will be holding a lobby of Councillors at their cabinet meeting. Everybody should go to this. Bring your workmates. Make sure everybody who is angry about the cuts is there. Why not ask your whole team to come? Bring people who are not in the union yet and ask them to join. Family members can come along too. Let the council know how many people they are hurting.

Rochdale UNISON members voted in favour of Industrial Action and Action Short of Strike to defend our terms and conditions in the consultative ballot held in October. Unless the council listens to the views of the workforce and abandons these cuts we will proceed to a full ballot of all of our members. Nobody takes strike action lightly. But why should we always be the ones to take the hit?

We already lost 3 days pay in 2012. Now they want us to lose 5 days every year. If you are not at the top of your grade your increments were frozen in 2012 now they want to freeze them again. If you work week-ends and evenings they want to scrap your increments. If you get sick next year they will be taking even more money off you. Because we are in a career average pension scheme now they are cutting our pensions too. These cuts mean hundreds of pounds losses for most council workers and thousands of pounds for others.

We can put a stop to it. A solid strike would make the council think again. We need people to get behind the union. If you are not a member already you should join. If there are people in your team who are not members you should ask them to join as well.

Lets turn the tables on the Politicians and Senior Managers who think that they can just get away with treating us like this.

To join the union you can call Rochdale UNISON 01706 925952/51, email unison@rochdale.gov.uk

or join online <http://www.joinunison.org/>

To follow what Rochdale UNISON are saying about terms and conditions visit our website:

www.unison-rochdale.org

UNISON members in Rochdale have voted to reject the pay offer

UNISON have recently conducted a consultative ballot which included all of our members in Local Government and Schools regarding the latest national pay offer from the Government. Rochdale UNISON recommended that our members voted to reject it. Our ballot results have been confirmed and forwarded to Region and National.

Living wage

One of our aims when we launched the pay dispute was to achieve a Living Wage for everyone working in local government and schools. The Living Wage is £7.65 per hour. The new offer from the Government of £7.07 per hour for the lowest paid does not achieve this and because it is a two year deal will mean that the lowest paid workers will still be earning less than the Living Wage in 2016 (the Rochdale Borough Council Living Wage is already £7.26 per hour i.e. higher than the national offer). The Living Wage is the minimum someone needs to have an acceptable standard of living for themselves and their family. We should not settle for less.

Not enough

The original offer from the Government was 1% in the financial year 2014-15. If we accept the new offer most of us will be tied into a two year deal from April 2014 to April 2016. This means 2.2% over 2 years i.e. an average of 1.1% per year. UNISON's research suggests inflation could be anything up to 4%. In other words for most members their pay would fall behind inflation again. Why should we agree to a deal that doesn't give the low paid a living wage and doesn't come close to a decent pay increase for the rest?

We can win this dispute

This Government is unpopular and weak. The anger about public sector pay is growing. There were well supported strikes in the Civil Service and in the NHS in October. We don't need to accept the first offer they come up with especially when it is worse than the first one. If we all stood together we could win a better deal.

Emergency food for local people– help people in need on the run up to Christmas!

Rochdale UNISON Branch office holds a collection box for Rochdale Foodbank, we collect items such as tins, boxed food, jars and sachets (not fresh food). The food is then donated to the Foodbank for local people in need. If you would like to contribute feel free to arrange to drop off items at the Branch office or go directly to Rochdale Foodbank, 8 South Parade (the old Pacific Bar) opening hours Monday- Friday between 11am - 12.50pm.

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