



## BLACKPOOL FYLDE AND WYRE TRADE UNION COUNCIL

presents – **BLACKPOOL DESERVES BETTER**

BFWTUC is hosting a full day Conference on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Savoy Hotel, Queen's Promenade, Blackpool, FY2 9SJ.

President of BFWTUC, Cllr Peter Hunter said, "The aim is to build a campaign to put a stop to the emphasis on low wages, poor conditions of work, zero hours contracts and casual work. These go hand in hand with a load road economy where health, education and social services and other important amenities have been eroded by austerity. The Blackpool area is particularly badly affected and unless we do something, it will get worse. The Conference will help provide working people with the ideas and tactics to fight back in their workplace unions and community groups to improve their lives.

Blackpool deserves better".

The Conference will be divided into sessions.

Ken Cridland, Chair of Blackpool Against the Cuts said, "Session ONE is about **'The Crisis We Live In'**. Clara Paillard will chair this session which deals with how the cuts and also the law has been used to make life very difficult for ordinary people. We will look at how trade unions have come under tremendous pressure, how trade union members have been victimised for fighting back, how austerity has affected both public sector workers and public services, how our health services are under threat, and our workplaces are being made more dangerous."

Speakers for this session will be –

- Chris Baugh, Assistant General Secretary of PCS union who used to work in the Blackpool area. He will be dealing with public services and workers in them.
- Andrew Birchill who is working with unions and the community to save the accident and emergency service in Chorley.

- Sadiq Vohra, an employment lawyer on how the law is being used against people and can be used to assist us.
- Eileen Turnbull, who has campaigned continuously for the Shrewsbury 24 union campaigners, some of whom, including well know actor Ricky Tomlison (who was born in Bispham), were even sent to jail.
- Michael Calderbank, Parliamentary Researcher for trade unions, Co-Editor of Red Pepper magazine, who will give us an overview for this session.

Alistair Mitchell, a BFWTUC Vice President said, “Session TWO is about **‘How We Fight Back’** as working people. This part of the Conference is extremely important. It will help show us the way we need to go to improve things in Blackpool and the lessons we have to learn from others. It is about how people are already campaigning, what obstacles are placed in their way, and how they overcome them.”

Sarah Wooley BFAWU (Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union) will chair this session. Speakers will be:

- Julie Sherry, Fast Food Rights about fast food workers campaign which is making progress internationally to raise pay and improve their conditions.
- Rob Williams, National Shop Stewart Network (NSSN) on how campaigns can be built and won from the grass roots.
- Steve Hall, Greater Manchester TUC on how 1 million climate jobs would provide decent jobs which are also essential to build a sustainable future.
- Hilda Palmer, Chair national Hazards Campaign, on how it is once again getting more dangerous in the workplace, though the statistics also show that unionised workplaces are safer.
- Gordon Marsden, our Labour MP for Blackpool South, on how the workplace could look in 2020 and how we might want it to look, arguing that the future can be shaped by what we now do.

Ian Hodson, a BFWTUC Past President and from Blackpool, who is now the National President of BFAWU, (Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union) said “The THIRD Session will look at ‘What next for our communities? Building a fairer society for all.’ I am delighted to be back in Blackpool and to be playing a part in this Conference. I will be speaking on what I have learnt and been involved in, in this country and several others, about the ways people are fighting back against being treated so badly. They often use quite different strategies to the traditional ones employed by trade unions in the past.”

The other speakers in this session will be –

- Tina Louise Rothery who is very well known locally from Frack Free Lancashire and the Green Party. She is speaking on the fight to stop Fracking being forced on the local community against their wishes.
- Rebecca Long Bailey, Labour MP for Salford and Shadow Business Secretary will be responding to our concerns and ideas and letting us know what plans she and her colleagues have which would help us.

The LAST Session will be opened by Blackpool Against the Cuts the local anti-austerity group. BAC Chair, Ken Cridland said, “I will be explaining what we have been doing in the area and how the whole community can oppose the ‘load road economy’ and its cuts. The fight back must involve both unions and the community to be a success.

Then, we will ask all those present if they will sign the ‘Blackpool Deserves Better’ Charter, take it away to get more support, and build the campaign to improve Blackpool Fylde and Wyre.

Blackpool Deserves Better.”

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