

GMB Northants Community Branch
Secretary: Gordon Glassford, Corby, Northants, NN17 2LL
www.gmbnorthants.org

Summary of the branch meeting held on 31.01.18

The secretary hadn't written to the regional political officer. The branch still isn't happy with the way the nomination for the labour prospective parliamentary candidate was handled, not only was the branch not consulted as part of the process it left the winning candidate, who was the regional nominee, in an awkward position. The secretary was instructed to write to Richard Oliver to express the branches concerns and to ensure the branch isn't ignored in the rest of the parliamentary selections in the county.

After a bit of a delay the donation to Corby Night Light has been made. They are due to move premises from St Peters and St Andrews church to the old Corby Supporters club on Occupation Road.

It was agreed that we should order more diaries for next year so contacts in schools can get one.

We will make a donation to Oakley Rangers Youth Music.

It was agreed to affiliate to Justice for Columbia and, after some discussion, War on Want

Beth Miller has been elected prospective parliamentary candidate for the labour party in Corby and East Northants by an overwhelming majority at the hustings. She will be invited to speak to a future meeting.

The plans for this years Workers Memorial Day event are going ahead. Beth Miller will be invited, also a speaker from either Justice for Columbia or Freedom from Torture or both. We will also try and get a speaker from the GMB. Ray has booked the council chamber, in case it rains. The company who normally provide the buffet has closed its shop in the town. It is thought that another caterer should be able take over at reasonable cost. The event will take place on Saturday April 28th at 11.00am.

The branch finances remain healthy. It was agreed to continue to sponsor the taxi in Corby. The mandate to make donations to the foodbanks has run out. The secretary is currently making sure that they are all still functioning. There have been some changes with some foodbanks closing or merging and others taking their place.

The annual newsletter had gone out with 22% opening it about the same for the January newsletter. Activity on the website, Facebook and twitter was slightly higher than usual. The website is up to date and items about the Holocaust Memorial Day and Workers Memorial Day event had been posted.

The discrimination against those with mental health disabilities in PIP evaluations has been ruled unlawful. The government is not going to contest it and it will cost billions. Unfortunately there will be such a backlog of cases that further mistakes are bound to be made. This is far from being the end of the story. (Anyone who wishes to make a PIP claim but is unsure what to do should contact the secretary). What has happened at the Presidents club and ongoing events at the BBC show that we have a long way to go.

The attendance at the Kettering Holocaust Memorial Day event had been excellent. The event in Corby had been well attended but there could have been more there.