

The Labour Party

Head Office

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Please reply to: Newcastle

Mr Peter Gates
10 Belfry Way,
Edwalton,
NOTTINGHAM,
NG12 4FA

Ref: A751876

27th July 2017

Dear Mr Gates,

The National Constitutional Committee (NCC) has received charges from the National Executive Committee (NEC) that you have breached the Labour Party Rules. Details of the charges are contained in the Charge Sheet enclosed with a bundle of documents provided in support of the NEC case.

A panel of the NCC will be appointed and a hearing of this case against you will be held at a time and place yet to be determined. The secretary of the NCC will contact you again with full details of when and where the hearing is to occur.

You now have until **Friday 11 August** to confirm in writing whether you intend to contest the charges and if you wish to make a request to be allowed legal representation at the hearing. The NCC panel will determine your request and if it is agreed that it is appropriate for you to be legally represented, it will be your responsibility to arrange your representation and to pay the full costs for it. Even if you successfully defend the charges at the NCC hearing, there is no provision within Labour's rules and procedures for you to be awarded the recovery of legal costs you have incurred to defend the charges.

Should you intend to contest the charges, you will have until two weeks prior to the hearing (date tbc) to provide the following in writing:

1. Your written answer to the charges;
2. Details of any witnesses you wish to call at the hearing to give evidence;
3. A written statement from each witness you wish to call at the hearing and of any other witnesses, whose evidence you would like the Panel to consider, but who you would not wish to call, or who would not be able to attend the hearing;
4. Any challenge you wish to make to the NEC's case and supporting evidence.

If you are not to be legally represented, you can be accompanied at the hearing by a silent friend. Your silent friend must also be a member of the Labour Party and his/her details should be confirmed at least seven days before the hearing.

I enclose a copy of the procedural guidelines for NCC hearings, which will be adhered to as closely as possible. You are advised to read the guidelines carefully as they explain more fully the position of members appearing before a NCC panel.

All correspondence must go through the NCC and should be sent by email to jane_shaw@labour.org.uk or by post to the Newcastle address given above. Please note that failure by you to respond to this letter or to attend the hearing without notice, could lead to this matter being determined in your absence.

If you require further advice regarding procedure please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Katy Leighton

On behalf of Jane Shaw, Secretary, National Constitutional Committee

Charge Sheet for Mr Peter Gates

The charge is that Mr P Gates is in breach of rule 2.1.8 regarding the following:

Charge 1

In the period leading up to January 2017, you are alleged to have acted in a bullying, intimidating and otherwise hostile manner towards a number of other members of the CLP including, but not limited to excessive correspondence in breach of the Labour Party's Bullying & Harassment policy. This behaviour continued after the expectations of the Party with regard to the conduct of individual members were raised with you.

See:	Page
• Background and Summary Statement	1
• The Labour Party's Bullying & Harassment Policy	2-7
• Email complaints from members dated January 2016	10-28
• Notification of complaint and reminder of conduct from a party officer	29-30
• Further email complaint from Elizabeth Edgerton dated 11 th March 2016	31-34
• Anonymous letters posted to 3 members (received on or around 8 th May 2016)	35-38
• Submissions to investigation into 7 th March 2016 meeting	39-53

Charge 2

On or around 7th March 2016, you are alleged to have attended a meeting arranged by the CLP EC and regional board to resolve historical complaints and arranged for a number of uninvited members to also attend who refused to leave the meeting which was subsequently abandoned.

See:	Page
• Notes from the chair of the regional board on 7 th March 2016 EC	54-56
• Minutes from 7 th March 2016 EC	57-64
• Submissions to investigation into 7 th March 2016 meeting	39-53

Charge 3

Since the matter was last considered by the NEC Disputes Panel on the 17th January 2017, you are alleged to have acted in a bullying, intimidating and otherwise hostile manner towards a number of other members of the CLP including, but not limited to excessive correspondence in breach of the Labour Party's Bullying & Harassment policy.

See:	Page
• The Labour Party's Bullying & Harassment Policy	2-7
• Further email complaints from members dated February 2017	65-69

Presenter: Robert Crosby (A109608)

Witnesses: Elizabeth Edgerton (L1335297), Sandra Coker (A347464), Elizabeth Plant (A050006), Gary Edgerton (L1335308), Keri Dutczyn Howe (L1462155)

Background – Rushcliffe CLP has historically been a CLP with minimal internal hostilities and a small membership. Since the expansion of Party membership, Rushcliffe is now one of the biggest CLPs in the East Midlands. The existing structures of the CLP (Standing Orders ect) have been put under strain and the CLP has been working closely with the Regional Office to ensure they are better prepared to organise and engage members. Peter Gates has been the subject of frequent complaints from members of the CLP and CLP Officers. Peter Gates was suspended following arriving at this meeting with a group of 10 uninvited members to a meeting specially convened to resolve tensions and develop a Development Plan for the CLP. The meeting had to be suspended due to the hostile behaviour of the members he encouraged to attend.

Peter Gates is a new member of the Labour Party, joining at the end of May 2015. Since joining, Officers of the CLP have reported frequent complaints regarding his behaviour (the first of which being January 2016), including claims of intimidation and excessive correspondence to the point they felt undermined in their role as CLP Officers.

The Regional Office initially attempted to resolve issues through an informal meeting with members of the CLP EC and a member of the Regional Board. The details of this meeting were explained to Peter Gates and he was aware this was an invite only meeting, with the EC and a representative of the Regional Board. He subsequently arrived with 10 other members and the meeting had to be disbanded by the Chair due to the hostile behaviour of those who arrived with Peter Gates.

All 10 members who arrived uninvited were suspended, but subsequently had their suspensions lifted following an investigation into the matter. However, it was felt Peter Gates behaviour in organising this presence at the meeting, as well as a series of complaints against him by the officers of the CLP warrant referring this case to the NCC.

Peter's behaviour has been the subject of multiple complaints from members in Rushcliffe CLP who claim intimidation and excessive correspondence on technical details of Party rules and procedures. Peter Gates has been written to regarding this matter by the Deputy Regional Director and invited to a meeting to attempt to resolve the problem locally, neither of which have been successful.

In addition, several members have complained that Peter Gates has frequently misused membership information for the publicity of third party organisations such as Momentum.

Bullying and harassment

Policy statement and procedural guidelines for all Labour Party Members, Volunteers and Staff

The Labour Party believes that everyone in the organisation should be treated with dignity and respect. This Policy Statement and Procedures aims to ensure that no member or volunteer is subjected to any form of harassment whether on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, disability, age, or for no apparent reason.

Specific policies for staff are contained within the staff handbook.

The Labour Party seeks to ensure that the environment within which our activities take place is comfortable for all. No form of harassment will be permitted or condoned under any circumstances.

Where a valid complaint of harassment is brought to the attention of the Party, prompt investigation and corrective action will be instituted, which may include disciplinary action against anyone found to be harassing another.

This policy will be available to all staff, members and volunteers within the Labour Party. Everyone has an individual responsibility to comply with both the spirit and the wording of the policy.

Staff and members have an additional responsibility for safeguarding children (anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday) participating in Labour Party activities and must ensure that any suspected harassment or bullying of children is reported to their Regional Director or General Secretary in Scotland and Wales (RDGS), who will report it to the Executive Director of Governance (EDG).

These procedural guidelines should be read in conjunction with existing disciplinary procedures set out in rule and elsewhere.

Definition of Harassment

There is not, and probably cannot be, a single simple definition. This is because harassment takes many forms, occurs on a variety of grounds and may be directed at an individual or group of individuals. It is not the intention of the harasser but rather their conduct and its impact on the recipient, which determine what constitutes harassment. The impact of harassment can result in the following: discomfort, humiliation, or may adversely affect the recipient's performance, or create a threatening or intimidating environment. It can also provoke aggressive, retaliatory attitudes and actions. Certain behaviour will be, by its nature or severity, unwelcome even on a single occasion.

Social interaction involving mutually acceptable behaviour should be distinguished from harassment. However, it should be borne in mind that what is initially acceptable to some may be offensive to others.

The defining feature of harassment is that behaviour is offensive or intimidating to the recipient and would be regarded as harassment by any reasonable person.

Certain types of harassment may constitute a criminal offence.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour under this policy (this list is for reference and is not exhaustive):

Harassment

- Physical conduct ranging from the invasion of personal space and/or inappropriate touching to serious assault.
- Verbal, written and e-mail harassment through derogatory remarks, jokes, insults, offensive language, gossip and slander.
- Sexually suggestive and unwelcome comments or derogatory remarks including any regarding the sexual orientation or preference of an individual.
- Unwanted requests or pressure for sexual favours.
- Displays of racially suggestive or degrading pictures, graffiti or object in the workplace.
- Unjustifiable exclusion, e.g. withholding information, not talking to, not including in discussions or meetings, or exclusion from social occasions.
- Sexual graffiti or displays of pornographic or degrading pictures or objects including pornographic displays on computer screens.
- Intrusion by pestering, spying, following, stalking, etc.
- Unfair allocation of responsibilities.
- Incitement to commit any of the above.

Bullying and Intimidation

- Physical conduct ranging from the invasion of personal space and/or inappropriate touching to serious assault.
- Verbal, written and e-mail harassment through derogatory remarks, jokes, insults, offensive language, gossip, spreading malicious rumours and slander.
- Open aggression, threats, shouting, and unpredictable outbursts.
- Deliberately setting objectives with unreasonable deadlines, or changing objectives unfairly.
- Belittling, marginalizing or ridiculing; taking credit for someone else's work but never taking the blame if something goes wrong.
- Frequent unjustifiable criticism about minor things.
- Frequent unjustifiable monitoring of someone's activities as volunteer or lay officer or other misuse of power.
- Twisting something someone says or does.
- Threatening disciplinary or other action deliberately to intimidate e.g. making threats or comments about selection/deselection without foundation.
- Unjustifiable exclusion, e.g. withholding information, not talking to, not including in discussions or meetings, or exclusion from social occasions.

- Intrusion by pestering, spying, following, stalking, etc.
- Unfair allocation of work and responsibilities.
- Inappropriate or derogatory remarks in connection with performance, particularly in front of other members.
- Incitement to commit any of the above.

Other Forms of Harassment

- Behaviour which makes direct or indirect reference to disability or impairment and this causes discomfort, patronises, insults or offends people with a physical, sensory or mental disability.
- Treating someone adversely because they have or it is suspected/believed that they have HIV/AIDS.
- Repeated gibes in reference to personal traits or appearances, invasion of privacy, or practical jokes causing physical or psychological distress.
- Persistent pressure to become involved in anti-social or unlawful behaviour.
- Repeated statements to an individual or third parties, which demean his/her status e.g. copying emails that are critical about someone to others who do not need to know.

Victimisation

Victimisation may occur when the person who has made a complaint of harassment is treated less favourably than would otherwise be the case.

The Labour Party will not tolerate any incidents of victimisation arising from either:

- making an allegation of personal harassment; or
- having been accused of harassment.

Such victimisation will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter. Individuals who believe themselves to be victimised should bring their concern to the attention of the EDG.

Malicious or Vexatious Complaints

Any complainant found to be making malicious or vexatious complaints may be subject to disciplinary action.

Criminal and other serious offences

Where an alleged case of harassment appears to constitute a criminal act the aggrieved individual will be advised to report the matter to the police. In such a case, or where an allegation may require the involvement of child protection agencies, all such issues must be reported immediately to the EDG, and where appropriate the issue will be reported directly to the police or appropriate authorities by the EDG.

Staff/Member/Volunteer Procedure for Dealing with Complaints

The Party recognises the sensitive nature of complaints of harassment. In any case of harassment where members wish to discuss a potential complaint they should contact their Regional Director or General Secretary in Scotland and Wales (RDGS).

All complaints of harassment will be addressed speedily and where appropriate without recourse to the Party's formal disciplinary procedures. This is to try to produce solutions which are effective whilst minimising embarrassment and the risk of breaching confidentiality. However, there may be circumstances in which recourse to the Party's formal disciplinary procedure may be necessary.

If any member of staff, member or volunteer believes that a child participating in Labour Party activities is being subjected to harassment, bullying or abuse they must report it immediately to their RDGS.

The RDGS, dependent on the severity of the complaint, will in turn report the matter to the Head of the Constitutional Unit who will be responsible for any formal disciplinary action which may result. Where the complaint involves a child the Executive Director of Governance must be notified by the RDGS.

Action by Constituency Parties, Labour Groups and other Party units

It may be that complaints of harassment and bullying are made directly to officers within the Party unit (e.g. Branch, CLP or LCF) in question.

Whilst the appropriate officer of the Party unit may be able to consider the complaint using the informal or formal procedures set out below, all serious complaints of harassment or bullying and any complaint involving a child participating in Labour Party activities must be reported to the appropriate RDGS and advice sought.

If there is any doubt about the nature of the complaint it must be discussed with the RDGS. At any time the complainant may approach the RDGS for further advice or to register the complaint directly.

Informal Procedure

Where instances of harassment or bullying occur the member or volunteer who has experienced the harassment or bullying can, either on their own or with assistance from or provided by the RDGS, pursue the following informal procedure :

- (i) He/she may wish to speak or write to the alleged harasser and explain that his/her conduct is unwelcome, offensive and interfering with activity. He/she should be polite but firm and advise the person that his/her conduct is unacceptable, unwanted, and is also in breach of the harassment policy, which the Party considers to be a serious matter.
- (ii) A record of the discussion, and copies of any correspondence, should be kept by the member or volunteer in the event that follow-up action becomes necessary.

- (iii) If the member or volunteer finds this too difficult or embarrassing he/she may ask the RDGS to identify a person to accompany him/her, or to speak to the alleged harasser on his/her behalf.
- (iv) The person making the complaint can expect to be assisted by the RDGS to resolve the issue informally if that is both possible and desirable.
- (v) At any time the complainant may choose to pursue the complaint under within the Labour Party's formal disciplinary procedures as set out in the Labour Party Rule Book Chapter 6 (Appendices A and B).

Alternative Procedure

If informal action fails, or if the member or volunteer feels unable themselves to take such action as set out in Chapter 6 of the rule book, or if the harassment is of a very serious nature, members or volunteers are advised to raise a complaint using this procedure which shall be treated as a formal investigation under Chapter 6 Clause I of the rule book.

- (i) The complaint should be in writing stating:
 - a. the name of the alleged harasser;
 - b. the type of harassment which has occurred, together with specific examples if possible;
 - c. dates and times when harassment has occurred;
 - d. the name of any witnesses to incidents of harassment;
 - e. any action already taken to stop the harassment.
- (ii) Such a written complaint should be sent to the RDGS who will also be available to provide advice and guidance on how the complaint should be formulated.
- (iii) If for any reason the complainant is unable to record the issue in writing, the RDGS must make a written note of the complaint with such details as are available.
- (iv) The RDGS will ensure that any such complaints are copied to the EDG.
- (v) Following on from receipt of a complaint under this procedure, the Party will fully investigate the complaint. The method of investigation will be determined by the RDGS in consultation with the EDG.
- (vi) If the investigation reveals that the complaint is valid, prompt remedial action will be taken to stop the harassment and prevent its recurrence. Disciplinary procedures as set out in the rule book will be followed if further action is required against the perpetrator of the harassment.

All complaints taken up under this procedure will receive a full and fair hearing. Volunteers or members who raise a genuine complaint under this procedure will not be subjected to any unfavourable treatment or victimisation as a result of making the complaint. Furthermore, all measures adopted will be applied in such a way as to preserve confidentiality to the maximum possible extent.

Records

An accurate record of the investigation, and the outcome, will be submitted to the EDG and maintained on file.

Possible Outcomes

The possible outcomes of formal procedures include but are not limited to:

- resolution, e.g. conciliation
- oral, or written warning
- referral to the National Constitutional Committee
- counselling for the alleged harasser and/or complainant
- confirmation of the alleged harasser's innocence
- no further action

Confidentiality

Any statements taken during these procedures will be used only for the purposes of the investigation and for any disciplinary action that might follow. Individual confidentiality will be preserved as far as possible during the investigation. However, if disciplinary action is required it may be necessary to disclose details of the complainant to the person accused. Additionally, if legal proceedings ensue, the Party may be obliged to disclose such statements at that stage.

Breach of Policy

Any breach of this policy should be reported to the Executive Director of Governance.

Review

The policy and procedures will be subject to ongoing review.

The Labour Party

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Peter Gates
10 Belfry Way,
Edwalton,
NOTTINGHAM,
NG12 4FA

Friday, March 11, 2016

Dear Mr Gates

Notice of administrative suspension from holding office or representing the Labour Party

Allegations that you may have been involved in a breach of Labour Party rules have been brought to the attention of national officers of the Party. These allegations relate to your conduct toward another Party member. It is important that these allegations are investigated and the NEC will be asked to authorise a full report to be drawn up with recommendations for disciplinary action if appropriate.

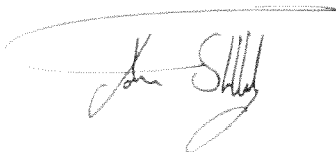
I write to give you formal notice that it has been determined that the powers given to the NEC under 6.I.1.A of the Party's rules should be invoked to suspend you from office or representation of the party*, pending the outcome of an internal Party investigation.

In view of the urgency to protect the Party's reputation in the present situation the General Secretary has determined to use powers delegated to him under Clause V111.5 of the constitutional rules of the party to impose this suspension forthwith, subject to the approval of the next meeting of the NEC. Because of the nature of the allegations received and concerns that your presence at branch meetings may be detrimental to the Party, while subject to this administrative suspension, you cannot attend any party meetings including your own branch meeting and Annual Conference and you cannot seek office within the Party or be considered for selection as a candidate to represent the Labour Party at an election at any level**.

The General Secretary has appointed Emma Foody, Deputy Regional Director, to arrange conduct of the Party's own investigation and you will be contacted by her in due course with details as to how she intends to proceed with enquiries.

It is hoped you will offer your full co-operation to the Party in resolving this matter.

Yours sincerely



John Stolliday
Head of Constitutional Unit

c.c. Rushcliffe CLP Secretary
East Midlands Regional Labour Party



*In relation to any alleged breach of the constitution, rules or standing orders of the party by an individual member or members of the party, the NEC may, pending the final outcome of any investigation and charges (if any), suspend that individual or individuals from office or representation of the party notwithstanding the fact that the individual concerned has been or may be eligible to be selected as a candidate in any election or by-election. (Disciplinary Rules, Clause 6.I.1.A)

**A 'suspension' of a member whether by the NEC in pursuance of 1 above or by the NCC in imposing a disciplinary penalty, unless otherwise defined by that decision, shall require the membership rights of the individual member concerned to be confined to participation in their own branch meetings, unless the reason for the suspension in part or in full is their conduct in party meetings or there are concerns that their presence at branch meetings may be detrimental to the Party, and activities as an ordinary member only and in ballots of all individual members where applicable. A suspended member shall not be eligible to seek any office in the party, nor shall s/he be eligible for nomination to any panel of prospective candidates nor to represent the party in any position at any level. The member concerned will not be eligible to attend any CLP meeting other than to fulfil the requirement to participate in ballots. (Disciplinary rules, Clause 6.I.3)

Finbar Bowie

From: Gary Edgerton <gary@two-edge.com>
Sent: 18 January 2016 16:10
To: Finbar Bowie
Subject: Complaint against Peter Gates and John Walsh
Attachments: PG and JW.docx

Dear Finbar

I write today to complain about the bullying and harassment (both passive and passive-aggressive) to which I personally have been subjected to by both Peter Gates (West Bridgford Branch) and John Walsh (Keyworth Branch). The attached document describes each and I can provide supporting evidence of everything and I can go into even more detail with even more accounts as I have a record.

In short, I have been to:

- Active exclusion from activities for which I volunteered and been accepted (subsequently I've had aspects of my role assigned to other people)
- Open hostility during meetings and by email
- Lack of cooperation from my Branch Secretary
- Having personal financial information revealed and shared with CLP officers
- Accusations spread as rumour with other Branch and CLP members that I have issued death threats

I have been so low and depressed with the situation (the continual attacks and derision) for so long, pretty much full on for three months, that I have considered leaving the Party when my only intention was to do the very best I could to serve the Party in any capacity.

Best regards

Gary

[REDACTED]

This deposition is long but it is an honest reflection of my experiences with Peter Gates and John Walsh since re-joining the Party in September. The events and incidents I recall because they have all left their mark. Pretty much since re-joining I have been keen to help build the Party in any way I can but have been subject to exclusion, ridicule, personal attacks and accusations of the worst kind and as a result I have felt on many occasions that I should just leave but at the same time I refuse to allow myself to be bullied out.

I have personally been subjected to:

- Exclusion from activities for which I volunteered and been accepted (subsequently I've had aspects of my role assigned to other people)
- Open hostility during meetings and by email
- Lack of cooperation from my Branch Secretary
- Having personal financial information revealed and shared with CLP officers
- Accusations spread as rumour with other Branch and CLP members that I have issued death threats

All of these things I can provide evidence for.

I have been so low and depressed with the situation (the continual attacks and derision) for so long, pretty much full on for three months, that I have considered leaving the Party when my only intention was to do the very best I could to serve the Party in any any capacity.

Upon first re-joining the Labour Party, before my first Branch meeting, I was contacted by Peter Gates, by telephone, ostensibly to welcome me into the party (though in what capacity I was not aware, as he said he was also a new member) but in which I was given the distinct impression that as a new member we were faced with a 'battle' in the local party against 'right-wingers'. I found this very confusing but didn't think about it again. Immediately before my first meeting I was asked by Peter gates to nominate him, on a 'signal', for 'any positions' that came up at the Branch, further however he told me that we, '... must not be seen to be trying to take positions'.

My first Branch meeting I found however, run by the sitting Branch officers I felt were harmonious ones and all of the people in the Branch meeting, especially the officers I found welcoming and I was pleased as I was expecting the meeting to be difficult and hostile. During the meeting, keen to be a part of things in any way I could, I volunteered to go the CLP as a delegate and was very pleased that it was agreed that I do so.

At my first CLP, Peter Gates was elected as CLP Secretary and there was a proposal from John Walsh for the creation of a 'Political Education Programme' and John was subsequently elected as Political Education Officer. People were asked by the chair if they wished to join the Political Education Working Group. I have particular expertise in training, communications, facilitation and organisation, so of course I enthusiastically joined.

The next morning, 11:30, I received an email effectively telling me that there would be a workshop and that the facilitators would be Peter Gates and Rachel Scudamore. Further there was a long list of actions for which they would be responsible exclusively. I found this irregular as far as I knew, they

had not previously met and so I could not work out how this organising had happened so quickly. Also I did not understand how things had been decided outside of the working group.

I wrote back expressing enthusiasm for taking part as a facilitator, I was however told that I was not needed in that capacity but I could help to find a venue. Disconcertingly however I was asked, 'who I was, what I did and who I did it for', again this seemed irregular but I complied and added that 'I had a particular set of skills ...' this is a line from the film 'Taken' meant light heartedly. That night I saw Peter Gates and John Walsh at a Momentum meeting and everything was very friendly. After the event Peter Gates asked if he could have a lift home, which seemed odd as he had been driven in by John Walsh. During that car journey I had the distinct impression that Peter was trying to ascertain where I stood politically, e.g.. on the 'right' or 'left' of the Party. Peter told me that over the years he had been 'in and out of the Party' and that up until recently he had been a long standing member of the SWP, further, he was at pains to point out that he did not know John Walsh prior to that week. We dropped Peter Gates in the centre of West Bridgford, far from his home but where he said he'd left his car. We did so but had to park up ourselves as we had to go to a super market. On our way we saw Peter going into a local pub with John Walsh and Rachel Scudamore. We thought it strange but, again, thought no more. The next day I engaged with finding a venue having limited email communications with John.

I saw Peter and John that following weekend, at Regional conference. Peter was especially friendly towards my partner and I, going out of to sit with us, not John, and during the day he had persistently engaged me in a conversation around where I stood with my personal politics. One conversation Peter initiated revolved around how we were going to get rid of the 'right wing' in the WB Branch and the CLP. At this point I told Peter that I did not share his interpretation and told him that I was simply keen to work with everyone, using the party rules to move things forward. Peter Gates told me, 'we aren't going to defeat the Tories with that lot (meaning sitting officials) and that first we had to get rid of them and change the Party regardless of the rules. Again I disagreed.

The following week I received an email from John telling me that I was no longer required in any capacity within the Political Education Working group. I got back to John repeatedly asking why but he failed to answer any email and then he blocked my emails altogether (they bounced back). I asked Peter if he knew what was happening and he indicated that he did know but could not share what he knew with me. I tried to communicate with John through Peter but found Peter to be increasingly difficult to get in touch with and absolutely refusing to answer direct questions I was posing around what was happening with the working group. This culminated with Peter informing me that I should just 'go for a run'.

At the next Branch meeting Peter was incredibly frosty and hostile in tone towards me. At that meeting he was elected Branch Secretary. The role of Branch Political Education Organiser also came up, I volunteered for this and was accepted. On the way out Peter Gates said to me, '... we don't need you doing anything. Political Education should be left to John and kept at a constituency level.

After that Richard Crawley, our Branch membership secretary, told Lizzie I (my partner) that John Walsh had said that he had received death threats and was scared to leave his house. Richard advised John that if this were the case then this should take it up with the police but was told that police were too busy to do anything about it.

I engaged with a fellow Branch member in the Branch Political Education Working Group and we began work putting together a programme for consultation with Branch members.

At the next CLP the role of 'Social Secretary' was discussed and I volunteered for this too.

(ATTACHMENT 1) 4

A couple of weeks later there was an email from John Walsh CLP Executive in which he said that he had looked into the email address I was using at the time and that he had discovered that it was linked to an insolvent company and that by using this as an officer I was bringing the Party into disrepute. Further, John had taken the opportunity to provide Constituency Officers with a link to companies house revealing all of my financial and referred to us as 'the Edgerton's'. Both my wife and I were shocked and felt that we needed to provide the officers with an explanation. I had had cancer in the previous year and the treatment rendered me unable to work. However, because we had employees we kept the company going for as long as we could but were eventually forced to close it down. Providing this information seemed the only course of action open to us as we already felt defiled and that we had had our private affairs thrown into the public glare. There was a strong implication in the email from John that we were not to be trusted. When we sent our reply, John sent out a response in which he said that he was '...disappointed...' that we had '...decided to make this personal.'

Both my partner I were distressed by all of this to the point of tears. All we had wanted to do was to re-join the Party and help but we felt at that point that we would have to leave in shame, however all of the other officers rallied around us and gave us maximum support for which we remain grateful.

Before the next CLP meeting, for whatever reason, both Peter and John resigned their positions, and John resigned from the Party, saying that he had received threats of physical abuse (11/11) and that he had been hounded out by members who had been '... going around hoovering up positions and doing nothing of any value.' This was an obvious reference to Lizzie, my partner, and I. I understand that the resignations were subsequently withdrawn. At the next CLP I sat next to Peter Gates and was vocally engaged by Peter Gates on the subject of essentially how he had been hounded out by the right wing. The meeting was interrupted at every turn by both Peter and John who repeatedly talked over people, sniggered and shouted their points of view. There was an election for Secretary during which Peter was not re-elected and Lizzie Edgerton was. This was greeted by jeers and cat calls with phrases like, 'this STINKS' being thrown around. Sitting next to Peter I saw that he had a copy of my email, mentioned above, in which I had said that I had 'special skills'. Peter was anxious to bring this to the meeting but Rachel Scudamore passed notes between John and Peter, one of which I saw urged him not to. Even though I was keen to challenge because of the hostility of the meeting I had no desire to bring up the matter of my email being in Peter's possession at all even though he had not been party to my reply.

Subsequently it transpired that John Walsh had taken my email and interpreted it as a death threat. I have no way of controlling how people choose to interpret things but I was clearly horrified. Further, indirectly, it came to my attention that the rumour had spread amongst other members that I had issued 'death threats' against John Walsh, as this would seriously impact me professionally I was forced to seek legal advice with the entire email trail but was advised that the whole thing was ridiculous and to just ignore it regardless of how it impacted me emotionally.

The rumour spreading behind my back did not go away however, and as recent as this weekend it came around again that John had been threatened with death.

After that last CLP meeting, from that point on Peter Gates, as my Branch and CLP Secretary stopped any communication with me with regards to anything.

I have however seen Peter Gates and John Walsh operating in the same way in other contexts:

- I organised a Christmas social for the CLP which was not given publicity by the Branch Secretary
- Peter has put people onto the Branch agenda whose exclusive aim is to question/attack the structure of the meeting itself.
- I was present at meeting, outside of the Party, in which John Walsh actively attacked our Rushcliffe CLP denouncing them, and the Regional Office as 'Blairite right wingers who are getting in the way.', he was also forth right in his views that we, '... should not even bother campaigning in seats like Selston as was this is '... a waste of time'.
- I have also been told by members in other constituencies that Peter Gates has taken to the floor at Momentum meetings denouncing the right within the Rushcliffe CLP, which is a description of our loyal supportive constituency, which I do not recognise.
- I attended a 'Rushcliffe Momentum' meeting, organised using the West Bridgford Branch membership list, Peter proudly said, 'I've set this meeting up taking emails from here, breaking the Data Protection Act, taking emails from there ...' I questioned this as I know how serious this is but was met with silence on the matter. At that meeting leaflets were issued, ostensibly drawn up under the auspices of 'Rushcliffe Labour Momentum' with contact details, such as calls to reply to an mobile telephone number with the phrase 'I'M IN!', the telephone number belongs to Peter Gates as does the email address and twitter feed. This has nothing whatever to do with the Party
- After that meeting Peter went on to report on the meeting with report from John Walsh in a 'West Bridgford Branch e-Newsletter
- Peter subsequently went onto repeat the exercise with a report from John Walsh from a Momentum meeting in the e-newsletter, which is a clear abuse of powers by the Branch Secretary as Momentum is not affiliated to the Labour Party. Further, there were activities assigned to John Walsh to be carried out within our Branch which were clearly the responsibility of the Political Education Organiser, me.
- The workshop from whose organisation I was excluded was reported back in a report from Peter. In that there was full page of gushing and enthusiastic praise for the event itself and in praise of Peter and John in particular. I asked why it was anonymous as we know everyone in that room and if it was anonymous it could look fabricated.
- I asked Peter about these things repeatedly and I have had no reply.
- Further, our Branch Political Education working group has produced a skills survey, in conjunction with our Women's Group and EC officers. Peter told my colleague that this document was not acceptable and that he as, a professional, would have to take it on completely undermining our work to date. After we submitted a further draft we were told that it was improvement but still not good enough. I emailed back telling Peter that we were not putting it forward for grading but were producing it as collegiate exercise noting at the Branch EC last week it was agreed and so therefore could go. My colleague told me subsequently that after the meeting Peter had told him that he would amend it and let us know.

I have been holding back on these complaints for a long time hoping that these things could be resolved in a comradely manner. However, it is clear that unless action is taken by the Party, the bullying and harassment from Peter Gates and John Walsh will continue, and several members will reconsider their involvement with the Party.

Finbar Bowie

From: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>
Sent: 18 January 2016 23:25
To: Finbar Bowie
Subject: Re: E- Bulletin/ complaints

Dear Finbar,

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of my previous e- mail Finbar. I understand the behaviour of Peter Gates & John Walsh is to be investigated and I would like to comment briefly on my dealings with with Peter in my role as chair of the branch.

Peter strongly holds the opinion that the Labour Party, with the influx of new members, has changed irrevocably and that means that many of the systems and procedures in place need to change accordingly. Consequently my relationship with him has not been easy. Peter bombards me(not just me),with emails and decisions are often made by email, and then presented as a "fait accompli" at meetings. If/ when I disagree with what he suggests by email he invariably ignores my suggestions and carries on regardless. I will just outline a few brief eg's below.

1. Having agreed with myself and the Ex-GCchair(Sandy Coker) to cancel the 2 political education work-shops until the working party agreed by the GC could actually meet, he then cancelled one of the courses and advertised for facilitators for the second one on his face- book page - without informing any officer of his intention to carry on with the work- shop.
2. He decided to produce a West Bridgford E-bulletin with no consultation with any branch officers and to promote and report Rushcliffe momentum meetings in the bulletin.
- 3.He devised a format for the nomination of officers for the forthcoming branch AGM.circulated by email He asked for comments, by email. I responded, disagreeing with the proposals saying they should be brought to the EC meeting for discussion. He said there wasn't time (there was), slightly amended the proposals and sent them out the night before the EC meeting to all members- presenting the EC with another "fait accompli ".

These are just a few examples (there are more), of the difficulties I have experienced working with him and trying to work within Labour Party systems and procedures, where decisions are made democratically and transparently and members feel they are listened to and their views are valued.

Kind Regards,
Liz Plant
Chair of West Bridgford Labour Party
Sent from my iPho

On 18 Jan 2016, at 10:44, Finbar Bowie <finbar_bowie@labour.org.uk> wrote:

Liz,

I will look into the issue and respond.

With thanks,

Finbar Bowie
Regional Organiser
East Midlands Labour Party
Tel: 0115 943 1777

<image001.png> Want to know what's going on in East Midlands Labour? || Like
our Facebook page www.facebook.com/EastMidlandsLabour

From: Liz Plant [<mailto:liz.plant2@btinternet.com>]
Sent: 15 January 2016 17:26
To: Finbar Bowie
Subject: Fwd: E- Bulletin

Dear Finbar,
I sent this email to Peter today- I think it is quite self explanatory. I would appreciate advice on the issues I have raised, so that I am clear when I raise the issue at the next EC meeting. As you can see the appropriate officers were copied into the Email.
Kind Regards,
Liz Plant

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>
Date: 15 January 2016 at 11:46:10 GMT
To: wb.labour@btopenworld.com
Cc: william.logan3@ntlworld.com, John Bannister Bannister
<johnbann24@ntlworld.com>, jean.stansfield1@ntlworld.com,
richard.crawley2@gmail.com, stevecalvert39@gmail.com
Subject: E- Bulletin

Dear Peter,
As chair of West Bridgford Labour Party I want to inform you that I do not think it is appropriate for you to be advertising Momentum meetings and reports of Momentum meetings in your e- Bulletin to branch members and new branch members. I had hoped this issue could have been raised at the EC meeting on Monday, but unfortunately we ran out of time and you have sent out another e- Bulletin advertising Momentum since then. I don't think it is appropriate for the following reasons :-

You have set up another organisation within the branch with no mandate and no discussion with any other branch officer.

You are informing members of this organisation in your role as branch secretary and in a West Bridgford Labour Party e-Bulletin.

You are using W. B. Membership data to inform members of an organisation that you have been instrumental in setting up that is not an official part of the Labour Party.

I am referring the issue to Regional Office for advice as I appreciate that what I have written is my opinion , but I feel in my role as chair it is my

responsibility to clarify the issue for the Branch and a number of members have raised the issue with me. I am therefore asking you as Branch chair to desist from any further publication of Momentum activities in your e- Bulletin from West Bridgford Labour Party and in your role as the secretary of West Bridgford Labour party until I have a response from Regional Office and the issue can be discussed at the next EC meeting.

Regards,
Liz

Sent from my iPhone

9 

Finbar Bowie

From: Sandra Coker <s.coker@ntlworld.com>
Sent: 15 January 2016 15:48
To: Finbar Bowie
Cc: Lizzie Edgerton; 'Liz Plant'; Liz Plant; Robert Crosby; Gill Aldridge
Subject: Bullying and harassment complaint
Attachments: Fwd: workshop working group

Dear Finbar,

I have been forwarded the attached email by Lizzie Edgerton, CLP secretary. I now wish to lodge a formal complaint and ask that both Peter Gates' and John Walsh's behaviour, including misrepresentations of the words, actions and motives of members of Rushcliffe GC, their repeated slurs on the character of respected Labour Party members and their threatening and abusive behaviour in meetings, be investigated.

Contrary to what John Walsh has said in this last email, attached above, I resigned as CLP chair before any complaint was lodged and as a result of feeling unable to cope with the range of behaviours described above, many of which were aimed directly at me and which amounted to extreme harassment. I am a strong and confident woman who has held senior leadership posts in education for more than 25 years but I feel intimidated by the behaviour of both Peter and John. In order to avoid attracting any more unwelcome attention or bullying from either of them, I am standing down as women's officer for both the branch and the CLP. I remain committed to working for a Labour victory but will confine my activities to the Rushcliffe Women's Forum. These decisions have been made as a direct result of the behaviour of Peter Gates and John Walsh.

The focus of their harassment has now been directed at others including Lizzie Edgerton - CLP secretary and, as you will see from the threatening email above, Pat Walsh - Keyworth GC delegate.

I have copied this email to the CLP secretary and vice chairs and chair of West Bridgford branch and I would be grateful to know how this complaint will be dealt with.

Kind regards
Sandy Coker
Rushcliffe CLP, West Bridgford LP



Finbar Bowie

(Attachment) 

From: Elizabeth Edgerton <l.Edge@me.com>
Sent: 14 January 2016 21:54
To: Sandra Coker
Subject: Fwd: workshop working group

Hi Sandy

I hope the meeting tonight went as well as the puppy training!

I am forwarding you this only because you are implicated in it (end of fifth paragraph). It's following the Keyworth AGM last night, which I went to as CLP Secretary. As usual John Walsh was vile, and is now bullying Pat Walsh, who beat him in the vote to be a Keyworth delegate.

If you just want to delete it then do, I just wanted you to know I've put in a formal complaint about harassment.

Best wishes
Lizzie
Sent from iCloud

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Walsh <john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk>
Date: January 14, 2016 4:01:22 PM
To: pat_j_walsh <pat_j_walsh@hotmail.com>
Subject: workshop working group

Hello Pat,

Over the next weeks, and at Branch meetings, I'm going to be responding to the orchestrated mud slinging at last night's Branch meeting and I've chosen to start with your contribution.

It was very disappointing to hear your repeated claims of being excluded from the skills workshops working group. Can I remind you of the email exchanges we had at the time?

1. Welcome email from me to the group at 11.42 on Tuesday 20th October (i.e. the morning after the GC meeting). I gave an outline of the task at hand, noting the need to host the workshops ASAP and provided a 5 point 'to do' list: booking the venue, contacting members, ancillaries (printing etc.) and then at point '4' a description of the workshops. This description echoed the detailed proposal in noting that Rachel and Peter Gates would facilitate the workshops. The events had been designed with both the participants and the facilitators in mind in order that we and the members would get the most out of the workshops. At point '5' I noted that the main workload for the group would be in collating responses to the workshops. The email ended with "as said before, please contribute wherever you can".

2. Response from you at 15:51 that afternoon. You provided a detailed list of venue suggestions including Rushcliffe BC venues, Holme Pierrepont Running Club and a schools idea. You concluded the email with reference to a GC meeting discussion point on funding and a jovial remark that "If Corbyn wants a grass roots party he will need to fund it!".

3. Email from you on Wednesday 28th October at 13:20. Numerous emails had been sent in the intervening 8 days. On the previous Wednesday (21st) the main and urgent task - finding the venue - had been passed on to Gary Edgerton (including your email suggestions). However, having received nothing positive back from Gary by Monday 26th an RBC venue was booked for the 14th and 24th November. This meant we could send out invitations to all members. I sent out a first draft of the invitation to the working group, received comments and then sent a final draft. You responded to the final draft saying "reads well" and that you'd like to attend the event on the 24th "and would be happy to help out, making tea etc if required." You then went on to note that you were in Morrocco on the 14th and therefore weren't available. Again you ended the email with a jovial remark, this time about my mention in a previous email of 'background politics'.

Given the short timescale, Peter Gates and I then sent out the invitations later that afternoon. The rest, as they say, is history - we quickly received numerous very positive responses from members, not simply RSVPs. The volume and extent of the blocking tactics by the anti-new member brigade maps perfectly onto where we had our successes and so not surprisingly this is the point when the shit hit the fan. I temporarily withdrew from Party activity the following Saturday. Soon after Peter resigned as CLP Secretary and then, after the following GC meeting, the CLP Chair resigned - quite rightly, and as complained about by numerous members, for outrageous rigging of the CLP Secretary election resulting in the 'election' of the present Secretary.

Anyway, back to today's task. Pat, I'm struggling to understand why you felt the need last night to make clearly false claims about being excluded from the working group and stating that the working group's purpose was not being fulfilled. In the emails you sent you made no reference to this. Quite the opposite - It seemed to me that from the content and tone of your emails you were comfortable with the group's work.

I'm looking for an explanation because I feel it is important to establish your motives for seeming to want to substantiate similar and equally false claims made by the CLP Secretary yesterday evening.

Of course, you could simply ignore this email. Instead, I'm sure we'll have the chance to discuss these issues when we next meet at, for example, a Branch meeting, if that is what you would prefer.

Regards and I await your response.
John

BCC to Kevin F, Chris, Kevin L, Rachel, Shelly, Robert and the CLP Secretary

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2016.0.7294 / Virus Database: 4489/11401 - Release Date: 01/14/16

Finbar Bowie

From: Elizabeth Edgerton <l.edge@me.com>
Sent: 16 January 2016 11:32
To: Finbar Bowie
Subject: Harassment claim - please add the following

Dear Finbar

Thank you for acknowledging my complaint of harassment. I have since spoken again to my union representative who has confirmed that I am entitled to advice and representation not just regarding bullying in a paid workplace, but also in a voluntary workplace, and he has suggested I give you further examples of this and how it has affected me.

I would like to add Peter Gates to my complaint. I have long suspected, but have not had solid evidence to prove, that he has been spreading malicious rumours about me. Yesterday I received an email from a respected member of the Branch to say she had heard I had gone to the Keyworth AGM to put a case against John Walsh so that he didn't win the election for Keyworth delegates, and that she felt if this was true she could not support me. I understand this information came from Peter Gates. I sent her my notes from the meeting and hope that is sufficient to convince her I did no such thing, but this insidious gossip and the false accusations further lead me to feel bullied and harassed.

Further in relation to Peter Gates, he has been hostile to me since the Regional Conference, when I voted as mandated by my CLP for Nicki Brookes and him, as he had been openly canvassing with leaflets at the conference for delegates to vote Adele Williams, and not Nicki. He described my vote as 'a farce'. When I was elected as CLP Secretary his criticism of me escalated, to the point where it has had a wider impact on my ability to even do a simple task without doubting myself, as I know everything I do comes under scrutiny and criticism. I have countless emails where he has questioned how I do routine things. After my election he did not offer a hand-over, or the release of the CLP printer, which left me in some considerable difficulty. I had the support of two previous CLP Secretaries, without which I would have struggled further.

This constant nit-picking in relation to the work I am doing, the negative attitude to me (especially in front of other members at meetings) and the implications of incompetence leave me mentally exhausted and, more importantly, take up valuable time that I give to the Party.

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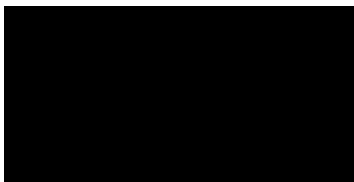
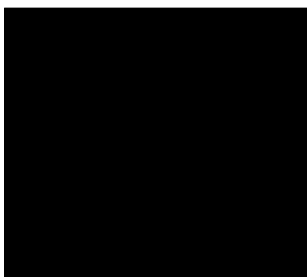
I wish tWs to accompany my complaint against John Walsh and would like some action taken to ensure it doesn't continue.

Best wishes

Lizzie

Lizzie Edgerton

Rushcliffe CLP Secretary



14
Finbar Bowie

From: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>
Sent: 15 January 2016 17:26
To: Finbar Bowie
Subject: Fwd: E- Bulletin

Dear Finbar,

I sent this email to Peter today- I think it is quite self explanatory. I would appreciate advice on the issues I have raised, so that I am clear when I raise the issue at the next EC meeting. As you can see the appropriate officers were copied into the Email.

Kind Regards,
Liz Plant

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>
Date: 15 January 2016 at 11:46:10 GMT
To: wb.labour@btopenworld.com
Cc: william.logan3@ntlworld.com, John Bannister Bannister <johnbann24@ntlworld.com>, jean.stansfield1@ntlworld.com, richard.crawley2@gmail.com, stevecalvert39@gmail.com
Subject: E- Bulletin

Dear Peter,

As chair of West Bridgford Labour Party I want to inform you that I do not think it is appropriate for you to be advertising Momentum meetings and reports of Momentum meetings in your e- Bulletin to branch members and new branch members. I had hoped this issue could have been raised at the EC meeting on Monday, but unfortunately we ran out of time and you have sent out another e- Bulletin advertising Momentum since then. I don't think it is appropriate for the following reasons :-

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You are using W. B. Membership data to inform members of an organisation that you have been instrumental in setting up that is not an official part of the Labour Party.

I am referring the issue to Regional Office for advice as I appreciate that what I have written is my opinion , but I feel in my role as chair it is my responsibility to clarify the issue for the Branch and a number of members have raised the issue with me. I am therefore asking you as Branch chair to desist from any further publication of Momentum activities in your e- Bulletin from West Bridgford Labour Party and in your role as the secretary of West Bridgford Labour party until I have a response from Regional Office and the issue can be discussed at the next EC meeting.

Regards,
Liz

15
Finbar Bowie

From: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>
Sent: 15 January 2016 17:29
To: Finbar Bowie
Subject: Fwd: West Bridgford Labour Party E- Bulletin

Sorry forgot to attach this as well- copy of the e- Bulletin I'm referring to.
Liz

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <wb.labour@btopenworld.com>
Date: 14 January 2016 at 09:46:27 GMT
To: "wb.labour@btopenworld.com" <wb.labour@btopenworld.com>
Subject: West Bridgford Labour Party

To: New members of West Bridgford Labour Party
From: Peter Gates, Branch Secretary
(wb.labour@btopenworld.com)

I would like to welcome you as a new Member to the Labour Party, and to your Branch - West Bridgford Labour Party. We have very recently had over 30 new members join which is wonderful, showing the Party is still growing in spite of the media attacks on the Party and the party leadership.

There is lot to be done in West Bridgford and in Rushcliffe Constituency and I look forward to meeting you all and working with you to ensure success in local elections coming up, and of course in the general election is 2020. We have a very active Women's Group, a strong Campaigning group, and a Young Labour Group. There is a lot going on!

A Party however is only as strong as its membership. So please feel welcomed and included in all we do.

I have attached below an eBulletin I sent round on 1st Jan which will give you some information on our next Branch meeting and some of our activities. Feel free however to ask if there is anything you want to know or become involved in. I will shortly send you further information on the AGM.

Best wishes, and again, welcome to West Bridgford Labour Party

Peter Gates
Secretary
West Bridgford Labour Party

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(You received this email because your email address is on our West Bridgford Branch members' list. If you do not want to receive further emails from us, please reply asking to be removed)



West Bridgford Labour Party

e-Bulletin

1st January 2016

To: Members of West Bridgford Labour Party
From: Peter Gates, Branch Secretary
(wb.labour@btopenworld.com)

Happy New Year

All the Branch Officers and Executive Board Members would I am sure want to wish all members a very positive New Year. Hopefully one year closer to a Labour Government.

An update on some Branch News on meetings and activities.

The West Bridgford Branch Meeting January 25th

AGM

The next branch meeting is on Monday **25th January**, in the **Main Hall, West Bridgford Methodist Church Hall** on Musters Road/Patrick Road, 7:30-9:30. The January Branch meeting will be the AGM where you can have a say in the future direction of the branch. Many people joined the Party since May 2015, and many others since Jeremy Corbyn's election, because they wanted "*a new kind of politics*". The AGM is your chance to play a part in that change and to influence the direction of the Party.

The following officer posts are up for their annual election: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chair (2), Membership Secretary, and Woman's Officer. There will also be an election for members of the Branch Executive and West Bridgford delegates to the Rushcliffe Constituency General Committee. Other posts up for election will be those with responsibility for Campaigns, Communications, Social Events, and Political Education. We will also be identifying nominations for the Rushcliffe delegate to the Labour Party Conference in September 2016.

Further information on all posts will be sent out with the agenda. Feel free to ask me if you would like further information.

With a huge influx of new members in West Bridgford over the past year, it is important that the Branch is reflective of the membership. Do come along and vote and even consider standing for election as a way of influencing the future direction of the party.

Branch Speaker – Homelessness

17
This Branch Meeting will also include a talk by **Alexander Rae** from **The Friary Drop-in** on a brief history of The Friary, some thoughts as to the possible causes of homelessness, and what the Labour Party might do - practical and in campaigning - to help some people's lives. We will also be arranging a collection for The Friary at the end of the Branch Meeting.

Jean Stansfield and Peter Gates are planning on writing a local policy briefing on this topic for all members.

You can watch the section of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party Conference speech where he refers to the housing crisis at: <http://tinyurl.com/pnep2dv>.

West Bridgford Women's Group

The next Women's Group Meeting is on **Thursday 14th January 2016 at 7:00 pm** in the West Bridgford Library. The guest speaker is Cathy Munro, who will be talking about Palestine. All women members welcome.

Rushcliffe Young Labour

Young Labour, the Party youth Section, is now active and meeting regularly. It exists to involve young people in the Labour Party and ensure that the aspirations of young people are reflected in Labour's policies and campaigns. The group covers all the Rushcliffe constituency and has a **Rushcliffe Young Labour** Facebook Page. All members up to 26 years old are automatically members and are very welcome to its meetings and events. Contact Nadia Whittome, Youth Officer for more information (nadiawhittome@yahoo.co.uk, or call on **07817 432 090**).

Refugees and Homelessness – Food Bank

Members will remember the Branch decided to make food donations before Christmas to two local charities:

- **Hope** to prepare for the arrival of refugees in Nottinghamshire and
- **Friary Drop-in** to support local vulnerable and homeless.

Our informal target was to fill two 42L tubs, one for each food bank but the response has been so overwhelming we could have filled six tubs. Trish Whittome, who organised the collection added: *"Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity, it will make a difference to someone this Christmas."*

Members' Workshop and Political Activity Groups

The Rushcliffe Constituency Party recently held a Members' Skills Workshop where 30 members came together to discuss ways of engaging in the Labour Party. Chris Williamson (ex-Derby MP) and Adele Williams (Sherwood Branch) lead the group. Steve Calvert and Gill Aldridge spoke on local councils. It was a great evening with very positive feedback. We plan to hold more of these events to engage members – especially new members – in Labour Party activity.

Political Reading Group

As a result of the Members' Workshop a number of possible political activity groups were identified. The first to get off the ground is the **Rushcliffe Labour Political Reading Group** which is up and running with the theme of Electioneering. First book is Iain Watson's *'Five Million Conversations: How Labour lost an election and rediscovered its roots'*.

Everyone is welcome to join us. However, if you can't get and read this book in time bring along any reasonably well known work where you want to identify an electioneering theme. If you would prefer to use an ethical supplier, Watson's book is available from **Five Leaves Bookshop, 14A Long Row, Nottingham**. Just mention

you are from the Rushcliffe Labour Reading Group and they will give a 15% discount on the usual £12.99 price.

Meeting date: **Tuesday evening 12th January** (If this day or date doesn't suit please indicate alternatives). This is a bit short notice but people wanted to get started. The group will meet regularly so if you can't make this date, do let us know and come to future meetings.

If you are at all interested, please contact John Walsh and he will organise the venue, presumably initially in West Bridgford. (Email: john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk)

Policy and Writing Groups

In addition to the members' **Reading Group**, we are setting up a **Policy Group** and a **Writing Group**. The Policy Group will be looking at putting together policy briefings for local Party members. The Writing Group will be looking at writing in various forms (leaflets, pamphlets, articles, narratives etc.) to support the Labour Party activity.

If you are interested in beg part of either of these contact **Peter Gates** (peter.gates3@btopenworld.com)

Rushcliffe Momentum

Report by John Walsh (Keyworth Branch):

"The inaugural meeting of **Momentum Rushcliffe** was held on 17th December and was attended by 16 Party members, including 12 new members. The intention was that following an introduction to Momentum by Steve Battlemuch (Chair of Momentum Nottinghamshire), we would focus on member involvement initiatives and Party democratisation. However, it was clear from the start that Momentum's purpose and position within the Party, including its legitimacy, needed addressing. There was a frank and wide-ranging constructive political debate about the purpose of Momentum, the potential for greater involvement by members in Party activity, defining left and right, the role the increased membership can play in campaigning, democratising the Party and the urgent need for a focus on strategy."

The Next **Momentum Rushcliffe** meeting will be help on **Thursday 14th January, 7pm, in Room 4 Methodist Church Hall**, corner of Musters and Patrick Road, West Bridgford, NG2 7PQ. It is likely future meetings will be held in other parts of the constituency. An Agenda will be emailed a few days before the meeting. The expectation is that we will pick up the two main strands touched on at the first meeting: designing and developing member initiatives and democratising the Party.

For more information, see: www.facebook.com/MomentumRushcliffe

If you would like to attend please email momentum.rushcliffe@gmail.com

Branch Social

The Rushcliffe CLP mid-Winter Social was held on **Friday 11th December** at All Hallows Hall Lady Bay. It was a very successful night and raised over £900. Thanks to everyone who went along, and to colleagues from the Kurdish Community Centre in Nottingham.

Facebook

Our Branch is active on Facebook. If you are a FB user please subscribe to our page: **West Bridgford Branch Labour Party**. If you are not a Facebook user you can still read the page - but won't be able to comment on it:
www.facebook.com/westbridgfordlabourparty

Christmas Raffle

19
The Christmas Raffle this year raised £850. Thank you to everyone who supported by buying or selling tickets.

Labour List

LabourList is an independent progressive blog providing a platform for open debate about centre-left issues and the future of the Labour movement. You can subscribe to their regular newsletter at: <http://labourlist.org/>

"Although we are a broad umbrella organisation seeking to draw together the many views and factions of the progressive spectrum, we also believe that progressive ends – such as a robust and resolute welfare state, social and educational equality and a fully funded National Health Service, free to all at the point of delivery – can only ultimately be achieved through the Labour Party."

That's all for now. Best wishes for 2016

Peter

Peter Gates

Branch Secretary

West Bridgford Labour Party

You received this eBulletin because your email address is on our West Bridgford Branch members' list. If you do not want to receive further emails from us, please reply asking to be removed.



20

The Labour Party

East Midlands Labour Party
Harold Wilson House, Barratt Lane, Attenborough,
Nottingham NG9 6AD

0115 943 1777 | eastmidlands@labour.org.uk

Mr Peter Gates
10 Belfry Way
Edwalton
Nottingham
NG12 4FA

09 February 2016

Dear Mr Gates

Complaint about intimidation and uncomradely behaviour AND data protection

I'm writing to you regarding alleged complaints that have been raised with the Regional Labour Party regarding recent behaviour and actions within Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party (CLP) by you.

The issues surrounding these complaints will be referred to the East Midlands Labour Party Regional Board, a representative of which will be attending a Rushcliffe CLP meeting in the near future.

An outline of the complaints are below. The issues raised and the expectations of the Party with regard to the conduct of individual members are also detailed.

Misuse of membership information in the capacity of a Branch Labour Party (BLP) Secretary

The Labour Party rulebook (Appendix 2.1.ii.) states :

ii. Misuse of information contained within the membership lists could be a breach of the Data Protection Act, and should be reported immediately to the Data Protection Officer at Head Office.

The Labour Party takes the protection of members' personal information extremely seriously, and obligations in terms of data protection are clearly outlined to relevant officers in the Labour Party Rulebook, Appendix 2.1.ii.

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Designated Officers are entitled to access membership information for the purposes of official Labour Party activity only. This entitlement may be withdrawn and disciplinary action taken should a misuse of this information become apparent.

The advertising of third party organisations events does not fall into the category of official Labour Party activity and therefore would not be an appropriate use of membership information.

Hostile and uncomradely behaviour within Labour Party activity

Party units are expected to ensure all party activity is conducted in a comradely environment, within which members feel comfortable, especially whilst undertaking any officer responsibilities to the Labour Party.

It is expected that disagreements be discussed openly and through the appropriate channels that the CLP provides. Where these channels are deemed to be undermined or abused, the East Midlands Regional Board may intervene to ensure Party activity is being conducted in an appropriate manner.

Harassment or intimidation of members on any basis, including gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability or race is unacceptable.

As such, consistent attempts to undermine the efforts of individual Officers within the party will not be tolerated.

I would like to make it clear that if activity and behaviour similar, but not restricted to the above, is deemed to exist within party units in Rushcliffe, formal action on the part of the Labour Party will be taken.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Foody
Deputy Regional Director
East Midlands Labour Party

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Finbar Bowie

From: Elizabeth Edgerton <l.edge@me.com>
Sent: 11 March 2016 09:41
To: Finbar Bowie; acfurl@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: CLP Agenda

Dear both

I am on the verge of a nervous breakdown. I have sixty people to cater for a week today at the fundraiser for the EU Referendum, with no support except from my husband. If this was a paid position I'd be looking for something else.

I find this level of harassment and bullying intolerable. I have worked in some tough jobs, including a male sex offenders' prison and have never felt this vulnerable.

I am not responding to these emails. I'll put out the minutes from the last GC and the agenda as it was agreed with little formal business. I'm sure Keir will, as he says, be contacting you. I am having difficulty even thinking about going to the next GC on Monday 21st because I feel sick even thinking about being in a room with these people.

Best wishes
Lizzie

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Walsh <john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk>
Date: 11 March 2016 08:08:16 GMT
To: Keir Chewings <kchewings@me.com>, Elizabeth Edgerton <l.edge@me.com>
Cc: Chris Kemp <chrisjkemp@btinternet.com>, Jean Stansfield <jean.stansfield1@ntlworld.com>, Finbar Bowie <finbar_bowie@labour.org.uk>, Robert Crosby <robertcrosby35@aol.com>, Steve Calvert <stevecalvert39@gmail.com>, Peter Brodie <pabnott@gmail.com>, gill aldrige <gill.aldrige@btinternet.com>, PETER GATES <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>
Subject: Re: CLP Agenda
Reply-To: John Walsh <john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk>

Dear All,

In addition to discussions at the GC on the 21st, there are a number of direct questions Keir has already asked which can be answered before the meeting – for example, questions concerning who has been liaising with Regional Office and Regional Board (see Keir's email dated 9th March). By answering these questions beforehand, the meeting can focus on the substantive issues and therefore save time.

It would be easy to take the view that not answering the questions is a worrying indicator of the extent of the difficulties the CLP faces.

Kind regards
John

90

On 11 March 2016 at 07:31 Keir Chewings <kchewings@me.com> wrote:

Good morning Lizzie,

With what has recently happened in the CLP I am disappointed to read this email. And whilst I accept that we have Paddy as a guest speaker, this item along with a report from the exec including my previous email should be discussed in the GC.

I am unsure as to what advice is required and disagree with the amount of time remaining to discuss the matters. As I have been at many meetings where standing orders have been suspended and the meeting has gone on to 10pm. Thus giving us a further 2 hours on the time you have stated is remaining.

I formally request that included as a matter of priority on the agenda:

1. As per Peter's request I believe for understanding it needs to be set out current standing orders, the make up of the Exec and the responsibilities of the exec.
2. A report back from the execs last meeting (which should always be at the GC) including my email which I still to this time have had no response.

Could you please confirm ASAP whether this will be on the agenda otherwise I will have to seek advice myself from regional office.

Kind regards,

Keir Chewings

On 11 Mar 2016, at 07:06, Elizabeth Edgerton
<l.ledge@me.com> wrote:

Hi Peter

At the last GC, which unfortunately you, Keir and John were unable to attend, it was agreed that we would invite Paddy Tipping to talk about the PCC elections and would have little formal business other than this and an update on the EU Referendum campaign. It was also agreed at the GC EC that we would extend an invitation to all members to attend (as they

are welcome to) to hear him. We half half an hour between 7:30 pm and 8:00 pm for all other matters. I am not sure, given what happened on Monday and what has already been agreed, that this allows sufficient time to deal with such substantive issues and have asked for guidance.

Best wishes

Lizzie

Sent from my iPad

On 10 Mar 2016, at 23:25, PETER GATES
<peter.gates3@btopenworld.com> wrote:

Lizzie, we didn't get a reply or acknowledgment to this so am sending it again in case it never got through. Keir Chewings, John Walsh and myself would like the following three items placed on the GC agenda for its next meeting please. Can you please acknowledge receipt and confirm these will be on the agenda.

CLP Standing Orders
Role, and Makeup of CLP
Executive
CLP Development Plan

Peter Gates
West Bridgford Branch

On 8 Mar 2016, at 14:08,
"peter.gates3@btopenworld.com
"
<peter.gates3@btopenworld.com
> wrote:

Lizzie,

Keir Chewings, John Walsh and myself would like the following three items placed on the GC agenda for its next meeting please.

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CLP Standing Orders
Role, and Makeup of CLP
Executive
CLP Development Plan

Thank you

Peter

Peter Gates
Branch Secretary
West Bridgford Labour Party

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Lizzie

We have no need of Blairites like you in the party of Jeremy Corbyn.

You and your husband are determined to get rid of the left but you won't.

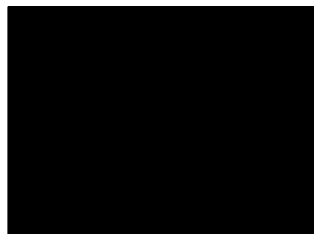
Stop what you are doing *now* or be sorry.

Delivered by



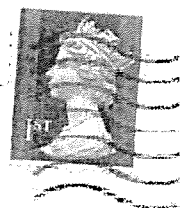
Royal Mail

Lizzie Edgerton



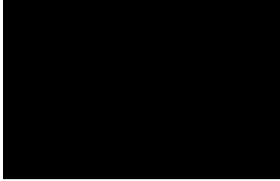
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A1

Elizabeth Edgerton



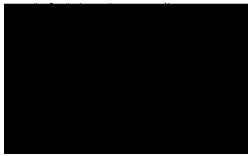
You cannot fail to have noticed that the Labour Party of the right has reverted to its original purpose and you no longer have a place within it. You have lost your little war and to be blunt, it's time for you to go.

True socialists will fight the right to lead their own party and when you are brave enough to hold the next CLP AGM you will be removed ignominiously.

Go now because if you and your corporate fraudster husband don't you will not only be ousted but denounced for what you are. You will be publicly shamed and humiliated.

A1

Robert Crosby



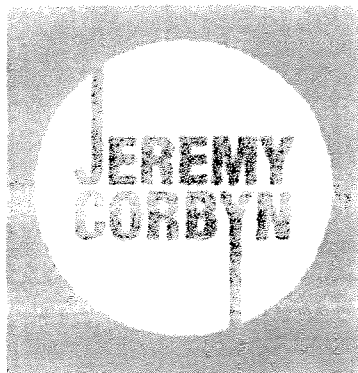
Your Labour Party of the right has reverted to its original purpose and unfortunately you no longer have a place within it.

It's time for you to go.

True socialists will fight for the right to lead their own party and when you are brave enough to hold the next CLP AGM you will be removed.

Go now and save everyone, not least you, a lot of trouble

A1



RUSHCLIFFE LABOUR

for CORBYN and a

VOICE FOR THE LEFT

What's really going on in Rushcliffe?

The Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party is corrupt and its officers are Blairite traitors. Using the Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party as a Blairite tool the East Midlands Labour Party is in the process of trying to extinguish the legitimate voice of the left in the Rushcliffe Constituency.

Why? So that they can control local activism, ensure all labour right wing local councillors stand unopposed and that the local party supports only right wing challengers for the leadership. Simple.

A large number of loyal and dedicated people many of whom are senior democratically elected local and regional party officers, were suspended for holding a Corbynite ideology that does not fit with the robotic Blairite political agenda set by the Regional Labour Party only to have those suspensions ignominiously overturned at a national level due to the pitiful lack of any kind of evidence.

Not that acting without evidence stops them. Two persecuted members of our party still remain under suspension and have been given absolutely no reason why but being told to "keep your mouth shut". As new entrants to any kind of political party these brave people have continued to work tirelessly day and night in support of Jeremy, a kinder politics and to defeat the Tories and we should all be demanding an explanation as to why they have been hounded out following a campaign of lies, death threats, intimidation, bullying and 24 hr harassment which they have been bravely fighting.

It is shameful that noble people alongside whom you've worked hard are forced to communicate like this but we are determined that with your help the neo-liberal right wing will lose and we will win.

For more than 5 months the Labour Party has tried to strangle the voice of the left in Rushcliffe at birth. Join the fight! Contact the party locally, regionally and nationally to demand an explanation.

ACT NOW SO WE SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE

Please scan this leaflet, distribute, post-it on social media and forward to as many people as possible.

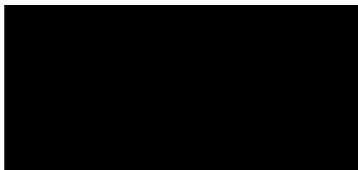
For the sake of Jeremy let's make this go viral!!!!

The Labour Party

East Midlands Labour Party
Harold Wilson House, Barratt Lane, Attenborough,
Nottingham NG9 6AD

0115 943 1777 | eastmidlands@labour.org.uk

Lizzie Edgerton



21 April 2016

Dear Lizzie

Submissions

As you may be aware, some members have been placed in Administrative Suspension by the Labour Party NEC following complaints about their behaviour at an Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016.

Members of the East Midlands Regional Board sitting under the auspices of the National Executive Committee are conducting an enquiry into what took place at the meeting and matters surrounding it, including both the run up to and aftermath.

All members of Rushcliffe Constituency Executive and the suspended members are invited to give evidence to the enquiry if they feel that they can assist with the matter. The panel wishes to consider written evidence in the first instance, and they ask that submissions are concise and to the point.

If you would like to respond to this request and offer a written submission you may do so by contacting myself on emma_foody@labour.org.uk or Freepost RTGJ-LYAH-LHXY, East Midlands Labour Party, Harold Wilson House, 23 Barratt Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham NG9 6AD. The enquiry panel would be happy to receive any comments you may wish to make. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Tuesday 31st May 2016.

The enquiry panel hopes to resolve these matters as quickly as possible and any input that you can give to achieve this aim will be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Foody
Secretary to the Enquiry

Labour
labour.org.uk

Peter Gates - NEC Evidence Bundle



Gordon Pattison

From: Elizabeth Edgerton <l.edge@me.com>
Sent: 31 May 2016 10:43
To: Emma Foody
Cc: Andrew Furlong; Finbar Bowie; Gordon Pattison
Subject: Comments on Administrative Suspensions
Attachments: LETTER 06 06 16.pdf

Dear Emma

I know you have my original complaints about John Walsh and Peter Gates so this is in response to your letter inviting those involved to supply and further comments or supporting evidence with regard to the Administrative Suspensions in Rushcliffe CLP.

As you can already know from the original complaints, I contacted Regional Office as a new member back in September, having had a bizarre reply to an email I sent to John Walsh not long after I joined the Party and wanted to get involved. I subsequently emailed him to say I was not happy about the way he engaged (or didn't) with me, I didn't like his dismissive attitude to anything I suggested and felt disrespected. I told him that I intended to seek advice from the Party about how colleagues should expect to be treated but Peter Gates asked if I would meet with John Walsh to discuss things and I agreed. A meeting was arranged in September 2015 but on the morning Peter Gates phoned me to say John Walsh had resigned from the Party. The rest, as you know, has become worse and has led to the situation we are now in.

At Regional Conference 2015 Peter Gates was hostile towards me because I voted for Nicki Brookes to the NEC (as I had been mandated to by the CLP) instead of Adele Williams, who he had been promoting with leaflets in the foyer as delegates arrived. He said that the whole thing was a 'fucking farce', and it was at that point that I was clearly out of favour with him.

After I was elected as CLP Secretary last year (following Peter Gates' resignation and then his subsequent bid to be re-elected) I received no support in my new role from him. He did not offer any sort of handover, and did not release the CLP printer to me until Richard Crawley acted as intermediary and collected it. Both Peter and John have been openly hostile to me in meetings and via emails, and both have spread malicious rumours and untruths about me to other Party members, both within the Constituency and further afield. We (Gary and I) have had our financial records disclosed in an attempt to make us look dishonest (we had to put a company we were directors of into liquidation after Gary was diagnosed with cancer in 2013 and couldn't work for a year). I am aware that I have been the subject of complaints to other officers, to Regional Office and to the NEC about my conduct and professionalism as CLP Secretary. John Walsh took an issue to the NEC that I did not circulate the agenda for a CLP GC seven days ahead of the meeting, as I sent it after 8:00pm the previous Monday for a meeting starting at 7:30pm the following one, so it was over an hour short of the full seven days. Given that we are all volunteers, with jobs and lives this is ridiculous and is indicative of the extent to which John Walsh goes to try to bully and intimidate me and waste people's time.

Peter Gates and John Walsh have worked in tandem to try to discredit me. After the Keyworth AGM which I attended as CLP Secretary (I went to all AGMs) Peter Gates (although he was not present at that meeting) told Jean Stansfield, (a respected but somewhat gullible member of the West Bridgford Branch) that I had been sent by Regional Office to make John Walsh look foolish so that he would not be re-elected as a delegate to the CLP. As a result of that Jean withdrew her support for me to be a National Conference delegate in 2016. At that meeting I spoke only once, and was shouted down by John Walsh. The Chair, Kevin Fitzgerald, had to tell John Walsh that he

Peter Gates has spent CLP funds on pointless self-aggrandising meetings without contributing towards fundraising. Since we joined the Labour Party last September, Gary and I have organised three successful social events and raised over £2,000, but it has been disheartening to see CLP and Branch funds (which should be for campaigning and fighting elections) used to organise meetings that contribute nothing other than having us all talk to ourselves.

We (Gary and I) have been approached by two members from other CLPs offering to 'mediate' and asking us to drop our complaints against Peter and John. I don't believe (to the best of my knowledge) that any other Rushcliffe CLP members who have made complaints have been singled out in such a way. Those offering to mediate have been led to believe that Peter and John are being hounded out of the Party (by us) because they are on the left or involved with Momentum, but this is not the case. I have been subjected to constant criticism by John and Peter. My Trade Union has advised me that it is classic bullying and has offered to represent me if this goes any further. My professionalism has been undermined, I have been the subject of smears and lies and I have only remained in the role because of the support from some other officers in the CLP. It has affected my life in ways that being a volunteer in a political party should not. I have chosen to avoid certain places e.g. supermarkets in case I bump in to either of them, it has restricted my willingness to campaign and canvass for the Party, sometimes it has made me feel physically sick.

At the meeting on March 7th I felt especially vulnerable when a significant number of people (around ten) came into the room uninvited and refused to leave. Andy Furlong and our Chair, Gill Aldridge, asked them several times to leave the room and there was no option but for Gill to close the meeting (with support from Andy), which she did. Members who were seated with their backs to the door (I was facing it) have said they felt threatened and intimidated. Andy Furlong came to that meeting with the intention to try to resolve a difficult situation and he was faced with hostility and bad manners. I was taking the minutes for that meeting. These have subsequently been challenged by Jean Stansfield and Keir Chewings as not being accurate, which again makes me feel undermined, as I try hard to be as fair as possible and to take accurate minutes. Both Keir and Jean have been particularly hostile towards me in meetings following March 7th and appear to be progressing complaints about the administrative suspension process on Peter's behalf in particular.

I don't know what hope there is going forward to unite the CLP while ever Peter Gates or John Walsh remain involved. Peter refused to take minutes at Branch meetings and ECs even though he was Secretary, and then amended those taken by other members to reflect what he wanted. For example, at a Branch EC there was a discussion about how to conduct Branch meetings. It was agreed that we would look to have a speaker for the first hour and then to conduct Branch business for the second (so that people who didn't want to take part could leave). The following day Peter emailed all Branch members to say we had decided to drop all formal business. I asked for the minutes from the person who had taken them and they did not record that. I asked Peter four times why he had altered the minutes but he gave me no reply. This is only one example of unilateral decisions that Peter makes and passes them off as democratic decisions. He has shoe-horned people who support him into roles and co-opted them to the EC meetings so that going forward anything he wants he gets. These are (largely) the same people he rallied to interrupt the meeting on March 7th and who now are also suspended.

I know that the Party at Regional and National level expects CLPs to manage their own affairs as far as they possibly can, but I hope it will be able to rule on intimidation and harassment, which I know are not only perceived by me but also specifically by three other females within the CLP (one of these resigned her post as CLP Chair and now cannot face meetings or other Party activities) and a number of other members.

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The Labour Party

East Midlands Labour Party
Harold Wilson House, Barratt Lane, Attenborough,
Nottingham NG9 6AD

0115 9431777 | eastmidlands@labour.org.uk

Gary Edgerton



21 April 2016

Dear Gary

Submissions

As you may be aware, some members have been placed in Administrative Suspension by the Labour Party NEC following complaints about their behaviour at an Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016.

Members of the East Midlands Regional Board sitting under the auspices of the National Executive Committee are conducting an enquiry into what took place at the meeting and matters surrounding it, including both the run up to and aftermath.

All members of Rushcliffe Constituency Executive and the suspended members are invited to give evidence to the enquiry if they feel that they can assist with the matter, and additionally yourself as one of the complainants and an inadvertent witness to the events on Monday 7th March. The panel wishes to consider written evidence in the first instance, and they ask that submissions are concise and to the point.

If you would like to respond to this request and offer a written submission you may do so by contacting myself on emma_foody@labour.org.uk or Freepost RTGJ-LYAH-LHXY, East Midlands Labour Party, Harold Wilson House, 23 Barratt Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham NG9 6AD. The enquiry panel would be happy to receive any comments you may wish to make. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Tuesday 31st May 2016.

The enquiry panel hopes to resolve these matters as quickly as possible and any input that you can give to achieve this aim will be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Foody
Secretary to the Enquiry



Rushcliffe CLP Complaint Submission

Gary Edgerton, 27 May 2016

I write to describe the bullying and harassment (both passive and passive-aggressive) to which I personally and other members have been subjected to by both Peter Gates (West Bridgford Branch and Branch Secretary) and John Walsh (Keyworth Branch). The attached document describes key incidents and I can provide supporting email evidence of everything.

In short, I have been:

1. Witness to Peter Gates and John Walsh actively organising within the Branch and CLP in order to have like-minded people take officer positions in order to usurp what Peter gates referred to as the 'right wing'.
 2. Actively excluded from activities for which I volunteered and was accepted by the West Bridgford Branch, e.g. Political Education Organiser. After I complained about being excluded Peter Gates, as Branch secretary went on to assign aspects of the role to other people whom he felt to be 'sympathetic' to his objectives.
 3. The subject of accusations, spread around the Branch and CLP members, that I issued death threats to John Wash
 4. Subject to having personal financial information revealed and shared by email with CLP officers (this from John Walsh) and open hostility during meetings and by email
 5. Refused co-operation by Peter Gates in publicising Branch and Constituency events (I am also Social secretary for the Constituency)
 6. Witness to definite acts designed to disrupt and destabilise the local party structure and not least discredit Branch and CLP officers
- Appended too is my account of the West Bridgford Branch EC meeting held on Monday 07th March 2016

I am a new entrant to the Party but the hostility and animosity I have received over the past months has caused me to considered leaving the Party when my only intention was to do the very best I could to serve it in any capacity.

The accusations I make against Peter Gates and John Walsh is that they both engaged in a campaign of harassment and bullying. Not least is my experience of their engaging in a systematic misogynistic campaign of aggressive and passive-aggressive intimidation against three female colleagues in particular.

We (Lizzie, my wife and I) have been referred to routinely outside of our constituency as 'The Edgertons' and described as being '...determined to hound out left wingers and Corbynites', we have lots of reports of this and it represents an orchestrated campaign to vilify and discredit us. In addition over the past two months we have had numerous members of other CLPs remonstrating with us to give up 'persecuting the left' and to drop our complaints, all of these people have been are acting upon false information around the actuality of the events within Rushcliffe CLP and especially the West Bridgford Branch. This experience is indicative of Peter Gates concocting a narrative that has him and John Walsh as the victims of a political witch-hunt.

I t make it absolutely clear that none of the complaints I make are politically inspired, they are a response to bullying and harassment. Further, as we have been asked by the Party not to discuss

complied and added that 'I had a particular set of skills ...' this is a line from the film 'Taken' meant light heartedly. That night I saw Peter Gates and John Walsh at a Momentum meeting and everything was very friendly. After the event Peter Gates asked if he could have a lift home, which seemed odd as he had been driven in by John Walsh. During that car journey Peter was trying to ascertain where I stood politically, e.g.. on the 'right' or 'left' of the Party. Peter told me that over the years he had been 'in and out of the Party' and that up until recently he had been a long standing member of the SWP, further, he was at pains to point out that he did not know John Walsh up until a couple of weeks earlier – although to my mind they had a close relationship. We dropped Peter Gates in the centre of West Bridgford, far from his home but where he said he'd left his car. We had to park up ourselves to go to a super market and on our way we saw Peter going into a local pub with John Walsh and Rachael Scudamore. We thought it strange but, again, thought no more. The next day I engaged with finding a venue having limited email communications with John.

I saw Peter and John that weekend, at Regional Conference. Peter was especially friendly towards my wife and I, going out of his way to sit with us, not John, and during the day he persistently engaged me in conversation around where I stood with regard to my personal politics. One conversation Peter initiated revolved around how we were going to get rid of the 'right wing' in the WB Branch and the CLP. At this point I told Peter that I did not share his interpretation and told him that I was simply keen to work with everyone, using the Party rules to move things forward. Peter Gates told me, 'we aren't going to defeat the Tories with that lot (meaning sitting officials)' and that first we had to '... get rid of them and change the Party regardless of the rules'. Again I disagreed. I spoke with John at Conference and told him I had booked a community hall for the workshops, and he thanked me and said it was a good choice of venue.

The following week I received an email from John telling me that I was no longer required in any capacity within the Political Education Working group. I got back to John repeatedly asking why but he failed to answer any email and then he blocked my emails altogether using a 'spam' filter. I asked Peter if he knew what was happening and he indicated that he did know but could not share what he knew with me. I tried to communicate with John through Peter but found Peter to be increasingly difficult to get in touch with and absolutely refusing to answer direct questions I was posing around what was happening with the working group and why I had been excluded. This culminated with Peter informing me that I should just 'go for a run'.

At the next Branch meeting Peter was incredibly frosty and hostile in tone towards me. At that meeting he was elected Branch Secretary. The role of Branch Political Education Organiser also came up, I volunteered for this and was accepted. Once again, on the way out Peter Gates said to me, '... we don't need you doing anything. Political Education should be left to John who knows what he is doing, and kept at a constituency level.'

3. The subject of accusations, spread around the Branch and CLP members, that I issued death threats to John Wash

After that Richard Crawley, our Branch membership secretary, told Lizzie and I that John Walsh had said that he had received death threats from me and was so threatened that he was now scared to leave his house (these were extrapolated from the 'Taken' quote mentioned earlier). Richard advised John that if this were the case then this should take it up with the police but John said that police were too busy to do anything about it.

Subsequently it transpired that John Walsh had taken my email with the quote from 'Taken' and interpreted it as a death threat. Further, indirectly, it came to my attention that the rumour had

- As Social Secretary I organised a Winter social for the CLP which was given no publicity by Peter Gates, the WB Branch Secretary.
- As a part of the WB Branch Political Education working group I produced a skills survey, in conjunction with our Women's Group and EC officers. Peter told my colleague, on the working group, that this document was not acceptable and that he, as a professional, would have to take it on personally completely undermining our work and after we submitted a further draft we were told that it was improvement but still not good enough. I emailed Peter informing him that we were not putting it forward for grading but were producing it as collegiate exercise and pointing out that as unit been agreed Branch EC it could go to members – Peter eventually sent the skills survey a week later than we had asked missing our deadline for maximum publicity ahead of the Branch meeting.
- Increasingly the minutes of meetings excluded any mention of contribution from me or Lizzie and pointedly described the titles of other officers, when occasioned, but omitted to mention us. Peter refused to take minutes as Branch Secretary as he said he has a condition which makes it difficult for him to write. Others took the minutes but they were subsequently altered by Peter to reflect whatever he wanted.

6. Witness to definite acts designed to disrupt and destabilise the local party structure and not least discredit Branch and CLP officers

- Peter has put people onto the Branch agenda as speakers whose exclusive aim is to question/attack the structure of the meeting itself.
- Peter used a Branch EC to question the structure of our Branch meetings and while there was a discussion no agreement was reached. However, the very next Branch meeting Peter decided unilaterally to change the entire structure, drop any formal business and break the meeting up into workshop groups (I am objecting to this as as I indicated, it was not agreed that this would happen and Peter simply decided to go head anyway). When challenged subsequently Peter simply ignored the issue.
- I was present at a meeting, outside of the Party, in which John Walsh actively attacked our Rushcliffe CLP denouncing them, and the Regional Office as 'Blairite right wingers who are getting in the way, referring in particular to Finbar Bowie. He was also forthright in his views that Labour, '... should not even bother campaigning in seats like Selston as was this is '... a waste of time'. Peter Gates has also taken to the floor at Momentum meetings denouncing the 'right' within the Rushcliffe CLP, which is a description of our loyal supportive constituency, which I do not recognise.
- I attended a 'Rushcliffe Labour Momentum' meeting which Peter Gates organised using the Rushcliffe Labour Party Constituency membership list (presumably he held a copy following his time as CLP Secretary. Peter proudly said, 'I've set this meeting up taking emails from here, breaking the Data Protection Act there ...' I questioned him on this as I know how serious breaching the Data Protection Act is but was met with silence. At that meeting leaflets were issued, ostensibly drawn up under the auspices of 'Rushcliffe Labour Momentum'. These leaflets were distributed as 'Labour' leaflets with contact details for a mobile belonging to Peter Gates as did the email address and Twitter feed. This Momentum meeting had nothing whatsoever to do with Labour Party as Momentum is not affiliated, yet the meeting was organised using a Labour Party membership list.
- Subsequent to that Momentum meeting Peter published a report of it written by John Walsh in the Branch e-newsletter, which is again a clear abuse of powers by the Branch Secretary

So the protagonists had a clear choice on that Monday to talk things through or do something else. The something else that Peter and John decided upon was to take the coward's way and hide. The choice they made was to turn up in a threatening, bullying (by its very nature) mob. The choice was to disrespect the Party, the choice was to disrespect any semblance of comradely behaviour, the choice was to attempt to factionalise and split the Party, not for any Political position but because some people just want to do whatever they like without thinking things through, without the democratic decision making apparatus, with heed for nothing except self-aggrandisement. The choice was to destroy the meeting.

After the meeting the word went around that Peter and John went there in conciliatory mode. I can tell you that is not what I heard, it is not what anyone else in that room heard or saw either and the 'protestors' had been rallied in order to violate the rights of fellow members to have their legitimate grievances heard.

Once again, my understanding is that the meeting was closed because of the potentially embarrassing nature of some of the complaints as these are things a member, who is a volunteer, should not be forced to disclose and discuss in a public space.

Subsequently I discovered that letters were sent to those who had crashed the meeting informing them that they had been administratively suspended. However, one of those people said that Peter had instructed them not to open their letters, and when the letters were sent again by recorded delivery Peter had told them not to sign for them. I do not believe that this sort of advice is in the best interests of members, of the Branch or the constituency. Peter Gates attempts to run the West Bridgford Branch as if it is a CLP, has plundered the funds to put on meetings that, without any formal business (which was NOT agreed by the EC) makes it nothing more than a debating society.

Gary Edgerton Sunday May 29th 2016

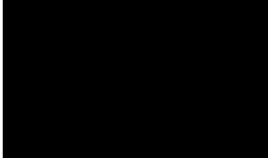
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The Labour Party

East Midlands Labour Party
Harold Wilson House, Barratt Lane, Attenborough,
Nottingham NG9 6AD

0115 943 1777 | eastmidlands@labour.org.uk

Robert Crosby



21 April 2016

Dear Robert

Submissions

As you may be aware, some members have been placed in Administrative Suspension by the Labour Party NEC following complaints about their behaviour at an Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016.

Members of the East Midlands Regional Board sitting under the auspices of the National Executive Committee are conducting an enquiry into what took place at the meeting and matters surrounding it, including both the run up to and aftermath.

All members of Rushcliffe Constituency Executive and the suspended members are invited to give evidence to the enquiry if they feel that they can assist with the matter. The panel wishes to consider written evidence in the first instance, and they ask that submissions are concise and to the point.

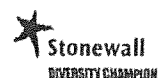
If you would like to respond to this request and offer a written submission you may do so by contacting myself on emma_foody@labour.org.uk or Freepost RTGJ-LYAH-LHXY, East Midlands Labour Party, Harold Wilson House, 23 Barratt Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham NG9 6AD. The enquiry panel would be happy to receive any comments you may wish to make. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Tuesday 31st May 2016.

The enquiry panel hopes to resolve these matters as quickly as possible and any input that you can give to achieve this aim will be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Foody

Secretary to the Enquiry



25 April 2016

Emma Foody
Secretary to the (Rushcliffe) Enquiry
East Midlands Labour Party

Thank you for your letter dated 21 April 2016 in which you have invited members of the Rushcliffe Constituency Executive and suspended members to submit concise written evidence leading up to and beyond events at the Executive Committee meeting held on 7 March 2016.

Three, in particular, of those who were suspended following the meeting on 7 March – namely Peter Gates (West Bridgford Branch), John Walsh (Keyworth Branch) and Rachel Scudamore (Keyworth Branch) have, in my opinion, sought to exploit the dramatic expansion in membership in Rushcliffe to disrupt the operation of the CLP and pursue their own particular personal/political agenda(s). They have sought to intimidate and bully and sap the energy and enthusiasm of a number of other Party members. These include the former CLP Chair and current CLP Secretary (both of whom are women) for sustained periods and the current CLP Chair (also a woman) when they and others disrupted the planned meeting of the Executive Committee, Regional Chair and suspended members on 7 March.

I have concluded that Peter Gates is a dishonest and highly manipulative individual. He has, from the outset, sought to use the Party's Rule Book as a weapon to disrupt meetings and unsettle other members. He has continually attempted to undermine our CLP Secretary, Lizzie Edgerton – largely but not exclusively by e-mail – since her election (in succession to him after he resigned) and following, I understand, an unsuccessful attempt by him (that she thwarted) to ignore the CLP's mandate to them both as delegates to the Party's Regional Conference charged with casting the CLP's vote for particular candidates standing for election to the Regional Board. He has sought to create division and encouraged particular members of the CLP to express disquiet and become suspicious of other members and Party officials without justification. Peter has cynically used Party meetings before his suspension and social media since (he has continued to post on the West Bridgford Branch Facebook page as if nothing has happened) to try to persuade some members that he only wants to behave in a "comradely" manner and work with others for the good of the Party but those sentiments have been conspicuously absent throughout his relentless e-mails to and pressure that he has visited on successive CLP officers and in his attempt to manipulate the circumstances surrounding both his own and others' administrative suspensions when he encouraged recipients of letters to refuse to accept them (presumably in the expectation that those actions would somehow render the suspensions invalid).

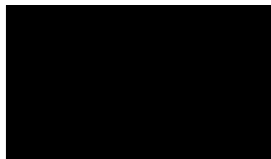
John Walsh too subjected both Gill Aldridge and I to a barrage of e-mail complaints following Sandra Coker's resignation. He continued to attack Sandra and the then West Bridgford Chair, Liz Plant. I was also copied into e-mails in which he first complained and then attempted to intimidate the CLP Membership Secretary, Richard Crawley. He has, both at Party meetings and (especially) during e-mail exchanges, adopted a threatening tone towards other members. Lizzie Edgerton has taken much of the brunt of his attacks. Patrick Walsh (a Keyworth Branch member and GC delegate) who expressed concerns at the 2016 Keyworth Branch AGM regarding John's account of events surrounding the establishment of 'new member workshops' arranged by the CLP during last autumn found himself first on the

The Labour Party

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Richard Crawley



21 April 2016

Dear Richard

Submissions

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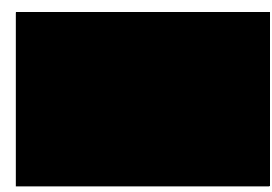
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Yours sincerely,

Emma Foody
Secretary to the Enquiry





6 May 2016

Emma Foody
East Midlands Labour Party
Harold Wilson House
Barratt Lane
Attenborough
Nottingham
NG9 6AD

Dear Emma

Submissions re Suspended Members

Thank you for your letter of 21 April.

Unfortunately I was not at the meeting of Rushcliffe CLP Executive Committee on Monday 7 March. I am therefore unable to comment on what happened at the meeting.

I have nothing to add to my previous submissions about the behaviour of Peter Gates and John Walsh.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Crawley
Vice-Chair, Rushcliffe CLP

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The Labour Party

East Midlands Labour Party
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20 April 2016

Dear Linda

Submissions

As you may be aware, some members have been placed in Administrative Suspension by the Labour Party NEC following complaints about their behaviour at an Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016.

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Yours sincerely,

Emma Foody
Secretary to the Enquiry





May 4th 2016

Dear Emma

Submissions

Further to your letter dated 20th April, this is my submission to the enquiry regarding the meeting on Monday 7th March and matters surrounding it. As you are aware my partner, Brent Abbott and I are amongst those from the Rushcliffe CLP who have been suspended following complaints about our behaviour at the meeting on 7th March.

I would very much like to know what these complaints are as there seems no reason whatsoever for our suspensions and feel that this suspension is totally unjustified. The sequence of events from Monday 7th March is below and I believe clearly shows the injustice of our suspension

- Monday 7th March a.m. I received an email from Peter Gates, about a CLP meeting called for that same evening by Finbar Bowie to discuss recent complaints and the situation in Rushcliffe CLP. Peter said: 'If you were able to come down tonight at 8 - it would be nice to see you and to see what was going on.'
- On Monday afternoon I left a message on Lizzie Edgerton's phone to ask her, as secretary of the CLP, if it would be appropriate for Brent and I to be there. We were elected new delegates to the GC of the CLP at January's Branch meeting and were due to take up these roles this month. We had been told that we were welcome at CLP meetings prior to this month, as observers
- As Lizzie didn't respond to my message I rang Steve Calvert, my local County Counsellor, for his advice. He said he thought it would be fine for us to attend this meeting and suggested we arrive at 7pm when it was due to start.
- Just before 7pm we arrived at the meeting and were told it was not appropriate for us to be there as it was a 'special meeting.'
- We were surprised and decided to go for a drink at our local
- When we arrived there Peter Gates was sitting alone and called us over. We joined him and he showed us the email he'd received which invited him to attend a CLP meeting at 8pm to discuss complaints and the situation in Rushcliffe. He explained that John Walsh had also been asked to attend and that several other GC delegates were hoping to observe this meeting.
- Between this time (around 7.15) and 7.50 other GC delegates arrived: John, Rachel, Mia, Mark, Zbuzek and Jane. Someone quoted from the Rule Book that observers were allowed in CLP meetings
- I was quite confused by this time but felt that this 8pm meeting may be a separate meeting from the Special Meeting we had been turned away from.
- Having heard various rumours about complaints I was keen to find out for myself exactly what was going on and decided to join the others present in observing the 8pm meeting.
- Shortly after we arrived at the venue, Umaar joined us. We waited in the corridor and I believe it was around 8.10 when someone knocked on the door of the meeting room and we began to enter. Whilst some of the group took in chairs, Brent and I who were at the back of the group chose to stand

in the doorway to see if we were allowed to observe. We were unable to see who was present apart from our group, but clearly heard someone (I believe it was the chair, Gill Aldridge), ask us to leave. Rachel Scudamore queried this request, quoting from the Rule Book. We were then told that if we didn't leave the meeting would be abandoned. Brent and I left

- As we left the building we bumped into Gary Edgerton. We told him that we had not been allowed to observe proceedings and he was clearly upset saying that he'd come back from visiting his mother especially to attend the meeting. He clearly felt that rules had been broken. We were unaware of this and still are. We talked briefly suggesting that it was a pity conciliatory talks weren't suggested locally. Gary then went into the building, while we went home.

Subsequent events:

- A week later on March 14th Brent and I were asked to feed back to the CLP Executive regarding our door knocking experiences. This was an interesting meeting where Jane Caro also reported on her actions as Trades Union liaison.
- The next day we picked up an email telling us that Jane had returned home from that meeting to receive a letter suspending her
- On that Friday 18th March we attended a CLP social event for St Patrick's day.
- On Saturday 19th March we received letters of suspension

Finally I would like to add that since being suspended I have felt extremely upset, distressed and discouraged. I feel I have been punished for no good reason. I feel fortunate that I was not alone in all of this and that Brent and I have been able to support each other. We have nevertheless had several sleepless nights over it.

It was made clear in Emma's letter of 4th April that we are not allowed to discuss the suspension with other Labour Party members, which includes many close friends. This has put a huge strain on me and led to further sleepless nights. After complaining that we were not receiving details of canvassing and social events I was told by Emma that these decisions were up to the CLP executive. I am distressed that someone in the CLP Exec. decided to exclude us from these activities. I expressed my disappointment in this to Emma and I am now receiving that information. However I have lost faith in some members of that Committee and feel uneasy about future relationships.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Burdett



A2

Notes on an Executive Committee Meeting of

Rushcliffe CLP on 7 March 2016

I attended a special meeting of the EC of the Rushcliffe CLP on Monday 7 March at the request of the Deputy Regional Director. This was a properly constituted meeting of the EC to which Peter Gates and John Walsh had been invited to attend, following a series of complaints and counter complaints in which both were implicated.

I joined the EC meeting at 7.50 pm and made a short statement re the approach that I intended to take. I emphasised that the primary focus would be on the constituency development plan and I wanted to discuss objectives, actions and targets for the CLP in the lead up to the Nottinghamshire County Council elections in 2017. It was my intention to talk about membership development, increasing member participation in campaign activity, fundraising and the important role that Rushcliffe needed to play in maintaining political control of Northamptonshire County Council. Good governance and organisation is a necessary part of this process, hence the need for mediation by a Regional Board Representative with the aim of resolving the conflict between several members of the CLP that had been ongoing since the autumn of 2015. I made the point that I had deliberately avoided dialogue with any of the complainants in the interests of fairness.

I clarified the role of the chair and indicated that her authority was recognised and fully supported by the Regional Board.

I took a question from Kier xxxxxx regarding the process. I responded by stating that after a round of introductions, I would offer an overview of the importance of the development plan and the need to resolve the tensions in the constituency. It was then my intention to invite each of the complainants to share their concerns with me via the chair in a measured and orderly fashion. I proposed that Peter Gates, John Walsh, Lizzie Edgerton and Sandy Coker each be allowed five minutes of airtime after which I would listen to a brief discussion before making a summary.

I indicated that this was not a formal disciplinary procedure; rather it was an attempt to mediate and reconcile differences in a comradely manner with all parties being given an opportunity to speak. Keir xxxxxx asked a further question about the potential of the conclusions being used in any further disciplinary procedure. I indicated that this was not my intention, however I reminded the EC that the minutes would be an important record and I asked the secretary to be diligent in recording any contributions that might be deemed uncomradely or abusive. I also asked for sight of the draft minutes with the aim of ensuring that they were a true and accurate record of the points that I intended to make and the discussion that followed.

These proposals were accepted without further question or dissent.

Before I had completed my remarks, Peter Gates attempted to enter the room and he was asked to remain outside until invited to join the meeting. He left with the remark, "You're going to need more chairs".

A2

At 8.03pm an EC member got up to ask Peter Gates and John Walsh to join the meeting, but upon opening the door they were confronted by a small crowd of people. This group, which included Peter Gates and John Walsh burst into the room and surrounded the meeting room table on two sides. Some were carrying chairs and these were placed around the perimeter. It was difficult to estimate the number of people involved because some had taken up positions behind me, but I would say that there were ~10 individual in addition to Peter Gates and John Walsh.

The chair attempted to call for order indicating that this was an EC meeting to which only Peter Gates and John Walsh had been invited to attend. She was immediately challenged in a hostile manner by a member subsequently identified to me as Zbyszek xxxxx. I took to my feet and attempted to take control of the situation by addressing the EC (and the uninvited guests) to the effect that this was a legitimate and properly constituted meeting to which only Peter Gates and John Walsh had been invited. I confirmed my authority as a representative of the regional board and clearly stated that if the uninvited guests did not leave the meeting, I would have no option other than to ask the chair to adjourn the meeting. This prompted a modest amount of barracking and a grandstanding speech from Peter Gates in which he challenged the legitimacy of the meeting and said words to the effect of 'You have a choice to move forwards with these concerned members present, or...'; the rest of his statement was lost in the confusion with the chair firmly but calmly asking him to ask his supporters to leave the room.

At this point another member, later identified to me as Rachel Scudamore, started to barrack the chair demanding to know the specific section of the party rule book under which the meeting had been convened. John Walsh joined in the shouting, but he was incoherent.

I took to my feet for a second time and reiterated the position that I had stated after the initial invasion. No-one showed any intention of withdrawing and the chair had no option other than to adjourn the meeting at around 8.15pm

I made a further attempt to placate Peter Gates and John Walsh in the corridor outside the meeting. Both individuals were animated and aggressive. The conversation was joined by Umar xxxxxx who was silent but clearly hostile towards me. I was not prepared to continue the conversation in his presence and I was relieved when the crowd dispersed. Several members of the EC, notably some of the female members, were distressed at the invasion and the refusal of the uninvited guests to leave, despite repeated requests from myself and from the chair.

It seems clear that this was an organised attempt to disrupt and subvert the efforts by regional office to bring all parties together with myself acting in the role of mediator.

I feel that further attempts to reconcile the political and organisational difficulties in Rushcliffe will prove futile unless the perpetrators of what is clearly a co-ordinated attempt to undermine the authority of the elected officers by repeated challenges, complaints, points of order, references to the rule book and now an organised attempt to disrupt an EC meeting, are constrained.

Action must be taken against Peter Gates, John Walsh and all of those individuals (who can be identified) who invaded the meeting and refused to leave when firmly, but politely asked to do so.

A3

The Secretary continued to take minutes during the period of disruption and I have requested sight of these at the earliest opportunity.

I took the opportunity to meet informally with the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer at the conclusion of the meeting in order to outline my expectations regarding the CLP development plan, but I realise that this will be an uphill struggle in view of the level of aggression and intimidation that they are facing.

Andy Furlong

Chair
Labour Party, East Midlands Regional Board

7 March 2016

(Notes recorded at 11.00pm upon returning home from the meeting)

Minutes from GC EC (from 8:00pm) Monday 7th March 2016-03-08

Those present: Gill Aldridge, Keir Chewings, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Lizzie Edgerton, Andy Furlong, Bill Logan, Alistair MacInnes, Liz Plant, Jean Stansfield, Nadia Whittome.

Gill Aldridge (Chair) began the second part of our meeting by introducing Andy Furlong, from the Regional Board. Nadia Whittome asked whether those outside should be invited in and Andy Furlong requested to address the Executive first. He said he wanted to give a very clear perspective on what the meeting was about and said the most important thing is that it was not a disciplinary meeting in any way, but an opportunity for the Regional Board (of which he is a representative) to get a fix on what is happening in the Rushcliffe Constituency and to satisfy itself that this is not going to implode. He said he wanted to talk about the Constituency Development Plan, particularly in the light of the County Council elections in 2017, he would touch on the organisation and governance of the Rushcliffe Party because clearly that has a bearing on the 'rash' of complaints that have been flying around since the latter part of last year. He said what he would like to do is to address the meeting as a whole with the Chair as sovereign authority. He said he would introduce himself, set the scene and express a view from Regional Board, and then (if it works for the EC) he would ask those who have raised complaints to offer some perspective. Because it is not a disciplinary hearing he said there is no 'right of reply' to this but he would like the people who feel they have a grievance to express a view. He said he would like to ask the complainants (4 formal and some informal) to express a view. He said there would be no 'cross examining' of one another but he would take some questions at the end and then would prepare a report for the Regional Director and Chair, which would be a distillation of what is going on and what the way forward is. He said he would like Lizzie Edgerton (Secretary) to minute the salient points and would appreciate it if he could have the opportunity to make sure that the minutes reflect the key points he is trying to make, and that the minutes of the meeting would provide some guidance and a touchpoint for the way we manage and run Constituency matters in the future.

Andy Furlong said this is a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rushcliffe Party, which the Region is comfortable has the authority here, it is a legitimate body, it is the Party unit that invited Regional Board to come along and participate, Chaired by Gill Aldridge. He said when the invited members come into the room we should introduce ourselves, then he would tell those present who didn't know anything about him why he is here. He said he would like to take fifteen minutes, then the other key people should speak for approximately five minutes each.

Keir Chewings asked for clarification and asked who had determined the special meeting to take place – was it Regional or had Andy Furlong been invited? Andy Furlong replied to say the Regional Party was aware of difficulties within the constituency as a result of escalating correspondence. Some of those matters can not be allowed to continue and therefore the

purpose of this meeting is for a representative of the Regional Board (the authority of the National Executive Committee) to come along to express a view on how the constituency should manage its affairs and move forward, and to give an opportunity for those who feel aggrieved to be able to express a view (through the Chair) with him in the room. He said this is not the sort of thing we want playing out in a GC, that the Executive is a legitimate body and the relationship between it and the Regional body (of which he is Chair) is going to be between the Chair of Rushcliffe and himself. He said that Peter Gates and John Walsh have been asked to join the meeting because the correspondence refers to them. Keir Chewings asked if whatever happens at the meeting can be used in any further disciplinary matters and he asked for this to be clarified before he made up his mind whether to stay. Andy Furlong said he hoped that the conversations would be conducted in an orderly and comradely manner and that there would be nothing said by any party that might lead him to feel that further formal disciplinary action against individuals (or indeed an administrative intervention against the constituency) is necessary. He said it is on the record because the Secretary is keeping the minutes and he has asked to have the right to some scrutiny of those minutes to make sure they concur with his own.

JOHN WALSH ENTERED THE ROOM and said it was ten past eight. Gill Aldridge asked him to leave the meeting as we were having a discussion about how the meeting was to be conducted.

Keir Chewings said he was concerned and had wanted clarification because he had received an email saying that the meeting was to be held but didn't know what it was about. Andy Furlong explained again that it is a special meeting where the various parties could express a view on what has happened and that following that he would write to the Chair and to Regional Office expressing his view as an elected member of the Regional Board in the East Midlands. He said it is about what has gone before but primarily should be about the Constituency Development Plan and how we move forward – ideally united.

Andy Furlong said that he would like to start off by asking people to introduce themselves, he would introduce himself and speak to the matter in hand. He said the people he felt had something to say were those mentioned in the various complaints, so he would ask Peter Gates and John Walsh to speak for five minutes each, followed by Lizzie Edgerton and Sandy Coker, because they were the people who have put something on the table. He said there would be no cross-examination but an opportunity for the aggrieved parties to express their view. He said there were three formal complaints and one informal complaint, and he said the purpose was to try to deal with it in Rushcliffe with the support of the Regional Board, rather than having to put it in the hands of the Organisational Sub-Committee and Compliance Unit.

Gill Aldridge asked if Peter Gates and John Walsh should come in at this point and Bill Logan went to invite them in. Bill Logan asked if we could admit observers to the meeting, as there were several other people in the corridor.

Gill Aldridge said that if they are not members of the Executive they are not invited, so no observers.

At this point several people (10) walked into the room. Zbyszeck Luczynski was one of the first in and asked 'Why no observers?' Gill Aldridge said because it's a meeting of the Executive and Zbyszeck replied to say that every Labour Party meeting should be open to observers. John Walsh said that there is concern about the way the CLP is operating. Gill Aldridge said this is not a GC which is open to members, but was an Executive Committee where we were discussing matters of importance to the constituency and we do not have observers at this meeting (she was interrupted here by Zbyszeck Luczynski who said 'It's about time you did') and therefore she requested that everyone except Peter Gates and John Walsh leave the room.

Andy Furlong said he would address them all and explained this was a special meeting of the Executive Committee of Rushcliffe GC but was interrupted by Zbyszeck Luczynski who said 'You are making it up, mate'. Gill Aldridge said Andy Furlong is the Chair of the Regional Board and asked that he be heard without interruption. Andy Furlong continued, reiterating that this is a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rushcliffe Party, which has been called at the suggestion of Regional Office in order to try and deal with the difficulties that have become apparent in the constituency as the result of correspondence going back to the Autumn of last year. He said that two additional individuals had been invited to participate because they are either the subject of complaints or they have themselves made complaints. He said to the Chair that, as such, if the observers that had been brought in by John Walsh and Peter Gates (at this point Zbyszeck Luczynski interrupted to say 'we are here because we want to be'). Andy Furlong continued by saying the observers had no legitimacy to be at the meeting and asked them to leave the room in the next two minutes. Gill Aldridge said again that it is not an open meeting but a meeting of the Executive Committee, which is a specific small group of people who deal with the management of the constituency plus the two people who have been invited. She said there is no role for observers at this meeting and again asked anyone who was not a member of the Executive to leave.

Rachel Scudamore said she questioned the validity of the Executive Committee. She said she is new to the Party but can read and had read the Rule Book. She said her understanding is that the Executive comprises of six officers, and subject to the general meeting approving it further officers if the GM approves. She said she had not seen any evidence of General Meeting approving any other officers and so she did not think it was a legitimate grouping. She said however if this meeting was about moving things forward then as a group of Labour Party members from the constituency it was great that they were all there and could talk about positive moves forward.

Gill Aldridge said that members of the Executive Committee were elected at the last constituency AGM and said that this was a formally constituted Executive Committee, that as such those who had come in to observe were not members of that Executive and asked them again to leave the room.

Rachel Scudamore said she contested that those on the Executive had been elected. Andy Furlong said (through the Chair) that he wished to express a

view as Chair of the Party in the Region and said that the legitimacy and sovereignty of the Executive was recognised by the Region, that he was satisfied that the EC is bona-fide and legitimate, that we had invited two participants because they have been the subject of, and have themselves made complaints. He stressed that this was not a disciplinary meeting in any way, that there would be no disciplinary action arising from the meeting but was an opportunity for those parties who feel aggrieved to be heard within the context of an Executive meeting and reinforced the Chair's view that with the exception of Peter Gates and John Walsh the other members should leave. John Walsh said it may look from afar as if it is a legitimately elected committee but that from the perspective of the members within the CLP it does not look like a legitimate committee and that this was why so many other people had bothered to turn up.

Andy Furlong said that the Regional Board of the Party within the East Midlands recognises this forum as legitimate and constitutional. Rachel Scudamore asked on what basis, as she had not seen anything in the minutes about the election of any others to the Executive Committee. Andy Furlong said the Regional Board and the authority invested in him as the Chair of that Board recognises the Executive Committee in Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party as legitimate and bona-fide and therefore in order to proceed as they had been envisaged he asked all those present with the exception of Peter Gates and John Walsh to leave so that things could proceed as the Regional Board had authorised him to do.

Rachel Scudamore said it was not up to Andy Furlong to decide. Peter Gates said he had had some communication with Finbar Bowie about the meeting, but that Finbar was the only person who had communicated with him about it. He said he had made clear to Finbar Bowie, as well as to other people in the room that he had communicated with is that what is crucial for our CLP is that we move together, move forward, unite and work together. He said we have got a group of people here who want to do that, that they are new members to the party and returning members to the Party. He said we have an opportunity to say this is the way we want to move forward. He said he did not know whether there have been any complaints made against him. He said no one has had the decency to tell him that. He said the way this constituency seems to work is 'let's fire off a load of emails, let's fire off something to Regional Office', rather than just picking up a phone and saying 'what's going on?' , rather than going to people and talking reasonably to people. He said he didn't know anything about complaints, he said he had not seen any, and therefore he was not able to talk about those complaints, nor did he want to. He said he had made a complaint to Finbar Bowie in November about the organisation of a particular meeting and that he had had a response from Finbar Bowie on December 7th that said it was to be sorted out in the CLP. Peter Gates said that for him, that was the end of it. He said he had tried to work hard to create a party in the Branch and to support the Constituency to try to move the Party forward. He said there was a choice what to do with the group of observers, who he said are so concerned it reminded him of people breaking in to meetings that Jeremy Corbyn was having, and that those who had come to observe had done so because they are concerned about the Party. He said the choice was whether to throw people out or do you try to be more united and he said if those people didn't stay, he would not stay.

Andy Furlong asked the Chair to adjourn the meeting. Gill Aldridge said we cannot conduct the meeting in this way, that the idea was that John Walsh and Peter Gates had an opportunity to speak and that having other people there was not going to make the meeting work. John Walsh said that this was no way to deal with complaints and mentioned the Rule Book.

Andy Furlong said we had come up with Regional Board what he believed to be a fair and amicable way to allow all the individuals who had a problem and who had either been complained about or who had made a complaint to air their views in a comradely manner with the Executive Committee which is sovereign with him in the room as a representative of the Regional Board and as a result of that conversation he would have written a report to Chair and to Regional Office with advice on how best to proceed with the Constituency Development Plan and other matters as we go to the current round of elections. He said it was a meeting of the Executive Committee to which two other members had been invited, that the others in the room were there uninvited. He said that the meeting had been disrupted by people who were not invited in the first place. Gill Aldridge said that the meeting could not continue with people in the room who were not entitled to be there and therefore adjourned the meeting and said she would consult with Andy Furlong and Regional Office about how to proceed.

Rachel Scudamore asked who she should complain to about the operation of the meeting. Gill Aldridge replied that as she had not been invited to the meeting she did not see how she could complain about it. Andy Furlong confirmed that the meeting had been adjourned. John Walsh commented 'well done'.

The meeting began at 8:00 pm. John Walsh and Peter Gates were invited in at 8:12 pm. The meeting was disrupted by ten people who had not been invited and was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

Report of Executive Committee Meeting 7 March 2016 St Giles Church Hall, West Bridgford

E1. The first part of the meeting (starting at 7.00pm) covered the following items:

- PCC Election Campaign
- EU Referendum Campaign
- Financial Report and Annual Budget

Matters arising from these items are included elsewhere on the agenda.

E2. The second part of the meeting (starting at 8.00pm) was to be an examination of complaints against two individual members of the Constituency Labour Party with guidance from Andy Furlong. The aim of the meeting was to consider the issues involved in the complaints and to seek to resolve these issues in order for CLP members to work together more effectively and concentrate their efforts on promoting Labour Party policies and winning elections.

The two individual members had been invited to attend the meeting. However, they had organised a large group of supporters who insisted on attending the meeting and speaking in their support. I pointed out that observers were not allowed to speak without the permission of the chair or participate in any other way. When they continued to disrupt the meeting I asked them to leave the meeting, which they refused to do. On the advice of Andy Furlong, I therefore closed the meeting.

Unfortunately, because of the disruption to the meeting the complaints have still not been resolved, and new complaints have been raised against the members who disrupted the meeting. I am unable to make any further comment at this stage.

Gill Aldridge
Chair, Rushcliffe CLP

EC-Report-2016-03

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I was in my car outside the CLP EC meeting Monday night waiting for Lizzie. I wasn't a delegate to the EC so I had no thought whatever of attending even though there were matters pertaining to me directly being discussed. At around a quarter to eight I saw in my wing mirror a phalanx of people moving down from the direction of the Stratford pub towards St Giles Hall. As the group filed passed me and went into St. Giles I recognised the people as fellow members of the Party. After a while I followed and saw the group en masse moving into the meeting room where the EC was taking place.

The door was open so I stood there with a couple of other members, and amidst jeers from people in the room I heard Andy Furlong laying out the purpose of the meeting. There had been complaints received at the Regional Labour Party Office and the people involved had been invited to give an account and sort it out. So the opportunity was clearly there for people to speak to the complaints and, if necessary, explain their actions. If there were no complaints to answer, if there had been misunderstandings then things could be cleared up easily. If the complaints were not serious and/or not valid then the central characters could simply talk to each and sort it. However, that wasn't the choice made. This bit is important and I will come back to it, in that meeting Peter Gates said repeatedly that he didn't know what the complaints were which means that nobody else, none of those who had chosen to crash that meeting like it was a Sixth Form Common Room occupation demanding free biscuits, knew what the complaints were either.

The protagonists had a choice on Monday to talk things through or do something else. The something else that Peter and John decided upon was to take the coward's way and hide. The choice they made was to turn up in a threatening, bullying (by its very nature) mob. The choice was to disrespect the Party, the choice was to disrespect any semblance of comradely behaviour, the choice was to attempt to factionalise and split the Party, not for any Political position but because some people just want to do whatever they like without thinking things through, without the democratic decision making apparatus, with heed for nothing except self-aggrandisement. The choice was to destroy the meeting.

This wasn't some noble political cause they were defending, what they were protesting in favour of was for allowing individuals, not the Party, to decide that this is the way things are going to be done and in doing so they have mistaken enthusiasm for leadership and they pose a direct threat to the basis upon which we come together with common cause – the structures and procedures that the Party has developed through time.

The line is going around that Peter went there in conciliatory mode. That is not what I heard, it is not what I saw and it is not what they heard or saw either. Furthermore, as none of them knew the nature of the complaints, why were they there? They were violating the rights of fellow members to have their legitimate grievances heard and that is all they were doing.

I would imagine there have been lots and lots of complaints going to Regional Office, mainly I suspect (in terms of sheer volume) from John and Peter however, the only complaints that have any grounding in objective reality and which were serious enough in nature were to be discussed on Monday night but they didn't want that to happen.

As I said, I heard Peter say that he didn't know what the complaints were, which I suspect is not true, and at that point I joined the meeting but then we were all asked, aside from invitees, to leave and so I left as I had no right to be there. The rest of them stayed.

This point I keep coming back to because it is important. More revealing than Peter maintaining he that he didn't know what the complaints were, more worryingly even was this. I spoke to others who had turned up with Peter and John and they told me they too didn't know what the complaints were. So, again, the little mob that formed didn't know what it was

there for. They didn't know what you were there to break-up. Once again, does it mean that in the Party people can just do whatever they like to any other member and if we don't like something we just turn-up mob handed with no clue as to why? By ignoring Party procedures we are not led into a wide vista of political opportunity and creativity, we end up with chaos, dogmatism, mob rule and it starts exactly like the way it happened on Monday night.

Their wholly uncalled for and juvenile antics of Monday night were acts of cowardice. Their efforts to intimidate the officials was an act of deepest disrespect, not just to them as individuals but to our Party, to all of us, and everyone in their cadre is culpable because they all make their own decisions. They had no reason to be there and making the decision they did to strong arm their way in was not based upon the merits of the situation because they didn't know what those merits were either way.

Peter is pushing the line that he was in conciliatory mode but everybody who was there, everybody who heard what was going on know that is not true. There was nothing noble about Monday night and they should not delude themselves that there is some great political principle they were defending, they were there in support of sordid little bits of passive-aggressive and aggressive shenanigans. They all fell for a trick, a ruse. They were there so John and Peter didn't have to account for their actions. They should all be thoroughly ashamed of themselves, not only for the misguided vulgarity of their behaviour on Monday but because of the way they have allowed themselves to be duped into doing things that are contrary not only to their own but all of our best interests.

Change to any system takes two years to properly bed down and become a reality. Try to do it outside of that truism and all efforts will fail. To change the way the Party works we have to do it in the way the Party works. We have the mechanisms in place to, through the democratic decision making process, take the Party in whatever direction we like. However, there is another agenda at play, an agenda which has nothing to do with democratic decision making, has nothing to do with the best interest of the Party and has nothing to do with political debate or principled stances. This other agenda is one that says, forget what we have inherited, ignore the functioning processes and procedures that were once used against us, we want to start from scratch, have a 'year zero' and make it all up as we go along - we're are going to ignore anything we don't like and we are just going to do whatever we think is the right thing at any given time as loosely affiliated groups of individuals, socialist libertarians.

If we choose to take this line, if we choose to ignore the opportunity that circumstance has afforded us we will have nothing but chaos, local and national personality cults and the whole thing will hit a wall. If we choose this line then we give the reactionary elements in our Party a gift and we will lose the best asset we have, The Labour Party itself.

-----Original Message-----

From: keri dutczyn [mailto:keri_dutczyn@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 03 February 2017 14:45

To: Finbar Bowie

Subject: Advice please

Hi Finbar,

Hope you are well.

Following on from my previous email, I am still trying to stop what I feel to be misogyny and uncomradely behaviour amongst some members of the West Bridgford branch of the Labour Party. As you know as a new member I would appreciate some support in this issue. Having been recently elected co chair I want to rebuild unity within the branch. It would be great to see the huge amount of talent within it working together in a positive, constructive and effective manner especially as we have such crucial, urgent work to do as a Party.

Having spoken with a few highly talented, motivated women who also share the same concerns that women are being prevented by uncomradely behaviour from volunteering and being disenfranchised. I feel it is my duty to alert you to this on their behalf. Exactly to what extent, what I believe to be controlling behaviour, is being exerted I don't know but feel we all have a responsibility to stand up to it, if and when we can, in order to prevent harm.

I believe Peter Gates is manipulating a group of people that he has collected. I have suggested other women for officer roles and have been concerned how quickly they have been dismissed in their absence by Peter Gates and others in this group. I have never seen any credible instance when any active women have been encouraged and/or supported by Peter and a close inner core of his supporters. As an example, I have an email from Peter to (.....) a very competent and motivated woman as evidence of her being discouraged by Peter from volunteering. The email is part of a thread shared amongst members of this group (all Labour Party members I think) I haven't enclosed it as I don't have permission from anyone involved to do so, so maybe you could please advise me on this.

Never having made a complaint about anyone prior to all of this. I would be grateful, if you feel that this is something you have the resources to look into or feel I need more guidance on, to then please let me know.

All the best,
Keri

Sent from my iPad

CONFIDENTIAL

Re. West Bridgford Labour Party Branch.

To: Finbar Bowie
Labour Party Regional Officer

13th February 2017

Dear Finbar,

I am writing to you, as a member of the Labour party, to ask for your help regarding difficulties I have experienced within the West Bridgford branch. My motivation for this is that we can work towards having a well-functioning, inclusive branch that will contribute to increasing support for Labour, to bring about a Labour government. I do not have personal animosity towards any individuals, however I do think that some people's behaviour needs to be investigated that may have been anti-democratic and not consistent with Labour party values. I am now concerned about some of the officers in key positions and the ongoing impact this may have on the good functioning of the branch, including my own participation.

I joined the Labour party in September 2015, so am a relatively new member. I have been a Labour party supporter for all of my voting life and always active in working towards equality and fairness, and challenging behaviour and attitudes such as bullying and misogyny. I am clear that my loyalty is to the Labour party. I recently went canvassing, for the first time, to support Liz Plant's campaign. I am keen to make a positive contribution.

I outline below some events that I have experienced. I then suggest some hypotheses about what may be happening in this situation and identify my concerns, which I would be grateful if you will address.

Events from my perspective

1. September 2015. I joined the Labour party. I received no contact or welcome from my branch, at West Bridgford.
2. February 2016, I wished to attend an event where Jeremy Corbyn was speaking in Nottingham. I contacted some officers asking if anyone was available to offer me a lift (I had not met anyone). The Branch Secretary, Peter Gates (PG), kindly offered to give me a lift to the event, which he did.
3. Spring/Summer 2016. I became a Momentum supporter due to my disappointment with the PLP's perceived undermining of the party leader. My priority remained the flourishing of the Labour party.
4. Spring/Summer 2016. I received emails from PG inviting me to attend meetings that were under the Momentum banner, including a book group's first meeting in July 2016, organised by PG and Beryl Arbery (BA). I was not aware that PG had, by this point, been suspended from the Labour party. I attended this

book group in July, and another in September and noticed certain gender dynamics in these meetings.

5. September 2016. I was not informed about or invited by PG to a 'Rushcliffe Momentum Organising committee'. When this came to light afterwards, via a woman party member, PG emailed me to apologise for unintentionally excluding me, assuring me that this would not happen again and telling me that I was a key member of the group.

6. September 2016. I was copied into email exchanges between a woman Labour party member/Momentum supporter and PG, in which PG publically disagreed with and dismissed her views. I was concerned and uncomfortable about this.

7. September 2016. Rushcliffe Momentum ceased to be active., due to conflict between some members, including PG. There has never been a West Bridgford Momentum group. So all below are clearly Labour party matters.

7. October 2016. I was invited by PG to an 'informal Momentum meeting' at a Labour party member's house. Again, I noticed gender dynamics. BA was also present at this meeting and was now Women's officer for the branch. I voiced the view that I hoped that Momentum would be a temporary organisation, which I perceived was not a welcomed comment for some. At this meeting, PG urged us all to email to a Labour party/momentum officer to contribute to an 'investigation' about 2 Labour party members in the Keyworth branch (one of whom was the woman I refer to above in the email exchange with PG). I think PG had initiated this investigation.

8. October 2016. I emailed, as a contribution to this 'investigation', to describe my positive experiences of the woman Labour party member from Keyworth branch. I was assured this would be confidential, in that my name would be kept private.

9. October 2016. I was copied into email exchanges between a woman Labour party member who wished to stand as Branch secretary and PG. I was concerned and uncomfortable that PG informed her that she would have no chance of becoming Branch secretary.

10. November 2016. BA, as Women's officer in the branch, emailed me and other women to invite to a women's meeting. In my reply to BA and all, I made some comments, which I asked to be confidential and not shared with others, that I had concerns about some of the gender dynamics in meetings I had attended and communications. I hoped that we could, together, bring about changes in this. One other woman emailed in response that she had also experienced these dynamics in meetings.

11. January, 2017, I received an email from Jake Jackson and David Morgan, Labour party members (who I have never met), with a list of names urging me to vote for in the Branch AGM. I noticed this email had the name and address of Peter Gates at the bottom. This email format was previously used in Rushcliffe Momentum communications. I was taken aback by this list of people to vote for, felt manipulated and it was also clear that I had been excluded from meetings and communications that had been happening in the background.

12. 23rd January 2017. I was included in an email from Keri Dutczyn, to a group of Labour party members, voicing her concerns about possible undemocratic

behaviour and manipulation in who was being nominated and supported for positions at the AGM that evening. I was concerned by what was being revealed. This also confirmed that I had been excluded from a group of Labour party members that had previously included me. I emailed a reply to all that I agreed that it seemed that there had been an undemocratic process behind all this. 13. January 2017. I decided to not attend the Branch AGM, as I felt disillusioned and excluded by Labour party members whom I had previously trusted and I had lost faith in the AGM process.

14. 24th January, I emailed to all of this group within Keri Dutczyn's original email asking why I had been excluded from email exchanges and meetings.

15. 24.1.17 Both PG and BA were within this email grouping. Neither replied to my query. I would have expected PG to reply as he had, in September 2015, assured me that I would not be excluded from communications and meetings again. I would have hoped that BA would have been actively concerned and responded about my exclusion, in her role as Women's officer.

16. 24.1.17 David Morgan replied to my email query that he and PG had gone through a list and had decided who would be included into Google email groups. He emailed that it will have been a mistake that I had not been included, not a conspiracy.

17. 29.1.17 Jake Jackson sent me invites to join 2 Google email groups. These are entitled 'West Bridgford Momentum' and 'West Bridgford Labour Left'. I asked him for information regarding why I had not been invited to join these groups previously, who are members of these groups and who was controlling the membership. I have not been not given this information. I have chosen to not join these Google email groups.

Hypotheses

1. I hypothesise that I have been intentionally excluded from communications and meetings by Peter Gates and his inner circle within the branch, communications that I had previously been included within. Being excluded is a form of bullying.

2. I hypothesise that I have been excluded as a woman who is seen as an independent thinker who will not be controlled and manipulated.

3. It is possible that my two confidential emails regarding i) the investigation of the woman within the Keyworth branch and ii) some gender dynamics of meetings, may have been shared and/or discussed. Of course, I do not know if that is the case or not. I have also been clear and assertive at meetings I have participated in and have been aware of that not being welcomed by all.

4. I think, for these reasons, that I may have been excluded from communications and meetings prior to the AGM to avoid me possibly being nominated for an officer position in the branch.

Concerns to be investigated:

1. From my experiences, and what I have witnessed for other women, I think there may exist misogyny within these processes. At the very least, there seem to have been attempts to disempower, silence, marginalise and exclude women such as myself.
2. I question whether it is appropriate for a suspended Labour party member to apparently be instrumental in creating and controlling a slate to influence the outcome of the Branch AGM and elected officers.
3. I am concerned that there exists a 'Labour Left' Google email group, with the membership, all Labour party members, having reportedly been decided by Peter Gates and perhaps others. I would have thought that such a named group would need the permission of the Labour party.
4. I am also concerned that there apparently exist lists of members that at least Peter Gates and David Morgan have access to, in that they used these to decide who was included in their 2 Google email groups. I am concerned about data protection.
5. I think that Google email groups, with a lack of transparency regarding membership and control are undemocratic and should not be acceptable within the Labour party.
6. I am concerned that we now, as West Bridgford branch, have people in key officer posts who have been enabled to achieve these posts through the processes outlined here. I think there has been a lack of integrity and a lack of transparency, which contaminates the whole process of the elections of officers at the January AGM. This impacts now on my confidence in the branch and its integrity, inclusivity and good functioning. This, in turn, impacts on if I wish to be actively involved in my branch, or not.

Thank you for your consideration and investigation of these matters. I will welcome talking with you, as helpful. I hope that my confidence in the Labour party can be restored and also that I can make a positive contribution.

Kind regards
Gill Taylor
membership number: L13892