



In-person Meeting: Design and text for main speech


The purpose of this meeting is to get 40-50 plus people in the room in order to inspire 30 plus to commit time to a constituency campaign. This could just be in one constituency, or if there are enough people and enthusiasm to create more than one campaign - e.g. in a town where there are two constituencies.

Standard run of the meeting

7pm official start. Let people come in and settle. Have some food/snacks and suggest people come 1 hour/30 minutes early to meet, chat and have something to eat.

As people come into the room, ask them for their name, email, telephone number and address (first three digits of their postcode): "So we can let everyone know what is happening." Have 3-4 laptops on the table by the door for people to give their details and 2-3 people there to welcome them and ask for their details.

- **7.10pm:** 2 host people jointly introduce the evening (7min) - their background - brief summary of the political situation - run of the meeting - plenty of time for questions in small groups afterwards so more time for everyone to participate
- **7.15pm:** Main two Speakers (see text below) - 20-30 minutes
- **7.45pm:** Testimony from an independent candidate or someone from their team - their background - what is happening in their locality - why standing as an independent. (10 mins)
- **7.55pm:** Ditto - ideally have 2 testimonies

- **8.05pm:** Hosts ask: “ So you have heard what has been said? We want to start a campaign in xxxx. Put your hand up if you are into giving time to support this campaign? We need about 30 people. So put your hand up!”
Estimate the number of people and then say: “The campaign is on the go!”
- **8.10pm:** Everyone asked for donations (see giving money document)
 A- Asking for donations script and details
- **8.20pm:** Two hosts get people into break out groups. They mention what to do in the go round. They ask whether people can promote bigger London meetings - and/or help set up an online meeting in the constituency? Break out into groups of 6-7, with non Assemble/speakers in each group. For 20 minutes.

Each speaker joins a group to answer questions and one Assemble person

Have a go round:

- Who you are and what do you think about what has been said? Any questions?
- Are you up for helping to organise a launch party? Here is the Zoom link and details (NEED a leaflet summary to give people)
- Are there groups/networks/people you could invite to the launch?
- **8.40pm:** Everyone comes back together. Final thanks -
- **8.45pm:** End of official meeting. People can chat afterwards or go to the pub.

Note: facilitators from the breakout groups should speak to people afterwards who are enthusiastic and seem like good team people to come to a first campaign meeting - this date and time/place/Zoom link. This should be arranged before the offline meeting.

Organisers meet to check we have got all data and any feedback.

Standard speech text:

Please update this with up to date stats - see national mobilisation coordinators - Roger and Yaz.

7.05 Introduction and context - Intro Speaker (or it can just one speaker)

Hello everyone! I'm _____, I'm part of the core team for Assemble, and I am going to go through the general situation and then _____ (The Plan speaker) will go through the plan - then we'll give you a poll to see what you think, and then we can go into break out rooms to say where you are at with what has been said and ask questions.

This project has been set up in combination with others to bring about a fundamental change in how the big decisions are made in this country. We're working with people in other countries to do the same.

There is a concrete plan you will hear about, so this is not all wise words and hot air.

But first, let's look at the general situation we find ourselves in. Things are not going well. Many people involved in the project have come from climate campaigns and we have been told that 'beyond bad' things will happen if we don't take control of how the big decisions are made. Basically, we are done for and we owe it to our kids and young people to do something that will actually make a difference.

Climate

For example

- *As I am sure you know we are now over 1.5°C of global warming. In fact, we went over 2°C for a short period in February. We will be heading over 2°C permanently within a decade or so unless there is a massive reduction in carbon emissions. At 2°C according to science papers there will be 1 billion people having to move from where they live because it is too hot. That means no world trading system - permanent depression. That means no pension, no nice holidays in the sun and all the rest of it.*
- *Greenland's ice is melting 8 times faster than it was 20 years ago. The rate of melt is doubling each decade. By later this century according to the world's leading climate scientist James Hanson we will have 5 metres of sea level rise - that means around 700 million refugees. Every coastal city will have to be evacuated.*
- *On top of that, it came out last year that the Gulf stream flow of warm water - it's called AMOC - could collapse by 2050 and this will reduce temperatures by 10-30°C in UK winters. Basically, most people will have to migrate from these islands and we will face mass starvation. Yes, it is as bad as that, because no one is stopping the fossil fuel companies literally destroying the future.*

Poverty Inequality

We have the two big parties that are going to do nothing about high levels of poverty and kids going hungry right now - more than for generations. 5 million people are in negative budgets - they spend more on basics than their income, up 50% in the last 3 years, and kids have to have breakfast and showers at school. How did it come to this? We know how, because the rich are not being taxed properly and so there is no money and nothing works properly anymore - councils going bankrupt and all the rest of it. None of the parties are going to sort this out.

Gaza

And last but not least - when we see a genocide happening in front of our eyes - 1,000,000 lives destroyed in 6 months and what do our politicians do - nothing - and continue to sell weapons to the government that is doing the killing.

So many people to be frank as you all know have had enough. And what's more we can do so much better than this. That is why we are here this evening.

I could go on and on and on - and so could you - but we all know it sucks. What we want to know is what is going to change it? -What is the best plan? -We know it's not watching Netflix and trying to forget about it 'til there's no food in the shops. We need to change everything.

So I bring in xxxxx to talk about "the plan"

The plan speech

*Okay I will say what we all sort of know - Nothing will change in time other than a **political revolution** - meaning not just what decisions (or non decisions) are made, but how they are made. We need ordinary people to make these decisions, not the politicians - a twenty-first century revolution if you like.*

*We know this **system is not going to last**. The crises both social and ecological are going to undermine the governments run by politicians. They are losing credibility and trust - 90% do not think our way of government is working - higher than ever before. 60% want a new political party or political movement - and this will get so much worse once everything comes down the line.*

*We know what that means: **fascism**. Let's be honest, when societies get really stressed strong men types come along and blame it all on minorities and we know where that leads. As we can see already, far right people are getting massive votes in Germany, Italy, France, the Netherlands and with the Reform Party here - and it will only get worse if people only have a choice between the failed politicians and these new fascist parties.*

*But we know from history that **there is another possibility**. People come together and support each and refuse to be divided. We react in solidarity - we act together - and in compassion - we don't leave people behind. These are our fundamental values - the values of the vast majority of people in this country - most people don't want fascism and violence. They want to do their bit to cope with what is coming.*

Okay, so this is all well and good but what is the actual plan here right...?

For the **past two years** now the organisers of the big social movements in this country - Extinction Rebellion, Momentum and such like, have been thinking about what we concretely need to do.

A few months ago (change this as needed) people set up **The Umbrella**. As the name suggests, it's an overall organisation to cover all the bases of what we need to see happen: climate campaigns, social campaigns, standing in elections and youth mobilisation. This will help build the alliance for a massive social movement for change in this country.

The plan is the same as has happened over and over again in history. This is a **pincer movement** between people setting up their own governmental organisations to rival the official corrupted parliaments and such like - like big permanent assemblies in cities and the capitals - combined with street movements which hold big demos, marches, occupations and such like. And then the trade unions support with strikes, and suddenly the impossible happens and everything changes.

So what are we doing tonight - how do we fit in? We are **doing the assemblies bit**. We are having a national election, probably in November. We want to enable communities to put up their own candidates. Note the wording here: Assemble is not a conventional political party. It is not sitting in a room to sort out who will stand and what the programme will be and then going out to tell everyone to vote for them. It is a revolution literally in how things are organised. The **community decides the candidate and the programme** and then the candidate serves the community.

So **how is this actually working?**

If we get enough people to go for it tonight then we have a big launch party and then start doing assemblies to pick a candidate and form a programme. So each campaign has a constituency campaign team and then teams in each ward - there are about 10 wards in a constituency. And in each ward you organise neighbour community assemblies.

You will be sent more about how to promote and **organise these assemblies** after this meeting. But basically you put on free food, have a few people, stand up to speak - then split up to discuss what the problems are - and then what needs to be done. You come up with 5-10 points most people agree are super important. Then people nominate people they know to be the candidate. All the programmes of the assemblies are brought together at a big get together husting type thing and a single programme is decided on and a single candidate chosen. This assembly model has been done hundreds of times around the world, so all we are doing is getting it into a form where it can be done in a standardised way around the country.

Now - as I'm sure you know - **lots of people and groups are thinking about putting up independent candidates**. We are going to work closely with them to ideally make sure there is just one independent who follows this bottom up way of doing things.

So the people we are working with are:

- Gaza people - the Muslim communities are up in arms about the Labour party standing by on the genocide.

- *Ex Labour people - hundreds of thousands of people have left (or been thrown out) by Starmer and are very fed up.*
- *Climate people - the campaigns have hit a brick wall and want a complete change in the political system.*
- *Small Town people - in the regions and rural areas people are over being ignored - poverty, flooding, petty politics and corruption.*

*So this is all very exciting - that people want to work together across all these areas. They may decide there is a really good candidate and so the assemblies create the programme for that person - this is happening in Camden in London where **Andrew Feinstein**, who used to work with Nelson Mandela no less, is standing against Keir Starmer. He is going to get on national news and get millions of people talking about using assemblies to put up candidates and so we could see hundreds of people stand.*

*And this is really what this is all about. If **people participate in creating their campaign and its programme they are 10 times more likely to sign up for doing stall and door knocking** and all the stuff that actually gets 1,000s of votes and even wins the election. You can see then that this is a super effective way to create mobilisation.*

*But, again, that is not the main point. Yes, it would be great if we can get 10-20 independent candidates into parliament for the first time in generations. But the **real prize here is to get an assemblies movement on the go in the UK**. The idea is that these campaigns will capture 100s of thousands of people's contact details and form the basis for a mass movement to challenge the Starmer government in 2025.*

*And so this is where the **House of the People comes in**. We need something that is not the House of Commons and we need to do it ourselves. All the people who go to these local assemblies around the country will feed into a permanent national assembly of ordinary people who will discuss what issues are going on in parliament - so when parliament decides that it cannot afford **childcare**, then the House of the People will decide - actually the British people want proper childcare and we want rich people to be taxed properly so we can afford it. Let's see how that goes.*

*So as many of you know, if you have done campaigning, it's not about talking about an idea - **seeing is believing** - you have got an electrician and a nurse coming out of the House of the People going: "Actually, this is what the British people want. We represent the British people, not those political party people in parliament."*

*And so this sets the stage for the **big showdown in spring of 2025**. We have the independents in parliament, the House of the People up and running. We've got demonstrations. They bring climate and social issues together into around 5 key agreed popular demands, created and supported by the House of the People. Plus we have a constitutional revolution where we demand that a permanent House of the People replace the hated House of Lords - which 90% of the UK population wants to get rid of. All this activity helps persuade the trade unions to come on side - and we are finally ready to make history.*

***Or maybe not!** But as we say it's better than watching Netflix. Really, **if you have a better idea** we are all ears. The point is it is a plan and lots of people are getting into it. It gives us the big picture we all want to see. It has a build up, it has a timeline, it has an end point.*

***And things are definitely taking off.** There are already about 50 radical independents standing and we have around 100 campaigns in the process of being formed. We have funding - at present around £100,000 and we plan to get this over half a million in the next month or so. There are around 10 people working full time and dozens of volunteers joining in. Again, we expect these numbers to get a lot bigger in the coming weeks. We know people are only voting Labour because there is no alternative. But when this appears they will change their vote en mass. Look at Bristol Central: Labour had a big majority, 20,000 plus, at the last election. But now the indications are that they will lose it, because there is a viable challenge from a green candidate. We can do this all round the country. There are 50 seats where support for Labour has fallen because of Gaza, climate and generally being a nasty operation!*

(Note: this paragraph needs updates each week or two with the new uptodate stats)

So let's get on with it yeah!

*The last thing on all of this is that it's being **organised by people who have a track record of getting big things on the go.** We know how to do it, because we have done it before. Except this time it is going to be really big, as you can see. It is all about **being organised and having a culture of respect and service.** We work in a team without big egos and all that and we explicitly commit to serving the millions of people in this country who are not being heard. And we plan to have a good bit of fun doing it.*

*So what's not to like? I think **that is enough for me.***

Let's hear from some people who are doing it or planning to.

(Go on to the testimony people.)