

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole

Trades Union

 **Council** 

uniting the community

**ANNUAL REPORT
2017**

www.bcptuc.org

Introduction

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Trades Union Council (BCP TUC) has continued throughout 2017 to consolidate its activities and finances in a number of areas outlined in this report. Work is still being done to recruit more branches into the organisation, ensure decent attendance at meetings and to re-establish the trades council as the hub of union activity in the area, as well as linking with other organisations in the community as a way of spreading our values and influence beyond the workplace.

Events

Throughout the year the trades council has either organised or supported a number of local events/activities:

Holocaust Memorial Day – For the past few years, members of the trades council have attended local events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The day has been observed on January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp – every year since it started in 2001 and commemorates not only the Holocaust but other genocides around the world. The 2018 event will consider the power of words: written during the Holocaust and during the subsequent genocides by perpetrators, by people who wanted to criticise perpetrator regimes, or by people who wrote to survive, or to record their experiences for the future. This year’s event will take place on Sunday 28 January, 2pm at the Bournemouth International Centre.



Workers’ Memorial Day – On 28 April 2017, the trades council laid a wreath at the war memorial in Bournemouth Lower Gardens to commemorate all those who had died at work, under the banner: “Remember the dead, fight for the living”.



Trades Council members mark WMD in 2017

General Election – The snap election on June 8 meant that many trade unionists were busy during the preceding weeks, campaigning for a Labour victory. In the four local constituencies of Bournemouth East and West, Christchurch and Poole Labour increased its vote – and Bournemouth is now regarded as having target seats. As the TUC represents unions that are both inside and outside of the Labour Party, it is unable to campaign directly, but members were able to contact young people at both Poole College and Bournemouth University – encouraging them to register to vote.

Later on in the year, members of Trade Union Labour Organisation (TULO) carried out a very successful leafleting campaign of the public in Bournemouth about the need for a pay rise for all workers above the current cap.



Trades Council members encouraging young people to register to vote

Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival – As ever, the trades council had a presence at the 2017 event in July, with different members active on stalls, in workshops and stewarding the site, as well as taking part in the colourful march. The 2018 festival will take place from 20-22 July.



Part of the Sunday march at the Tolpuddle Festival © Jess Hurd

Local trade union issues

This year the trades council has discussed and been involved in a number of local industrial issues which covered the following areas:

- In the food, drink and tobacco sector there was some merging evidence that migrant workers were leaving companies, and possibly leaving the UK.

- UNITE were pursuing a strategy on pensions to secure 6% contributions from employers into defined contribution schemes, alongside the demand for a living wage.
- It was noted that LUSH had agreed to pay the living wage to all their manufacturing/production staff in Poole (ahead of a planned campaign by UNITE).
- Local government unions were putting in a 5% pay claim as staff had suffered a 20% reduction since 2010. The local government review was ongoing and services were continuing to be shared between Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. The authorities were looking at making £27.8m cuts over three years.
- Health unions were looking at a 1% pay award.
- There was recognition that balloting for strike action in the future might require a more tactical approach given that the threshold for turnout must now be 50%, with 40% of those voting calling for action.
- There were ongoing problems with Tricuro (the local social care provider), with UNISON lodging a number of legal cases against the company (due to reach the courts around December).
- Pay bargaining generally was settling below inflation levels. Many low paid workers were beginning to see their pay increase as a result, not of trade union activity, but the minimum wage legislation.
- STPs were now being discussed with a view to merging health and adult social care budgets.
- Both Bournemouth and Poole Councils were embarking on a programme of cuts ahead of the 2019 local government reorganisation.
- Palliative Care services were under increasing pressure, with set timed visits.
- The Competition and Markets Authority was to drop its investigation into the merger of Bournemouth and Poole hospitals.
- Health unions were awaiting the announcement of the reorganisation of local services, and the move of A&E and maternity services from Poole to Bournemouth. The government had also recently announced the regionalisation of pathology services.
- There were ongoing issues in the Poole Transportation Department.
- South Western Railway were planning to introduce driver only operations on suburban and metro lines, but not yet in Dorset. The RMT was balloting members for action. Under franchise rules, any losses as a result of strike action are compensated to the company by the government. This new SWR franchise will last for seven years.

Do they like us? – Young Workers' Research Project

During 2017, the trades council spent some time discussing how to best engage with younger workers and an agreement was reached with Dan Weissmann at Bournemouth University to run a series of focus groups with students to assess their understanding of trade unions and to explore ways in which the trade union message might be promoted to young workers. Dan will present his preliminary findings at the AGM on 30 January 2018.

During the year there was also a general agreement on the need for trade unions to move away from the service provider model (e.g. cheap car insurance) and return to the benefits of collective bargaining.

In line with this, in 2018 the trades council would seek to:

- Have a presence/stall at next year's Bourne Free event
- Set a date for some voter registration activity
- Consider the possibility of radio/bus advertising – particularly aimed at younger people



Affiliations

This year, the trades council has received affiliations from the following branches:

- ASLEF Bournemouth
- CWU Bournemouth and Dorset Amalgamated Branch
- CWU Great Western Branch
- FBU Dorset Branch
- GMB Bournemouth B40 Branch
- NUJ Bournemouth & Dorset Branch
- RMT Bournemouth No 3 Branch
- RMT Dorset Rail Branch
- UNISON Bournemouth Local Government Branch
- UNISON Dorset County Local Government Branch
- UNISON Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital Branch
- UNISON Dorset Health Branch
- UNITE GPMU
- UNITE Tolpuddle and Agricultural Branch
- UNITE Dorset Composite Branch

Officers

At the AGM in January 2017, the trades council elected four officers as follows:

- President – Neil Duncan-Jordan (NUJ)
- Secretary – Gareth Drinkwater (UNISON)
- Treasurer – Steve Attwill (UNITE)
- Vice President – Pam Jeffries (UNISON)

Statement of Accounts 2017 (Unaudited)

<i>Opening Balance:</i>		
January 1st 2017		7302.45
Income:		729.75
Affiliations	729.75	
Fundraising	0	
Donations	0	
Expenditure:		463.37
AGM Buffet	32.00	
Web Hosting	32.20	
Calais Relief	100.00	
KONP (NHS Campaign)	150.00	
Workers Memorial Day	45.00	
Voter Registration	81.50	
Bank Charges	22.67	
<i>Closing Balance:</i>		
December 31st 2017		7568.83
<i>Represented as:</i>		
General Fund:	7553.10	
Dispute Fund:	15.73	
Increase in reserves 2017:	250.65	

