

Lancaster and Morecambe P.S.C. Meeting – RALLIES and DEMOS

MARCH 7th 2026

Present

Wilf, Keith, Anna, David, Julie, Paul, Eugene, Audrey, Khaldoun, Sionadh, Susie, Lydia, Heather, Sally

(Apologies if anyone has been missed off we didn't do an attendance sheet)

Wednesday at the RLI

Keith felt the numbers were dropping off and some people struggled to get to these - however most felt that we still had a good presence and it doesn't require lots of people - it is ok for people to participate as and when they can (we can't do everything). Agreed to continue with Wednesdays

Julie agreed to take responsibility for fetching placards from Single Step

The yellow placards to be kept at Audrey and Eugene's (and P.A. when the Trades Council replaces their old one)

Keith suggested organising demonstrations outside Cat Smith's surgery on a Friday between 3 and 5pm. He and David will look into organising this.

Saturday rallies

There has been a suggestion that our weekly rally in Market Square should be reduced to fortnightly. But no one at the meeting thought that this was a good idea - agreed that they should continue weekly

Future rallies.

David suggested that in the event of nothing being organised we should have a fall back position of banners/flags/placards, Palestinian music and ad hoc speakers (it was pointed out that in the early days this was pretty much what happened with Heather being one of the main motivators)

Heather suggested a rally around 'Land Day' on 30th March which would be our 28th March rally. Pete has offered to do music/songs on 28th so would need to liaise with him to see if this could be combined

28th is also the big Together Alliance March in London so a few of us will be absent (Pete has also offered to do May 23rd and June 30th)

It is possible to find out when the plinth has been booked on the LCC website and know that both 21st March and 4th April are booked.

Our alternative site at the back of the museum is problematic as local businesses have said that it blocks the way to their shops/cafes - unfortunately we were unable to think of an alternative - so perhaps we organise different actions when plinth isn't available
E.g. a BDS action - groups go round to leaflet local shops

Apparently PSC has called for action outside supermarkets on 21st March so we could organise groups to be outside Sainsburys/Aldi/TKMax... with leaflets and information - agreed it's a good way to engage people

Need leaflets will full lists of goods/cafes/services to be boycotted National PSC has these - can we order some?

Heather thought rather than trying to cover everything it is better to concentrate on one or two, as was done with the campaign to boycott Puma. She also suggested a 'boycat app' (?) which has a QR code listing goods to be boycotted.

Asked the BDS sub group members who were at the meeting to discuss this with the rest of the group (though Sally reported that Stephen, from the BDS group had said that they weren't ready to do anything too soon).

4th April - agreed another 'drive past' holding up placards along the one way system. Starting at the RLI and going down as far as we could towards the Town Hall

14th March - PSC is a member of the Together Alliance and is organising a feeder march into the demo on 28th. We agreed to get speakers from all the organisations who are part of T.A. Audrey to put up a list of these which include the NEU (National Education Union), Friends of the Earth, SUTR(stand up to racism), Amnesty

Suggestions for future meetings

Post-it notes for people to write thoughts/feelings plus a board to stick them on

Regular table with cakes for sale along with badges and other 'merch', information leaflets and a collection box for MAP and the local group

Make more links with students, ask them what they would like to do, maybe they could organise one of the market square rallies?

Wilf was concerned about what information to give children. Is there literature for children, can we do a leaflet ? Wilf suggested PSC send a letter to schools requesting to do an information session. Eugene warned that it was unlikely that many heads would agree to it but this shouldn't stop us doing it

Organise arts and crafts for children and families on the plinth. Ask Rebecca who did butterflies for Gaza, if she can help.

Write to councillors to adopt a BDS policy - (LCC have in the past but were defeated by a legal challenge) But should still do it as the process provides publicity

Organise more events celebrating Palestinian culture.

Finally - there is nothing wrong with repeat rallies -

particularly Sionadh's story/drama (Sionadh is willing to do it)

And 'Read out their names' - very effective and involves people who don't usually speak

N.B.

I'm aware that some of these suggestions were outside the remit of this meeting - so need to be discussed further via our exec and in a larger meeting

We didn't have time to identify specific people to take responsibility for various practical tasks