

Region 8 news

Shared Surfaces

Your Union, Community, has joined Guide Dogs for the Blind in opposing the introduction of Shared Surfaces on the streets of London and towns in the South East.

Shared Surfaces eliminate the curb and create a single pedestrian and vehicle surface which requires frequent eye contact to indicate intentions.

The 'Say NO to Shared Streets' campaign has applied for a judicial review of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's proposed development on Exhibition Road.

This development would effectively make one of the most popular tourist areas in London a no-go zone for the Blind and visually impaired people.

A date has not yet been fixed, but the review take place on the first free court date after April 19 2010.

We will, of course, keep you all updated on how the case progresses.

RNIB taking the wrong action for blind people

Recently merged with the RNIB, Action for Blind People has decided to close its supported employment factory in Southwark. The factory employs 34 blind or visually disabled Community members who will now be returned to the cycle of unemployment which Action for Blind People is pledged to break.

Community is concerned that this decision will have far-reaching implications for frontline services and has raised these issues with both Action for Blind People and the RNIB. Community estimates that the cost of running the Southwark factory is less than 1% of the RNIB's annual turnover.

Community will continue to protest this decision with Action for Blind People and the RNIB. Members wishing to send messages of support can email editor@community-tu.org



Meet your officials

Community is proud to introduce Ryan Slaughter, Rachel Hanson and Lee Davies as your union officials for Region 8. Ryan and Rachel are both graduates of the TUC Organising Academy while Lee is a recent convert to the union movement.

Ryan and Rachel have been with Community for nearly 18 months as part of the Organising Academy placement and have recently been taken on as permanent staff. Lee

Davies is your new local campaign administrator. Lee's goal is to ensure that the lines of communication between head office and the members are open. Lee will make sure that members can fully utilise the benefits, support and training opportunities that your union provides. Lee is 43 years old, a Londoner hailing from Stoke Newington (but now living in Bromley), a lifelong Arsenal fan, married with two children.

Ryan, Rachel and Lee are trained to support the work of our branch officials as well as deal with individual issues when necessary.