

National Education Union
The NEU Office
Chatsworth Hall
Chesterfield Road
Matlock
DE4 3FW



SOUTHERN DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT

Secretary's Report – 02/02/2013

Secretary–Chris Baldwin | 07498 446 108 | christopher.baldwin@neu.org.uk

Treasurer–Daniel Bracken-Neale | 07498 446 146 | daniel.bracken-neale@neu.org.uk

www.neuderbyshire.org.uk

@NEUDerbyshire

Introduction: -

The National Education Union (NEU) recently held industrial actions across the country to raise awareness of issues surrounding pay and conditions faced by the profession. The strikes were a manifestation of widespread solidarity among union members and demonstrated the strength of the NEU in advocating for the rights of its members. In this report, I will celebrate the recent strike action, discuss the importance of casework, and touch upon the issues associated with communication within the union. We will also highlight the importance of building strong local democratic structures for equalities, inclusion, learning, health and safety, and representation.

Picketing and Rallies: -

The recent strike action saw teachers and support staff from various schools come together to picket outside their workplaces and hold rallies in major cities. The picketing and rallies were an effective way for the NEU to raise awareness of the issues faced by teachers and support staff, and to demonstrate the strength of the union. The rallies were also an opportunity for members to come together and show their solidarity, as well as to share their experiences and challenges. Feb 1st was a deeply historic day for our union.

Widespread Solidarity:

The recent strike action saw widespread solidarity among union members, as well as support from other unions, community groups, and members of the public. The solidarity demonstrated the strength of the NEU in advocating for the rights of its members and showed that teachers and support staff are not alone in their struggles. The strikes also highlighted the importance of the NEU in representing its members and ensuring that their voices are heard.

How can we build on this for March 1st?

[@neuderbyshire](#)

www.neuderbyshire.org.uk

Casework:

Derbyshire NEU is committed to providing high-quality casework to its members, and this is an important aspect of the union's work. As well as all the current industrial activity, our casework is essential in representing members, and in helping them to resolve workplace issues individually and collectively. It is also important in developing union structures within workplaces, as it helps to build good relationships with schools and members. Casework is a crucial aspect of our work and is essential in ensuring that members' rights are protected and that their voices are heard.

Communications:

Comms is an essential aspect of union work. NEU Derbyshire uses various methods of communication, including its website, social media, WhatsApp, and email, to reach out to its members. However, it is important to strike a balance between the amount of communication and the level of response received. Too much communication can be overwhelming and can lead to members feeling bombarded and therefore become disengaged. On the other hand, too little communication can result in members feeling disinformed and disconnected. It is important for us to strike a balance that works for our members and ensures that they are engaged and informed. Do we have the balance right? Could there be improvements?

Building Strong Local Democratic Structures:

We recognise the importance of building strong local democratic structures for equalities, inclusion, learning, health and safety, and general representation. Schools with reps perform significantly higher in meeting ballot thresholds and having more informed memberships, as they can engage with members and represent their interests effectively. The NEU is committed to developing good relationships with schools and members, and to building strong, democratic structures that are representative of the diverse needs and experiences of its members.

Feedback

We always wish to explore opportunities for growth and improvement and develop strategies to better serve our members. Please let us know how we might better refine our operations, improve communications, and develop new ideas and initiatives to support our members.

How do we maintain and improve on current levels of engagement?

Should we/could we do anything differently?

[@neuderbyshire](#)

www.neuderbyshire.org.uk