

Unite had already taken steps to ensure its own members adhere to the terms of the injunction in circumstances in which there is an event planned by a third party organisation. We attach with this letter guidance Unite is issuing to its own representatives about the need to adhere to the terms of the injunction order notwithstanding the events planned by a third party organisation. We draw particular attention to the second paragraph of this Guidance:

*To be clear the events organised by Strike Map are entirely independent of Unite. Whilst we appreciate that third parties like Strike Map are rightly outraged at BCC's treatment of workers, the decision by Strike Map to hold these protests is not one endorsed by Unite.*

Unite has checked its West Midlands Facebook page and it can find no evidence the event is being promoted there. Please provide by return your evidence for suggesting that this is the case.

We have raised with you previously the fact we understand that workers engaged by BCC who are not currently on strike are being threatened with dismissal if they stop to engage with workers on the picket line. You have denied this was the case. However we have been informed four agency workers at Perry Barr have just had their contracts terminated for being in a vehicle that stopped at a picket line. This runs entirely contrary to what you have repeatedly assured us was not happening in previous correspondence. If your client continues to insist this is not the stance being adopted can you please confirm why those four individuals had their contracts terminated.

We note you intend to make a contempt application by the end of this week. We implore you not to do this at the current time. There is extremely important collective consultation taking place in regard to the structure of refuse services in Birmingham. It would be entirely counter-productive to have proceedings of this nature running in parallel to that process. All that your client will succeed in doing by taking further legal action is to make the industrial relations position even worse than it is now. This cannot possibly be in the interests of any party involved in this dispute or in the interests of the citizens of Birmingham. We have given you contact details of individuals within Unite who your client can contact in the event that incidents occur in and around the depot. We would ask that your client uses those mechanisms to resolve any issues that arise rather than pursuing further legal proceedings. We are told by our client that no attempts at all are being made to do that. You can see by the guidance Unite has issued in advance of the events planned for tomorrow that it takes its obligations in regard to the injunction order currently in place very seriously. In light of that we would urge your client to not to serve contempt proceedings.

Finally, we confirm we are instructed to accept service of contempt proceedings but we very much hope that these will not be served upon us at the current time and that discussions aimed at resolving the dispute and around the collective consultation process can be prioritised.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Todd

**Neil Todd**





# Morning Star



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Features / 30 January 2026

## Megapicket: the third dimension is union power

HENRY FOWLER and ROB POOLE explain the significance of today's Megapicket

**ZACK POLANSKI**  
GREEN PARTY

**MEGAPICKET 3-D**

**CAROLINE HAYHURST**  
UNISON  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
PHLEBOTOMIST

**MEGAPICKET 3-D**

SUPPORTED BY: ACORN Birmingham, ASLEF, AEP, BFAWU, Birmingham TUC, BISG, CWU, Equity, FBU, GFTU, Green Party, Coventry TUC, Oxford TUC, Manchester TUC, NASUWT, NEU, NHS Workers Say No!, NSSN, Peace and Justice Project, PCU, PCS, RMT, RCPDO, Troublemakers at work, UNISON Greater Manchester Transport Branch, UNISON Heserton Hospital Branch, We Demand Change Wolverhampton TUC, Your Party

SUPPORTED BY: ACORN Birmingham, ASLEF, AEP, BFAWU, Birmingham TUC, BISG, CWU, Equity, FBU, GFTU, Green Party, Manchester TUC, NASUWT, NEU, NHS Workers Say No!, NSSN, Peace and Justice Project, PCU, PCS, RMT, RCPDO, Troublemakers at work, UNISON Greater Manchester Transport Branch, UNISON Heserton Hospital Branch, We Demand Change Wolverhampton TUC, Your Party

**M** Posters: Strike Map



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**M**ASS picketing and the rise of the “Megapicket” have been defining features of 2025 for Strike Map and the wider labour movement.

After years of anti-union laws restricting secondary picketing and solidarity action — and the resulting erosion of union-to-union solidarity — bringing our movement together around key disputes has been central to Strike Map’s work.

Rebuilding that collective strength has never been more urgent.

This focus is not new. Through our Strike Clubs, we have helped build local organisations capable of hosting large-scale fundraising gigs and events, generating serious resources for workers on strike.

Beyond these events, our Join a Union Beer collaboration with Brighton craft brewery BRZN brought together activists and trade unionists to support key disputes, including the Unison Barnet mental health workers.

These moments of shared action matter: they turn abstract solidarity into something tangible.

Last year, we placed renewed emphasis on supporting major disputes across the movement.

Birmingham has become a focal point for this support. Two Megapickets, on May 9 and July 25, escalated action and successfully shut sites when Unite’s injunction prevented workers from doing so themselves.

Bringing together growing numbers of unions to sponsor these mass pickets, speak at them, and promote the dispute within their own structures has been critical to rebuilding a culture of solidarity.

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) has set a powerful example for the movement — inviting strikers from across the country to speak about their disputes and raising thousands of pounds to keep workers on the picket line.

This work has not been limited to Birmingham. Through our support for national affiliate Aslef in Hull, we demonstrated the power of cross-union unity.

Our letter to Hull Trains management, delivered on the day of the demonstration at Hull station, was signed by 30 national trade unions. It sent a clear message to bad employers: you are not just taking on a union — you are taking on a movement.

Since launching in 2020, Strike Map's core aims have been to document action, build solidarity, and show workers the everyday struggles taking place across the country.

Taking these aims from the digital space into the physical world has been one of the most rewarding aspects of our work.

We continue to support the striking Gloucestershire phlebotomists — helping build their rally last year, launching an NHS workers' statement of support, running a pin badge fundraiser, and promoting their dispute across the health sector and the wider movement.

Their strike is now the longest action by directly employed NHS staff in history.

These long, difficult disputes are the direct product of anti-union laws: restrictive ballot thresholds, mandates expiring after six months, and a legal framework that consistently tilts power toward employers.

While the current government has pledged to change some of these laws — creating better conditions for organising and growth — we know that our ambitions cannot be confined to changes in employment legislation alone.

Power is built through collective action and the willingness of workers and their supporters to act directly.

As Arthur Scargill famously said: “What you need is not marches, demonstrations, rallies or wide associations — all of them are important. What you need is direct action. The sooner people understand that, the sooner we'll begin to change things.”

That means going beyond Megapickets and publicly organised events. It means embracing the kind of direct action we have seen developing in Birmingham over recent weeks, led by activists supporting striking workers and causing daily disruption at key sites.

Strike Map is growing, and we are beginning to clearly define our role in supporting both official and unofficial union action — building power and showing workers that being active in a union matters. This has recently been recognised by Unite the Union and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), who have become our latest national affiliates. We aim to build on this in the coming year, encouraging national unions, local branches, and trades councils to deepen their support.

We hope today's Megapicket will be the biggest yet, and certainly the broadest—bringing together national trade unions, political parties, and, for the first time, politicians from Your Party, the Green Party, and the Labour Party.

This unity highlights the growing isolation of Birmingham Labour Council and its commissioners, and underlines the need for the Prime Minister to intervene and resolve this dispute.

We hope people take the lessons from today back to their own local struggles — particularly the escalation of direct action as a key tactic for winning disputes.

We must disrupt production. We must build effective picket lines. We must hit profits.

Our movement will not be rebuilt through recruitment leaflets or giveaway trolley coins. It will be rebuilt through industrial power.

Every worker, union, union leader, and political leader who takes part today stands on the right side of history — something workers will not forget.

Today, we are clear: the third dimension is union power.

***Henry Fowler and Rob Poole are co-founders of Strike Map.***



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Anniversary Appeal**

**Henry Fowler and Robert Poole**

# Morning Star

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## Justice For Refuse Workers & Cleansers's post



Justice For Refuse Workers & Cleansers

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A good morning and happy new year for all the gang in Birmingham; this week marked a year on strike for the Brum dust and today a couple of depots were apparently prevented from operating by a plucky group of activists who are unhappy with the actions of the Labour Council there.

Get stuck right in folks.

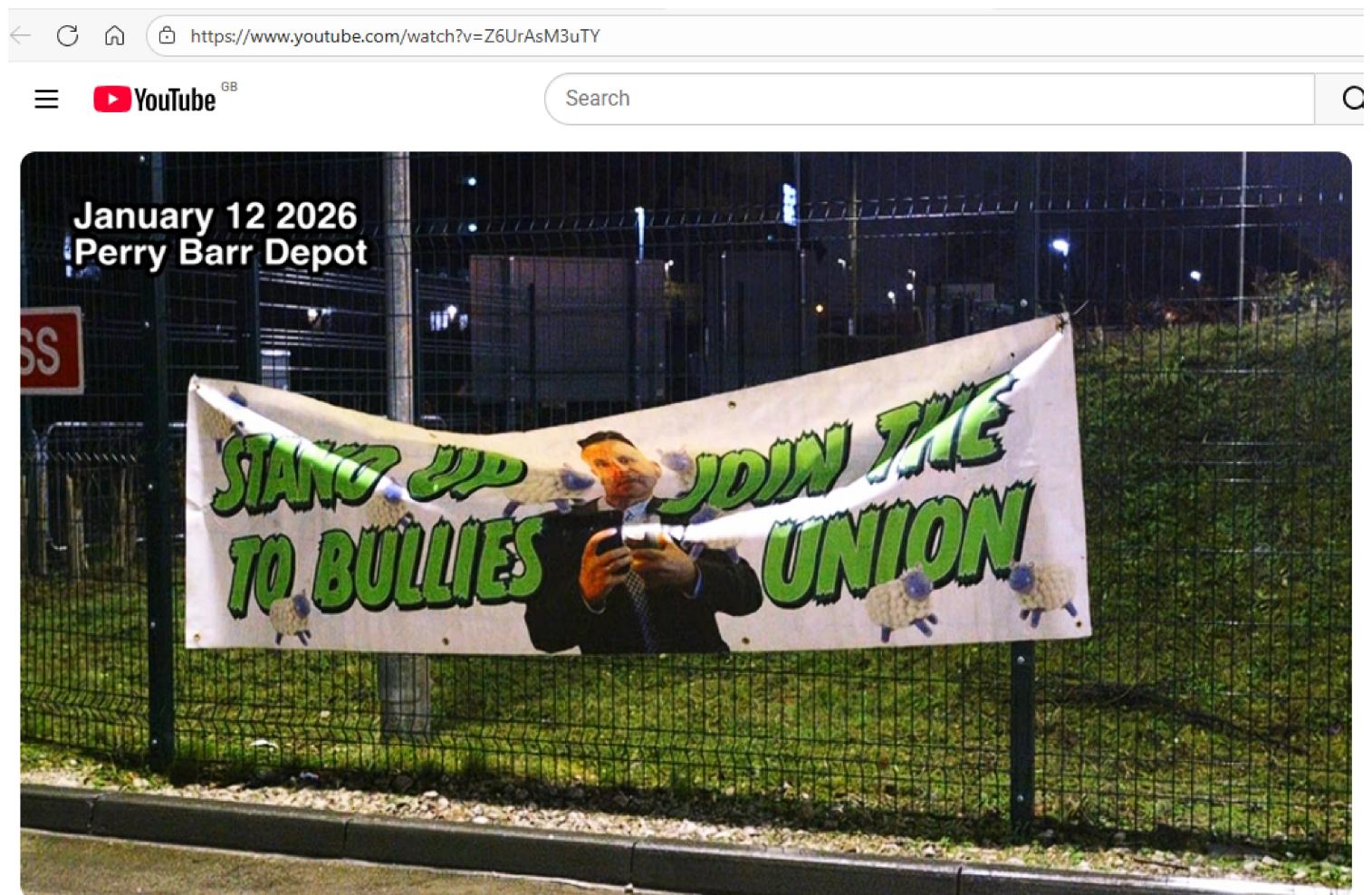


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## Birmingham binworkers' strike: Council getting desperate as supporters step up direct action

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The Birmingham binworkers' strike has now been going on for a year - and Birmingham City Council don't care. They haven't even bothered to turn up to negotiations for six months, while disgracefully stopping the binworkers and their union, UNITE from picketing their workplaces with an injunction.  
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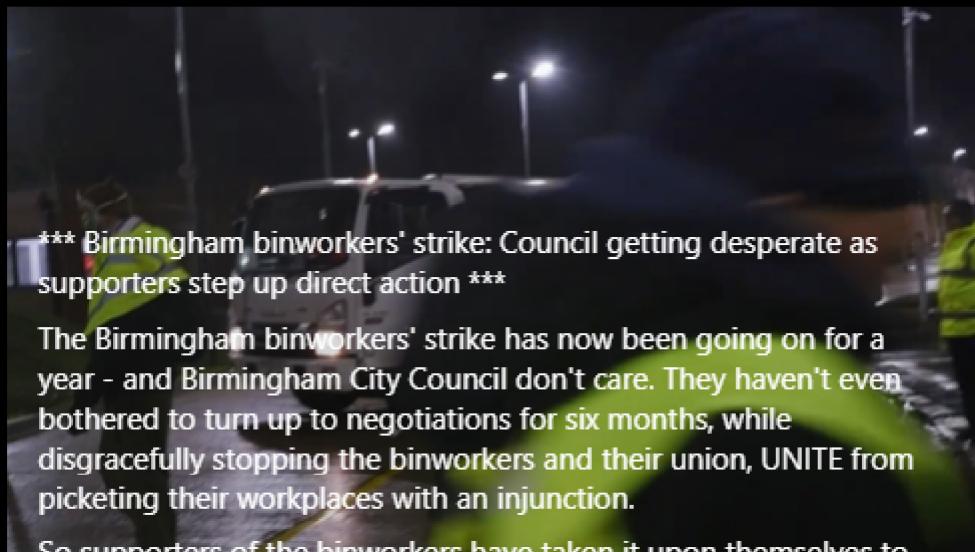
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**\*\*\* Birmingham binworkers' strike: Council getting desperate as supporters step up direct action \*\*\***

The Birmingham binworkers' strike has now been going on for a year - and Birmingham City Council don't care. They haven't even bothered to turn up to negotiations for six months, while disgracefully stopping the binworkers and their union, UNITE from picketing their workplaces with an injunction.

So supporters of the binworkers have taken it upon themselves to take direct action and shut down depots instead - and these actions are increasing week by week, leaving the service in complete chaos and the council increasingly desperate as their popularity nosedives.

This video shows how you can shut down a depot, with footage from one of the solidarity pickets on January 12. So now it's over to you. UNITE is barred from organising these actions, but the rest of us can; so why not turn up at a depot with your mates one morning and do a slow walk yourself?

It would be massively appreciated by workers who still have the threat of an 8K a year pay cut hanging over their heads - and it could really help in forcing the council to resolve this dispute once and for all - for the workers, and for the people of Birmingham. See less



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## ◀ Birmingham Socialist Party ▶

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Birmingham Socialist Party

26 Nov 2025 ·

...

Yesterday, Birmingham Socialist Party, Socialist Students, and other community activists conducted independent direct action to block bin wagons in support of the striking workers. Our Labour council under a Labour government are using Tory anti-trade union laws to prevent the striking workers from effectively picketing themselves - that's why activists have taken action into their own hands.

The betrayal of the Labour government against the working class shows the urgent need for independent working class political representation. That's why we in the Socialist Party support Your Party. However, so far, Your Party is not meeting it's full potential. We need Your Party to be a fighting working class organisation. That means being rooted in the trade unions, allowing for affiliation and collective representation.

If you agree, join the Socialist Party to be part of the force fighting for that to happen!

Help send a message to Birmingham City Council that Birmingham residents support the striking bin workers. Join striking workers, Socialist Party members, and other activists at the Smithfield depot in Digbeth (Pershore/Sherlock Street, B5 6HX). THIS Monday (Dec 1st) from 8:30am. And get in touch to hear how you can help support the strike.



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## ◀ Birmingham Socialist Party ▶

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## ◀ Birmingham Socialist Party ▶

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**Birmingham Socialist Party at Tyseley.** ...

27 Nov 2025 ·

More pictures from the direct action on Tuesday in which community activists protested in front of the big wagons in support of the striking bin workers.

Bin workers in Birmingham have been on all-out strike since March, fighting the council's proposed deletion of the critical health and safety role, forcing workers in the role to take a wage cut of up to £8000 a year.

Meanwhile, the commissioners introduced by the Tories to help the council implement cuts are making over £1000 a day. Kier Starmer could have kicked these commissioners out on day one as Prime Minister but chose not to.

Now, even the agency staff who were being used to undermine the strike have voted to go on strike due to bullying and harassment. The agency staff's strike officially begins this Monday (Dec 1st).

Join Socialist Party members, trade unionists, and other Birmingham residents in showing solidarity with all striking bin workers.

Join the rally:

📍 Smithfield Depot in Digbeth (Pershore/Sherlock Street, B5 6HX).

📅 THIS Monday (Dec 1st)

🕒 From 8:30am.

From there we'll be marching to the Council House to



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