
Post-election debrief and social

This is a guide for how to organise and run your own post election meet-up, including some time to reflect and also to socialise.

Aims:

- Welcoming those who got involved for the first time during the election into the movement and maintaining their involvement.
- Building morale for everyone who has been involved in the campaign.
- Beginning the process of learning what happened during the campaign and over the last four years and working out what happens next.

Tips for the meeting:

- Try to hold the meeting before Christmas.
- Hold the meeting for 90 minutes followed by a social. If people don't want to come to a meeting they can just come to the social.
- Provide food if possible, or encourage people to bring a contribution of food to the meeting.

Who is the meeting for?

- The meeting is for anyone who has been involved in the election campaign. It can be formed around 'Let's go' whatsapp groups, groups of friends who went canvassing together, Constituency Labour Parties, Momentum local groups or Transformed groups.

- The guide below is designed for a meeting with 20 or more people attending. However, if you want to do this as a smaller group then that would be great too - just change the sizes of the suggested breakout groups in the plan below or do more whole group discussions.

Facilitators notes:

- Arrange for one attendee to write up notes of what is said in the whole group discussions + 1 person in each of the small breakout groups. Email these notes to organise@peoplesmomentum.com after as Momentum are going to publish a write up.

Time	Facilitator notes and suggested scripts	Materials
00:00 - 00:05	<p>Informal welcome</p> <p>As people arrive, it's important to make sure they feel welcome, particularly for those who have come on their own. As the host, take responsibility for welcoming people and introducing them to someone else in the room.</p> <p>Begin 5 minutes after the official start of your meeting.</p>	Tea, coffee & snacks
00:05 - 00:15	<p>Introduction and icebreaker: How are we feeling?</p> <p><i>"Hello everyone, thank you for coming, my name is _____. We're here because we all worked hard for Labour in the election campaign and over the last four years, for the ideas and principles of a better, more equal society. Each of us has a story to tell about what happened, and cares about what happens next.</i></p> <p><i>I'm going to run through the agenda in a moment, but for now could everyone turn to someone else - ideally someone you didn't come with - introduce yourselves and share how you're feeling now. You could start by sharing where you were when the election results came through and how you've felt since then. You'll have a few minutes each and I'll let you know when you need to swap over. Remember your partner's name - you'll be asked to share it with the group!"</i></p> <p>Give people a 3 minute warning half way through, asking them to swap around.</p>	

	<p>Ask people to shout out the main feeling in the room - just 1-2 words. Write them up on a piece of paper. When people shout them out, ask: does anyone else feel like that?</p>	
00:15 - 00:20	<p>Introductions and overview of the meeting</p> <p><i>“It sounds like a lot of us are feeling very similar things. Many of us poured our blood, sweat and tears into this election campaign and the results came as a shock. The aim of this meeting is to take time to process some of that, to make sure we also celebrate the achievements we have made, and to begin to work out a way forward together.</i></p> <p><i>“Here is the plan for the meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>We’ll talk about what has happened during this campaign and over the last four years - what went well and what didn’t</i> ● <i>We will also start talking about what needs to happen next. However, it will take time for us all to process what has happened and work out a collective strategy for what comes next - today will just be the start of that process</i> ● <i>Finally, we will make a plan to come back together in January for a longer meeting in which we can develop a strategy for the coming months and years”</i> 	<p>Have the agenda for the meeting written up on a big piece of paper if possible</p>
00:20 - 00:30	<p>What went well? Small group discussions</p> <p><i>“Let’s start by identifying what went well, and what we can learn from that. Please get into groups of 4-5 people, and in your groups talk about things that went well during the election campaign and/or over the last four years. Please make sure everyone has a chance to speak and for now focus on what went well, we’re going to get into what went wrong afterwards.”</i></p>	
00:30 - 00:50	<p>What went wrong? Small group discussion</p> <p>After 10 minutes, bring the attention back to you. If you can’t do this with your voice, try the “teacher’s clap” (“if you can hear me clap once” then CLAP, “if you can hear me clap twice” then CLAP CLAP etc).</p>	

	<p><i>“While there is a lot to be proud of we clearly didn’t win the recent election. Now, we’ll take some time to think about what went wrong in the campaign and over the last four years.</i></p> <p><i>There isn’t one factor alone that caused this and we need to think back over the recent campaign and the last four years to work out where things didn’t go right and how we can win again in the future.</i></p> <p><i>Many people have strong feelings about this topic, particularly around issues like Labour’s Brexit stance. The aim of these conversations is not to come to one final agreed position, but to share ideas and thoughts. While we should not hold back from serious debate and self-criticism as a movement, please remember to listen and treat each other with respect and compassion.”</i></p>	
<p>00:50 - 00:70</p>	<p>Whole-group discussion - What went well / what went wrong?</p> <p>After 20 minutes, bring the attention back to you. If you can’t do this with your voice, try the “teacher’s clap” (“if you can hear me clap once” then CLAP, “if you can hear me clap twice” then CLAP CLAP etc).</p> <p><i>“We are now going to discuss this as a whole group. If you have particular points you want to feedback from your group discussions please go ahead, or please contribute other points too.”</i></p> <p>Work around the room until most people have had a chance to speak and big issues are covered. Try to make sure that everyone has a chance to speak. If necessary extend this discussion to 30 minutes.</p>	
<p>00:70 - 00:90</p>	<p>Where do we go from here?</p> <p><i>“With the election over, we need to figure out how we can keep the energy and passion of the thousands of people who got involved and campaigned for Labour going in the long term. We need to keep fighting to transform our society in every way we can.</i></p> <p><i>Can you please take two minutes by yourself to think about what you think should happen next.</i></p>	

	<p><i>We want to find out what we can do ourselves here and now and also as a broader organisation across the country to keep this movement going and build power in our communities so that we can resist the Tories and so that next time, we will win.”</i></p> <p>Give people 2-3 minutes to think about what they want to say.</p> <p>After that, bring attention back to you. <i>“We are now going to go around each person - could you say one thing that you think we need to do. Then I’ll ask the next person what they think.”</i></p> <p>Work around the room until everyone has had a chance to say something.</p> <p><i>“There are loads of really good thoughts here that we need to come back to. We are planning to have another meeting in January to plan a serious strategy for how we can put this into action.</i></p> <p><i>In the meantime, are there any specific shout-outs for actions going on in the next couple of weeks that people want to mention? (e.g. a march, volunteering at a foodbank, supporting a strike)”</i></p>	
<p>00:90 - 00:95</p>	<p>Wrap-up and close <i>“Thank you so much for coming today. I know it’s been quite a short meeting for the amount we need to think about, but I think it’s been really useful to start having these conversations together.</i></p> <p><i>Before we all leave tonight, I want everyone to save my number and send me a text message so I can add you to a whatsapp group with everyone here tonight, so we can share information on upcoming events, and begin to coordinate some of the important ideas that have come out of tonight’s meeting. My number is _____ send me a text message and I will add you to the whatsapp group.</i></p> <p><i>We are going to organise a meeting for January - if you have thoughts about how to run that, or feedback about this meeting then please get in touch to feed in.</i></p> <p><i>In the meantime, I think there are some really important questions we can all be thinking about:</i></p>	<p>Write your number up on the wall</p>

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Who is going to be impacted really badly by 5 years of a Boris Johnson government? Who are important groups locally to reach out to and offer solidarity?</i>- <i>What concrete things do we need to do to win future elections? Find out more about what happened during the campaign, by talking to other people, reflecting on the conversations you had on the doorstep and looking at the election data.</i>- <i>What do we need to do next to build the strength of our movement?</i> | |
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One final thing - it is really important that everyone reaches out to people who were out campaigning with them but aren't here tonight. Is everyone up for speaking to at least two people you met out campaigning?"