



## **Momentum Bedford**

**Defend Democracy  
We are the 59.5%**

**Silver Street Bedford, Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 pm**

Rally and demonstration in support of the democratically elected leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn.

Momentum Bedford and County is the local group, affiliated to the national Momentum group which developed in the wake of the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party in September 2015. In the light of the attack on Corbyn's leadership Momentum Bedford is organising a rally in Bedford on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Why are so many people prepared take such action**

Despite Corbyn's being put on the ballot paper as a candidate who offered a "balance of views" he won overwhelmingly against all other candidates, taking 59.5% of the vote. This in an election open to all party members and those who had signed up as £3 supporters, both changes made whilst Ed Milliband was leader.

People of all ages, ethnicities and political experience have been joining the Labour Party in their thousands since Corbyn was elected and what motivates them is the prospect of engaging in the political process rather than voting every five years and being ignored the rest of the time.

Yet despite Corbyn's mandate from the membership of the party it has been clear since his election that many in the Parliamentary Party, particularly those associated with the governments of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, were not prepared to accept his leadership and evidence has emerged since the carefully staged resignations of members of the Shadow Cabinet that the coup which has taken place had been planned for at least 6 months and that it is orchestrated by Portland Group, a PR company closely associated with Tony Blair and run by his associates.

Ordinary members of the Labour Party are angry at the attack on the party's procedures and, especially, the attack on the democracy in the party.

At the most recent meeting of Momentum Bedford, organised to plan our part in the campaign to ensure Corbyn remains in post many more people turned up than usual, included several who had joined the Labour Party in the last week to register their anger at the behaviour of the PLP. All present, many new to politics were angry at the way in which the wishes of the membership are being pushed to one side to enable MPs to run the party as if it is theirs and not the members who pay their dues, do the work that gets councillors and MPs elected and generally undertake tasks to ensure that Labour Party message is promoted in communities and with individuals.

The meeting unanimously agreed to hold a rally in Bedford so that the public sees the level of support there is for Corbyn, something wilfully unreported in the media. The meeting also agreed to a number of other actions to ensure that the level of support for Corbyn is registered within the Labour Party itself.