

Time commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished – 8:37 pm

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 7 APRIL 2005

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Burgess - in the Chair
Councillors Gupta, Khan, Roberts, Richards and Willitts

Representing Communities

Ferid Kevric – Bosnian Community
Nezrine Hudson - Caribbean Community
Zigashane Zigy – Congolese Community
Mohan Manku - Indian Community
Balbir Sandhu – Indian Community
Fares Abdollah – Iraqi - Kurdish Community
Nasreen Iqbal - Pakistani Community
Shokat Lal – Pakistani Community
Mohammed Sharief – Pakistani Community
Kamal Amier - Somalian Community

Community Advisors

Shirley Howard - Caribbean Community
Jangir Khan – Pakistani Community
Abas Salihi – Iraqi - Kurdish Community
Jarnail Singh Birring – Indian Community

Bhagat Shanker - Indian Community
Gurdev Singh Dhillon - Derby REC
Tony Walsh – Derby REC

Council Advisors

Sue Glithero - Director of Policy
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
Carol Mee – Public Relations Officer
Sarah Davis – Social Services
John Brown – Head of Sport and Leisure
Isabella Stone – Assistant Director - Community Policy
Siân Hoyle – Head of Service – Education Service

80/04 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Donna Norris, Jules Bappa, Lloyd G Newby, Mr Bolla, Rajesh Lal and Mr Mighty.

81/04 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

A late item was introduced by the Chair on BV174 and 175. It was reported that racial harassment complaints from Council tenants would be included in the racial incidents statistics for 2005/06 that the Audit Commission collects from councils across the country.

82/04 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gupta declared a personal interest in item 9 Workforce statistics as she managed Livelihood, a Connexions project. She also declared a personal interest in two of the applications in item 10, and a personal interest in item 14. Councillor Burgess declared a personal interest in one of the applications in item 10. Jangir Khan declared a personal interest in one of the applications in item 10.

83/04 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2004 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the addition of Jangir Khan to the attendance list.

84/04 Community Cultural Event

Agreed to defer the item to the next meeting.

85/04 Response from the Secretary of State on Failed Asylum Seekers

The Committee considered a letter from the Secretary of State on failed asylum seekers. It was noted that there were some inaccuracies in the response and references to issues that were not relevant.

Resolved to write back to the Secretary of State and ask him to reconsider making it possible for failed asylum seekers to work.

86/04 Kurdish Community Needs

The Committee considered an oral presentation by Abas Salihi regarding Kurdish community needs. It was reported that the Kurdish Community Centre had been opened and everyone was welcome. It was hoped that the centre could be open all the time and that advisers could be provided who could advise on Council issues, NHS, immigration and education. Cost was an issue and the Community Centre was looking for funding to pay for computers and teachers. Volunteers were currently staffing the centre but they could not fulfil all the requirements local residents had. 80% of local residents who used the centre did not speak English so interpreters were needed.

Councillor Gupta replied that in terms of training in English, and looking for work was something she could help with. The NHS should be approached directly for help.

Councillor Burgess recommended that he also speak to Isabella Stone after the meeting who could advise on a number of different issues and could help arrange outreach sessions to be provided at the community centre.

Reference was made to some community tension issues.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the report**
- 2. to request the Racial Equality Council to facilitate a meeting to resolve community tension issues.**

87/04 Promoting Racial Equality in Sport

John Brown – Head of Sport and Leisure gave a presentation to the Committee regarding promoting racial equality in sport. It was reported that in October 2003, a report was produced on Sport and Leisure contribution to Community Cohesion. A charter was signed to use sport to help with community cohesion. Consideration was being given to attaining The Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport which might also be progressed by Derbyshire Sport.

Derby City Council had been producing sports, sport facilities and physical activities strategies using an consultant. 90 questionnaires were sent to the minority ethnic sector and a focus group from MECAC was set up. The aim was to find out how the Council could help encourage people to get fit.

Shokat Lal raised concerns about women from the Pakistani community. A number had health issues and there was not a culture of participation so consideration needed to be given to how to get these people involved in sport.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the report**
- 2. receive a presentation on sports, sports facilities and physical activities strategies at a future meeting.**

88/04 Update Report on Workforce Statistics

A report on Workforce Statistics was considered which was requested at the previous meeting. It was reported that the recruitment statistics would be brought to a later meeting.

Resolved to note the report.

89/04 Mainstream Funding for Social Care Voluntary and Community Organisations 2005/2006

The Committee considered a report on Mainstream funding for Social Care Voluntary and Community Organisations for 2005 – 2006. It was reported that the Council had agreed to an inflationary increase of 2.7% to funding for the voluntary sector for 2005/06. The report set out the proposed funding for 2005/06.

Resolved to note the report.

90/04 Forward Plan

Resolved to request item 108/04 of the Forward Plan on Bemrose School Transport for consideration at a future meeting.

91/04 Recruitment of Black and Ethnic Minority School Governors

Siân Hoyle – Head of Education Service gave a presentation to the Committee asking for help and ideas on how to recruit more Black and Minority Ethnic School Governors. There were currently 44 Local Education Authority - LEA Governor vacancies. 7% of LEA Governors were Black and Ethnic Minority compared 22% of pupils.

Nasreen Iqbal commented that the skills and experience gained by being a Governor were positive. It was about developing a community that was safe for our children. She felt it was important to find the right people who had a passion for helping children develop.

Councillor Gupta suggested appointing a Governor Champion who could go out and recruit. A suggestion was made to have a stall at the mosques after Friday prayers to encourage people to become governors.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the report**
- 2. feed back any ideas direct to Siân Hoyle**

92/04 Community Cohesion – Derby Pointer Survey Results

A report was considered regarding Community Cohesion, Derby Pointer Survey results. Isabella Stone reported that this was only one mechanism for consulting the public and so not the only way of learning about and measuring community cohesion. The questions were developed by the Audit

Commission nationally so the results could be compared like for like across the country.

Shokat Lal commented that it did make fascinating reading. The question was what do we do with this now and how would the findings be addressed. Isabella Stone replied that after each Pointer Panel, surveys were sent out to relevant managers asking them what could be done to solve any issues raised by the findings. These were then reported to Council Cabinet.

Councillor Roberts commented that a question on would you use public transport if it was available would be useful.

Mr Dhillon commented that with young people and crime it was a challenge to get them engaged. Plans and targets needed setting. Councillor Burgess replied that the Youth Service were already doing positive work in this area and it would be useful if they came and addressed the Committee.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the report**
- 2. ask the Youth Service to attend a future meeting to give a presentation on the work they were doing in the Community.**

93/04 Positive Action - Update

A report was considered regarding updates on Positive Action. It was reported that the February training session was poorly attended because it had snowed on the day of the training. For the 11 April 2005 training session 17 people were down to attend. Tariq Iqbal would present another report in the future with an update on progress.

Shokat Lal asked for the breakdown of people participation by ethnic origin. He also asked whether people were being given time off to attend the training courses? A tracking system to see how well the programme worked should be implemented and he would also like to see success rates of moving on with jobs after training completed.

Mohammed Sharief commented that it was a good idea which was long overdue. He asked whether it was a one off, or whether it was ongoing. Tariq Iqbal replied that this was a pilot scheme so it would all depend on the success of the current programme.

Sue Glithero commented that the management training courses were being funded by each department.

Nasreen Iqbal asked who would be doing the mentoring. She also requested statistics by gender and the grade of the employees. Tariq Iqbal replied that it had not yet been decided whether it would be internal or external but that hopefully, it would be a senior manager from within the department or elsewhere within the Council.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the report.**
- 2. ask for a progress report later in the year covering the points raised.**

94/04 Extension of Meeting

Resolved at 8.30pm in accordance with the Committee's working protocol that the meeting be extended to complete the business on the agenda.

95/04 MECAC Newsletter

The Committee was asked to consider items for inclusion in the next MECAC Newsletter.

96/04 MECAC Work Programme

The Committee considered MECAC's latest work programme.

Resolved to note the report.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed