

ITEM 6

Bosnian community relocation

Historical context

- The present building has been purchased by Bosnian Community in 1998/1999, and we have moved in 2000
- The whole refurbishment work has been undertaken by members of the Bosnian Community
- Not just the skills and voluntary work have been build into building, but the soul of our Community
- The Bosnian Community feels the building as a second home over here
- On the first days of moving into building, we had some objections from local residents because of the previous owner, but later that relationship has rapidly improved, and also we think we have improved that local area moving into it
- In the past the Bosnian Community had no objection from anyone using the present building.

Use of the building at the present

- We are helping and assisting around 550 – 600 people from former Yugoslavia, mainly Bosnians. Services are offered additionally to around 300 people and their families from Former Yugoslavia who came over here after the Second World War.
- The Derby Refugee Forum is operating from our building. For last 3 years in operations it has been paid more than 5000 visit. We hold the evidence of it. -Our clients live across the Derby, and the present location is excellent regards the equal access to the service offered from Bosnian Centre.

Activities in the Centre

- Focal point for the Community
- Daily from 09.00 – 17.00 – Drop in and Advice centre
- Different Cultural Activities – traditional dance, music, sharing different culture, hosting events and people from different ethnic group
- Opportunity for advice on training and education, employment
- Meeting room for young people, ethnic community networks
- Educational work (supplementary school classes, preschool group & play group, ESOL classes
- Social gathering for all group of people
- On two days in a week – drop in centre for asylum seekers and refugees
- Meeting place for various meetings of the different organisations and different groups
- IT classes and using free internet for job and training search
- Small library which is going to expand after moving to another adequate premises

Number of people visiting Centre

- Monday – between 10 – 13, mainly advice, form filling, letter explanation
- Tuesday - 40 – 50 refugees n& asylum seekers, around 10 Bosnians. 30-50 evening dancers and gathering
- Wednesday – 10 – 13
- Thursday - 40 – 50 refugees, 10-13 Bosnians, youth meetings
- Friday, around 20, evening 10 – 15
- Saturday, Play group 30 children and young mother, Supplementary. School 25 children, gathering 20-100
- Sunday, gathering 20 – 100
- Meetings – Refugee Forum, Derby CAS, B-H Community, Other meetings, around 2 weekly – 10 – 30 people attending
- Training – Derby CAS, The Sharman trust, internal trainings, other, 1 – 2 weekly, 10 – 15 people each time.

The premises operate 7 days a week, from 09.00 – 17.00 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 09.00 – 22.00 on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

No alcohol and no food served

No music concert and loud music entertainment

Why we are worried?

We prefer to stay with our initial statement and decision

-The current building is well located and provide the needs of the community mentioned above

-We are extremely worried that relocation of the building maybe will not provide us with the condition allowing us to carry on with our activities, which are extremely important for the clients we assisting

-By the recent development of the proposed relocation of the building those worries have even increased.

-We are also aware of the wider public interest and the facts that we cannot stop the City Council with the Compulsory Purchases. We are part of this society and we do understand wider public interest, but we are trying to achieve at least a fair relocation; regard the size of the building, location of the building, parking space and suitability of the building for further development of the Community and services we can provide to the people of Derby.

The efforts for relocation so far

In 2003, with the first correspondence exchanged with Derby City Council we have mentioned the following:

- about the recent refurbishment and adaptation of the building
- the size of the building and use of the building
- no money as a way of compensation offered for the building

- recommendation to be relocated on the car park next to the present building, which has been refused by City Council
- if we have to relocate, we need to move to another building before swapping this one with the City Council
- possible relocation place: alongside the proposed inner ring road from 1 Uttoxeter New Road to the roundabout in the City Centre, link with Osmaston Road (in later correspondence mentioned again)
- We had some “offers” but all of them were unsuitable for what we are doing and for the clients we serve. (Building in Albany Road where City Council pulls out from offer because of the lack of disability access and the offer they got from someone else, in Wilson Street a semi detached three floors house not suitable for community; and the latest one to build up a new building in Sacheverel Street which we have found a suitable. After several meetings, that option came under reconsideration from the City Council and they were trying to pull out from that option.
- Another option we consider is ground building on the top of Stockbrook street, behind the Community Centre. It is not safe place for our community (drug, park, graffiti, he fence was burned, the building is only for socialising). Nobody will come there on evening time because of the safety
- The time is running out, and we are still too worried, what is going to happen

The Conclusion

The building and what we are looking for

- Has to be alongside the proposed Inner Ring Road from 1 Uttoxeter New Road towards the roundabout crossing the Osmaston Road – new building or properly adapted and refurbished (rooms inside)
- The most of the visitors to building can be by public transport through Normanton Road
- similar size and similar numbers of the parking places
- the building is going to be used mainly for advice and educational purposes, small library, trainings
- The such building will be used by Derby Bosnia - Herzegovina Community, Derby Refugee Forum and another 3-4 Ethnic Community Groups for the similar purposes mentioned above with low rent.
- It will be a small ethnic community education and training centre and it will be share with local community and local residents using the library which will be part of the building.

Ferid Kevric, Project Coordinator