

Time commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished - 8.10 pm

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 15 JULY 2004

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

Representing Communities

Raj Bali – Indian Community
Jarnail S Birring - Indian Community
Jack Butler – Irish Community
Nezrine Hudson - Caribbean Community
Ferid Kevric – Derby Bosnia Herzegovina Community
Association
Mohan Singh Manku - Indian Community
Angella Mighty – Caribbean Community
George Mighty - Caribbean Community
Farhad A Neghipooran - Persian Cultural Association
Lloyd Newby - Caribbean Community
Zigashane Zigy - Amnesty Congo Support Group

Community Advisors

Balwant Bubber - Indian Community
Santokh Singh Moar - Derby REC
Tony Walsh - Derby REC

Observers

Shirley Howard - Caribbean Community
Kamal Amier - Somalian Community

Council Advisors

Sue Glithero - Director of Policy
Andrew Hopkin - Assistant Director Environmental Health
and Trading Standards
Sharon Jackson - Corporate Customer Services Manager
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
Sarah Burkinshaw - Consultation Support Manager
Carol Mee - Public Relations Officer

1/04 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Khan and Roberts, Mohammed Sharif, Rajesh Lal, Jules Bappa and Muzar Syed.

2/04 Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

3/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4/04 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5/04 Draft City Public Health Strategy

A report of the Director of Corporate Services was considered, which set out a Draft City Public Health Strategy, with a framework for partnership working to improve health and tackle health inequalities. Andrew Hopkin was specifically interested in the Committee's comments on smoking. Tony Walsh referred to community safety and the fear of crime and was particularly concerned about race crime, which often affected the well-being of an individual.

Resolved:

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To feedback any comments direct to Andrew Hopkin.**

6/04 Customer Service Strategy

A report of the Director of Corporate Services was considered, which stated that the Service Access Review, completed earlier this year, has recommended the development of a Customer Service Strategy for the Council. The Strategy outlined the Council's vision for customer service over the next three years. The draft strategy has been prepared and was available on the Council's website. The Strategy was being launched at the City Council's employee conference in September. One comment received so far, related to reviewing the opening hours of the Council House.

Consideration needed to be given to where English was not a first language, and advice was being taken on which core languages should be available as a matter of course. It was noted that Language Line was available to all employees to assist customers. Ferid Kevric reported that often Community Groups were the first link for people who did not speak any English. Comment was made about over-complex forms which were difficult for people to fill in if their first language was not English. It was noted that Care

Link operated 24 hours a day. Consideration was being given to a telephone / internet service, up to 8pm on Saturdays. Mr Bubber expressed concern about some of the advice being given at the Housing Options Centre.

Resolved to note the report.

7/04 Cultural Diversity Events

It was agreed that item 14 on the agenda, Derby City Cultural Diversity Community Event 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity' be considered along with this item.

Pam Thompson, Consultation Support Officer, reported on events which had taken place during Derby City Partnership Week - 29 June to 3 July 2004. The first main event was a drumming workshop, where pupils from Littleover, Derby Moor, Lees Brook, St Benedict's, Bemrose and High View Schools were invited to take part at a seminar at the Derby Dance Centre on Chapel Street Derby. The second event, "Derby All Together", included live entertainment on Normanton Park, but unfortunately this had not been well attended because of bad weather. Tony Walsh reported that many people had put a lot of effort into making sure that the events were successful, he particularly appreciated the contribution Pam Thompson had made. He was concerned that the costs of hiring stage equipment for such events was prohibitive. Councillor Gupta reported that Derwent New Deal for Communities did have a stage that they would hire out to people, but priority was given to people living in the Derwent ward.

Resolved to note the report.

8/04 Community Representation on Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee

A report of the Director of Corporate Services was considered, which stated that the Committee's working protocol stated that a community representative who failed to attend three consecutive meetings of the committee without good reason, automatically ceased to be a member, unless the Committee agreed otherwise. It was agreed that failing to give the reason why and apologising met this criterion. Attached to the report was a schedule of the attendances of community representatives during the 2003/04 municipal year. There were vacancies on the committee for the Bangladeshi and Somali communities and one unallocated seat. The Council had been approached by the secretary of the Kurdish community in Derby, seeking a seat on the Committee. It was noted that there were two Kurdish community groups in the city and that it would be open to them, as to all the smaller communities, to nominate a non-voting adviser. It was also noted that the Chinese Community did not wish to have a seat so this too would be available for re-allocation.

Resolved

- 1 To ask the Director of Corporate Services to write to the Communities where representatives had not attended for three consecutive meetings without good reason, requesting them to nominate a new representative to attend the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee.**
- 2 To invite the two main communities within the Kurdish community to attend meetings of the committee as observers with a view to agreeing between themselves who would be the community representative and who would be the adviser.**

9/04 Services to Older People in the African Caribbean Community

It was agreed that item 13 on the agenda Progress on Hadhari project be considered along with this item.

A report of the Director of Social Services was considered which set out a report considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 16 March 2004. The topic had been referred to this Committee for comment.

Resolved to note the report and receive an update on the Hadhari project at the next meeting.

10/04 Forward Plan

Consideration was given to receiving a presentation at a future meeting on the Community Safety Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Action Plan. Mr Bubber also reported that Local Crime Community Sentencing could be considered as a joint presentation. The Local Crime Community Sentencing was bring confidence back to communities and allowing sentencing to be served in the community.

Resolved to receive a presentation on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders by Andy Thomas and a presentation on Local Crime Community Sentencing at a future meeting.

11/04 Race Equality Scheme and Impact Assessment of Council's Policies/Action and Race Relations Act 2000

George Mighty reminded the Committee that the Race Relations Act 2000 required the Council to prepare a race equality scheme and look at the impact of policies on minority ethnic groups. He felt that Council policies

were preventing the Caribbean Carnival from taking place because they stopped people from putting stalls on at the Carnival and costs associated with using the park were excessive, particularly in relation to noise control. The Carnival worked towards community cohesion. He stated that the Council must consider if recommendations from the Government were appropriate to be implemented rather than just implementing them. He also stated that he had tried to borrow staging from the Assembly Rooms, but they would not lend it to him. It was reported that the Assembly Rooms did not lend staging to anyone. He stated that he would like to see an impact assessment of this Council policy on minority ethnic people, particularly black people.

George Mighty asked about accounts relating to regeneration monies and how they were spent. It was reported that all the Council's accounts were open to public scrutiny for a period and that he should contact Paul Dransfield, Director of Finance, who would make them available for him.

Sue Glithero reported that the Greater London Authority's Equality Impact Assessment Scheme was being tailored for use in Derby and would be considered at the next meeting.

Resolved to consider the Council's draft Equality Impact Assessment Guidelines at the next meeting.

12/04 Annual Diversity Calendar of Events for Whole City of Derby

George Mighty reported that a number of events were happening across the City and that a calendar of events would help to make sure that these were publicised. He referred to the Derby City Partnership Week leaflet and that this had not included the Derby West Indian Community Association Carnival to be held on 17 July 2004. He felt it would be useful to know what was happening in various community centres / associations across the city. Consideration was given to posting information to a website, to feed into the calendar. It would take some time to prepare during the first year, but could be updated annually. It was felt that the Tourist Information Centre should be consulted on a way forward.

Resolved to ask the Tourist Manager to bring a paper to a future meeting and to consider the best way forward of providing a calendar of events for community festivals and events across the city following this presentation.

13/04 MECAC Newsletter

The Committee were asked to consider items for inclusion in the next MECAC newsletter.

Agreed to include the deadline for articles and contact details for Carol Mee on future agendas.

14/04 MECAC Work Programme

The Committee considered MECAC's latest work programme. It was suggested that an induction be routinely held for all new members of the Committee.

Resolved to ask the Director of Policy to consider a programme of induction for new members.

15/04 Dates of Future Meetings

Resolved to note the following dates for future meetings:

16 September 2004

18 November 2004

3 February 2005

7 April 2005

16 June 2005

MINUTES END