

Time commenced – 6.30pm
Time Finished – 9.00pm

MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 13 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Representing Derby City Council

Councillor Naitta (In the Chair)
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Nath
Councillor Roberts
Councillor Shanker

Representing Communities

Kirit Mistry – Derby REC
Lloyd Newby – DWICA
John Pearson – Derby Irish Association
Angella Mighty – DWICA
Nasreen Iqbal – Pakistani Community
Zbigniew Wojcik – Eastern European Migrants Advocacy Committee
Joe Kupranec – Association of Ukrainian in Great Britain

Council and Other Officers

Ann Webster – Derby City Council
Ray Cowlshaw – Derby City Council
Kam Basi – Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
Jag Hayer – Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
Ian Davey – Derbyshire Constabulary
Gary Parkin- Derbyshire Constabulary
Andy Thomas – Community Safety Partnership
Tariq Iqbal – Derby City Council
Rod Wood – Derby City Council
Christine Collingwood – Derby City Council
Jody Shelton – Derby City Council

22/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Rajesh Lall, Kamal Amier, Shirley Howard-Johnson, George Mighty, Nasreen Hudson, Tony Walsh and Ferid Kevric.

23/08 Election of Vice Chair

This item was deferred until the next meeting, as no prior nominations were received.

24/08 Notes of the meeting held on 11 September 2008

The notes of the meeting held on 11 September 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

25/08 Work Programme 2008/2009 and Update from Workshop Session

The Committee considered a report from Christine Collingwood, Consultation Support Manager on Work Programme 2008/2009 and Update from Workshop Session. Concern was expressed by members of the forum that at future meeting the number of items on agendas should be reduced to focus the discussion at the meetings.

26/08 Working for the Council: Equality Objectives Updates

This item was deferred until the next meeting, to allow for more members of the forum to participate in the discussion.

27/08 Questions and Answer Session

The Committee received questions from representatives of the Forum.

Joe Kupranec submitted the following question:

Could the process of applying for small grants be simplified?

Rod Wood, Assistant Director - Human Resources reported that at the next meeting of the forum an agenda item was to be Voluntary Sector Funding and Support. It was noted that this item would try to improve the capability of local groups to apply for funding and provide support to them to ensure that they make successful applications.

Councillor Roberts suggested that at the next meeting information should be provided advising the forum as to what grants are available.

It was suggested that the report should include details of what organisations were currently funded and how organisations could enter into partnership work. It was agreed to discuss the question further at the next meeting.

28/08 Gun and Knife Crime

The forum received a presentation from Andy Thomas, Acting Director – Community Safety Partnership and Inspector Gary Parkin from Derbyshire Constabulary regarding details of the city-wide strategy to address the issue of gangs and gun & knife crime.

It was reported that the motivating factors of gangs included geography, economic deprivation and family involvement / peer pressure. The current position was that Derby was a comparatively safe place to live and that there had been a recent fall in gun crime but that knife crime had risen by 2%. The forum were informed that

currently it was estimated that 2,100 young people belonged to a delinquent peer group.

The work that was currently being undertaken included work centred on gangs at schools, police operations and meetings of all partnership agencies.

The continuing work of Derby's strategy was detailed and it was reported that gang behaviour was having a negative impact on local people and that the growing problem had emerged in at least three localities.

It was reported that there were range of Responses that the CSP and Derbyshire Constabulary were using that was intelligence led. Unfortunate due to recent events within the City there would be challenges over the coming weeks.

Members of the forum asked for details of knife crime and how they would be punished. It was reported that anyone found in possession of knife would receive a custodial sentence.

Andy Thomas asked the forum for suggestions how the community could be further engaged. It was noted that there was huge investment in the Youth Service but unfortunately there would always be people who did not wish to engage.

The forum agreed to receive an updated report at the future meeting.

29/08 Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

The forum received a presentation from Kam Bassi, South Area Manager from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service on increasing awareness of fire fighters within the BME community. It was reported that the fire service were working hard to attract new members from various community groups. Unfortunately it was noted that they were not succeeding as currently there were 9 BME members and 16 female. It was thought that information did not reach communities and the priority for the future was to show communities that they were a gainful employer.

Members raised concern that in the potential material there were no BME members. It was thought that those currently employed by the service should champion the campaign. It was reported that unfortunately taking part in the promotional material was voluntary by members.

The forum were asked for details of how they thought the service could best consult with the community. It was noted that a public event should be held and the service should door knock within the local community.

Members suggested that the promotional material be used on the Big Screen in the market place.

The forum agreed to note the presentation.

30/08 Stop Hate UK – 24 Hour Helpline

The forum received a presentation from Ian Davey, Derbyshire Constabulary on Stop Hate UK – 24 Hour Helpline. It was reported that this was a charity based in Leeds but that there currently events being held across the Country. Ian Davey gave the forum examples of incidents that could be classed as Hate Crime as the forum had questioned how it could be proven. It was noted that any hate crime incidents were treated as a priority level police case which would mean an immediate response. It was reported that this was an additional service in relation to the police that didn't exist and has been introduced at a cost of £16,000.

The forum noted the presentation.

31/08 Next Forum Meeting: 22 January 2009

The forum noted that three representatives should attend the next pre-meeting.

MINUTES END