

Time commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished – 8:44 pm

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 30 MARCH 2006

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Roberts – In the Chair
Councillor Rehman and Willitts

Representing Communities

Ferid Kevric – Bosnian Community
Lloyd Newby - Caribbean Community
George Mighty – Caribbean Community
Nezrine Hudson – Caribbean Community
Fares Abdollah – Kurdish Community
Nasreen Iqbal – Pakistani Community
Shokat Lal – Pakistani Community
Kamal Amier – Somalian Community

Community Advisors

Shirley Howard – Caribbean Community
Jarnail S Birring – Indian Community
Jangir Khan – Pakistani Community
Tony Walsh – Derby Racial Equality Council - REC

Council Officers

Isabella Stone – Assistant Director – Community Policy
Rajesh Lall – Education Officer
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager
John Sheil – Housing Strategy Officer
Leigh-Anne Hilton – Housing Strategy Development Officer

Also present

Theresa Peltier – Derbyshire Black Police Association

76/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Burgess, Mr Manku and Mr Shanker.

77/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

78/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

79/05 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 and 23 January 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

80/05 Update on Minutes of Previous Meeting

An update report had been circulated on matters from the previous meeting.

Resolved to note the report.

81/05 City Council Grants to Voluntary Sector

Tony Walsh, Derby Racial Equality Council, raised concerns regarding the existing city council grants to the voluntary sector – Community Grants Budget, and felt that under the Race Equality Scheme the Council may be required to review the impact of its grant making functions towards the assisting of community groups. He felt that the Council had been a good supporter of the community and voluntary sector for a considerable period but that support was static rather than dynamic in terms of the needs of newer groups coming into the city.

Resolved to recommend that the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Community begin the process of examining how the Community Grants Budget might change to bring it in line with the Race Equality Scheme and bring proposals for change to a future meeting.

82/05 Education Commission

Councillor MacDonald, Chair of the Education Commission gave a presentation on the function of the Commission, the Education remit and past and current work of the Commission.

George Mighty asked about community representatives on the Commission and was informed that Tony Walsh was the multi-faith representative. He felt that further representation of local communities was required on the commission as education was such an important issue, but that any representatives would need to have a vote, which under the current constitutional was not possible.

Resolved to ask the Education Commission to consider requesting an amendment to the Council Constitution to change the make up of the Education Commission, to enable more community representatives to be appointed with voting rights.

83/05 History of Derbyshire Black Police Association and Request for MECAC Membership

Theresa Peltier, Chair of the Derbyshire Black Police Association gave an oral report on the history of the Derbyshire Black Police Association and its aims for the future and give details on why it felt it would benefit both the Association and MECAC if it was granted membership on MECAC.

Resolved to ask Council to approve the appointment of a representative from the Derbyshire Black Police Association to the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee

84/05 Advisory Committee Reviews Update

Pam Thompson, Consultation Support Officer presented a report on the Advisory Committee Reviews Update. She reported that a consultation process had taken place and gave details of the proposed changes to MECAC.

Resolved to defer the item to a special meeting of the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee to discuss the item in more detail and allow the Committee to make an informed recommendation on the future of the Committee.

85/05 Traffic in Normanton

The Committee considered a report on traffic in Normanton, which detailed proposed consultation work to be undertaken to develop a strategic improvement scheme for traffic in Normanton District Centre.

George Mighty reported that the car park discussed in the report was not the car park he had originally referred to and wanted more information on what was intended regarding that car park.

Shokat Lall commented that the five year local transport plan would have details of what was planned for the Normanton area and should be something that MECAC should have a look at.

Resolved to receive a report on the five year Local Transport Plan – LTP2, with particular attention on the Normanton area.

86/05 Forward Plan

Resolved to ask the Community Services, Regeneration and E-Government Cabinet Member to attend the next meeting of Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee to give a presentation on 71/05 – Area and Neighbourhood Working.

87/05 Equality and Diversity Plan – Consultation Results

Ann Webster, Equality Standard Project Manager, presented a report on the Equality and Diversity Plan – Consultation Results. The report gave details on the consultation which had taken place between September and December 2005 and the results of that consultation.

Resolved to note the report.

88/05 Derby Pointer Panel Citizen's Panel – Survey Results on Community Cohesion

Isabella Stone, Assistant Director of Community Policy, presented a report on the Derby Pointer Panel Citizen's Panel – Survey Results on Community Cohesion. The report detailed that the questionnaire was sent out on 23 September 2005 to 1,150 Derby Pointer Panel members. The response rate was 55%.

Shokat Lall commented that it would be interesting to see a breakdown by race and by where respondents lived for certain key questions. Isabella Stone agreed to look into the possibility of breaking the data down in that way.

Resolved to note the report

89/05 Extension of meeting

Resolved at 8.30pm in accordance with Committee's working protocol that the meeting should be extended for a further 15 minutes.

90/05 Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy 2005-2008 Second Update

John Sheil, Housing Strategy Officer, gave a presentation giving a second update on the Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy 2005-08. He reported that the allocations system and monitoring were currently being reviewed to make sure there was no inbuilt discrimination.

Shokat Lall commented that he felt the strategy was very comprehensive and the only thing missing was statistics.

Resolved to note the report

91/05 MECAC Newsletter

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

92/05 Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education –
SACRE – Annual Report 2004-2005

The Committee were informed that copies of the Annual Report were available and contact details were provided.

Resolved to note the report

93/05 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