

Time commenced - 6.35 pm
Time Finished – 8:02 pm

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 7 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Roberts – In the Chair
Councillors Dhamrait, Higginbottom and Liversedge

Representing Communities

Ferid Kevric – Bosnian Community
Lloyd Newby - Caribbean Community
Jules Bappa – Derby African Association
Nasreen Iqbal – Pakistani Community
Kamal Amier – Somalian Community
Theresa Peltier – Derbyshire Black Police Association

Community Advisors

Shirley Howard-Johnson – Caribbean Community
Zbigniew Wojcik MBE – Derby Racial Equality Council – REC
Jangir Khan – Pakistani Community

Council Officers

Rod Wood – Assistant Director – Human Resources
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
Rajesh Lall – Education Officer
Sharon Squires – Director of Derby Community Partnership
Val McLaughlan – Corporate Human Resources Adviser – Operations
David Romaine – Scrutiny and Complaints Manager
Trevor Brindley – Senior Electrical Maintenance Officer
Carol Mee – Press and Public Relations Officer
Sarah Burkinshaw – Consultation Support Manager
Sarah Davis – Acting Assistant Director Planning and Quality

14/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Khan, Richards and Webb, Shokat Lal, Kelly Kiteng, George Mighty, Angela Mighty and Nezrine Hudson.

15/06 Nomination of Vice Chair

Agreed to defer the item to a future meeting, to allow Community Representatives to discuss who they wish to nominate.

16/06 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit an item on Derby Cityscape – Public Realm Strategy, Public Consultation Plan September/October 2006.

The Committee considered a report from Cityscape on the Public Consultation Plan for the Derby Cityscape – Public Realm Strategy, which proposed dates for specific consultation with the Advisory Committees.

Nasreen Iqbal suggested that a date after 24 October be set due to Ramadan.

17/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/06 Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 June 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, with the addition of George Mighty to the attendance, Councillor R Khans apologies being recorded and the amendment of the spelling to Wojcik in minute number 05/06.

19/06 Updates on Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Resolved to approve the recommendation as set out in the report considered at the meeting on 15 June 2006 on Derby Homes – Racial Incidents

20/06 Capacity Building and Development of Community Groups

The Committee received an oral report from Jules Bappa of the Derby African Association. He wished to draw attention to the difficulties most new community groups had been facing over the last 2-3 years. He felt that Derby City Council did not understand all of the difficulties they were facing. He asked MECAC to involve these groups more.

Councillor Roberts commented that these groups were important and suggested a meeting between relevant council officers, community groups and groups such as the Derby REC and other funding organisations to allow a full discussion of the issues.

Resolved to recommend that a meeting be held between the relevant council officers and the relevant community groups and organisations such as Derby REC and the Derby Millennium Network with a full report following the meeting, being brought to a future meeting of MECAC.

21/06 Fairness at Work Complaints April 2005 – March 2006

The Committee received a report from Val McLaughlan, Corporate Human Resources Adviser – Operations, on Equalities Complaints Monitoring. The report dealt with complaints made by employees against each other from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. It was reported that 15 complaints had been received which had resulted in a formal investigation. Of those, eight had been completed, six not upheld and two partly upheld.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to note that all equalities monitoring relating to employees would be reported together in one report to Committee annually starting in September 2007.**

22/06 Community Cohesion Post

The Committee received an oral report from Rod Wood, Assistant Director, to Human Resources and Sharon Squires, Director of Derby Community Partnership on the Community Cohesion post discussed at a previous meeting.

Sharon Squires reported that she had just presented a report on Developing the Community Cohesion agenda in Derby to Derby City Partnership and felt it was important to also bring the report to MECAC. She reported that the Council had not developed community cohesion as much as it should have, so it was now being looked at with importance. Whole new community groups had been arriving in Derby which agencies had no prior knowledge of. Therefore it was agreed that a Community Cohesion officer was required but would only be appointed when the best use of their time had been identified. The officer would be working strategically, so a bid had been submitted for external funding to get someone to do the 'number crunching'.

Bish Wojcik commented that he was the Chair of the Refugee Forum and felt that it was important to work together to help these people.

Resolved to note the report.

23/06 Grants for Supplementary Language Classes 2006/07

The Committee considered a report from Rajesh Lall, Education Officer on the Grants for Supplementary Language Classes in 2006/07. It was reported that financial support had been provided to supplementary language classes since 1997 by the City Council and previously by the County Council through grant funding. The purpose of the grant was to enable minority communities to develop structured opportunities to pass on language and cultural values to their children. These classes also complement the education provided by schools, affording opportunities

for children to develop understanding and pride in their culture, consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities policy. It was also reported that there was a specific amount of funding put aside for new groups but that none had proceeded with this yet.

Resolved to note the report.

24/06 Forward Plan

Resolved to notify Pam Thompson of any items from the Forward Plan that Committee Members would like to see on a future work programme.

25/06 Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy

Resolved to defer this item to the next meeting of MECAC

26/06 Complaints Dealt with under the Corporate Complaints Procedure – 2005/06

The Committee received a report from David Romaine, Scrutiny and Complaints Manager, on complaints dealt with under the Corporate Complaints Procedure during 2005/06. The report detailed the number of complaints received and the level each complaint reached.

Resolved to note the report

27/06 Festive Lighting in the Normanton and Peartree Areas

The Committee received a report from Trevor Brindley, Senior Electrical Maintenance Officer, on festive lighting in the Normanton and Peartree areas. The report detailed the proposed timetable for the switching on of the various festival lights during October, November and December. It was reported that the funding for the lights was from the Single Regeneration Budget and the European Regional Development Fund's Urban II which was initiated by Derby City Partnership.

Jangir Khan commented that he had been in discussion with the Council last year on extending the locations of the displays to include the bottom end of Peartree and asked what the outcome of this was.

Councillor Roberts agreed that it could not be changed for this year, but would undertake to ensure that full consultation took place for next year's displays.

Resolved to note the report and ask the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services to ensure consultation with the local communities is carried out on the location of the lights before the lights for 2007 are finalised.

28/06 Update on Advisory Committee Proposals

The Committee received a report from Pam Thompson, Consultation Support Officer giving an update on the proposals to change the three Equality Advisory Committees. It was reported that the proposals would go to Full Council on 13 September and subject to their approval the changes would be implemented from the next meeting of MECAC. As part of the changes a sub group needed to be set up temporarily to meet in October to develop the new working protocols. The following Community Representatives put their names forward:

- Kamal Amier – Somali Community
- Nasreen Iqbal – Pakistani Community
- Shirley Howard-Johnson – Caribbean Community
- Zbigniew Wojcik MBE – Derby Racial Equality Council – REC
- Theresa Peltier – Derbyshire Black Police Association

Agreed to note the report and approve the membership of the sub group

29/06 MECAC Newsletter

Resolved to add the following items to the MECAC Newsletter:

- International Women's Day
- The change of the Committee to a Forum if approved by Full Council
- Bicentenary of the abolition of slavery

30/06 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