

Time commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished – 8:37 pm

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 8 SEPTEMBER 2005

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

Representing Communities
Kamal Amier - Somalian Community
Fares Abdollah – Kurdish Community
Jarnail S Birring – Indian Community
Nasreen Iqbal - Pakistani Community
Angella Mighty – Caribbean Community
George Mighty – Caribbean Community
Lloyd Newby - Caribbean Community

Community Advisors
Shirley Howard - Caribbean Community
Tony Walsh – Derby Race Equalities Council - REC

Council Officers
Sue Glithero - Director of Policy
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
Carol Mee – Public Relations Officer
Rajesh Lall – Education Officer
Isabella Stone – Assistant Director, Community Policy
David Finn – Head of Youth Service
Bernard Haigh – Assistant Head of Libraries Services
Susan Sanghera – Recruitment Officer, Positive Action
Yvonne Burrell – Chair of Black Employees Support Network
Ray Brown – Senior Planning Officer
Shahid Ashrif – Housing Equalities Advisor

Also present
Emmanuel Neba – Cameroon Watch Trust

21/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burgess, Dhamrait, Richards and Roberts, Nezrine Hudson and Gurdev Singh Dhillon.

22/05 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 festive lighting in the Normanton and

Pearl areas on the grounds that advice was required from the Committee before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

23/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24/05 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

25/05 Update on Minutes of Previous Meeting

An update report had been circulated on matters from the previous meeting. Rajesh Lall gave a brief oral update on the Race Equality Policies in Derby schools. A letter was circulated from the Secretary of State, the Home Office, Tony McNulty MP to Councillor Roberts repeating the Home Office's refusal to agree to the Council's proposal that Derby should be allowed to support a project allowing flexibility in relation to employment for those who have failed the asylum process.

Resolved to note the report.

26/05 Community Grants Appraisal Process

Tony Walsh requested that when changes to grant appraisals were being considered, these changes be considered by this Committee before they were implemented. George Mighty was concerned that some forms were requiring a lot of information and that particularly for smaller organisations, the need to employ staff to fill in the forms was affecting the delivery of services.

Isabella Stone reported that the draft appraisal form had been considered by the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee and amended in light of comments made. There was a Voluntary Sector Support Team within the Council who were on hand to help groups with filling in the forms.

Agreed to review the form in time for the next grants round in 2006/07 and to make any relevant modifications, and bring back to this committee for comment before it was finalised.

27/05 Derby City Youth Service

David Finn, Head of Youth Service, gave a presentation on the development and key components of the Youth Service since 1997 and highlighted support provided to black and minority ethnic young people. The presentation included the corporate priorities target groups, universal provision, provision of services for young people in Derby, the equalities and diversity plan, priorities of the work targeted at BME young people, key

projects and the findings of the 2005 Ofsted inspection. Nasreen Iqbal was keen for schools to be involved in the development work of the youth service. Tony Walsh was keen for newer communities to be engaged within the youth service.

Resolved to note the presentation.

28/05 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.

29/05 Festive Lighting in the Normanton and Peartree Areas

A report of the Director of Corporate Services was considered which gave details of when festive lights were to be erected within the Normanton, Peartree area. This year Diwali falls on 1 November and Eid on 3 November. Because of the closeness of the Diwali and Eid festivals in November it was proposed this year to put up both Eid and Diwali displays initially and then change to Christmas displays on 14 November 2005. The Christmas lights would be switched off on 6 January 2006 to change displays so that Eid lights would be switched on from 10 January 2006 and switched off on 18 January 2006. The Baisakhi lights would be erected in April 2006.

Resolved to note the proposals for festive lighting in the Normanton and Peartree area.

30/05 Community Representation on Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee

It was reported that a letter had received from the Black Police Association asking if they could have two representatives on the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee. It was noted that the Black Police Association were not eligible to be members but could come along and take part in MECAC as observers with no voting rights.

Resolved to invite the Black Police Association to a future meeting to give a presentation on their role and how they think they would fit into the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee.

31/05 Library Services to Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

A report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services was considered which gave details of the library service structure which had established three specialist posts tasked with making sure that provision met the needs of minority ethnic communities in the city. The brief included their

identification and purchase of materials and the development and promotion of all aspects of the service to their target groups. Two of the posts serving the Urdu and Punjabi speaking communities had a core responsibility to provide the appropriate language material at the relevant libraries. The third post, that of librarian with specialist responsibility for services to the African Caribbean community did not have a language specialist within its remit. It concentrated on evaluating books, newspapers, magazines and related materials as interest in the African Caribbean community and promoting the wider range of library services to this community. In recent years many new minority ethnic community groups had become established in Derby. The library services responded by purchasing materials relevant to the new communities.

To reflect changes in Derby's demography and consolidate and develop the library services work with the minority ethnic community groups it was proposed to widen the remit of the post of librarian with special responsibility for services to the African Caribbean community. This would enable the post to be responsible for researching and co-ordinating the library services provision, to all black and minority ethnic communities.

Some members of the committee were concerned that the proposals would dilute support to the Caribbean community.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to agree that the post of Librarian with Special Responsibility for Services to the African Caribbean Community be re-designated to Librarian: Services to Black and Minority Ethnic Communities.**

32/05 Black Employees Support Network – Annual Report

The report of Yvonne Burrell, the Chair of the Black Employees Support Network was considered. It reminded the committee which stated that the support network was established in January 2003 and gave details on the work of the support network to date and its future work programme.

Resolved to note the report.

33/05 Derby City Council's Right of Way Improvement Plan

Ray Brown, Senior Planning Officer gave details on a review of the footpath networks in Derby. He was happy to meet with communities to discuss specific issues.

George Mighty asked about planning of direction signs, particularly signs to the West Indian Community Centre.

Resolved:

- 1. for members of MECAC to contact Ray Brown, should they wish to discuss specific issues relating to footpaths within the city.**
- 2. to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to contact George Mighty about signs to the West Indian Community Centre.**

34/05 Harassment Complaints Period 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005

The Committee considered a report of the Housing Equalities Advisor which set out details of harassment complaints by Derby Homes Board, that were from or against Derby Homes tenants and owner / occupiers and the outcome of the investigations for the period 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005.

Resolved to note the report.

35/05 Extension of meeting

Resolved at 8.30pm in accordance with the Committee's working protocol that the meeting be extended to complete the business on the agenda

36/05 Summary of Community Cohesion Guidance

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy which stated that the Local Government Association and Home Office had recently published guidance to encourage local authorities to promote and deliver community cohesion in their areas. The report summarised the publications and the measures the Council had put into place to meet the guidance. George Mighty was concerned that the section on arts, sports and cultural services did not mention the Caribbean Carnival. Isabella Stone explained that this was a brief summary about what the Council was involved in and nothing had been omitted deliberately.

Resolved to note the summary of the recent Local Government Association Home Office Guidance on Community Cohesion and actions the Council was taking to meet the guidance.

37/05 Fireworks

Resolved to defer this item to the next meeting until when Councillor Burgess was available.

38/05 MECAC Newsletter

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

39/05 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