

Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

Steering Committee Meeting

1st July 2009, 10.30am

Minutes

1. Apologies: The Revd Nicky Skipworth, Pastor Jeff Atherley

Welcome to newcomers: Peter Toller, Chaplain at the Royal Grammar School and John Bajina

Also present: Chaudry M Shafique, (Chair), The Revd David Picken, (Vice-Chair) The Revd Mary Gurr, Laurence Smy, Hon Burgess Raja Amir Dad Khan, Zafar Iqbal, Hafiz Khushbakht-ur-Rehman, Greg Livingstone, Anne Bowker, Dominic Mundy, Dr Katy Simmons, Imam Sultan Mahmood, Helen Byrne

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: AGREED, subject to amendments as follows:

5.Think Tank Update

'There could be a weekend where Christians and Muslims preach from the 'Common Word'

A joint celebration of the birth of Jesus was mentioned.

7.Any other business

The Chair reported to the committee an incident near the Parish Church where Islamic literature was being handed out.

3. Matters Arising:

At this point in the meeting discussion followed regarding a request from Anne Bowker to vary the days of the week the CCMR Committee meet. The following was agreed;

Common Word Meeting Monday 27th July, 11am at 'Cloverdown', Green Hill, High Wycombe

Think Tank Meeting Tuesday 28th July , 10.30am, Bucks New University – Room No. N1.01

CCMR Meetings, Thursday 3rd September, Room N1.01 and Tuesday 3rd November, Old Board Room, both at 10.30am, Bucks New University.

i) Retrial – no update forthcoming at this moment in time

ii) The Common Word initiative, progress report

Laurence Smy reported that two meetings of the sub-committee had been arranged, and they were looking for the event to include as many mosques and churches as possible. He suggested that churches and mosque's convene ministerial study groups to discuss and the committee had considered the weekend 23rd/25th October as a possible timescale.

The Revd David Picken spoke of a need to extend the timescale because of some of the concerns being discussed amongst some of the churches. The Revd Mary Gurr spoke of concerns from the East of High Wycombe churches.

The Chair summarised

- a need to get it right from both sides, that being more important than time scales at the present time.
- a clear statement of objectives is required from the Think Tank
- hard copies of the summary document available on the internet is required to be circulated

4. Feedback from Seminar Event 17th June 2009

Thanks were received for the opportunity to air the Islamic Garden Project. The Revd Mary Gurr mentioned the Quiet Garden Movement already in existence.

Comments were received from the committee on how well Paul Goodman spoke. He made some very interesting comments on the probable future demographical makeup of High Wycombe and was impressive on his understanding of the Islamic Faith.

Thanks were received to the CCMR for the seminar.

John Bajina spoke to the committee of the bravery of those who went to Pakistan and raised the issue of the media coverage in the Bucks Free Press.

Discussion followed about how to promote the CCMR, leaflets and website were discussed and it was agreed a small group consisting of John Bajina, Dr Katy Simmons and Laurence Smy would take forward the idea of a website and communications. The Chair and Vice-chair shall be ex-officio members. Chair asked John to coordinate the work of the Group and indicated that he may co-opt other colleagues as and when considered appropriate.

5. Islamic stall in the town centre

Greg Livingstone told the committee of his encounter with the men on the stall.

The Revd David Picken told the committee of his involvement when he was contacted by the police and his suggestion to the police that they do not set up outside All Saints' church as this was causing some discord.

The Chair confirmed to the Committee that he had spoken to the men on the stall, the person who spoke to Greg had possibly been identified as someone coming from outside the area and he reassured the committee that the literature was not dangerous in radical terms.

Much discussion followed and The Chair summarised

- The behaviour of the person involved was disrespectful and totally unacceptable and the persons on the stall had been spoken to about this.
- We have to consider freedom of speech and expression regarding the literature.
- He will work with Muslim colleagues and David to see if in everyone's interests the stall can be relocated from outside All Saints' Church.

The next two items on the agenda were deferred to the next meeting

6. Suggestions of new initiatives, projects and priorities

7. Think Tank Update from meeting 18th June 2009

8. AOB

The Race Equality Council - The Chair informed members that the Interim Director of the Race Equality Council had requested to be co-opted onto the CCMR Committee. It was agreed that the Director and/or an officer nominee of the REC be co-opted.

9. Dates of next meeting;

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High Wycombe

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