

Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

Steering Committee Meeting

3rd September 2009, 10.30am

Minutes

1. Apologies: Laurence Smy, Hafiz Khushbakht-ur-Rehman, Dr Katy Simmons, Ruth Shepherd, Pastor Jeff Atherley, Greg Livingstone, The Revd Mary Gurr

Welcome to newcomer: Tom Foy, President of the Bucks Student Union

Also present: Chaudry M Shafique, (Chair), The Revd David Picken, (Vice-Chair), Hon Burgess Raja Amir Dad Khan, Zafar Iqbal, Anne Bowker, Dominic Mundy, Imam Sultan Mahmood, Marcus Smeeth, John Bajina, Helen Byrne

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: AGREED and adopted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

- i) Retrial

'Liquid Bomb Plot' expecting a conclusion very shortly. Dominic reported to the meeting that PEO's (Prevention Engagement Officers) are to be appointed. The meeting recognised that with the likely event of further media coverage on the town, it is an important time to engage with the community. Dominic stated that a press release will be issued stating the facts immediately the trial concludes, and he stated he is almost certain the Superintendent will call together a meeting of the community.

- ii) The Revd Mary Gurr

The Revd David Picken reported to the meeting that this was to have been Mary's last meeting but unfortunately she was unable to attend. The Chair asked that many thanks be passed to Mary for her contribution to the CCMR, and much appreciation of all she has done. The meeting wished her well in her retirement.

- iii) The Chair informed the meeting that following the 'I am British, I am Muslim' trip to Pakistan, a consultation paper has been submitted to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for consideration.

- iv) It was reported at the meeting that the issue of the Islamic Stall outside All Saints' Church has been resolved.

- v) Race Equality Council

It was noted that following the last meeting a representative from the REC is to be co-opted on to the CCMR Committee. Helen Byrne to action.

4. The Common Word

The sub-group is still to meet so this item was deferred to the next meeting. Anne Bowker enquired about timescales. The Chair responded that more time was required to read through documents and reflect, but the intention was to consider a date within the next 12 months. There was a suggestion that a date needs to take into account festivals and Ramadam.

5. Website/Media

A sub-group to look at these areas has been formed. The group consists of Laurence Smy, John Bajina, Dr Katy Simmons with the Chair and Vice-chair being ex-officio members attending as required.

John Bajina reported to the meeting that he will not submit the possible design and look of the website to the meeting until it is all in place, but asked for ideas of what people would like to see on the site. It was suggested that the minutes of the CCMR meetings are on there so that we are seen as completely 'transparent' as a Council. Marcus offered help with 'host' email. It was agreed that Imam Sultan Mahmood be co-opted on to the group with immediate effect.

6. Funding Application to Wycombe District Council

The Chair informed the meeting that the WDC has invited Applications for the next round of PVE Funding. He suggested that we take this opportunity to put in an application based on the work of the CCMR in promoting Community Cohesion. The two areas he suggested were the 'Common Word' Project and the cost of the CCMR website development. It was agreed that the website/media group with the inclusion of Imam Sultan Mahmood, would draft the Funding Application. The deadline is 9th November 2009. Anne Bowker agreed to assist with the preparation of the Application, drawing on her experience and knowledge from her work with Sharing of Faiths.

7. Visit to Lambeth Palace

The Revd David Picken informed the meeting that he has been invited to speak with Canon Guy Wilkinson, National Inter Religious Affairs Adviser & Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury, about the work of the CCMR. A suggestion was made to the meeting that perhaps in return Canon Guy could be invited to speak here.

8. Faith Leaders Forum

The Revd David Picken informed the meeting that a new significant group had recently been established called the 'Faith Leaders Forum', with the purpose of contributing to strategic policy making within the Wycombe District Council area. The Chair congratulated The Revd David Picken and Imam Sultan Mahmood who had respectively been elected as the Chair and Vice-chair of this forum. They will keep the CCMR informed of the Forum's work and its progress. The meeting wished them well in this important project.

9. AOB

The Chair informed the meeting that he will be in Pakistan from 19th September to 17th October inclusive.

At the last Think Tank Meeting the members studied and discussed in some detail two articles by Dr Taj Hargi, Head of the Muslim Education Centre in Oxford. After some discussion at the CCMR meeting it was unanimously agreed to invite Dr Hargey to speak at a later meeting.

Tom Foy agreed to provide refreshment for CCMR meetings from the Students Union budget. Everyone thanked him for this.

10. Date of next meeting;

Tuesday 3rd November
Old Board Room, Bucks New University, 10.30am
Thursday 10th December
Room to be advised