



Council for
Christian Muslim
Relations

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Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

Monday 3rd May 2016

Minutes

Present: Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Hugh Ellis (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Rybak, Toni Brodelle, Mark Macaulay, Helen Byrne, Daniel Sullivan, John Bajina, Stephanie Rybak, Anouar Kassim, Tony Dickinson, M L Raja, A Rashil, Riaz Ahmed, John Richey, Asmat Mohammed, John Lumgair, Masud Ahmed, Ahmad Zahur, Dr H Ramzy, Tony King, Laurence Smy, David Snoxell, Dr Pasha, Dr Saboor, Dr Ghayas Siddiqui, Karen Satterford, Sajid Ali.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Shafique opened the meeting with a welcome to all and especially a warm welcome to those joining the CCMR meeting for the first time and Karen Satterford as the guest speaker.

2. Apologies

Paul Bowen, Summer Khan-Juma, Greg Lvingstone, Anne Bowker.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 14th March 2016

Anouar Kassim asked the minutes to reflect that the Islamic Art Project involves mosques in High Wycombe rather than Milton Keynes.

4. Current Issues

English Defence League (EDL) March

The members noted that the EDL March had happened without any major incidents. This was put down to careful planning by the local police, Wycombe District Council, local community organisations including the mosques and churches. The Chairman expressed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the whole committee to all those who contributed to this successful outcome. Special thanks were recorded again for Laura Vale for coming up with the idea and organising the 'peaceful "pillow" project' to demonstrate solidarity within our diverse community in High Wycombe.

Acting Together In Loving Kindness

Hugh Ellis and John Bajina brought the meeting up-to-date with the progress regarding this project helping Syrian refugees.

Islamic Art Project – the meeting received reminder about this event and that the project will be open from 9am-4pm, with a 5.30pm launch on 7 May.

5. Guest Speakers

Shafique welcomed the guest speakers Karen Satterford Chief Executive of Wycombe District Council and Daniel Sullivan, Community Safety and Prevent Coordinator.

Karen Satterford started the presentation with a detailed background to the reasons behind the Prevent Programme and how it has been modified in response to changing circumstances around the issues of radicalisation and terrorism. Then Daniel Sullivan supplemented Karen's input with further current information about the philosophy of Prevent and its objectives and also gave examples of Prevent instances being sometimes misunderstood or mis-interpreted.

This was followed by a lengthy discussion and debate with a variety of opinions and comments particularly in relation to the implications of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This discussion made it clear that the Prevent Programme is recognised to have some merits in dealing with the challenges linked with religious extremism and radicalisation but also that many people in positions of authority and experience have reservations about it in the way that it can demonise the whole community and produce counter-productive results.

6. Vote of thanks

Hugh Ellis thanked Karen and Daniel for giving a stimulating talk which led to such lively discussion.

7. Date of next meeting

No date has currently been set.