

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION  
– COMMUNITIES GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER AT 5.20 IN HMS  
DARING ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

Present:

Marcia Lewinson – Waits

Wade Lyn – Chair and Honorary Consul Jamaica

Mike Murray – BCC International team

Daniel Riley – The Phoenix Newspaper

Garry Stewart – Recognize

Sted Wallen – Jamaica Legacy

Sharon Warmington – Suite of Services Ltd

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were submitted by Bentley Cunningham, Beverley Lindsey, Chile Oduoza and Ghazala Javed.

**Welcome and introductions**

WL welcomed Garry Stewart and Sharon Warmington to the Group.

**Matters arising from the last meeting – October**

Colleagues were reminded of the need to obtain a broad based membership of the group that reflected as many of Birmingham`s communities as possible. It was intended that the Group would in some way give recognition to the independence celebrations of all Birmingham communities.

**ACTION:** MM to establish a data base of Birmingham community independence days.

The active participation of colleagues was requested by the Chairman, emphasising that the direction of the Group will be determined by its membership. There was therefore a need to define more clearly the longer-term objectives of the Group.

The notes of the meeting held on 8 October 2014 were agreed.

## **Report of Chairman**

### **Commonwealth Day – 9 March 2015**

WL updated colleagues on the preliminary arrangements for the celebration of Commonwealth Day on Monday 9 March 2015. It was hoped the celebrations will include: the raising of the Commonwealth flag at the Council House, Honorary Consulates and other buildings; a multi-faith service at St Chads Cathedral; a UK Citizens Ceremony to be held in the Birmingham Register Office specifically for people of Commonwealth origin and a dinner at University College Birmingham.

Colleagues were encouraged to make suggestions for other Commonwealth related activities to be held on 9 March.

### **Report of Sted Wallen on the Jamaican Legacy**

SW informed the Group of the progress being made on the cricket and cultural tour of Jamaica in September 2015, forming part of the Jamaican legacy.

The current content of the tour comprised: a series of 6 cricket matches (based around Kingston and Montego Bay); a gospel choral event and dominos competition. In addition it is hoped to have some community benefit activity with local schools, a hospitality and people with disability.

With the assistance of Warwickshire County Cricket Club, Birmingham amateur cricket clubs and the City Council the process of identifying the Birmingham ambassadorial team had begun. Representatives of the Gospel churches and domino players had also been approached seeking participation in the various elements of the tour.

Of major current concern is the issue of sponsorship. It is hoped this can be resolved by May / June 2015.

Sted undertook to give regular updates on the tour to the Group.

### **Commonwealth Group charitable activity 2015**

WL reminded colleagues of the decision to undertake some Commonwealth related charitable activity during 2015. Ben Cunningham had reiterated his earlier proposal to WL where it was hoped the various Birmingham communities would collaborate in collecting items of use to disadvantaged citizens. Those items would ideally be stored in a “neutral” City Council building prior to distribution.

The Group was asked to identify an appropriate charitable cause of interest to all communities.

## **Events**

GS reported that a Community Heritage event was to be held on Saturday afternoon, 29 November at the Lighthouse Centre, six-ways Erdington.

## **Other business**

### **Commonwealth Day**

In response to a suggestion from ML, MM undertook to approach staff of the Library of Birmingham and Museum and Art Gallery to ask if they would be will to participate in Commonwealth Day 2015. The suggestion was made this could possibly comprise the exhibition of archives etc.

### **Agenda of future meetings**

It was agreed that until further notice the agenda of all future meetings should include an update on the 2015 cricket tour, Commonwealth Day, proposed charitable activity and events.

### **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 15 January 2015 at 5.30 in the Council House, Birmingham