

Birmingham Commonwealth Association

'Communities' Focus Group'

AGENDA

4.30pm on Thursday 30 April, Committee Room 1 Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB

Attendees

Heather Law	BCC
Wade Lyn	Chair
Keith Stokes Smith	Chair of BCA
Sted Wallen	BDLT and BSCD
Garry Peal	BCC
Chike Oduoza	University of Wolverhampton (Community Association in Midlands – Nigeria)
Dr Pyara Singh Bhogal	Council of Sikh Gurupanaras in Birmingham
Ms Shagufta Hamid-Khan	BOPA Vice Chair
Mr Jagdish Rai	Central Valmiki Sabha International UK
Mr Davinder Prasad	General secretary BOPA
Bosco Ngabonzima	West Midland- Rwandese Community Association
Hamid Malik	Federation of Indian Muslims
BC Pradham	Consulate Head of Chancery. Consulate General of India, Birmingham
Pam Hepburn	BCC, Equalities team

1. Welcome and notes of last meeting.

WL: Welcomed new members to the group including Bosco Ngabonzima who is keen to promote Rwanda and would like the CW trade and business meeting to focus on Rwanda at some point in the future.

- Jagdish Rai would like to be invited to the next education meeting

2. Matters arising from the last meeting in April (notes previously circulated)

Key events we want to support include:

- Commonwealth Day
- 9th September the Queen will be our longest reigning monarch.
- Idea to host symposiums – needs someone to drive this forward

3. Report from Wade Lyn on current activity Commonwealth Day parade 13th March 2016

- Plan to have a parade through Bham city centre –HL checked feasibility with Centre City Management – Sunday is better to organise road closures, although there may still be problems with the Metro road works. Sted or Davinder will chair on this group; Hamid Malik and Mrs Shagufta Hamid Kahn also support this activity.
- Idea to involve students at local universities from the CW to participate in the parade was also discussed. Prof Melvyn Prior will get Students' Union on board.
- There may be a multi-faith service at St Philips on 14th March

4. Report from Sted Wallen on sport related activity / Jamaican legacy

The Olympic Legacy Tour is working with BCC; Legacy Association and University of Birmingham. BCC is committed to delivering four sport and cultural legacy activities- athletics and netball legacy events have already taken place.

Tour will take place 20th September 2015 for two weeks. There will be 6 cricket matches. The Warwickshire county cricket club are also working on the project, plus there will be a gospel element to the tour and a 'search for a Jamaican Cricket Star' initiative to identify a young cricket ambassador.

The weakness of the project lies in identifying funding – there will be a meeting after this one to discuss this further.

Approximately £50,000 is needed for the tour. The BCA may organise a couple of lunches to help support the tour.

5. Commonwealth related charitable activity – further discussion

Ben Cunningham is keen for BCA communities group to support a charity. He has access to transport companies which could help with logistics, but currently has no storage site.

ACTION: Those who are interested in supporting Ben with the charity idea should contact him and work up a project plan.

Sted is in favour, Satpal's team is in favour; tentative support given by Hamid Malik; Davinder Prasad; Ms Shagufta Hamid-Khan.

ACTION: Ben to present at a future meeting

6. Fund raising – further discussion

ACTION: KSS to meet with Harjeet – specialist in National Lottery bids – particularly in relation to proposal for procession through the city centre.

Proposal: Hamid Malik proposes to collect £1000 perCW country to donate to the BCA which will enable the CW Communities group to support its ideas.

Proposal: Hamid Khan suggested broadening the remit of the CW association to include the UK. Mrs Hamid Khan suggested making it West Midlands or the Midlands based.

ACTION: HL/MM to discuss the option of broadening the focus of the association.

7. 9th September, Commemoration of HRH Queen becoming longest reigning UK monarch – further discussion

- UCB are looking into having a meal, but students will only just have returned from holiday, so this venue may not be feasible.
- KSS spoken to Aston and will get a price from them (target of 100 people at meal)
- Other potential venues include the Plough and Harrow or the Eden hotel on the Hagley Road.
- Paul Sabapathy and Sir Albert will join us.
- Victoria Square is also available at a cost of £180 for any outside events

ACTION: Anyone interesting in running this project should get in touch with Keith

8. Up-coming community events

- International day of yoga on 21 June – there will be a yogathon in Victoria Sq
Notes from last meeting agreed.
- Davinder: BOPA will be celebrating longest serving Monarch (**Wade /Keith is this right?**) on 12th Sept 2015 in Coventry. It will be a multicultural function involving all CW communities.
- 19 June VE Day – will be celebrating the contribution of CW soldiers – could invite all high commissioners to this.
- Indian Independence Day 15th August – invitees only event
- 10 October 2015 – Nigerian Independence Day
- 30 August 2015-Birmingham annual Sports and Cultural day
- 5 August 2015- Jamaica Independence Day
- Continual fund raising activity to build a cricket stadium in Rwanda (£150,000 raised to date through Brian Lara)

ACTION: KSS to recirculate the events calendar to CW Communities Group.

9. Any other business.

HL promoted the CLGF conference in Botswana Botswana between 16 and 19 June. Birmingham will have a session as part of the Commonwealth Inclusive Cities Network which it coordinates. Within that workshop will be specific consideration on how cities can best engage with business and other partners to improve international trade.

ACTION anyone who would like Mike Murray to raise awareness of their organisation / company with a specific country should contact mike.murray@birmingham.gov.uk

10. Date, time and location of next meeting

- 28th May
- 25 June
- 30th July