

Meeting of the Birmingham Commonwealth Association – Communities

Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 10.30 in committee room B

Attendees

Amrick Singh Ubhi	-	Nishkam
Daniel Riley	-	Phoenix newspaper
Satpal Hira	-	BCC
Beverly Lindsay	-	Association of Jamaican Nationals
Mike Murray	-	BCC
Heather Law	-	BCC
Wade Lyn, CBE	-	(Chair) Honorary Consul, Jamaica
Bentley Cunningham	-	Jamaican Cultural Association
Sted Wallen	-	Birmingham/Jamaica Sporting Legacy
Rajinder Rattu	-	

1. Welcome and introductions

- Group welcomed Rajinder Rattu and Amrick Singh Ubhi to the group for the first time.
- The South African Consul and Indian Consul also would like to be involved in the CW community meetings.
- Wade was keen to point out that the group constantly seeks to increase its representation to reflect the diversity of the Bham populace.

2. Matters arising from the last meeting in July

- Minutes of last meeting discussed by group
- Creative Europe was briefly discussed. Any enquiries should go to Stuart.Russon@birmingham.gov.uk
- WL thanked the Phoenix for the excellent coverage provided for the launch of the group. Keith also publicised the launch on New Style Radio

- SH invites group to look at Bham faith map and contribute where appropriate: www.birminghamfaithmap.org

3. Consider and agree terms of reference – draft provided

- Mission statement needs sharpening – to consider what success looks like.
- Point 2. *Reduce/avoid duplication of key stakeholder time/resource/effort* – needs clarification, specifying the need to avoid duplication with outside organisations.
- The group has agreed the TOR in principle and is aware that they will change over time.

ACTION: MM to update the TOR

- ### 4. Brain storming session to consider three achievable objectives and targeted outcomes within agreed timescales relating to:

What Commonwealth countries do Birmingham communities engage with?

Can we identify Commonwealth related Community initiatives to develop?

How do we work together to engage as Commonwealth Communities?

And identification of whom amongst those present can assist with these objectives.

Commonwealth day March 9th

- Group keen to have an event where there would be more social mixing between different communities. Both in terms of audience and performers. This celebratory event should be planned for March 2016. Idea of combining a celebratory event with a cross-cultural symposium was also mooted by the group. Ideas to be further developed.
- Commonwealth day in 2015 will include a flag raising ceremony (CW flag) at the Council House with the Lord Lieutenant Mr. Paul Chandrasekharan Sabapathy, CBE and the Lord Mayor. There will also be flag raising ceremonies at the relevant Consul General buildings in Birmingham.

Commonwealth group initiative

- Group agreed that they should focus on a charitable activity that all communities can contribute to.
- Need to identify a theme
- Need to identify a planning team and ensure activity is communicated effectively to other CW and non CW groups.
- Work towards the launch of the project on 9.03.2015
- Logistics needs to be addressed

- Need a neutral co-ordinating hub

Sport

- Sted Wallen expressed an interest in chairing a sports group.
- The Olympic Jamaican legacy has to date delivered two initiatives, with two further initiatives needing to be delivered.
- There is a launch of the City of Birmingham Olympic Legacy Tour.....Jamaica 2015 on 9.10.2014 at Edgbaston Cricket Club County Ground

ACTION: HL to tweet and write an article on the Jamaica 2015 initiative

5. What additionally does the group want to see taking place at group meetings? Speakers, presentations, visits, social events, debates?

- Group expressed desire for meetings to be held later on in the day to ensure attendance (Nishkam and others have kindly offered to host a meeting)
- Group would like the meetings to be held at a variety of community based organisations so that there is an opportunity to learn about that organisation and chance to meet key staff.
- Events in the community should be a standard agenda item in the group.
- Group to consider using the group logo as a type of kite mark – maybe could be a way of raising funds.

ACTION: Group to email MM and HL with contacts for African and other community association reps who can be invited to the next meeting.

6. Events

- 18th October Jamaica's 52nd Independence Annual local hero gala and awards at Aston Villa's Holte Banqueting Suite
- w/c 20.10.2014 - Faith leaders from Birmingham are going to Amritsar
- 19th October :Diwali festival– Soho Road
- 13th September – 13th December: 'Sound and Silence – personal reflection' from all faiths exhibition at BMAG
<http://www.bmag.org.uk/news?id=348>
- 17th November – EU Parliament – exhibition on WW1 Sikh heritage
- 9.10.2014 City of Birmingham Olympic Legacy Tour.....Jamaica 2015 on at Edgbaston Cricket Club County Ground

7. Date of next meeting

November 13th 17:30hrs at HMS Daring, Council House

