

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH  
ASSOCIATION COMMUNITIES GROUP HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER AT 5.30IN  
HMS DARING ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

Present:

Bentley Cunningham  
Suzanne Dottin – Payne  
Angela King  
Agata Klosowska – Phoenix Newspaper  
Beverly Lindsay  
Wade Lyn – Chair and Honorary Consul, Jamaica  
Aaron Mapp  
Mike Murray – International Team, Birmingham City Council  
Daniel Riley – Phoenix Newspaper  
Keith Stokes – Smith – Chair, BCA  
Sted Wallen – Jamaica Legacy

**Welcome and introductions**

WL welcomed Angela King, Agata Klosowska and Aaron Mapp to the Group.

**Matters arising from the last meeting – November:**

- There will be a trade mission with UKTI to Jamaica in April 2016.
- KSS had attended the Indian Republic Day celebrations on behalf of the BCA.
- Barbados Independence Day will be celebrated on 30 November.

**Keith Stokes – Smith**

WL introduced Keith Stokes – Smith, Chairman of the Birmingham Commonwealth Association (BCA). Keith gave an overview of the BCA and its broader activities including the work of the Education and Business and Trade Groups. Of specific importance to the Communities Group was the need to be inclusive and engage with as many as possible of Birmingham's diverse communities.

**Jamaican Legacy**

SW updated colleagues on activities surrounding the Jamaican Legacy. Much of the activity would revolve around a visit to Jamaica between 25 September and 9

October 2015. Between those dates a series of events were to be held to commemorate the legacy. This will include, gospel singing, domino tournaments and cricket matches, being organised with support from the local organising Committees, Jamaica Cricket Association, British High Commission Kingston, Jamaican Government representatives and the Jamaica Tourist Board.

In addition some community based activity was envisaged to include a hospital or school as well as the upgrading of a sporting facility.

Sponsorship was proving hard to obtain although series of fund raising had been scheduled including a tour of UK cities including Manchester and London.

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

WL and KSS remind colleagues of the activities programmed for the commemoration of Commonwealth Day on Monday 9 March. The programme currently comprised:

- The raising of the Commonwealth flag by the Lord Mayor at approximately 9.30 at the Council House. All colleagues were invited to attend.
- A UK Citizenship ceremony for Commonwealth nationals to be held midmorning at the Birmingham Register Office.
- A Commonwealth Dinner to be held at University College Birmingham at which the Lord Lieutenant and Leader of Birmingham City Council will be present.

### **Commonwealth related charitable event**

BC said he had met with Satpal Hira, BCC Equalities Section, to discuss this Group's intention to collect and store items of use to disaster victims across the Commonwealth. Colleagues agreed with the overall principle and BC was requested to progress the matter further with Satpal and report back to the Group.

SW offered to assist BC in this activity.

### **Jamaican diaspora dinner – Saturday 7 February**

BC reminded the Group of a Jamaican Diaspora dinner to be held on Saturday 7 February at the Sports Centre, Laurel Road, Handsworth. Anyone interested was asked to phone 07909021010.

**Date of next meeting – 30 April at 4.30 in the Council House, Victoria Square.**

