

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM
HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON ON THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2015
COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair: J Kaufman

Councillor: S. Morris

Officers in Attendance: V Quintyne

Others in attendance: The Race Equality Centre (Tahera Khan), Oadby & Wigston Muslim Association (Iqbal Noor Mohamed), Oadby & Wigston Muslim Association (T, Maseerer), Dialogue Society (Fatima Nursima Arsan), Dialogue Society (Arzu Yilmaz), Helping Hands (Lesley Thornton), Prevent Officer, (Mark Wilson) B. Gohil (Volunteer), Oadby and Wigston Hindu Community Association; (Vinod Ghadiali), Rev'd Gillian Gamble from Oadby Parish., (Oadby Food Bank and Oadby Trinity Methodist Church (Lesley Green), Oadby Stakeholders Group).

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Responsible
1.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Apologies were received from: L.Kaufman (Volunteer), HE Loydall (Senior Citizens' Group).	
2.	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.</u> The minutes of September 30 th 2015 were received and approved.	
3	<u>REVIEW OF THE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AGENDA</u> The Equality and Diversity Agenda work plan is being progressed. It is available to download from the Council web site at: http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/files/documents/equality_and_diversity_agenda/Equality%20and%20Diversity%20Agenda%20June%202013.pdf This Agenda is the Council's framework for working with community groups and voluntary organisations to ensure its: policies, plans, strategies, projects and functions are fit for purpose, specially as they relate to the most vulnerable people in the borough. 3a Equality and Diversity Workshops and Equality Assessment Workshops dates are being identified. Invitees will principally be staff and	

<p>Council Members.</p> <p><u>CELEBRATING DIVERSITY CALENDAR – LUNCHTIME AND EVENING SEMINARS</u></p> <p>The draft calendar listing celebratory events was discussed. Colleagues were requested to provide relevant information on key dates they wished to see added to it.</p> <p>The focus of the calendar listing is to mark key festivals, events and union days which reflect the local diversity of Oadby and Wigston. This is in order to promote shared learning, knowledge and community cohesion.</p> <p>The first starter event marked National Mental Health Day in October. It took place; Thursday 15th October 2015, at 12 Noon and lasted just over an hour.</p> <p>The lunchtime seminar was facilitated by Leicestershire and Rutland Suicide Prevention Partnership. The focus of the seminars was on celebrating good mental health, underscored by the Mental Health Day theme of “Dignity”. The seminar was attended by 12 people. A mix of staff and people resident in the borough.</p> <p>The seminar was used to help people identify strategies for managing depression, anxiety and issues of suicide, coping strategies, including finding help, advice and support. Overall it was very well received and feedback suggested that sessions should run for at least two hours.</p> <p><u>ACTION: 1</u></p> <p>Check with Iqbal NoorMahamad the key celebratory dates in the Islamic Calendar for addition to the Calendar.</p> <p><u>ACTION: 2</u></p> <p>Add Refugee Week in July 2016. This notes the arrival of new migrants to Oadby and Wigston.</p> <p><u>ACTION: 3</u></p> <p>Vinod Ghadiali is to confirm the correct dates for Holi in March 2016 and Navaratri and send them to VQ to insert into the Celebratory Awareness Days listing.</p>	<p>VQ Iqbal NoorMahamad</p> <p>VQ</p> <p>VQ Vinod Ghadialil</p>
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	<p><u>ACTION: 4</u></p> <p>Councillor Kaufman is to clarify the dates for Chanukah and Yom Kippur and send them to VQ to insert into the Celebratory Awareness Days listing.</p>	Jeffrey Kaufman VQ
4	<p><u>VISTA –Presentation</u></p> <p>Due to unforeseen circumstances VISTA had to proffer its apology for non attendance.</p> <p><u>ACTION :5</u></p> <p>Place VISTA as an agenda item on a future agenda.</p>	VQ
5.	<p><u>DIALOGUE SOCIETY</u></p> <p>Arzu Yilmaz presented information on the Dialogue Society and its work.</p> <p>The following issues to note from the presentation are: A new branch of the Dialogue Society has opened in Leicester. The Dialogue Society is about promoting tolerance. Dialogue is part of a movement inspired by Fethullah Gulen . He is compared to Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. Dialogue`s agenda is to help work towards stopping wars and conflicts.</p> <p>A handout on the Dialogue Society was circulated. The organisation is a volunteer led one, works across faiths and cultures. It is playing a key role in countering radicalisation and extremism. It is based in Frog Island, 2 Swan Street, Leicester. It is a Turkish Cultural and Education Centre.</p> <p>Noah`s Pudding was explained. This Pudding and its ingredients represents unity and the Ark in terms of how people were required to get along with one another for survival.</p> <p>The Dialogue Society is to host a series of events as follows: 21st October 2015 a discussion about Youth and what needs to be done to address terrorism and terrorist threats.</p> <p>17th November Interfaith Week will be celebrated .Noah`s pudding will be distributed free in High Cross shopping centre Leicester. Books about multi-culturalism will also be available.</p> <p>20th January 2016, The Dialogue Society is hosting a Holocaust Awareness Seminar in Leicester. The keynote speaker will be Dr Martin Stern.</p> <p>3rd February 2016 , a presentation/ debate is to be held on Multiculturalism.</p>	

	<p>17th February 2016, a talk on Dementia</p> <p>11th March 2016 Sexuality and Gender.</p> <p>On concluding the presentation the Chair thanked Arzu and extended an invitation to a future meeting.</p>	
6.	<p><u>WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT)United Kingdom Government Countering Radicalisation Strategy</u></p> <p>Mark Wilson Prevent Co-ordinator for Leicester and Leicestershire presented information on the PREVENT Strategy. 'PREVENT' is short for 'Preventing Violent Extremism'. The overall aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism by raising awareness of the issues and supporting people who may be vulnerable.</p> <p>The following issues to note from the presentation are: An ice-breaker was used to address the perception/s as to what a radicalised extremist might look like</p> <p>Mark`s role is to deliver WRAP training to schools and groups in the Leicestershire region. He is promoting safeguarding through this work. There is a Programme called Channel within the WRAP. This Programme directs people on how to safeguard vulnerable people and identifies work and agencies that can help with such issues.</p> <p>Hate Crime can be reported to the Police, or via a third party, or to a reporting centre such as a church, library or TREC (The Race Equality Centre) ,Leicester. Information on hate crime is monitored by a Hate Incident Monitoring Centre. There, they look for hotspots of issues. For example areas of tension where community engagement might be required.</p> <p>Councillors can be used as a third party for intervention and contact. One to three percent of hate crime is reported nationally There are currently 24 agencies awaiting his training</p> <p>Part of Mark`s role is to look at the impact of the Extreme Far Right in Leicestershire. North west Leicestershire has a more extreme Far Right agenda.</p> <p>The heart of Prevent is about Safeguarding those who are susceptible to grooming leading to radicalisation through hate crime.</p> <p>Mark will soon be accessible via Twitter. His contact details are as follows: Mark Wilson : Prevent Officer Leicestershire County Council Supporting Leicestershire Families and Safer Communities</p>	

	<p>Children and Young People's Service County Hall, Glenfield Leicester LE3 8RA Tel: 0116 305 0219 Email: Mark.A.Wilson@leics.gov.uk. On concluding the presentation the Chair thanked Mark and extended an invitation to a future meeting.</p>	
7.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS RAISED</u> 5.a Oadby and Wigston Multi-Cultural Group This Group is to meet on 13th January 2016 at the Council Office, Station Road. Anyone interested in joining its committee please contact Councillor Kaufman at: Jeffrey.kaufman@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.</p> <p>There is funding available to support a multi-cultural group in the Borough</p> <p>The Turkish Community will be hosting a breaking of bread event with others in Oadby and Wigston</p> <p>IThis breaking of bread is called Iftar. It is a breakfast event held every day at Oadby Community Centre with the sharing of food.</p> <p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date for the next meeting is Tuesday March 15th 2016 at the Council Office, Council Chamber, Station Road, Wigston, LE18 2DR at 7pm.</p>	

The Meeting Closed at 8.30pm