

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MULTICULTURAL GROUP HELD AT BROCKS HILL COUNTRY PARK, OADBY ON MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2014 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

<p>Present: Councillor Mrs S B Morris – Chair</p> <p>Councillors: Mrs S A Dickson, D A Gamble, Mrs S Z Haq, Mrs R C Kanabar, J Kaufman and Mrs L Kaufman</p> <p>Also in Attendance: J Matthews, Mrs P Joshi, Mrs L Green, A Mosley, S Thanki</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Kalv Garcha, Carolyn Holmes and Sarah Basten</p>
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Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
21.	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Councillor R Thakor, A Mohindra, C Swan, S Seth and Mrs A Nolan.</p>	SB
22.	<p><u>MINUTES OF MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2013 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair of the previous meeting, Councillor J Kaufman.</p>	JK
23.	<p><u>EVENTS AT BROCKS HILL – PRESENTATION BY CAROLYN HOLMES</u></p> <p>The Country Parks and Environment Manager delivered a presentation outlining the vision for the future of Brocks Hill, incorporating ideas and proposals for how the Council can move forward with this.</p> <p>The Group heard that the strategy for Brocks Hill was to develop projects that would deliver, through three key sections: Improvement versus Impact, Environmental Sustainability and Engagement and Working with Others. The Country Parks and Environment Manager detailed the steps we already have in place including working with volunteers. She welcomed further thoughts and ideas from the Group on how to achieve this.</p> <p>Members raised concerns about holding events at Brocks Hill for religious, faith and local community groups owing to the</p>	

	<p>restrictions in bringing food onto the premises and the limited selection the Brocks Hill café currently offers. The Group further discussed the possibility of the Brocks Hill café catering for a larger number of diverse cultures.</p> <p>Members also raised concerns surrounding the charges for hiring Brocks Hill to host multicultural events and asked whether a concession could be made for hire charges. The Group heard that the charges are currently under review and the County Parks and Environment Manager stated that if charges were going to apply, they would have to apply to all users.</p> <p>The Group debated the option of growing local produce on the site of Brocks Hill, however due to the nature and wildlife found at Brocks Hill this would not be feasible.</p> <p>The Head of Corporate Resources gave thanks to the Country Parks and Environment Manager for the progress she has made with Brocks Hill and her ongoing commitment to developing the Country Park. She also stated that the plans proposed for using Brocks Hill as the Council's social hub would interlink with all of the Council's duties and obligations in respect of the following agendas: Health and Wellbeing, Equalities, Volunteering, Multicultural, Community Cohesions and Greening the Borough.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor D A Gamble left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.</p>	
<p>24.</p>	<p><u>MULTICULTURAL GROUP – THE WAY FORWARD</u></p> <p>The Group were informed that after a meeting between Councillor J Kaufman, Councillor Mrs S Morris, the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council, it has been agreed that the Multicultural Group will become a stand alone group independent from the Council. This decision has been made to enable the Group to secure funding from sources which they are unable to utilise as a working group of the Council.</p> <p>The Group heard that in order to achieve independence from the Council, they must elect a Chair who is not a Member. It was discussed and debated in detail by the Group who then proposed to have an Executive, Chair and Vice Chair going forward to form part of the independent Group. This will be achieved by nomination for each of the positions, which should be sent to the Head of Corporate Resources. The opportunity to nominate will be, where possible, advertised Borough-wide to all affected community and cultural groups that the Council has details of. The Head of Corporate</p>	

	<p>Resources asked all members to provide her with details of all other groups (who are not on the current distribution list) that may be interested in this Group. It was agreed that the name of the Group should remain the same, namely Multicultural Group.</p> <p>When asked about the Council providing administrative support, the Head of Corporate Resources stated that the Chief Executive had confirmed that no administrative support would be available from the Council and that the Group would have their own support. The Chair stated that the information she had been given by the Chief Executive was different in that Council administrative support would be provided. The Chair stated that she would seek further clarification from the Chief Executive in this regard.</p> <p>Members proposed an advertising opportunity of religious and cultural events on a display screen contained with Oadby Library's shop window. Due to cost implications, it was agreed by the Group to source the cheapest provider to achieve this. The Group also heard that an electronic sign is to be positioned in each of the town centres namely Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston to advertise such events.</p> <p>Members gave thanks to the Head of Corporate Resources for organising the Holocaust Memorial Day Event which took place on Monday 27 January 2014. It was recognised by Members as being the most moving of all these events the Council have hosted in previous years, with the turnout being full to capacity. Other events including those held at the Muslim Community Centre were also celebrated amongst the Group.</p>	
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The Meeting Closed at 8.45 p.m.