

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

2 APRIL 2003

Chair:	* Councillor Shah	
Councillors:	* Bluston	* Janet Cowan
	* Lavingia (1)	* Jean Lammiman
	* Omar	* Anjana Patel (1)

* Denotes Member Present
(1) Denotes Category of Reserve Member

[NB Attendance at this meeting by representatives of community organisations and representatives of the Local Authority is recorded at Appendix 1.]

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

13. **Introduction by Chair:** Councillor N Shah opened the Forum by holding a minute's silence in the memory of Mr Sam Jordan, who recently passed away. Mr Jordan was remembered for being the Vice-chair of the Harrow Council of Racial Equality and for his significant contributions to community and voluntary sectors.

The Chair also took the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to community representatives present, and noted apologies received, he then outlined the programme for the evening and introduced speakers for those items.

14. **Attendance by Reserve Members: RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

<u>Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Versallion	Councillor Anjana Patel
Councillor Currie	Councillor Lavingia

15. **Declarations of Interest: RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Council in relation to the business to be transacted at this meeting.
16. **Arrangement of Agenda: RESOLVED:** That all items be considered with the press and public present. It was decided by the Chair that Item 8 of the agenda would directly proceed after Item 5 of the agenda. For clarity purposes, the layout of the minutes correlates with order of the items that were heard at the meeting.
17. **Presentation on the South Harrow Pilot Update:** Andrew Trehern, Head of Contract Services, delivered a presentation based upon the developments that had so far taken place in the South Harrow Pilot.

The Forum was informed that a co-ordinating function for the South Harrow Pilot had been established. The office dealt with all aspects of Public Realm Maintenance Services, and operated between Monday to Saturday, 08.00 - 18.00 hours; it was also equipped to handle all public queries via a variety of modes, such as texting from a mobile phone and email.

The Head of Contract Services said that the South Harrow Pilot was proving to be a success amongst residents and businesses of the area, it was explained that this was down to collaborative working practices adopted by the Council. Pictures were used to visually illustrate the effect that the Public Realm Maintenance Service was having upon the environment of South Harrow.

It was also emphasised that the Pilot had a number of pending projects set to take place over the coming months to do with: residents' meetings, traffic calming, lighting, as well as youth initiatives, details of these were soon to be advertised.

It was reported that the budget for the roll out of the enhanced Public Realm Maintenance Service had been secured for 2003/04. And that a detailed evaluation of the Pilot's success would be undertaken in July 2003 at Cabinet. It was anticipated that, if approved by Cabinet, the New Harrow Project would be rolled out across two other areas, commencing in October 2003 and January 2004.

A Member of the Forum asked what was being done to educate the community, particularly young people about anti-social behaviour and civic responsibility. The Head of Contract Services responded by saying that, the 'Residents' Survey' indicated that young people required more recreational activities, so as a consequence, a submission had been made by the Council under the 'Invest to Save' budget, if it proves successful, it would then lead to more opportunities and activities for young people within the area.

RESOLVED: For information only.

18. **Presentation from the Afghan Association of London:** Dr Habib of the Afghan Association of London spoke about the Association and its progress so far. It was explained that the Association was established in 1986, due to the relatively high volume of Afghani people that arrived in Harrow, having left Afghanistan in fear of the Taliban.

The Forum heard that the Association had two community premises, one in Harrow and the other in Wembley. It was identified that the Association had three full-time and two part-time workers on interim contracts, the rest of staff were volunteers. He stated that the Association offers extensive programmes in training and support, in areas related to Health and Education. Members were advised that in 2002, the Association received 6,000 enquiries from Afghani people in Harrow.

During the presentation, it was stated that funding was a major concern for the Association, although it had received grants from the Council which helped to fund additional resources and accommodation for specific periods; future funding was still urgently required to sustain paid staff.

In summing up, Dr Habib said that the secret of the Association's success was their meticulous book-keeping, and the staff's desire and determination to offer the best support and advice possible. It was also highlighted that there were a lot of Afghani people in Harrow that were qualified doctors and nurses who practiced in Afghanistan before they arrived in England, but due to their status, they were deemed unemployable, therefore their skills were utilised in helping the Association.

The future plan of the Association was to continue to offer the best quality service to as many people that require help.

[A reference was received from the Grants Advisory Panel, 5 December 2002, suggesting that the Community Consultative Forum invite the Afghan Association of London to present at a future meeting, in order to share best practice working with other community groups.]

RESOLVED: For information only.

Presentation by BME Consultants: Imran Khan and Mingma Norman spoke of the work opportunities that existed in the Childcare profession. Their agency had been commissioned by the DfES to raise the awareness of the work opportunities available to Black and Ethnic Minorities communities, particularly in Harrow, Camden and Croydon.

It was explained that a meeting was to be held on 16 April 2003 at the Kodak Sports Ground, for people wanting to gain more information.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

19. **Presentation on Community Cohesion:** The Forum heard a presentation from Bindu Arjoon-Matthews, Manager of the Strategic Partnerships Section.

It was explained that an inter-departmental ministerial group, chaired by John Denham, had undertaken a study into the racially motivated riots that took place in Oldham and Burnley. Through the group's study and the consequential end report produced, they identified a number of contributory factors that played a motivating role in triggering the riots, so as a consequence, a Community Cohesion programme had been devised to address the issues identified.

It was announced that under the West London Pathfinder Bid, Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow and Hammersmith and Fulham, who collectively form the West London Alliance, had successfully secured a bid for £570k. It was explained that there were 3 main elements to the project:

- 1) Communication and dissemination, which included work with the media, faith and cultural networks, and the use of west London portal for online access to good practice.
- 2) How the public sectors mainstreams community cohesion values, through regeneration and the delivery of frontline services.
- 3) Community development and strengthening community and voluntary activities. This work would cover youth and community organisations and networks, which would include Black and Ethnic Minorities communities and refugees, sports, leisure and cultural activities; faith communities and ownership of the community cohesion agenda.

Partners in the project included the West London Alliance, West London Voluntary Sector Network, Metropolitan Police, West London Business, London Fire Brigade, Primary Care Trusts, and the Trinity Mirror Group

The Manager of the Strategic Partnerships Section informed the Forum of funds available from the Home Office for connecting communities through Race Equality.

[The Partnership Section was planning to send out funding application packs from the Home Office in early May 2003, to Members of the Partnership.]

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

20. **Review of Social Services for Older People from Black and Other Minority Communities:** The Forum received a report from David Burnell, Head of Community Care, Housing and Social Services, who was not present at the meeting. There was also an Addendum tabled on the night of the meeting from the head of service, which the Chair read out.

The Addendum explained that Paragraphs 5.8 to 5.11 no longer applied, as the Council's Milap Kitchen would provide the Asian vegetarian food. And due to delivery alterations, the estimated 24 additional meals required, had been reduced to 17.

Forum Members welcomed the report, and said the emergence of Asian vegetarian food was a positive move forward. It was suggested that the Head of Community Care, Housing and Social Services, attends the forthcoming community events planned in April 2003, in order to acquire the appropriate people for the proposed Sub-group.

Members who put their names forward for being involved in the proposed Sub-group were recorded, and their details passed onto the Head of Community Care, Housing and Social Services.

[The Head of Community Care, Housing and Social Services was not able to attend at the meeting, however, he was planning to attend the meeting on 2 July 2003, where he will answer any further questions on the report that was attached to the Community Consultative Agenda, 2 April 2003.]

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

21. **Open Forum:** **RESOLVED:** Members of the Forum suggested the following topics for future CCF meetings:

- after-school activities available for young people in the evening and at weekends;
- impact of the Council's Grant funding, concessionary lettings and community transport;

RESOLVED: That Forum Members requests be implemented over forthcoming meetings.

22. **Minutes: RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 October 2002 of the Community Consultative Forum, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.
23. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting: RESOLVED:** To note that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
24. **Members Required for the North West London Community Foundation's Grants Panel:** Further to this issue being raised as an item for any other business, Councillor Bluston explained that the Foundation who had specific committees for Harrow, Brent, Ealing, Barnet and Hillingdon, were looking for Members from the Black and Ethnic Minorities communities, to be on the Grants Panel for Harrow. It was suggested to Members that if interested, please contact him.

[Note: the meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.18 pm].

(Signed) NAVIN SHAH
Chair

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE FORUM – 2 April 2003**(1) Representatives of Community Organisations:-**

G Ali	Pakistan Society of Harrow
M Ali	Pakistan Society of Harrow
Kanti Nagda	Sangat Community Centre
Mohammad Rizvi	Harrow Islamic and Cultural Society of Harrow
Varsha Bavishi	Harrow Mencap/ UKAWC
Punitha Perinparaja	Kala-Anjali Arts Circle
Dr Habib	Afghan Association of London
Akhtar Jaffer	KSIMC Stanmore Mosque
Niru Desai	Harrow Women's Association
V K Nathan	
Fazal Tharoo	KSIMC Stanmore Mosque
S K Kapoor	Indian Association of Harrow

(2) Officers of the Council:-

John Almond	Highways, Lighting and CCTV Manager
Bindu Arjoon-Matthews	Manager, Strategic Partnerships Section
Andrew Trehern	Head of Contract Services

[Note: Apologies were received from Vijay Malik, Equal Opportunities Development Manager and David Burnell, Head of Community Care, Housing and Social Services.]