



Bromsgrove
District Council
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The Equality and Diversity Forum
Thursday 18th September 2008

In attendance	
Hugh Bennett	Assistant Chief Executive, Bromsgrove District Council
Mr. Chaudhari	Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum
Nuala Dalton	Bromsgrove Resident
Jeff Edwards	Bromsgrove Older People's Forum
Claire Felton	Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council
Patricia Hackett	Mencap
Jean Henderson	Bromsgrove and Redditch Advocacy Group
Tracy Hodges	Day Services Manager, Padstone Day Centre
Jenny McNicol.	Corporate Policy and Performance Department, Bromsgrove District Council
Superna Makwana	Bromsgrove Resident
Elaine Mortimore	Bromsgrove Youth Homelessness Forum
Eileen Mulhall	Worcestershire Association of Service Users and North Worcestershire SPIN
Trevor Rigg	Bromsgrove Black History Society and Forum Chair
Joe Scott	Forum Vice Chair
Cllr. Roger Smith	Bromsgrove District Council
Iain Trethewey	North Worcestershire D.I.A.L.

Apologies	
Sat Aggarwal	Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum
Mike Brown	Chief Executive, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust
Mary Collett	Worcestershire Association of Service Users
Joan King	The Gender Trust
Fiona Scott	Equality Officer, Bromsgrove District Council

1. Community Bids 2009-10

There was a single agenda item for the meeting on this occasion: to consider the Community Bids received from members of the Equality and Diversity Forum for the 2009-10 budget round.

Hugh Bennett gave a presentation on the budget process and outlined the projects that had been supported in 2008-09. This year is the second year of putting forward community bids for consideration by Members, who will make their decisions at Full Council in January 2009.

A rough set of rules had been drafted for this year's process with a £30,000 cap on the total value of bids. It was suggested by HB that repeat applications for projects should be allowed for a maximum of three years so that the Community Bidding process remains vibrant. The bids should also support the Council's priorities in some way. The priorities were updated at Full Council on 17th September and are now Housing, Town centre, Sense of Community and Clean Streets and Climate Change. The Customer Service priority will now become a Council value.

The following Community Bids were received:

- Diwali event at the Spadesbourne Suite - £2,500 requested.
- Support for Disability Group (social and information network for disabled people). £500 requested.
- Self-advocacy help groups for older people to develop self-advocacy skills and remain independent for longer. £4,320 requested.
- Charity Farm Fun Day, working with Bromsgrove Youth Homeless Forum so that 16-25s can develop life skills and confidence through the process of organising this event. £5000 requested.

- Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Network. Identifying whether there is need for such a network and providing a voice for this community. £500 requested.
- Black History Month. £2,500 requested.
- Allotment Project. Padstone Greenscope Day Services wish to regenerate a run-down allotment at Watt Close. £1200 requested.

Total value of bids = £16,520.

All the bids were felt to be worthy and provided demonstrable links to the Council's priorities, largely through their contribution to Sense of Community. **Trevor Rigg** suggested the two bids for £500 should be increased to £1000 each. **Joe Scott** proposed that all the bids should be put forward for Members to consider as part of the 2009-10 budget round and **Jeff Edwards** seconded this. It would be expected that successful bidders should report back to the Forum on their experiences.

Action

- HB/ FS to approach Mary Collett and Jo Wright to discuss increasing their bids to £1000

-FS to include an item on the next Forum agenda about developing a booklet or folder for information about VCS and Public Sector Organisations (this arose from discussion about the Disability Support Group bid).

-ALL to share details about when forthcoming events are planned for, as well as scheduled public Council meetings, so that Forum members can attend if they wish.

Signed

**Trevor Rigg
Chair**