



## Equality and Diversity Forum

Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008

<b>In attendance</b>	
Sat Aggarwal	Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum
Mr B K Chaudhari	Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum
Nuala Dalton	Bromsgrove Resident
Jeff Edwards	Bromsgrove Older People's Forum, Bromsgrove and District NHS Retirement Fellowship
Claire Felton	Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council
Amanda Glennie	Research and Policy Officer, Strategic Housing, Bromsgrove District Council
Patricia Hackett	Mencap
Tracey Hodges	Padstone, Worcestershire County Council
Joan King	The Gender Trust
Balbinder Kular-Taylor	Senior Positive Action Adviser, West Mercia Constabulary Head Quarters
Eileen Mulhall	Worcestershire Association of Service Users
Trevor Rigg	Bromsgrove Resident and Forum Chair
Joe Scott	Bromsgrove Resident and Forum Vice Chair
Keith Sherman	Chief Officer, Bromsgrove and District Age Concern
Phil Street	Executive Director of Services, Bromsgrove District Council
John Tempest	Worcestershire Mental Health Network
John Williams	Malvern Hills District Council
Jo Wright	Bromsgrove Resident

<b>Apologies</b>	
Hugh Bennett	Assistant Chief Executive, Bromsgrove District Council
Stuart Bray	Pinke.biz
Mary Collett	Disabled Users Group
Kevin Dicks	Chief Executive, Bromsgrove District Council and Acting Chief Executive Redditch Borough Council
Wayne Knighton	Bromsgrove resident

Tony Lowry	Bromsgrove District Housing Trust
Elaine Mortimore	Bromsgrove Youth Homelessness Forum
Peter Oteng	Worcestershire Race Equality Council
Julie Wright	West Mercia Constabulary

### 1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies as above.

### 2. Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008

The minutes were acceptance as a true and accurate record.

### 3. Matters arising if not included on main agenda

**Mr. Chaudhari** conveyed his gratitude to Bromsgrove District Council and all persons associated with the Diwali event. He specifically wanted to mention that **Fiona Scott** was very helpful and without her help the event would not have been possible.

### 4. Items from the Forum Chairman

**Trevor** briefly explained the Seasons Greeting card from the Forum and the District Council to Forum members and partners. Trevor asked for any suggestions that may improve things next year. It was generally acknowledged that the church was an appropriate scene.

### 5. Equality Officer Highlight Report - Fiona Scott

This item was deferred to the next meeting as **Fiona** she was absent due to illness.

**Trevor** requested that **Fiona** document the activities in relation to Black History Month and the Diwali Celebrations.

**Mr Chaudhari** praised the Highway Code for Scooter users which was circulated with the papers.

### 6. Items from the Chief Executive – Kevin Dicks

#### Items from the floor

Phil Street undertook this item in Kevin's absence.

- **Joe Scott** asked what the gritting policy was in relation to the roads. **Phil** explained that it is a County Council responsibility. He will look into this further and report back to the next meeting.
- Joe Scott** said that the grit bins in Charford were empty. **Joe** also wanted to know what the policy was in terms of gritting.
- **Eileen Mulhall** mentioned that Sidemoor is like an ice rink and elderly and disabled people have to stay in.
  - **John Tempest** asked who is responsible for gritting pavements? Could we find out the policy position on the gritting of pavements?
  - **Keith Sherman** stated that we need to find out what the legal position is if we grit the pavements outside our own homes.
  - **Phil** agreed to find out the position from the County Council Highways Department and email around to the forum members with clarity on these issues.
  - **Trevor** asked that the Forum write to Bromsgrove District Housing Trust to ask them to confirm their policy position in relation to gritting outside sheltered housing complexes.
  - **Joe Scott** explained that he worked for Bromsgrove District Housing Trust and he has been told neither he, nor the organisation can be sued but he has not got anything in writing.
  - **Trevor** asked for a letter to go to Primary Care Trust requesting information as to how many people in Bromsgrove have falls as a result of ice on the pavements.
  - **Mr. Chaudhari** said that some of the streets are neglected and gritters need to be more comprehensive in their coverage of roads and pavements in the District.

**Keith Sherman** explained there is a countywide Primary Care Trust scheme for recording falls. They have introduced a new Level One falls assessments and they are working with people who are at risk of having a fall. It is a single sheet of A4 that establishes four or five questions in relation to previous fall history, medication etc. **Keith** explained that the Primary Care Trust are very keen for as many people as possible to be aware of the scheme. **Jackie Treshie** is the person responsible at the Primary Care Trust and **Keith** will ask her to send through some information for **Fiona** for this to be included in the minutes.

It was also suggested that the Primary Care Trust be asked to a future meeting to talk about the scheme.

Phil Street spoke about the following items and then answered questions in relation to :-

- The Corporate Performance Assessment in November.
- The Young Peoples participatory event in partnership with the County in January
- The Council's Budget
- The Town Centre
- Christmas lights
- Town Centre public toilet block refurbishment - Phil agreed to ascertain what temporary arrangements can be made during the refurbishment
- Parkside School listing
- Market Hall and open market in High Street
- Extra Care facility in Charford
- Affordable Housing
- Regional Centre of Excellence – Basement Project
- Dolphin Centre fitness suite
- Kevin Dicks sent a Merry Christmas Happy New Year greeting to everyone

**Trevor** asked that **Phil** provide a presentation about the Town Centre redevelopment project at a future meeting.

**Eileen** expressed her concern about the mobility issues on the days of the street market.

**Jo Wright** asked about swimming for young people and Multi-Agency Resource Centre in Charford. **Phil** explained that the Council will not provide free swimming for young people due to the cost. Bromsgrove District Council is working with the County to secure support for young people in Charford.

**Keith Sherman** spoke about a project that has been undertaken by Waseley Hills School. The pupils have collected food and made up hampers for old people. They will be distributed over the next few days.

## **7. Items from the Assistant Chief Executive – Hugh Bennett**

### **Update on Community Transport Update on 2009/2010 Community Bids**

**Phil** updated the forum on the community transport working group. He explained that the group are currently looking at routes and charging. This is a complicated legal area and Bromsgrove District Council is taking advice from other council's in respect of these issues. It is anticipated that it will be late summer or early autumn before the bus is operational.

**Mr Chaudhari** asked that **Mr. Street** looked into why there is no public transport in other areas of the District, particularly the Oakalls.

**Phil** suggested that we ask someone to come to talk about public transport in Bromsgrove generally to a future meeting.

**Phil** talked about the community bids and updated the Forum on their progress.

**Trevor** wanted those people who had put in a bid to feedback to the Forum on their own bids at a future meeting.

Members of the Forum asked if they could attend the Executive Cabinet and the Full Council meetings. These meetings are open to the public so anyone can attend.

## **8. Update on Home Choice Plus initiative**

### **Amanda Glennie – Housing Research and Policy Officer Strategic Housing, Bromsgrove District Council**

Amanda did a presentation on Home Choice Plus and answered questions. Amanda gave out contact details for anyone who wanted to speak to someone on a 1-1 basis.

## 9. Future Agenda Items

**West Mercia Police – public perception of safety particularly in the evenings**

**Speaker from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership**

**Safety - Jo Wright** asked for items to be put on the agenda for the meeting in February. Invite someone from the police Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans-people Forum. How can we find out the needs of people in Bromsgrove Town? February is Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans-people History Month and **Jo** is keen for this to be recognised.

A presentation about Positive Action by Balbinder from the perspective of local policing.

Town Centre redevelopment plans - sometime in the Spring.

**The meeting closed at 8 pm**

**Time, date and place of next meeting –**

**6.30 pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**The Committee Room**

