

Bristol Somali Forum Meeting (BSF)

Date: 22 April 2010

Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Malcolm X Community
Centre

Type of meeting: BSF monthly meeting

Hosted by: Somali youth Education & Welfare Foundation (SYEWF)

Chaired by: Latif Ismail

Note taker: Abdi Mohamed

Present

BSF Management Committee

Latif Ismail, Chair
Dheeho Yusuf, Deputy Chair
Said Burale, Treasurer
Abdi Mohamed, Secretary

In attendance:

Full Name

Organisation/Representing

Amina Hirsi	Somali Development Group
Laura Keepin	Somali Development Group
Egeran Gibril	Somali Advice Project
Liban Mohamed	Somali Youth Forum
Steve Wilmshurst	Jubilee Trust
Ahmed Duale	Linksan
Hibo Elmi	Somali Mental Health & Drugs Project
Abdullahi Farah	Somali Resource Centre
Mohamed Abdi	Somali youth Education & Welfare Foundation

Also present:

Mohamed Ismail	BCC Community Engagement & Neighbourhoods
Farhan Ahmed	BCC Community Cohesion Team
Neil Burwell	Safer Bristol Communities
Fred Semple	Safer Bristol Communities
Caroline McAlease	Bristol Link
Androa Dell	BCC Housing
Lindsay Wall	BCC Housing
Omar Jama	UWE, Faculty of Education

Apologies: Apologies were received from:

Khalil Abdi
Mohamoud Matan
Dalmar Osman
Mohamed Mumin
Ian Quaife

Minutes

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

1.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th March were agreed.

1.2 Issues arising from the minutes:

- **Communications** – a number of the group members reported that they do not receive email messages from and to the group. It was also acknowledged that this issue needs an immediate attention.

The following was agreed:

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Update (sort out) the Forum's group email	Said Burale	ASAP

2 BSF Update

2.1 Dheeho Yusuf, BSF Deputy Chair, informed the group that the new management met for the first time on Tuesday 13th April 2010. Implementing the Action Plan and resourcing the Forum were identified as priority tasks. She also mentioned the following points:

- Members of the management committee discussed about the immediate (or essential) resources needed to run the organisation, particularly finance;
- The Forum needs to establish a base (an office) to carry out day-to-day business operations;
- The Community Consortium – its aims and objectives and how to join them;
- Members will be regularly informed what happens between our monthly meetings and outcomes of Management Committee meetings.

2.2 The following key points were noted in the ensuing discussions:

- The Forum needs to create a Development Worker post so as to enable Somali-led organisations meet the Baseline Standards;
- Immediate needs will be addressed (looked at) at present despite of the persisting issues on capacity building;
- Creating a Development Worker is the second step of our work priorities;

- We need to work according to the Action Plan.

2.3 Somali-led organisations should make their voices heard by contributing to the development of relevant local strategies and consultations such as Commissioning Second Tier Organisations strategy which is being developed. Our voice must be unified – i.e. we need a coordinated response.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Provide the relevant documents for the strategy Commissioning Second Tier Organisation	Farhan Ahmed	Before 20 th May

3. Stapleton Road Action Plan

3.1 Neil Burwell and Fred Semple, Safer Bristol Communities Officers, reported that Anti Social Behaviour related issues on Stapleton Road are of concern. It is constantly on the focus of Community Safety Officers. The issues that keep coming up are:

- Somalis congregating on pavements;
- Poor relationship with Somalis;
- Negative perceptions from the existing communities;
- Lack of cultural understanding;
- Need to find out if this is related to Anti Social Behaviour or cultural
- Must resolve community tensions

3.2 Below is a summary of the key points discussed following the Community Safety Officers' report:

- Stapleton Road has changed rapidly over the years and become more diverse (cultural change);
- The cultural change has brought both social element and economical growth;
- Building cohesive communities is imperative;
- Address social and cultural issues appropriately;
- The police must avoid using Dispersal Orders unnecessarily;
- Both young people and adults congregate on pavements. This shows that culture can be used as a tool to understand issues on Stapleton Road;

- Drug problems is not part of our culture, nor it is something that we have seen back home;
- People need to feel that they are part of the community, belong to the city;
- Deliver workshops to address issues of concern to everyone – Somalis and existing community and businesses;
- Distinguish between questions about (arose from) misunderstandings and genuine;
- Previous recommendations could not be implemented because of Bristol City Council's beaurocracy.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Create a sub-group ¹ that will meet outside this Group (the Forum)	Abdi Mohamed	ASAP

4. Upcoming Elections

4.1 Steve Wilmshurst informed the group that Kensington Baptist Church organised an Election Forum and they invited all the main candidates. The event which will be held on Friday 30th April, from 7.30 to 9.00 pm, at the Kensington Baptist Church, Stapleton Road, Easton. He also invited members at the meeting and encouraged them to challenge and engage with the candidates.

4.2 Abdi Mohamed stated that the Forum wanted to organise a meeting between Somalis and the main candidates. But we realised it is better to find out how the Forum can enable Somalis participate local and national political processes. Further, we noticed that a number of Somali-led organisations and individual community members/activists were encouraging Somalis to vote and also helping them with the electoral registration.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Find out what has already been done and details of those who is involved.	Abdi Mohamed	By 20 th May
The Forum must take the lead and enable Somalis participate the local and national Political processes. Starting with and targeting the next local elections.	Latif Ismail	To be agreed

5. BCC Community Cohesion

5.1 Farhan Ahmed said that the Somali Forum will have the support of the Community Development. This will include financial support and advice and guidance. The Forum also needs to link with other forums.

5.2 It was agreed that BSF should:

- Have representatives in decision making bodies such as Thriving Neighbourhoods Board;
- Invite key officers, managers, and councillors, etc.
- Help member organisations to seek help from the Community Development Team (Farhan and his colleagues) to understand more about local strategies or priority issues.

6. Tennant Participation

6.1 Lindsay Wall and Andrea Dell talked about that they have been working on laundries related issues. It is a problem faced by all people who live in the tower blocks. They have been doing door knocking and working with the Somali Resource Centre to talk to Somali people. They have also been on the radio, BCfm Somali Show, and they are going back to the show again. The main message is to understand that laundries are sharing facilities; and residents must use their allocated time (specific slots).

7. Neighbourhood Partnerships

Mohamed Ismail will deliver his presentation at the next Forum meeting on 20th May 2010.

8. AOB

8.1 The Forum has been here for more than 12 months and has already achieved a lot; it is going from strength to strength. We must acknowledge this achievement;

8.2 We have agreed to celebrate after a year and launch the Forum officially; and

8.3 We received commitment from the Council – including Ian Quaife, Gillian Douglas, Jon house and Gary Hopkins, among many others.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Plan an event to recognise achievements and also to launch the Forum officially.	Abdi Mohamed	To be agreed
Liaise with Farhan Ahmed, Community Development Officer, to seek resources for the event	Abdi Mohamed	ASAP

Date of Next Meeting:

Date: **20th May 2010**

Time: **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

Venue: **Barton Hill Settlement**

41-43 Ducie Road

Lawrence Hill, Bristol BS5 0AX

Future Dates:

¹ Stapleton Road Action Plan: Sub-group

1. Mohamed Ismail
2. Mohamed Abdi
3. Abdi Mohamed
4. Farhan Ahmed
5. Ahmed Duale
6. Liban Mohamed
7. Steve Wilmshurst

NOTE: This list has not been finalised, but it will be forwarded to the Community Safety Officers, Neil Burwell and Fred Semple, once the minutes are agreed and approved at the next meeting.