



**Date:** 01 March 2012  
**Time:** 11.00 am – 1.00 pm  
**Venue:** Barton Hill Settlement

**DISCLAIMER:** These meeting minutes are DRAFT minutes. And their status will remain that of a draft until approved at the subsequent meeting.

## Bristol Somali Forum Minutes

**Type of meeting:** BSF Monthly Meeting      **Chaired by:** Abdi Mohamed

### Attendance

| Name             | Title                        | Representing/Organisation                                     |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Said Burale      | Treasurer                    | Bristol Somali Forum                                          |
| Abdi Mohamed     | Secretary                    | Bristol Somali Forum                                          |
| Hibaq Jama       | Vice Chair                   | Bristol Somali Forum                                          |
| Muna Abdi        | Chair                        | Somali Women's Voice/Amana                                    |
| Phil Cotgreave   | Team Manager                 | Youth and Play Services                                       |
| Ahmed Abdi       | Achievement Manager          | Barton Hill Primary                                           |
| Steve Wilmshurst | Manager                      | Easton Jubilee Trust                                          |
| Juliet Dellow    | Project Co-ordinator         | Easton Jubilee Trust                                          |
| Abdullahi Farah  | Office Manager               | Somali Resource Centre                                        |
| Abdul Malik      | Vice Chair                   | Stapleton Road Working Group                                  |
| Liz Roberts      | Development Officer          | Refugee Action                                                |
| Charlotte Bausey | Development Officer          | Refugee Action                                                |
| Karina Castro    |                              | Trinity Centre                                                |
| Nisar Majid      |                              | Bristol University                                            |
| Farzana Saker    |                              | Bristol Multi Faith                                           |
| Penny Germon     | Coordinator                  | Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill<br>Neighbourhood Partnership |
| Sahra Kosar      | Support Worker               | Somali Resource Centre                                        |
| Sam Harding      |                              | Speech and language Therapy                                   |
| Roger Allen      | Tenant Participation Officer | Housing, Bristol City Council                                 |
| Tom Gent         | PC                           | Avon and Somerset Police                                      |
| Abdillahi Yusuf  | PCSO                         | Avon and Somerset Police                                      |
| Margaret Hickman | Councillor (Labour)          | Lawrence Hill Ward                                            |
| Abdi Barud       | Development Worker           | Somali Resource Centre                                        |
| Pip              |                              | Speech and language Therapy                                   |

### Apologies

Apologies were received from:

|                     |                |                |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cllr Brenda Hughill | Latif Ismail   | Nick White     |
| Cllr Jon Rogers     | Neil Burwell   | Rhian Loughlin |
| Liz Abbey           | Keith Openshaw | Habon Ibrahim  |
| Roger Allen         | Steve Vaughan  |                |

### Agenda items

1. Introductions, Previous Minutes and Matters Arising, and BSF Update
2. Ashley Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership
3. Stapleton Road Working Group
4. Community Safety
5. A.O.B
6. Date of Next Meeting

#### 1. Introductions, Previous Minutes and Matters Arising, and BSF Update

- 1.1. **Welcome:** Abdi Mohamed (AM) took the chair and welcomed everyone.

1.2. **Previous Minutes:** It was agreed the minutes of the Forum meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 were a true and accurate record.

1.3. **Matters Arising:**

- Partnership working – there was an urgent need to improve the working relationships and bridge the communication gap between the Somali Forum and service providing agencies (statutory and voluntary) and authorities.
- Local participation – looking at how to improve engagement of the Somali community should be a priority work that needs to be done.

1.4. **BSF Update**

- School Exclusions: Black Somali Pupils

| Year      | No of BSOM Pupils with 1+ FTE |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 2008 – 09 | 14                            |
| 2009 – 10 | 14                            |
| 2010 – 11 | 13                            |

2. **Ashley Easton and Lawrence Hill (AEL) Neighbourhood Partnership (NP)**

2.1. Penny Germon (PG), Neighbourhood Coordinator, informed the group that the NP has aimed to look at local concerns; it has brought together those who live and work in the local area including residents, councillors, the police, other service providing agencies, local authority officers and community groups to solve problems at the NP level.

2.2. PG also noted the following:

- They have considered key issues through:
  - NP meetings, which anyone could attend to observe but only members of the Partnership can participate.
  - Forum meetings, which were open to residents and where they could raise issues and meet officers working in the area. And
  - Stapleton Road Working Group, which was a sub group of the NP initiated by local traders.
- The structures of the NP were there to help residents influence local services.
- They were aiming to bring people to the same table to achieve solutions.
- The NP was there to champion the views of those who live in the area.
- Environmental, street bins and rubbish were high on the agenda.
- We tried to put the message across through universal pictures and messages.
- Took a survey about 300 people and found a number of community issues, including community safety.
- The NP concerned about the lack of Somali involvement; they needed your ideas and thoughts about this.

2.3. The following summarises comments made after PG's report:

- The NP should identify particular issues that are stopping Somalis to participate.
- Dealing with complaints against the Somalis – the NP was committed to tackle all issues and complaints from local communities.
- NP Forum meetings – regarding participation, there were:
  - more issues with the Somalis than the Afro-Caribbean.
  - bigger problems with the Somalis.

- language and communication barriers.
- Representation was a problem with BME groups. Statutory agencies did not understand the needs of minority groups.
- Somali Forum should strengthen the voice of the community strategically.
- Capacity issues – the Somali Forum have had a limited capacity to send representatives to all important meetings, locally and city wide.
- In 2005, there was a deficit of representation from the Somalis; in 2012, still the same – nothing has changed.

### **3. Stapleton Road Working Group (SRWG)**

#### **3.1. Abdul Malik, SRWG Vice Chair, stated that:**

- SRWG was based on needs driven from Community Resolve and the traders.
- Was not a talk shop, but carried out some actions by developing an Action Plan.
- The Action Plan has focussed the following key issues:
  - Environment – addressed dealing with rubbish and people's behaviour.
  - Communications – tackled negative media perception. Stapleton Road offers a lot as it made positive contributions to the local economy, and because of its multicultural community. BBC Bristol carried out a week long programme on Stapleton Road. Evening Post has published articles, positively though.
  - Youth – young people been idle or hanging around in the trading area. Actions were taken to deal with unemployment, drugs and gang and crime related activities.
  - Trading – improved the area and its businesses.
  - Community safety – achieved more positive outcomes such as addressing Khat issues in the area, particularly around health.
  - Traders Association was set up – supported by SRWG.
  - Meetings – lack of attendance. 60 – 65% of the work were with the Somalis, yet they were the least participated although we just found a Somali representative. What was the issue?

#### **3.2. The following points were from the ensuing discussion:**

- Khat dispersals – it was dispersed from the streets for health and safety reasons. They targeted individuals and approached traders.
- We have not engaged both the Somalis and South East Asians. And to capture maximum participation you should use Mosques, particularly after the Friday prayers.
- Tenant participation was a problem with communities because of language barriers, lack of awareness and misconceptions about housing. As a result, people were avoiding contacting the council for repairs.
- Intimidation – dogs were used to exploit racism in some areas. Getting out there and raising awareness was a challenge.
- There were reports about landlord intimidations. Even if business owners did not have a lease, there was a solution; people need to know their rights. They should approach the SRWG.
- Businesses shutting down – if they were part of the Trade Association they would have received help.
- Housing properties were less value at the time.

#### **4. Community Safety**

##### **4.1. PC Tom Gent advised that:**

- There was a positive message. This could be linked with SRWG; it could also be linked with the project that we have been doing over the past two years: reducing crime.
- There was more policing and more search and stop in the area.
- Young people need to understand why we were there.
- Needed to remove communication barriers.
- NP Forums offered good communication platforms.

##### **4.2. The following are the main points of the discussion regarding community safety.**

- **Stop and Search:**
  - Receipt – there were concerns, questions about how this was effectively communicated to young people and whether the legal document was always been given.
  - In response to the above questions, PC Gent stated the receipt was given, but there was a lack of confidence.
  - Bullying tactics and intimidation – young people have been pushed to criminal activities; they have been criminalised.
  - Officers' language needed to be investigated.
  - Complaints – Somalis did not file complaints for many reasons and service providers treat them badly.
  - It could have an impact on people if they did not complain.
  - Monitoring systems were there, PC Gent informed the group, so as to challenge inappropriate actions/language.
  - Community resolve has put together a book about Stop and Search. The police knew about it and relevant officers in the area should be contacted; the police should have dealt with these matters more effectively.
  - Needed to challenge how the police was working and targeting young BME people.
  - According to a recent report, Stop and Search was a main contributor to the summer riots.

#### **5. AOB**

##### **5.1. Speech and Language Therapy**

- Sam Harding advised that:
  - They needed to engage with parents, children and communities for their project.
  - Somalis have been identified by speech and language therapists.
  - Somalis are not a hard to reach group, but we have failed to engage them.
  - Needed to come to the community in a non-judgemental way.

##### **5.2. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

- Pip said that East Central Consultation Services dealt with emotional and psychological difficulties.
- Work with only 2% of young people (0 – 18 age group), mainly those who:

- Wanted to become thin.
- Were anxious.
- Had low self-esteem.
- Arranged to deliver training programme in partnership with the Somali Resource Centre.

### **5.3. Refugee Action**

- Liz Roberts stated that they:
  - Provided support for asylum seekers and refugees.
  - Delivered training on Introduction to Community Research.
  - Offered capacity development for refugee organisations through the Basis Project.

### **5.4. New CYPS Report 'Review of Arrangements for the Induction and Assessment of Newly Arrived Children and Families'**

- Ahmed Abdi said that the difficulties faced by the Somalis were mainly related to inequalities and social exclusion. For example, the new report commissioned by the CYPS talked about the Somalis, but they neither engaged them during the research nor consulted them after (for the first draft for the report).
- Abdi Mohamed also stated that there were outstanding issues with CYPS in relation to fair access to resources for our member organisations, and effectively addressing community concerns including lack of representation and work force participation, amongst a list.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

**01 March 2012**