

Bristol Somali Forum Meeting (BSF)

Date: 07 October 2010

Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Barton Hill Settlement

Type of meeting: BSF monthly meeting

Chaired by: Abdi Mohamed

Present

BSF Management Committee

Said Burale, Treasurer
Abdi Mohamed, Secretary

In attendance:

Full Name

Organisation/Representing

Khalil Abdi	Somali youth Education & Welfare Foundation
Dalmar Osman	Somali Development Group
Nila Monahan	Somali Development Group
Mukhtar Abdi	Bilingual Mentoring Project
Farhan Ahmed	BCC Community Cohesion/NP
Steve Wilmshurst	Easton Jubilee Trust
AbdulRizak Dahir	Neighbourhood Partnerships

Apologies: Apologies were received from:

Hassan Naqvi

Latif Ismail

Mohamoud Matan

Fuad Mumin

Jonathan Ames

Minutes

1 Abdi Mohamed took the chair and welcomed everyone.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd April were agreed.

2.2 Matters arising:

There was not any issue raised at the meeting in relation to the previous minutes.

3 BSF Update

3.1 Abdi Mohamed, BSF Secretary, stated that the Forum had been awarded £1,000 by Quartet – Express Programme Grant – to cover the cost of meetings and related costs. We are also waiting to hear from the BCC Development Fund and the Legacy Commission Grant.

3.2 There is an urgent need to engage with Somali parents, women's groups and elders (and community leaders) equally in order to increase participation, but to coordinate community activities too.

3.3 Member organisations need to complete the annual membership forms.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Circulate the membership form again and remind members the importance of this.	Said Burale	ASAP

4. Mosques Project

4.1 Dalmar Osman, said that the Somali Development Group (SDG) was commissioned to deliver a project for Bristol Mosques. The aim of the project is to build cohesive Muslim communities in Bristol by bringing young people together and make them become champions.

4.2 The project has a dedicate staff. Hassan Naqvi is the Project Coordinator and Suad Hassan works with him as a Trainee Development Worker.

4.3 In addition, it created opportunities for volunteers to gain work experience, improve skill or give something back to the community. The project also pays volunteer expenses.

4.4 The project ends on 31 March 2011.

4.5 Somali Mosques are part of the of the Bristol mosques. Although young people are participating, they are not using or taking advantage of the facilities and resources available to them.

4.6 Prevent:

- Pakistani and Somalis are top of the watch list;
- Radicalisation and extremism are also top of the Prevent Agenda;
- Suad managed to set up a female Muslim security worker at Bristol Airport;
- Vulnerable target groups include Somalis, particularly the 20 – 40 age groups.

4.7 The following points were noted in the ensuing discussions:

- Somali employees at airport have been harassed and some of them left their jobs as a result;
- A lot of people have been harassed too. And you don't have to be a Somalian or a Muslim to get harassed.

- Somalis concern about the way they get treated at the airport. They distrust authorities when it comes to security related issues.

5. Neighbourhoods Partnerships (St George and Greater Fishponds)

- 5.1 AbdulRizak Dahir, Coordinator, St George and Greater Fishponds Neighbourhoods – Greater Fishponds Area formerly known as Eastville, Hillfields and Frome Vale – discussed about relevant issues including the work progress of the neighbourhood forums in that area and the need to increase participation among the hard to reach groups.
- 5.2 There is a great need to increase the positive engagement of BME and hard to reach groups, as well as Somalis, at the neighbourhood;
- 5.3 None of the members from the BME, Somali and disability groups has attended the Hillfield NP forum meetings;
- 5.4 Organisations: shameful that they don't take advantage of the available resources;
- 5.5 Identity: how do we identify ourselves – Somalis or residents in Hillfields?
- 5.6 Somalis prefer to engage with strategic level but they should also equally engage with the neighbourhood level.
- 5.7 Participants also noted the following points:
- Raise awareness among the Somali community, as well as the hard to reach groups, about the Neighbourhood Partnerships – its work, benefits, and how it works;
 - Enable the community to understand how to take up issues with the neighbourhood levels;
 - Somalis have a lot of issues that need to be addressed both at strategic levels and the neighbourhood levels.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Identify Somali organisations and active members of community in St George and Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnerships	BSF Management	ASAP
Work with AbdulRizak to raise awareness about the Neighbourhood Partnerships work and how it works among the community	BSF Management	To be agreed

6. AOB

None.

Date of Next Meeting:

Date: **4th November 2010**

Time: **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

Venue: **Barton Hill Settlement
41-43 Ducie Road
Lawrence Hill, Bristol BS5 0AX**