

## **Northampton Borough Council**

### **Northampton Diverse Communities Forum**

**Thursday, 22 November 2012**

#### **Minutes of meeting**

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Chairs – Councillor Suresh Patel and John Rawlings)**

Everyone introduced themselves. Five people attended the meeting: Cllr Suresh Patel (Cllr Co-Chair), John Rawlings (Community Co-Chair), Mr Habibi (Afghan Community), Pauline Woodhouse (easi4communities, Northampton Bangladeshi Association), Joe Biskupski (Northampton Borough Council) (minutes)

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Morcea Walker, Alaa Abouzanad.

#### **3. MINUTES**

In view of the number of attendees at this meeting, it was decided to defer consideration of the minutes. The minutes will be considered at the next meeting of DCEF on 24 January 2013.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Consideration of any matters arising from the last meeting has been deferred to the next meeting of this forum.

#### **5. SCRUTINY REVIEW – RETAIL EXPERIENCE CORE QUESTIONS (Councillor Suresh Patel)**

This item was not considered.

#### **6. HEALTH – RACE EQUALITY ISSUES IN HEALTH SERVICES (John Rawlings)**

This item was deferred to a future meeting

#### **7. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**Community Governance Review:** Joe Biskupski outlined the review of Community Governance being carried out by Northampton Borough Council at present. Joe explained that the following has been undertaken / is being planned:

- a. As a result of petitions, the following proposals have been agreed for consultation:
  - Proposed new parish councils for the following areas: Parklands Ward, Rectory Farm, Sunnyside and Obelisk Wards, West Hunsbury Ward, Westone Ward, St James Ward, Hunsbury Meadow.
  - Minor boundary changes to the following: Wootton & East Hunsbury Parish Council, Wootton & East Hunsbury / Collingtree Parish Councils, Hardingstone / Great Houghton Parish Councils.
  - Boundary expansion of Upton Parish Council;
  - A split of Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish into two separate parishes.
- b. Stage 2 Consultation consists of two parts: consultation surveys and Local Advisory Polls / targeted consultation. The following have been undertaken:

- Detailed Consultation Surveys started 3 September and end 19 October (7 weeks). This was advertised in media, community groups, residents' associations, community forums, etc. The consultation document including short survey was available from the Guildhall's One Stop Shop, community centres etc. The survey was available in hardcopy or online;
  - Public drop-in sessions were held at Guildhall on 11 and 13 September;
  - In addition, proposal campaigners have circulated detailed proposals and held briefings locally;
  - Stage 2B Local Advisory Polls take place on 15 November for those residents affected by significant proposals;
  - Targeted consultation is being carried out for minor boundary changes – letters are being sent by 15 October to each registered elector in these areas seeking their views on proposal.
- c. Report of the survey results, the Local Advisory Poll results and targeted consultation are to be considered by Community Governance Review Steering Group on 22 November, and final Council consideration and approval of proposals is scheduled for 3 December 2012.
- d. Where new / changed parishes are to be established, new parish precepts for 2013/14 are likely to be set by the Borough Council and communities in December 2012 / January 2013. New / changed parishes are likely to be set up on 1 April 2013, and new parish councillor elections are likely to take place in May 2013.

**Association of Northamptonshire Supplementary Schools Annual Dinner:** the Association is holding its annual dinner at 5pm on Sunday 2 December at Fusion restaurant (145 Wellingborough Road, Northampton NN1 4DX). Tickets are priced at £13 per person.

## **8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

Councillor Patel agreed to invite the new Police & Crime Commissioner to the next meeting of the DCEF.

## **9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Diverse Communities Equalities Forum will take place in the Guildhall at 24 January 2013.