

BIRMINGHAM LINK – HOB Working Group Meeting
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 29th April 2010 (6.30 –8.30pm)

The Regeneration Project, Old Nechells Baths,
Nechells Park Road, Nechells, Birmingham, B7 5PD

PRESENT:

- Barry Abell (chair) (BA) ▪ Donald Nelson (DN) ▪ Manjit Singh (MS)
- Ruth Mittar (RM) ▪ Sushila Patel (SP) ▪ Michael Tye (MT)
- Gerry Moynihan (GM) ▪ Raj Rattu (RR)

FACILITATORS PRESENT:

- Andrew John – Birmingham LINK Host
- Yvonne Perkin – Birmingham LINK Host
- Bill Poacher – Birmingham LINK Host

1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED:

- Mark Bent • John Tyrrell

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Fair record overall. MS stated that more time is needed for members to know where and when the next meeting will be held, AJ asked for any ideas for venues, DN suggested Rookery Road School in Handsworth as it has plenty of parking and can be used in the evenings. Laurel Road Community Centre in Handsworth had also been suggested, SP volunteered to make enquiries on behalf of the Group. RR was nominated to follow up on room bookings.

AJ informed the Group that Nishkam Centre will not be available on Thursday evenings as they have a block booking with another organisation, but they have got a room available on Tuesday evenings if we want it, it was agreed by the Group to do a block booking for the next three meetings at the Nishkam Centre and change our meeting day from Thursday to Tuesday.

Action: RR to follow up on room bookings

3. MATTERS & ACTIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Health Centre under Darzi Report: MS asked if letter of response had been received as this should have happened by the week ending 2nd April 2010, BP advised that this had not yet been received but is being chased up. GM suggested that it may be better for individual members to write to individual organisations as necessary requesting information wanted under Freedom of Information Act, which will give them 20 days only to respond. This was agreed by the Group.

Publicity: AJ informed the Group that he has had no response pertaining to the publicity advertising of forthcoming events which was posted out to doctors' surgeries, health centres, etc within the HOB area, as soon as he hears anything, he will feedback. AJ also stated that the meeting details were sent tot the three neighbourhood managers in the HOB area.

Growth: AJ informed the Group that an email was sent to all the Birmingham LINK members on the database in Handsworth, Birchfield and Lozells (HOB) area inviting them to this meeting, also sent was a draft of the minutes of the previous meeting and a copy of the agenda. All members without email addresses were sent this information by post. MS enquired as to how often this will be circulated, YP assured the Group that the minutes and agenda will be circulated before the next meeting.

DN asked if there is any information online about Birmingham LINK and the Action Groups that are running, BP informed the Group that the existing Birmingham LINK website is still maintaining records however there is a new and improved website which is being developed at this present time, which should be ready by the end of June.

Commissioners: AJ currently progressing a list of all Commissioners within the HOB area.

Action: AG passed decision to resend letters under FOIA request. Host to resend

Care Homes & Day Centres: AJ informed the Group that a response has been received from Peter Hay in answer to the letter written by GM and suggested that he send a copy of the response via email and post.

Action: AJ to forward response to AG Chair

4. Developing Workplan Progress

AJ informed the Group that both he and BP met with Mr Dhesi at the Sikh Community Youth Service and gave the group an overview of the issues discussed at that meeting. GM felt that a lot of the issues need to be answered. MS suggested that whatever issues Mr Dhesi has raised he should write a letter to the relevant party.

DN and RM raised an issue about making appointments at the doctors surgery, MS suggested contact details for PALS and PPI be sent out to each HOB member for their information. The Host requested that the details of the surgeries in question be forwarded to them.

Action: AJ to forward PALS details to HOB AG members and PPI contact.
AG to send details of GP surgeries where they encountered problems

5. Developing HOB subgroup awareness / Events

MS stated that he was disappointed that the LINK's Host had cancelled their attendance at Vaisakhi. It was explained that only two LINK members had come forward as volunteers for the stand, despite a follow up email request and unfortunately therefore the level of staffing required to cover from 9.30 am to 7.00pm on that Sunday was not sufficient.

The Host further explained that during discussions from the previous group meeting the impression was given that members of the HOB Action Group would support the stand in shifts during the day.

The Host outlined the need for volunteer support at events particularly during the busy summer period. Attendance by members will help further emphasise the credibility of the HOB AG.

6. Any Other Business

- a) HOB AGM – letter received from Mr Sondhi regarding the HOB AGM stating that a wheelchair user had been taken to The Drum to test the suitability of the venue. The venue was deemed to meet all requirements
- b) Event on 22nd May 2010 proposed time 12 – 2pm, AJ stated that he will go with anyone who wants to go. (Event postponed – awaiting new date)

7. Date of Future Meetings

Tuesday 25th May 2010 (6.30 – 8.30pm), Nishkam Centre.