

Minutes of Meeting of Reading Faith Forum 22 October 2008

Present:	Tim Clewer, Susan van Beveran, Joanita Lwanga, Bruce Barnes, Sawarm Bal, John Rogers, Ajaz Mir, Nigel Hardcastle, Richard Christopher, Sarah Griffin, Jan Hearn, Kevin Woods, Chris Knowles, Paul Sheppy, Owen Jewiss, Suzanne Knight, Ben Cross, Grace Truner, Kelsang Loten, Ken Blanton, Hasina Yakoob, Liz Banks, Mabel Boyd, Norman Purker
Apologies:	Ashok Khare
Minutes of last meeting	approved
CDSSG	It was agreed that Andrew Taylor temporarily be appointed to represent the Faith Forum on the Community Development Strategy Steering Group. He will report back at the next meeting.
Bid	We are involved in a joint bid with Sakoma (BME Forum) RISC, RCRE and the African Caribbean Group. This would give us a part time development worker for three years to be used mainly with harder to reach and less involved groups. This amounts to £450,000 over 3 years. Nigel may apply for money to produce a second CD for RE, and / or a leaflet about Faith and the environment if he gets time.
Existing Projects	<p>A. Directory: The Faith Forum are grateful to Stronger Together and Anne for producing the Directory this year. They are about to be handed/posted out.</p> <p>B. SACRE The DVD has gone out to a number of schools through Alfie Hay head of SACRE. It was unclear who representatives were for each faith and Christian denomination, the Church of England rep. has been appointed and he will report back at the next meeting. Kelsang Loten is also a SACRE rep. We may run a training event for people from faith communities who wish to work in schools next Autumn working together with the statutory sector. The DVD will be available for faith communities to put on a computer and the disk returned to Nigel within a month. Schools outside Reading are being charges £35. Email Nigel: nigel@hardcastle33.fsnet.co.uk</p> <p>C. Environment A meeting of representatives took place. The idea seems to be to draw up a leaflet with a side of A5 on each of 6 faiths' attitudes to the environment and a page with lists of useful contacts. We are thinking of organising a Saturday morning conference on Faiths and the environment in the Spring with, say, speakers from three faiths. The aim would be to strengthen the Faith Based environmental networks in Reading. If you want to know more email Jan: jan@volaction.demon.co.uk</p> <p>D. Training on Safeguarding (Independent Safeguarding Authority) Joint</p>

Future Projects	<p>project with RCVYS on new Child and vulnerable adult protection measures, lead by RCVYS (the voluntary and faith based youth and children’s work forum). Courses will be Feb-April 08 and adverts will be out before the next FF meeting. For more information email Ben: ben@rcvys.org.uk</p> <p>Health & Faith, both physical and spiritual will be researched by Jan to find out what the issues are in the local and Reading communities. Please contact Jan if you have any information to give her. jan@volaction.demon.co.uk</p> <p>John Rogers spoke about LINKs, a group representing health workers and community. The first few meetings were setting up the board and how it will work. Local people will have a voice through this board to deliver health and views will be made. It is a strong body with the statutory sector behind it with the PCT, hospital trusts will respond to improve services and meet needs with a holistic approach. Let John know if there are any concerns for the Board. Email John: Rector@stmichaeltilehurst.org.uk</p>
Transport	Item 8 on Transport was postponed to the next meeting.
Next Forum meetings	Wed 11 February 2009 2pm, venue to be confirmed Wed 3 June 09 2pm
Pastoral work in the courts of Reading	<p>Susan van Beveran from The Well Centre gave a presentation on chaplaincy/pastoral work in the courts of Reading. This has been a 5 year process and has been problematic. The following proposal was presented to the Forum:</p> <p>The Reading Faith Forum is interested in your plan for chaplaincy / pastoral care at the Courts and encourages you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate possible sources of funding. • Draw up more precise proposals including: • How this relates to the faith communities, • How the project would be supervised • To whom it would be responsible. • Report back to the February meeting of the Reading Faith Forum so we can give feedback and, if all is satisfactory, more specific support. <p>More information from Susan van Beveren: svan.beveren@well-centre.org</p>
LSP	<p>Local Strategic Partnership(LSP) presentation by Tim Clewer and Joanita Lwanga. If you would like a copy of Joanita’s notes or the LSP newsletter please email her: joanita@volaction.demon.co.uk</p> <p>Tim & joanita would like to know what you do for the community whether it’s fitness & health for the elderly, parenting groups, teaching English as a foreign language. There may be some funding, there may be resources for what you do. Email Tim: tim.clewer@themustardtree.org or Joanita.</p> <p>Faith Communities can strengthen communities which the council are not able to do easily.</p>