

**Minutes of Reading Faith Forum open meeting  
Wednesday 10 February 2010**

<b>Apologies:</b>	Sarah Mayhew
<b>Minutes of last meeting:</b>	Signed as a correct record
<b>Matters Arising:</b>	ReMatters last November was tailored to smaller numbers and was valued by those attending. Report on the Reports Feb 2010
<b>Building for Strength</b>	The Forum welcomed Tom Hudson RFF Development Worker. He is working with the smaller African and Muslim groups.
<b>Charity Status Application:</b>	RFF income is higher and application for Charity Status is under way, agreed by the committee and advice from Reading Voluntary Action The forum agreed to the proposal
<b>Conflict of Interest:</b>	Final version below * Apostrophe removed. Trustees are Chari: Richard Christopher, Secretary Nigel Hardcastle (Churches Together in Reading), Treasurer Ashok Khare (Reading Hindu Temple), Members: Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Reading Hebrew Congregation), Sawarm Singh Bal (Sikh Gudwara) & Mustafa Chaudhary (Muslim Council) There were chosen by faiths using the 9 major national faiths. Nigel Hardcastle proposed to adopt the policy, Rabbi Solomons seconded the motion
<b>Reports Vision and Voice:</b>	22 March 9.30-3.30 at Royal Berkshire Conference Centre. The Chance to influence life in our town, for those that attend. Booking is through Anna Fowler or <a href="http://www.rvsforum.co.uk/events.aspx">www.rvsforum.co.uk/events.aspx</a>
<b>Hearing Voices continued:</b>	Promoted Mental Health First Aid. PCT development workers holding a course on one of 2 dates - 27&28 May or 7&8 June. Email sent out The Resource leaflet was handed around and all agreed this to be produced Suggestions: Jews have various contacts. Include Drugs & Alcohol, Employment support. The committee are planning another event to Hear Stories from carers, users with a speaker
<b>LSP Tim Clewer</b>	Planning the vision for Reading 2030 and Vision & Voice conference with get voluntary sector involved. Tim will send out a list of questions.
<b>Other reports available on website</b>	NEET: (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Reading met its target, no increase in unemployment despite recession. Climate Change Partnership: there is a representative from the GREN (Greater Reading Environment Network), there are faith groups - RCEL (Reading Christian Ecology Link) and RITE (Reading Islamic Trustees for the Environment) Family Intervention Project - Various voluntary organisations involved (Reading LifeLine, Berkshire Women's Aid etc.)
<b>Faith Forum</b>	Searches by faith or various other ways on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> page 'Where

<b>Website</b>	We Are' page. Eg Search for a Catholic church - Catholics are listed under Christian, click on Catholic and all the Catholic churches in Reading will come up through the Reading Voluntary Action database.
<b>Projects &amp; Programme</b>	Michael Coughlin asked to come again annually to the RFF meeting. Nigel Hardcastle attended the LSP away day which was on the vision of Reading with subjects such as good stewardship, self reliance, tolerance, generosity, caring for each other and the environment. More relational.
<b>June 9 meeting</b>	The title for the meeting was discussed ' <b>Faith, Values and the Recession</b> ' both Michael Coughlin and Bishop Stephen would speak.
<b>Interfaith Group &amp; RFF</b>	Sarah Griffin introduced the Friendship Walk as a reactive demonstration for peace and social cohesion. The next one is planned for September 12 on Heritage Day and need a large number of people to make it a success. 2.30pm at Forbury Gardens and finish at Reading Hindu Temple with display tables and possibly a speaker at the end. Open to all faith organisations.
<b>Hustings</b>	Candidates agreed to attend from 3 main parties, others . Reading East Monday 19 April at Reading Hindu Temple. Reading West Monday 26 April at Tilehurst Methodist Church Questions in advance: possible first question "Why do you want the job?" Chairs chosen: Editors from Reading Chronicle and Reading Evening Post
<b>Summer Event</b>	There will be no summer event
<b>Fear, faith &amp; friendship</b>	Forum decided not to pursue this
<b>Stronger Together</b>	Project will end March 2011, any ideas for an event send to Nigel Hardcastle. Good opportunity for an event in January 11. <i>Suggestions:</i> Community Cohesion, 'Lend a faith person' a library type activity? Pick up issues from next RFF open meeting.
<b>Date of next meeting</b>	Wednesday 9 June 2010 at Council Chambers with Michael Coughlin and Bishop Stephen Cottrell Faith, Values and the recession.

\*

#### **Conflict of Interest for Reading Faith Forum (final version)**

1. Any trustee who has a financial interest in a matter under discussion, should declare the nature of their interest and withdraw from the room, unless they have a dispensation to speak.
2. If a trustee has any interest in the matter under discussion, which creates a real danger of bias, that is, the interest affects their, or a member of their household, more than the generality affected by the decision: they should declare the nature of the interest and withdraw from the room, unless they had a dispensation to speak.
3. If a trustee has any other interest which does not create a real danger of bias, but which might reasonably cause others to think it could influence their decision, they should declare the nature of the interest,  
but may remain in the room, participate in the discussion, and vote if they wish.
4. If in any doubt about the application of these rules they should consult with the chair.
5. It is recommended that trustees with interests that might at some stage cause a real or apparent conflict of interests inform the secretary and chair and that these are listed in a register.