Voice of BME – Trafford

Newsletter Issue 1 November 2006

Your Voice to Be Heard !

Welcome to this, our first issue of **Voice of BME – Trafford**.

We plan to publish this Newsletter quarterly and use it as a means to inform Trafford's Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents of how your voice is being heard, what is going on on your behalf and in your name. This is why we need your thoughts, opinions, suggestions, and your active participation.

Trafford needs as many people from BME backgrounds to actively be involved in communicating the issues that are affecting you and tell us what changes are needed to make improvements.

An interim **Task Group** has been established that is working towards setting up the BME Community Forum. This Task Group meets every other Tuesday, and the meetings alternate between afternoons and evenings in enable maximum participation by members.

Aims & Objects

1. **To build relationships, trust and co-operation in the BME communities in Trafford.**

2. **To set up the BME Community Forum.**

3. **To encourage participation from BME communities in Trafford in the work of Voice of BME Trafford.**

4. **To elect representatives to represent BME communities to sit on various decision-making bodies in the borough, and to champion issues affecting BME communities.**

Please join us as a MEMBER.
See details overleaf on how to join.

History

Voice of BME – Trafford was set up roughly eight months ago to address issues raised by Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities living or working in the borough of Trafford. One of our aims is to find representatives to champion the causes, concerns and issues effecting BME communities in Trafford. Issues already highlighted are:

- **Health**
- **Housing**
- **Crime Prevention**
- **Environment**

- **Education/Training/Employment**
- **Business**
- **Politics**
- **Arts/Culture/Leisure**

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Ideas for Development

In this Section, you are welcome to post your ideas for development of the BME Community Forum.

The following ideas have already been identified:

- Voice of BME – Trafford will hold informal meetings / social occasions to facilitate networking with organisations and the wider community

- Setting up of an advice and development centre for BME communities and businesses who felt they were being marginalised by mainstream banks and institutions.

Come and Join us......

We need people of BME backgrounds who live or pay business rates in Trafford to come forward to become members. Whether you supply thoughts, opinions, suggestions, or action, your time and contribution will be valuable.

If you live or work within Trafford and have BME background, we would really like to hear from you.

To join, please contact
Secretary
Voice of BME – Trafford
c/o The Mary Seacole Cultural Centre
281 – 285 Talbot Road
Trafford M32 0YA
Tel: 0161 864 4499

Summary of last meeting of the Task Group

At the last meeting of the Task Group we discussed recruitment, amongst other things, and we tried to look at what avenues were best to yield the best potential. It was agreed that Paul …………. do some of this on his outreach work with the Mary Seacole Trust and that he gets together with the Secretary of the Task Group. The issues of recruitment and membership will be explored more thoroughly at future meetings.

Tony Wright was also appointed as the Deputy for Khan Moghal as BME representative on Trafford Partnership, which everyone agreed was very good news for Voice of BME – Trafford.

Tony Wright and Adele Coyne also fed back on the Community Cohesion Meeting that was held on 10th October 2006. This is part of a 6-month programme with regular meetings to discus Health, Education and Crime Prevention and Youth Harm. Councillor Whit Stennett MBE was also at this meeting. A report will be published for the Commission on Integration and Cohesion for Ruth Kelly, and a sraft was promised for the participants.

This week's BIG issue!

Snippets:

Next meeting of the Task Group will be held: at Shrewsbury Street Centre, Old Trafford on Tuesday 14th November 2006 starting at 6:30pm