

RAPAR

Open Forum meeting of members
on Tuesday, 23rd November 2004
at The Angel, Chapel Street, Salford,
starting 4pm (in the Cafe)

PRESENT: Miwanda-Bagenda (Secretary); Peter (Chair); Mike (Admin Temp); Kay;
Simon; Ameen

1. WELCOME from the Chair.

The Chair invited all present to introduce themselves and say why they were there.

2. APOLOGIES for absence.

Julia; Rhetta; Adrian; Phil.

3. MINUTES of the last meeting, 2nd November 2004

These were accepted as a true and accurate record. It was noted that this meeting was not quorate and that no decisions had been made.

4. MATTERS ARISING

☞ Miwanda reported that she had been asked by the Community Network to help support the meeting of the planned BME Forum this coming Thursday. She noted that CVS did not appear to have current addresses for many BME groups or individuals.

She also mentioned the new round of grants available from the Network's Community Chest fund, (closing date 5th Jan). It was hoped that CC funding would be targeted at BME groups in particular.

- Mentoring work by Rhetta has not yet been invoiced. Also, Maria Thornton has not yet been reimbursed £15 for the Annual Report fee.

ACTION: Mike

☞ It was noted that the RAPAR Christmas Party was now scheduled for 21st December, Tuesday, at St Sebastian's Day Centre on Gerald Road in Charlestown, where there would be food, singing, dancing and presents.

5. New from members

☞ Recruitment was 'going strong', said the Chair.

☞ The Secretary was planning to send a Christmas card to all members, signed by the Chair, and including an invitation to the Christmas party. (The Chair

noted that this would include all 3 levels of membership, and would include members from both Salford and beyond.)

Simon asked whether RAPAR had links with Trade Unions and Tenants' Associations, and was told that many members of RAPAR were members of TU's and TA's. The Chair welcomed all individuals and groups to make links with RAPAR and apply for membership. It was pointed out that Irwell Valley Housing Association; the NUJ; and Unison were active members.

6. News on Salford RAPAR Project

A so-called 'Planning Meeting' had been called on Monday, 22nd November by Salford PCT. It had been poorly attended and no one from the PCT was there. Those present were confused about their role and ignorant of the history of the Project. There was no awareness of the research that had been done over the last 2 years and no evaluation of its importance. Some people kept talking about a 'new start' but were not clear about specifying the differences or changes that were being proposed. The attendance was drawn from mainstream agencies, and there were no refugees present who weren't employees. No asylum seekers had been invited. There were no policy makers present. Finally, there was no clarity about what the project might do after March 2005 when the SRB5 funding runs out.

The meeting then went on to discuss the proposed Multi-Agency Forum, which the Council's Scrutiny Commission had recommended and Bhupendra Mistry had been given the job of founding.

Ameen then reported on the showing of the film 'In this world' at the Cornerhouse in Manchester, which had gone very well, all seats being sold. The Youth Service had supported the evening, and the discussion after the showing was very illuminating.

It was noted that Richard Nelson's proposed Day Conference on refugees and asylum seekers in December had been cancelled by the Council.

7. Future funding and office location.

No news.

8. Admin matters

The mailing list was progressing, and had been divided into the 3 new categories of membership. All people on the lists could now be contacted regularly.

It was agreed that the next step might be to contact all these people personally, and Miwanda offered to do some phoning.

9. Any Other Business

- Simon introduced himself and talked about the Manchester Museum service, in particular, its Accreditation Programme which could include refugees and asylum

seekers. Nine months of development was now being transformed into a 3 year schedule, which had the aim of opening the Museum up. He invited RAPAR to send a rep to the Community Advisory Panel, and the Chair offered to go to the next meeting. There was also planning going ahead for a conference next February.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT RAPAR MEETING:

4pm, Tuesday, 14th December 2004 at The Angel, Chapel Street.

Please note - still the same venue -

The Angel, close to Salford Cathedral.

Telephone no of the Angel is 0161 833 0495