

# Bracknell Forest Minority Alliance Meeting

held at Fitzwilliam House, Skimped Hill Lane, Bracknell  
on Thursday 17 July 2008 at 7 pm

## Minutes

|  |     |   |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|--|-----|---|
| Martin Gilman (BFVA)                   | MG  | + | Zack Anucha (African & Caribbean Org)        | ZA  | - |
| Hassen Boodoo (BICS)                   | HB  | + | Tayo Owodunni (UNI)                          | TO  | + |
| Daisy Bret-Holt (Berks Filipino Assoc) | DBH | + | Assila Bibi Tegally (BICS)                   | ABT | + |
| Dilip Ladwa (ASP)                      | DL  | + | Judy English (BFVA)                          | JE  | - |
| Chris Cowap (BFVA)                     | CC  | + | Mohamed Riaz (BICS – Chair)                  | MR  | - |
| Raman Patel (ICAB)                     | RP  | + | Durga Ramjali (Sandhurst Nepalese Community) | DR  | - |
|  |     |   |  |     |   |

Present (+) Absent (-)

|   |   |  | Action    |
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| 1 | Welcome and Apologies                       | DL opened the meeting. Apologies were received from DR and VH.   |           |
| 2 | Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CC had circulated the information about Nick Higson and Rethink.</li> <li>Big Wheeler Training – CC has ascertained that if a driving licence includes 'D1' the drive will only need an assessment rather than training. Members were asked to check with their groups.</li> <li>Improving Reach – the funding strategy day was finally held on 19 April, with a small attendance. The trainer will be sending information to those who attended – CC will chase.</li> <li>5 leaflets are planned – VSF, BFMA, Fed, ICAB and Berks Filipino Assoc. Currently the ICAB leaflet has been completed after several changes. Design Services have supply delays at the moment but the remaining leaflets will hopefully be in production soon.</li> </ul>              | All<br>CC |
| 3 | Finance                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whilst waiting for Tayo Owodunni to join the meeting, Item 4 on the agenda was dealt with. BFVA had paid for the trainer and venue for the Funding Strategy training so cheques were signed by the BFMA signatories to repay from the BFMA account. TO joined the meeting at 7.30 pm and DL then adjusted the agenda items to deal with Finance later on.</li> </ul>  |           |
| 4 | Role of UNI in the development of BFMA      | DL welcomed TO and introduced the group. TO introduced himself describing which areas of the region he covers – Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bracknell Forest, Milton Keynes and Wokingham – and went on to outline the UNI project together with the business plan and objectives. Considerable discussion followed regarding the objectives of the regional organisation compared with the locally-driven BFMA and its BME communities. It was stressed that local needs should be taken into account and individual group development needs should be led by them and not by a regional organisation. ABT pointed out that BICS and all other BME groups need to be treated as any other group and not singled out. DL commented that the problem we have is that most BFMA members are in full time |           |

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|   |                            | <p>employment and therefore unable to attend day time meetings. This has been well documented with partner agencies and also has been pointed out to UNI on numerous occasions. All events, meetings, training, etc need to be worked around the volunteers. BFMA has a seat on the Bracknell Forest Partnership but are unable to attend meetings so representation is a real issue. This needs to be addressed before representation can be widened. Also communication from UNI since the beginning of the project has been bad which both DL and CC have reported on many occasions, eg DL asked UNI to attend an open meeting in the Spring with no response. In Bracknell Forest, BFMA has progressed in the last 18 months, having built on their constitution, produced a business plan and action plan covering the next 3 years, and held their first AGM which was very successful with 60 attendees. They have raised their profile in Bracknell Forest which has been achieved because it has been locally driven, responding to local needs. Each UNI co-ordinator has a large area to cover and cannot address local needs at grass roots level. Regional organisations with the best will in the world do not have the local knowledge, networks, strategic links and capacity to offer dedicated development work.</p> |     |
| 5 | Chris Cowap's role in BFMA | <p>CC outlined the situation concerning the failed Modernisation Project bid to CapacityBuilders, resulting in core funding being supplied by BFVA so that the support work can continue. The issue of lead agency was raised – BFMA are the network and BFVA are supporting the development of the network. BFMA need resources to disseminate information so BFVA should be the lead agency but cannot be the representative of BFMA, so in order to report on behalf of BFMA, BFMA and member groups must respond to CC so that she can pass on their views.</p>   |     |
| 6 | Way ahead for BFMA         | <p>CC distributed copies of the Action Plan for members to look at. The funding strategy needs to be developed to match the projects in the action plan. DL requested comments to CC</p>  | All |
| 7 | Finance                    | <p>As time was pressing, finance was taken forward to the next meeting.</p>   |     |
| 8 | Any Other Business         | <p>DL suggested that the attendance list be rationalised as some people had not been involved for a while.</p>  |     |
| 9 | Date of next meeting       | <p>To be advised.</p>   |     |