

## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

### NORTHAMPTON DIVERSE COMMUNITIES EQUALITIES FORUM

Thursday, 29 September 2011

**PRESENT:** Cllr Suresh Patel(Chair,) John Rawlings Community Co-Chair  
Cllr William Strachan (NBC and NCC),  
Alaa Abouzanad ( Northants Association of Supplementary Schools)  
Luisa Jepson (Northants Police Hate Crimes Unit)  
Nick Stephens( Community Engagement Officer Northants Police)  
Abade Ahmed (from the Somali Community)  
Zahira Case ( Pearls of Peace)  
Sharon Stringer(Northants County Council)  
Anjona Roy ( Northants Rights and Equalities Council)  
Noureddine Miladi ( University of Northampton)  
Sean Silver ( Northampton Borough Council)  
Thomas Hall ( Northampton Borough Council)  
Lindsey Ambrose (Northampton Borough Council)

Gracie (Northamptonshire Link).

#### 1. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Suresh Patel, as Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. People introduced themselves: Alaa Abouzanad from the Northants Association of Supplementary Schools, Luisa Jepson from Northants Police Hate Crimes Unit, Nick Stephens a Community Engagement Officer from Northants Police, Abade Ahmed from the Somali Community, Sharon Stringer from Northants County Council, Sean Silver from Northampton Borough Council, Anjona Roy from Northants Rights and Equalities Council, Noureddine Miladi from University of Northampton, Zahira Case from Pearls of Peace, Thomas Hall from Northampton Borough Council, Cllr William Strachan (NBC and NCC), John Rawlings Community Co-Chair of this Forum and from Northampton Quakers and Lindsey Ambrose from Northampton Borough Council.

During the meeting Gracie from the Northamptonshire Link joined the meeting too.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Superintendent Springer from Northamptonshire Police, Christiana and Sam Owusu-Akuffo from the Divine Prayer Society and Joe Biskupski from Northampton Borough Council sent apologies.

#### 3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

##### **Correction to Minutes**

The word 'councillor' in item 8 of the last meeting's Minutes should read 'counsellor'.

##### **Minutes Agreed**

Everyone agreed the Minutes of the last meeting

##### **Matters Arising (Updates about things mentioned in the Minutes of the last meeting)**

- **Northants Rights and Equalities Council ("NREC")** – Anjona mentioned threats to legal advice funding through cuts to legal aid and changes to funding given out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. NREC's Annual General Meeting coming up soon would

include Advice UK. NREC has been encouraging people to sign up to the 38 degrees campaign.

- **Sikh Community Centre and Youth Club** – Cllr Patel and officers at Northants County Council are looking to change the on-street parking arrangements in light of the concerns raised by the community.

- **Northants Association of Supplementary Schools** – Alaa said that Northants County Council had notified the association that it would end all funding to the association from March 2012.

Anjona said she had reviewed the Equality Impact Assessment done by the county council and it acknowledged that the negative impact – or harm – which could result from the decision to cut funding, could not be mitigated by the county council. She said that she felt this was helpful to argue against the cuts.

Anjona asked that this Forum give a view about the cuts.

The Forum members asked for more information to help them understand the issues. Cllr Patel referred to the fact he is a member of Northants County Council: he said that in his view the supplementary schools play an important role and his understanding was that they were told two years ago to form an association and expect the funding to stop in two years time. Cllr Patel said that currently the county council had confirmed that the funding will stop from April 2012 and that it is willing to help the association develop a business plan which should help them to apply for funding elsewhere and would help them to get discounts on using schools premises

Representatives of the Northants Association of Supplementary Schools then explained that the county council's funding that to date has paid for teachers and buildings is all due to stop. For several reasons, the association had asked the county council to provide funding through to the end of the school year rather than to end it mid year. These included: having the full school year would help the association to adjust its running and look to obtain match-funding – particularly as it believed it had only received a months' notice of the current funding coming to an end because N Booth at the county council had told them she had been waiting on legal advice before giving them notice of the funding now ending; also there are some students studying for GCSE and A level exams.

There seemed to be some disagreement between the county council and the association as to what arrangements should have happened over the past two years. The association representatives felt let down by the county council.

The association's view was that if there was no solution found to close the gap in funding for the period March to July 2012, the schools would close. The main barrier to their continuation was that £10/hour for buildings as now all the schools meet in mainstream schools.

It was noted that around 12 of the 18 schools serve young people in Northampton borough itself, with around 1,500 young people due to be affected by the cuts in funding. The schools work contributes to their integration into mainstream schools, reducing the burden on schools, and contributes to the success of the mainstream schools as the young people's exam performance is included in formal assessment of their pupil progress. The schools also contribute to community cohesion, foster good relations and mutual understandings between and within community groups in relation to culture, ethnicity and faith.

It was also noted that public bodies, including Northampton Borough Council, have identified

the supplementary schools as a unique and valuable group to have links with to help them with meeting their duties in relation to diversity, equality, consultation and promoting electoral registration. Various meetings and projects had taken place involving them e.g. by the museum and to create exhibitions that could promote cross-cultural and intergenerational understandings.

Thomas Hall said that Northampton Borough Council makes no funding contribution to the supplementary schools. He anticipated that there would be some grants funding available to apply for later in the year along with all other applicants. He noted that to date the panel of community and council representatives had taken an approach of not funding activities which more properly came within the remit of the county council. Thomas further noted that there is an argument that the funding decision-makers should consider the impact on the community of their decisions and the financial pressures on the Borough Council too.

Thomas said that there was not much the Borough Council could do. It might be able to look into premises at a lower cost than the association paid currently but it would not be able to offer a nil cost as the budget did not allow for this. The venues he was thinking of were community centres. These were in the process of being put into the hands of community groups to run who would be responsible in future for setting room hire rates.

Morcea said that she felt going into community centres would be a backwards step and not practical.

**Action Agreed: John Rawlings, Community Co-Chair of the Forum would write on behalf of the Forum, to Northants County Council to express concern at the loss of Northants County Council funding which it was understood would lead to the closure of 12 school in Northampton. He would ask Northants County Council to consider maintaining the grant for buildings to cover the remainder of the academic year to July 2012.**

**Action: Representatives from the Northants Association of Supplementary Schools to give a presentation about the schools at the next meeting of this Forum in case other organisations would like to get involved in their work.**

#### **4. HATE CRIME: DISCUSSION ABOUT HELP AND ISSUES IN NORTHAMPTON**

Luisa Jepson introduced her role as a Hate Crimes Support Officer based at the Hate Crimes Unit in Fish Street.

Luisa outlined a lot of changes, which have taken place over several months.

The Police were faced with the need to make a lot of cuts. The Hate Crimes Unit was reviewed as part of making efficiency savings and was left much as it had been – only the management of it changed slightly.

The new Sergeant is Pauline Sturman, who used to be responsible for dealing with hate crime in the northern part of Northamptonshire.

The Hate Crimes Unit is now a countywide unit. This improves things for victims and other people who want to report incidents as they can be sure of a consistent approach right across Northamptonshire now.

In Northampton the officers used to deal with most of the reported hate crimes directly and just within the Hate Crimes Unit. In the northern area it was dealt with as an integral part of the work of all Police officers in the local areas.

Statistics show that most hate crime in Northamptonshire happens in Northampton.

Luisa is a Victim Support Officer. She and other officers in the Hate Crimes Unit monitor every reported hate incident and crime. If the report involves a vulnerable person or a complicated situation it is pulled into the Hate Crimes Unit. If not, it now tends to stay with the local Police team – now with support from the Hate Crimes Unit who work with them and CID.

Statistics show that there has been a steady increase in victim satisfaction with how their case is handled. The figure is now 90% being satisfied.

The number of incidents of hate crime reported has gone down locally, as it has nationally.

The new focus of the Hate Crimes Unit officers like Luisa is to go to community groups, faith places and work with organisations and local services to raise awareness of hate crime and that it is important to report it.

Some leaflets have been produced for partnership work.

**Action: ALL anyone who would like Luisa or one of her colleagues from the Police Hate Crimes Unit to visit them should contact them via the main Northamptonshire Police tel: 03000 111 222 or email: [luisa.Jepson@northants.police.uk](mailto:luisa.Jepson@northants.police.uk)**

Northants Police have signed up to the True Vision website. This site has information about hate crime and helps people to report it – with reporting packs that can be downloaded in different languages and online reporting forms too.

People can also report incidents online on the Northamptonshire Police website.

The Hate Crimes Unit wants to see reported incident numbers increase. Evidence of under-reporting, and that it can be addressed, has come from work done with the Learning Disability Partnership Board – through this work hate crime reporting has increased.

Anjona said that about two years ago NREC had co-ordinated collation of all hate crime reports across the county. That funding had been withdrawn. Now, individual organisations were encouraging people to report incidents directly to them. If the matter is a crime it would still be reported to the Police, but incidents might not be reflected in figures the Police had if they were not shared by organisations.

NREC now get involved when victims are not satisfied with the service they get when they report a hate crime. For example, where they feel the Police have failed to identify a matter has a hate element and the victim wishes to complain about this. Currently it was dealing with a couple of cases of this sort concerning a housing service and the Police.

Anjona said NREC understood the reduction of reported hate crime to the Police is 30%. At the same time, she said, some organisations had been increasing their own individual reporting rates significantly.

NREC has some resources available if people want to promote hate crime reporting in their own organisation e.g. a pop-up poster version of a partnership image used in some leaflets, e.g. some photographs of people with signs saying that they have reported a hate crime.

Hate crime is where an incident is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hate. Most reports to the Police are neighbour issues, often linked to anti-social behaviour, some to do with drunken people in town. Whether they are picked up and identified as hate crime, depends to some extent on the perception of Police officers.

Morcea said that cyberbullying is growing and hard to monitor. She highlighted work being done by Northampton Youth Forum, the youth council for Northampton, involving young people from several schools and youth organisations in Northampton and county. Morcea said that parents and others need to raise their awareness of the ways young people are being targeted online in chat, online gaming and other situations involving technology. She said she feels that the evidence shows hate-motivated behaviour including cyberbullying is happening across school communities, not because someone is black or Asian, just because they are different.

Sharon referred to the work of a Northamptonshire County Council officer who's job is to raise awareness of cybersafety and cybercrime, working with schools in the county. It was noted that as increasing numbers of schools cease to be under the direct control of the County Council e.g. because they become academies, it may become harder for the County Council to reach into the school communities. Similarly, the decline in youth services outside of school, may also make it harder to reach into communities outside of school time. There was a need to reach everyone.

Thomas said that he felt there was a role for this Forum to identify particular groups and understand the reasons for under-reporting of hate crime. The diversity of people involved in the Forums' networks for Northampton via social media, email and so on, who could be asked about their views, could help to find out – rather than just trying to work it out in this single meeting.

Anjona Roy suggested that only a few people know the Home Office definition of hate crime and that this was a barrier. She said she felt most people don't know it's a crime and that they have rights not to experience bad treatment from other people. She felt that schools should be noting not only incidents happening at school, but also when a child cannot do their homework due to suffering hate crime outside of school. She felt that staff in the Council's One Stop Shop should be on the look out for incidents that might be hate crime and tell people if they feel that they have been the victim of a hate crime. Anjona said it was not enough just to put the onus on victims to report incidents. Anjona referred to the fact that all public organisations have a legal equalities duty to have due regard and so need to do more on hate crime.

Louisa mentioned that she had come across people who thought that what is reported at school or to other organisations is automatically passed on to Northants Police. But they do not receive that information. This may go towards explaining why the reporting figures are going down – incidents may be happening but the figures are not shared to enable a consistent picture to be built and reviewed.

Some members of the Forum said that they had concerns about schools and housing services not dealing with hate incidents.

Cllr Patel said some people in the community are not confident about working with the Police. He has found that now that he is an elected councillor and that there are more councillors from ethnic minority groups too, it is helping people to feel that they can speak to the council and Police.

Zahira said that had suffered a lot. This included being called "muslim – murderer" on the doorstep of a shop. Her 12 year old daughter has been wearing a hijab and been spat at in the street – which Zahira felt sure was because of the hijab. Zahira wanted to see work happening that created a link between schools, the Councils and the Police.

It was noted that there had previously been an "Equality Monitoring Group" but this had

been scrapped.

Morcea said in her view almost every incident reported at school should be sent through to the Police. She feared people were scared of saying they were sure incidents happened e.g. because someone was gay. She felt people needed to feel safer to report hate crime.

Sharon referred to the fact the County Council does link with the Police but it receives hardly any reports from the schools now – about 3 in the past 6 months. Reports of hate crime do go straight to the Police.

Anjona said she was concerned that when the Police are aware NREC is involved in a case, then they are happy to meet to discuss that hate crime with NREC, but not otherwise.

It was noted that Northampton Borough Council is doing some work looking at hate crime through its Overview and Scrutiny group.

**Action: Request for Overview and Scrutiny to attend this Forum to talk about their work on hate crime**

Sean said that Adrian Lee spoke at NREC and presented a high level of victim satisfaction as evidence of providing a good service – but that it was a concern to Sean that the need to get people reporting incidents in the first place is overlooked.

The Forum members discussed that there is no research on what is an acceptable level of reporting. There was a need to have ongoing training and development opportunities for housing officers, council officers, people working in schools etc so that they recognise hate crime and know what to do to report it and help the victims.

It was noted that Northampton Youth Forum had recently begun a Stamp out Hate Crime campaign. This followed surveying young people and others which found that over 90% felt bullying and homophobia were major issues which people wanted the youth forum to address. The campaign was bringing together people working in councils, schools, the Police Hate Crimes Unit, youth groups and individuals. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of what hate crime is, that it includes bullying and cyberbullying, to reduce stigma about reporting incidents, to make it easier for people to find out how to report and get other help, to make it easier for people to do activities that help prevent hate crime and bullying in the first place. The campaign supported and worked with existing services. The initial response had been very good. The youth want people of all ages to show support – by joining their Facebook page, or doing activities online or in groups, or sharing personal experiences to be included in an exhibition they are making about hate crime. Introductory information is available at: [www.northampton.gov.uk/stampouthatecrime](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/stampouthatecrime) and the Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/stampouthatecrime](http://www.facebook.com/stampouthatecrime)

**Action: Update on Northampton Youth Forum's campaign to be given to the next meeting of this Forum**

## **5. PREVENT, COHESION AND INTEGRATION - THE ROLE OF THE FORUM**

Thomas Hall said that 'Prevent' is part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy. IT is defined now as being about preventing people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Years ago it was wider in one sense and covered some areas otherwise considered to be “cohesion” e.g. addressing factors in the community which might get people to become terrorists. The government changed that recently. Also the 2009 strategy was much about Al Qaeda and working with the muslim community. Both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire Police were asked to do work in this area. Northampton was one. As part of that we had discussions with the community and representatives of diverse Muslim communities in Northampton. We formed a group with representatives from organisations and communities. Thomas noted some people from that group were at the Forum meeting – Nouredine, Zahira and Abade.

The Reference group used to say “we should be broader, not just muslims”. Terrorism is an extreme end of hate crime and it can affect all communities. There is also the “far right” and Irish Republican movements for example. So there was a suggestion that a lot of the work, in a broad sense, would fit into the work of this Forum, especially issues on how we – everyone in the town – can work together to safeguard people from being sucked into extremist organisations. We could get an enormous benefit from working together.

Thomas said that his view is that we need to be able to think about the really hard issues and at the same time to think about how as a town we can all work together towards a town in which different groups work and live together in harmony – what is sometimes called “community cohesion” or “integration”. It was noted that neither word is ideal. There should be space too for discussing harder issues. So perhaps some things would be dealt with in an open group like this Forum meeting, and some in a more restricted environment. This approach could make the best of the Northampton Diverse Communities Forum and the Prevent Community Reference Group working together.

Thomas said that this was just his thoughts and he was very open as to what form work should take. He noted that there is no single ‘town’ approach to community cohesion in Northampton. Thomas said it was in the hands of Forum members as to what everyone feels is best.

John said that he would like to have an Agenda and Minutes for meetings.

John wondered how to get across to people the diversity that occurs within each religion as well as between them. He said he felt that getting respect for each other, in politics and in faiths, is about working together.

Thomas said that it is very valuable to talk to people in the community, not just to organisations – to avoid making big mistakes out of ignorance about how things will be perceived. Talking about people’s ideology, what makes them trust particular sources of information etc, is so important rather than to go in heavy-handed – it is much better to work together.

Sean said certain conversations need to go on in private, but other conversations are community-facing, and in moving the community reference group from muslim extremism, we need to talk about issues for the whole community e.g. the English Defence League (“EDL”) might come to Northampton to try to upset communities in the town and it would be good if people from different communities met at the council as a Northampton group who already know each other before trouble happens.

Anjona said a benefit to widening the prevent, cohesion and integration agenda would be to encourage participation in the group to be as wide as possible, partly as a reaction to the narrow group on Islam. Anjona referred to planning issues and inappropriate coverage in the local newspaper with terms such as “these people” and follow-ups to stories including letters published full of hate about Travellers further to recent media coverage about Dale Farm

evictions for Travellers. She said she would welcome change as Thomas had outlined, noting that NREC currently only got to talk about extremism when it initiated the discussion.

Nouraddine said that he felt cohesion is happening in slow motion in Northampton. For him there were some key issues:

- 1) an issue within the muslim community in Northampton and beyond
- 2) how the muslim community is perceived as extremist
- 3) within the host white community a lack of knowledge about who people are and what they stand for.

Nouraddine said the Prevent Community Reference group played a part in working on these issues, trying to empower the muslim community via funded projects e.g. for youth, women and an exhibition. He wanted to suggest to this Forum that it should take on cohesion in a positive way. He felt that there were no opportunities in Northampton for people from ethnic backgrounds to meet white people as he believed that the only places where they ever meet are in schools, colleges, universities and workplaces where there are problems. Nouraddine said he would like to see opportunities for people to meet and for the Forum to be able to suggest lots of projects to the Council – so it might organise something like the Notting Hill Carnival every year.

Morcea observed that Northampton already has a big Carnival which does exactly what Nouraddine was saying he wanted to see happen in the town. Morcea noted that the importance from a cohesion point of view was not just everyone being together on the annual Carnival day in June at Delapre Abbey park and in the procession through the town, but the journey people went on in the weeks and months of preparing to be in the Carnival. She noted that as the Carnival has grown more and more people line the streets to watch it too – bringing thousands of people from across the town's communities together. The carnival is organised by a small group of volunteers, not Northampton Borough Council.

Morcea also referred to Diwali, a day of activities in the town centre, organised by a community group with some support from Northampton Borough Council. Again, this involved people from different communities e.g. English, Polish, Gujerati, and lots of schools from across the town in preparation and joining in the event.

Morcea referred to the Diwali activities featuring in an exhibition about the Hindu community in the town and to exhibitions being made by youth and people of different backgrounds and ages for the Jewish and Sikh communities too in recent years and shown on the Heritage Open Days.

Nouraddine said it was not just exhibitions that he wanted to see – buy to rally schools, college and have events like the University of Northampton's Festival of Culture which he had found fascinating - the only time he had known faith groups had got together in Northampton.

It was noted that Northampton has an Inter Faith Forum which does organise various activities during the year which bring people of different faiths together.

Nouraddine said he would like to see more events like a conference at the University of Northampton which had included a study from Cardiff on how white people see muslims and how to tackle it.

Nouraddine said he felt Northampton Borough Council should fund these things.

Nouraddine wanted the Forum to invent tools to tackle issues, not just to talk e.g. to explore how muslim youth are perceived by white youth in schools.



John said that the perception of identity is very complex and that talking of a 'host community' or a single 'white' community is not reflecting reality but is mythical as there is not one single white host community.

Morcea said that a lot of community groups in Northampton are doing a lot. She felt that the Forum could take a role of noting, of seeing, what is going on, to help get a measure of how well the communities are getting on together on the journey to cohesion and integration. She referred to the Arabic School as an example of diversity as its pupils and their families who were involved together through the school came from different faiths, countries and cultures and enjoyed doing things together. She said that the supplementary schools help, in this sort of way, young people to become good citizens who understand one another's cultures, faiths, celebrations. Morcea referred to a less visible, less known aspect of the benefit the supplementary schools provide to the wider community too – that when there were riots around the country in the summer, there were no troubles in Northampton and that was partly due to people involved in the schools talking to youths and making sure they went home and stayed out of trouble, helping to contain the situation because those powerful community relationships existed.

**Action: agreed in principle that the Prevent Community Reference Group and Diverse Communities Forum should come together and to discuss further details about work plans in future meetings**

Thomas said it was important that even in the difficult times of austerity, people were able to continue to do things. There was a need to find ways of getting to know each other via events like the Carnival as well as spaces to discuss what is going wrong in communities. He felt much hate crime is due to people not knowing one another as friends but seeing each other as 'different' from 'different' communities. He felt that this group could help relationships to develop and to build trust.

Nouraddine suggested inviting organisations to the Forum that represent more white English people e.g. representatives from schools, guides, Women's Institute, and youth groups, to take into account the whole diversity of the town, not just diversity of minority groups. He said that to tackle the issues it was important to involve everyone.

It was noted that the Forum has a Facebook page which is open to all and which has followers from non-ethnic minority backgrounds as well as others.

**Agreed: to invite more people to get involved in the Forum and to promote English cultural events as well as others**

## **6. NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL: APPROACHES TO GRANTS FUNDING AND COMMISSIONING:UPDATE**

**Action: Thomas Hall said he would bring this item back to the next meeting.**

Thomas Hall advised that arrangements are in a transitional phase. Northampton Borough Council has a grant fund which increased this year. The Council is looking at moving from 100% of the funding it provides being in the form of grants, to introducing more commissioning (where the Council and organisations together work out what is needed, what is to happen and write it up so that organisations can say how they will be able to deliver it). Thomas said the Council is midway through this process, with councillors and voluntary sector group representatives meeting to talk about it.

Thomas said it was not yet known how much money would be available for grants and commissioning for 2012-13. Last year the Council faced big challenges and was still able to decide not to decrease funding to the voluntary sector. The Council has to make more cuts

in 2012-13 and the budget will need to be decided in February 2012.

## **7. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

Pearls of Peace were due to hold a ladies only event on 11 October.

Northants Rights and Equality Council was holding its Annual General Meeting on 13 October in Wellingborough with particular focus on defending legal services.

Northants Rights and Equality Council was organising a vigil in Kettering on 28 October evening to recognise the International Day Against Hate Crime.

Northants Rights and Equality Council was holding a fundraising dinner at the Doddridge Centre, Northampton on 9 December. For more information please contact Anjona Roy email: [aroy@northamptonshirerec.org.uk](mailto:aroy@northamptonshirerec.org.uk) .

Northampton Youth Forum would be taking their Stamp out Hate Crime campaign to a countywide Young Leaders' Political Education Conference in Northampton on 28 October and opening nominations for the Anne Frank Awards to recognise the International Day Against Hate Crime.

Apple Day would be happening on 16 October at Wilson's Orchard, Northampton, a chance to try different juices and find out all kinds of things about apples.

Northants Association of Supplementary Schools would be holding a countywide Parents' Conference for parents and teachers of supplementary schools and other madrassi schools on 22 October at the Park Inn Hotel. Northants Rights and Equalities Council, Northampton Youth Forum's Stamp out Hate Crime campaign and other local organisations would be at the event.

Diwali celebrations were due to take place on 22 October in the town centre with a procession involving lots of schools and community groups and open to everyone to join along with the Diwali lights switch-on in the Market Square. Council staff had been working to help the community to organise this.

Diwali celebrations were due to take place on 23 October – a fundraising variety show and dinner at Northampton Academy organised by the community with performances by members of the community. Northampton Youth Forum would be providing a Stamp out Hate Crime stand with pledge sign up at the event.

Northants Association of Supplementary Schools were working with Northants County Council Libraries to provide a Language Café in Northampton Central Library on 29 October. This would be a chance for everyone to visit free and try learning a few words in other languages. The youth forum would be providing a Stamp out Hate Crime stand at the event.

"Meet your Muslim Neighbour", an exhibition, was due to come to Northampton. More information from Nick Stephens at Northamptonshire Police.

World AIDS Day is 1 December and plans were being made by SOLAR working with Northampton Forums for a ceremony in the Guildhall courtyard with tea/coffee from 3pm and due to finish by 4.30pm. The ceremony would involve speakers from local organisations and possibly performances too. For more information about getting involved people should contact Susie Davies at SOLAR tel: 01604 611200 or [Susie.davies@acnorthants.org.uk](mailto:Susie.davies@acnorthants.org.uk) or Lindsey Ambrose tel/text: 0779 53 33 687 email: [lambrose@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:lambrose@northampton.gov.uk) . Anyone organising any activities for World AIDS Day who wanted them mentioned on the

NBC web page [www.northampton.gov.uk/worldaidsday](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/worldaidsday) please contact Lindsey Ambrose.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nobody had anything to bring up under this item.

## **9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was suggested that Interfaith Week might be discussed at a future meeting.

The topics for discussion at the 24 November meeting of this Forum should be as identified in the Agenda items above.

## **10. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The future meetings of this Forum should be:

- 24 November 2011
- 19 January 2012
- 15 March 2012
- 17 April 2012
- 6 Jun 2012
- 18 July 2012

All meetings should start at 6.30pm and be finished by 8.30pm.

All meetings are due to be at Northampton Guildhall.

As usual, news will be posted between meetings on the Forum's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/NorthamptonDiverseCommunitiesForum](http://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonDiverseCommunitiesForum)