

# Northampton Diverse Communities Forum

Thursday, 22 November 2018 at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

The Guildhall, St Giles' Street, Northampton, NN1 1DE.

## Agenda

1. Welcomes, introductions and apologies
2. Minutes and matters arising
3. Aideen Fogarty, Jamal Alwahabi and Jamal Bhaatii - Town of Sanctuary
4. Nathan Green - Jamaica Day
5. Community Information Exchange
6. Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting
7. Date Of Next Meeting

Map and directions at: [www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall)

For more information about this meeting please contact:  
Jamie Wells - Community Safety & Engagement Officer.



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Tel: 01604 838729



More information about the Forum generally is at: [www.northampton.gov.uk/forums](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/forums)



Facebook page: [www.northampton.gov.uk/dcf](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/dcf)

Please note that this Forum is supported and funded by Northampton Borough Council. The Forum may work in partnership and collaboration with other community groups, councils and local services from time to time. The views expressed and decisions taken by the Forum are not necessarily those of Northampton Borough Council.



NORTHAMPTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **Code of Conduct for the Forums**

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards that the Forums expect of its members. It aims to provide members with an effective ethical framework in which to do business. It is not intended to be exhaustive, or to cover every eventuality, but sets out some common sense requirements to enable the forums to function smoothly and successfully.

It is the responsibility of the Chair to encourage and enable input from forum members, to ensure all voices are heard.

### **1. Meeting Etiquette**

As an attendee you must comply with the following requirements and any others that may be stated from time to time:

- 1.1** Contribute positively to discussions concerning the issues of the meeting
- 1.2** Be friendly, polite, courteous and respectful at all times to fellow members, and others present
- 1.3** Not insult, abuse or use offensive language or behaviour
- 1.4** Comply with Northampton Borough Councils Equal Opportunities Policy
- 1.5** Demonstrate actively that you are interested in and care about the issue that you are discussing and want to make a positive difference
- 1.6** Show respect for buildings, facilities and equipment being used
- 1.7** Speak only through the Chairman of the meeting and not interrupt, heckle, make distracting noises or gestures
- 1.8** Speak clearly into any microphone provided and comply with any instructions given about its use

### **2. Being Objective**

- 2.1** Your own experience and views should inform, but not dominate or dictate how you participate.
- 2.2** If you have a specific issue with regards to a service matter to raise these can be discussed with a member of staff at the end of the each meeting or you can ask for the appropriate officer details. Meetings attended by other residents are not the place to raise any issues of this nature.
- 2.3** Be Fair
- 2.4** You must have and show respect for the people you deal with, and take their circumstances and personal differences into account. This is about putting equality into practice. The key is simply to respect differences fairly, so that you do not exclude anyone, or treat anyone inappropriately or unfairly because of their particular circumstances.

### **Breaching the Code of Conduct**

If any person's behaviour breaches this Code of Conduct, they will be required to leave the meeting and vacate the premises where it is being held. They will not be permitted to attend future meetings unless they provide satisfactory evidence to Northampton Borough Council that they will comply with the Code – e.g. a letter of apology.

If you would like further information or if you would like to discuss the Code of Conduct please contact Vicki Rockall, Partnerships and Communities Manager at [vrockall@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:vrockall@northampton.gov.uk) or on 01604 837074

**Northampton Borough Council  
Northampton Diverse Communities Forum**

**The Jeffery Room, The Guildhall, St Giles' Street, NN1 1DE.**

**Thursday, 20 September 2018, 11am – 1pm.**

**1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

**Attendance:** Pauline Woodhouse (PW, Co-Chair), Cllr James Hill (JH, Co-Chair), Jamie Wells (JW, NBC), Suzanna Storey (SS, Royal and Derngate), Erica Martin (EM, Royal and Derngate), Nazreen Altaf (NA, Community Law Service), Christian Buckenham (CB, Northants Police), Resul Karlillavi (RK, Individual), Abede Ahmed (AA, Somali Community), Sally Beardsworth (SB, NBC), Yvette Uylett (YU, Individual), Stuart Duff (SD, NBC), Nathan Green (NG, Individual), Donovan Allen (DA, NTCG), Mary Clarke (MC, Connected Together).

**Apologies:** Kamila Poole.

**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**3. COMMUNITY LAW SERVICE - IMMIGRATION LAW ADVISOR (WINDRUSH)**

Nazreen Altaf – immigration solicitor at CLS

Weekly drop in at one stop shop weds morn 9:30 to 11:30

Drop in at Wellingborough 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

Free immigration advice – advice about applications etc.

Windrush

What is it? Referenced to first ship that came 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948 – 1<sup>st</sup> ship of nationals from Caribbean. Was a response to labour shortages after the war, came to rebuild the country.

Worked for 25 years and finally granted settlement. 1971 immigration act – same right as other British nationals. They were never issued with any documentation, just accepted they were now citizens.

Later laws made distinctions between who was born and immigrated to the UK. The rights act from 71 meant they could leave the country for 2 years and everything would be fine.

88 act took the right away, more than 2 years, you are not allowed to come back.

Theresa may when home sec wanted to tackle immigration, she brought in things that made it difficult for those who were here illegally to stay here. The people from the Windrush era who hadn't been out of the country, they never had the correct

documents to say they were legal in this country. The passports they would have had, were decades old and now illegible. Those who had a passport with an endorsement would now have to pass the British citizenship test. Employers would be fined if they couldn't prove their employee was in the country legally, this led to unemployment/suspension, which had a knock on effect that the individual would then suffer from debt because they couldn't get a job to pay the bills that they needed to.

If these people left the country, they were then not allowed back in as they did not have a British or endorsed passport. One man was stranded for 21 months. April 2018 is when the status they were given in the 70's to finally be recognised and given confirmation of what they were told in the 70's.

This immigration form is 19 pages long and the team can be contacted over the phone. Settled status, British citizenship or right of abode. To get a British passport you have to pay for the passport and apply separately.

Solicitors have to pass an exam every 3 years to be a immigration advisor/solicitor. If a solicitor practices without this, they can be imprisoned for up to two years.

If the application is refused, it can be reviewed. There is no fee for this application.

Q: When people go away and when they come back they're not allowed back in, how did they get out?

A: People are allowed to leave the country using their home national passport. Children were often included on their parent's passport. It is up to the individual to make sure that they have the documents to get back into the country. Now people get residents card but this was not available back in the 70's.

There is/will be a Windrush compensation scheme in place from the government which can be applied for.

Q: Does this effect people from other commonwealth countries?

A: There were different schemes for different countries when entering the country, unfortunately the islands documents had not been endorsed.

Q: Has this affected this county?

A: Yes, there have been lots of cases.

YU: No one has looked into the knock on effect it has had on the community.

PW: Thanked Nazreen for the very detailed talk with the fourm.

YU: The youth of today think they are disposable and that they are not being listened to. They are told how to behave and told what they should do.

MC: Although what happened is awful, it brought the community together to force action as a united group.

SB: If we didn't have such a diverse country, our emergency services would suffer.

#### **4. SUZANNA STOREY & ERICA MARTIN - R&D OUR LADY OF KIBEHO AND FUN PLACES PROJECT**

From the creative learning team.

Many people just see the Derngate as a theatre that does shows but there is a lot of community work/events that take place for the local community.

Difficult to reach the wider community and not those who are just interested in the arts. The arts should be as accessible as possible but the word needs to spread and people need to know to take part. Looking to build lasting relationships with all communities.

Fun Palaces – national project. Ideally arts and science based, it is about communities coming together with the aims for people to learn something new and to meet new people.

Next October – looking to do a community festival, whether it is a knitting group, a dance group etc., the space is there for people to teach others in the local community. Northampton is a very diverse town and we are looking to celebrate that.

SS – previously worked for the borough council and attended the DCF previously and it was discussed that there was a lack of opportunities for diverse communities. Now 4 years later working for the Derngate and trying to create schemes which gives opportunities to all and break the stereotype of what can be linked to the theatre.

PW – It would be helpful for you to get in contact with the youth clubs and forums, maybe have a small slot on Inspiration FM to explain what the schemes are about.

MC – I would recommend contacting the black history association. Morcea Walker would be a good contact. You really need to promote that there are opportunities for people to do things for free.

EM – we are aware we need to market things better.

There is another project which is a performance opportunity – Our Lady of Kibeho.

There are local auditions for community members, looking to reach out to the black community, anyone who feels they can represent the Rwandan community and looking to build relationships with those who may be looking to continue engaging with the groups at the Derngate.

**ACTION:** MM to send out application forms for Lady of Kibeho.

#### **PAIGE - HAPPY YOU PROJECT**

## **6. CLLR SALLY BEARDSWORTH - SCRUTINY QUESTIONS**

Scrutiny questions.

Homelessness and how we are looking at the housing first model.

It is a very complex issue and there are numerous reasons why people are homeless, been to the hope centre and bridge.

Average age for someone who has had to sleep rough is 47 years old.

Many young people from 16-25 are invisibly homeless, often sofa surfing from house to house.

It is a huge project and we are looking to gather some statistics to help improve the lives and status of people who are homeless.

Cllr Beardsworth passed round the scrutiny questions and let the forum know that they can return them to [mmacleod@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:mmacleod@northampton.gov.uk).

MC – in terms of core questions, can we only answer as an organisation or as an individual?

SB - You can answer as either or both.

MC - The littering fine seems too harsh, if someone offers to pick their litter up then they should be allowed. This is especially harsh on the homeless.  
Also, people's bedding are being removed and thrown away.

SB – People often get new bedding and leave their old on the streets.

The forum discussed how there could be a warning before brandishing the £50.

## **7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

FGM conversations – people can contact [www.fgmconversations.com](http://www.fgmconversations.com).

Looking what the next step for Northampton in celebrating windrush.

Cllr Hill to talk to Cllr Anna King to see if there are any upcoming celebrations.

Kosovo group has now been set up in Northampton.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified