

Barnet Multi Faith Forum

Annual Report July 2019

1. Executive Summary

In our AGM last year we expressed our strong desire to transform aspirations into action. This first annual report provides a summary of our work to promote and celebrate the valuable contribution faith groups make to a peaceful, caring, inclusive and cohesive society.

In February we launched our first Open Forum meeting which was well attended and helped develop the BMFF Action Plan. The level of engagement at the Open Forum was very encouraging and we plan to hold these three times per year.

Our work to develop a Barnet Youth Faith Forum has made significant progress thanks to funding from Near Neighbours and the appointment of a part-time co-ordinator.

We note with deep sadness the terrorist attacks around the world and our prayers are with all those who have suffered as a result of these horrific events. However, such events serve to renew and strengthen our determination to work for peace and reconciliation, with all people, in all places, from all backgrounds regardless of faith or belief.

2. Recognition and Awards

In October, Trevor Alexander (Co-Chair) was presented with the JVN: Building Trust Award for Interfaith Volunteering.

In June Es Rosen (Co-Chair) was invited to Buckingham Palace to meet Her Majesty The Queen in recognition for his services to BMFF and interfaith work.

London Faith and Belief Award: The BMFF was recognised by the Lord Lieutenant of London on behalf of the Faith & Belief Forum for services to Faith and Belief communities across London

In July Es Rosen was elected as Trustee to the Interfaith Network for local interfaith groups

3. BMFF Key Events and Business

Formal meetings

AGM July 2018

Open Forum Meeting February 2019

Meetings of the Executive – 7 meetings were held during this period.

Inter Faith Week November 2018

- A faith and social action fair at Middlesex University (in partnership with BMFF) hosted 25 stalls showcasing the work of faith groups and local social

action groups. This event attracted many visitors throughout the day, including the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Caroline Stock.

- Representatives from faith groups presented their work during an evening event at Hendon Town Hall, organised by BMFF. This event attracted many representatives from a diverse group of Barnet based community groups, including Deputy Mayor, Councillor Caroline Stock.

All Party Parliamentary Groups:

Loneliness working party - July 2019

4. Action Plan – key developments

BMFF's 5 year Action Plan was a key agenda item at the Open Forum meeting in February. The Action Plan was enhanced and we are pleased to report that the following sub-groups are now live and active:

- BMFF Youth Faith Forum
- Loneliness Project
- Digital Communications and social media
- Climate Change
- Wellbeing
- End of life care
- Winter Festivals

5. Partnership working / engagement

BMFF has continued to work in partnership with the following organisations:

- Barnet Council
- Middlesex University
- Inter Faith Network
- Community Barnet
- Near Neighbours
- Inclusion Barnet
- Jewish Volunteering Network
- Community Security Trust
- Faith Forum for London
- Forum for International Relations Development (FIRD)
- The Board of Deputies of British Jews
- Faith Matters and Tel Mama

6. Attendance, participation and representation

Members of the BMFF Executive have attended / supported or been representatives of the following groups meetings / organisations / events:

Barnet Council Board and Partnership meetings
SGI (Bhuddist) Peace Event – Middlesex University
Diwali Celebration Lunch – Manor Drive Methodist Church, Whetstone
Energy Garden - Finchley – Community and Faith Groups
Inter Faith Network Regional meetings Derby Bradford and Peterborough
Inter Faith tree - Centre for Islamic Enlightenment (Hippodrome) at Princess Park
Energy Garden, Finchley Central Station – Ismaili Centre
Frontiers Meeting – Welcome Trust
Women in faith Network – City Hall
FIRD and APPG Faith and Society Faith in Politics Seminar, Houses of Parliament
FIRD Community Cohesion solution to extremism, House of Parliament
Building Bridges – Middlesex University
Hate Crime Awareness Week – Middlesex University
Work and care Together – One Stop Social
Trinity Church Opening Ceremony – Trinity Church, Grahame Park
Holocaust Memorial Day – Middlesex University
Community Barnet AGM – Community Barnet
London’s Water Supply and Power Distribution – AgeUK London
HEAR AGM – HEAR
Advocacy in Barnet – Barnet
Fair Trade Fortnight – Middlesex University
Security in Faith GPS – City Hall
Belief & Unbelief - Friends Meeting House
Iftar, Fatwa Council – Colindale
Hendon Cemetery Rededication - Hendon
Silver Week – Woodhouse College
Family Open City – Kings Cross (remove)
St Johns Church – Prayers for a stab victim and for the wider community
SACRE New RE Curriculum Launch - Hendon Town Hall
Winter Festival working group - Barnet

7. Looking Ahead

We look forward to our Open Forum meetings to help inform and shape and implement the BMFF Action Plan and future events.

The establishment of the Barnet Youth Faith Forum remains a high priority for us as we continue to work and towards this aim.

As people of faith we have a wide range of responsibilities for the care of our world and for those who are at risk from changes to the climate – particularly those living in poverty. We will explore how we can work together to find ways to live in a more sustainable and responsible way.

We will continue to showcase and celebrate the valuable contribution faith groups make to our community and the wider society as we work tirelessly to promote peace and inclusion in all we do.

Esmond Rosen
Trevor Alexander
Co-Chairs Barnet Multi Faith Forum.