



Sheffield Faiths Forum Annual Review 4 March 2008

Contents:

- Summary of event
- Having your say - results
- Event feedback

Summary of event

- 68 attendees
- Attendance from the following traditions and groups: Ahmadiyyan Muslim Association; Al Madina Masjid; Baha'i Spiritual Assembly; Buddhist – Amida Trust, FWBO, Zen; Christian – Anglican, Black Majority; Catholic, Evangelical, Methodist, Orthodox, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist; Christian Science Church; Churches Together in South Yorkshire; Hindu Samaj; Humanist; Islamic Society of Britain; National Probation Service; Religious Society of Friends; Sheffield & District Reform Jewish Congregation; Sheffield 50+; Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care; Sheffield City Council; Sheffield Enterprise Clusters; Sheffield Faiths Forum; Sheffield Hallam University; Sheffield Interfaith; Sheffield Teaching Hospitals; South Yorkshire Police Authority; Sunrise and Hope Project; Unitarian Chapel; United Mosques Council of South Yorkshire; University of Sheffield; Victim Support Sheffield; Yorkshire & Humber Faiths Forum.

Programme

18:30	Registration, refreshments, displays, stalls and networking
19:00	Welcome and introduction Mike Fitter, Chair of Sheffield Faiths Forum
19:05	Councillor Pat Midgley
19:10	Review of the year – presentation and video Tim Wright, Dave Sutton-Jones, OFFER
19:25	Report from our audit of faith related community activity Ann Hindley, Community Research Consultant
19:30	Bishop John Rawsthorne
19.45	Having your say Consultation exercise on the Forum's priorities for the future
20:10	Formal Close Mike Fitter, Chair of Sheffield Faiths Forum
20:10	Hindu prayer dance Dhruti Bhatt
20:15	Networking and Stalls
-20:40	

Aims

- Hear about the work of the Faiths Forum over the past year
- Find out about the contribution of faith groups to our local communities through the launch of the Faith Audit report
- Have your say about the Faiths Forum's priorities for the future
- Network with other faith groups and communities

Mike Fitter, Chair of Sheffield Faiths Forum, formally welcomed delegates and introduced members of the Faiths Forum. Councillor Pat Midgley gave an introductory speech reflecting on the establishment of the Faiths Forum and its importance to Sheffield from the City Council's perspective.

Tim Wright and Dave Sutton-Jones from OFFER then gave a presentation highlighting the achievements of the Faiths Forum over the past year covering influencing policy and decisions, events, neighbourhood based work, faith awareness, influencing public services and communications (The full presentation can be downloaded from <http://www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk/node/132>). This also included a short video capturing some of the 'sights and sounds' of Sheffield's faith communities.

Ann Hindley (Community Research Consultant) briefly outlined the findings from the Forum's audit of faith related community activity. These showed that the amount of faith related community activity taking place in Sheffield is massive. There is evidence of activity among a diverse range of groups not only for the benefit of their members but also for the wider community in their local neighbourhoods, across the city and for people coming as strangers to the city. A full copy of the report, the executive summary and a detailed table of findings can be downloaded from <http://www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk/node/128>.

Bishop John Rawsthorne added his thanks to the Faiths Forum for its hard work over the year and stressed the continued responsibility of faith communities to engage in the wider life of the city.

The delegates then undertook a consultation exercise – 'Having Your Say' - where they were asked to prioritise potential issues that the Faiths Forum could address in the coming year. The results of this exercise are set out below. The event was formally closed with a performance of a traditional Hindu dance prayer by Dhruvi Bhatt.

Alongside the formal proceedings the Forum exhibited a number of photographs from the Sight and Sounds Project – capturing events from the Hindu, Sikh and Seventh Day Adventist communities. The following groups had stalls to display their activities: Baha'i community, Christian Science church, the Family Development Project, the Islamic Society of Britain, and the Megacentre.

Having your say - results

Alongside the group exercise during the event, 29 consultation sheets were completed and submitted – these covered 7 different faiths and a number of denominations within them.

Four clear potential priorities for the Faiths Forum were identified through the exercise:

- Community Cohesion
- Faith group visits / Sheffield Open Door week
- Neighbourhood based work
- Young Peoples project

This information will be used by the Faiths Forum over the coming year to help:

- direct resources to the most important issues if resources are secured
- make difficult choices over which projects can be supported if resources are limited
- target and, hopefully, secure future resources.

Feedback

Summary

Did the event enable you to:

- **Hear about the work of the Faiths Forum over the past year?** Yes / in part - 100%
- **Find out about the contribution of faith groups to our local communities through the launch of the Faith Audit report?** Yes / in part - 100%
- **Have your say about the Faiths Forum's priorities for the future?** Yes / in part – 100%
- **Network with other faith groups and communities?** Yes / in part - 100%

Overall, how useful did you find the event? Very useful / useful – 97%

Detailed

68 participants attended. 39 evaluation forms were returned.

Comments on how well the event met its objectives			
Hear about the work of the Faiths Forum over the past year	27 Yes	10 in part	No
Find out about the contribution of faith groups to our local communities through the launch of the Faith Audit report	21 Yes	13 in part	No
Have your say about the Faiths Forum's priorities for the future	27 Yes	8 in part	No
Network with other faith groups and communities	24 Yes	12 in part	No
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having been part of the NIACE training has been advantageous this past year. • Can't do it all in a couple of hours!! – you covered a lot. • Only "in part" because of the restrictions of time • Would have liked to hear more from Dave – his work sounded so interesting. • Very well organised • More time needed to reflect. • Thanks to Tim, Dave and Dave. 			

What did you think of the venue? Please include any comments on location and accessibility.	☐ Very Poor	☐ Poor	3 Okay	14 Good	20 Very Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking problem • Central. Very welcoming. • Only parking problems • Easy to get to especially after finishing work • Very good for me (not sure about others); I like to see the Town Hall used for a group which is concerned with Sheffield communities • Comfortable, non-intimidating, good catering • Couldn't find the ladies toilets • Central and easy to get to. Plenty of room. • Provision of food was great • Central; acoustics OK; food labelled. 					

Did you have enough information in advance of the event? Please include details of any extra information you would have liked.	☐ Not at all	4 No	10 Okay	17 Yes	3 Definitely
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No name tag on arrival • Always plenty of info given • Would it be possible to send these considerations (Having your say – Consultation sheet) to us before this evening? I found I needed to consider my answer and would have valued discussing these 'issues' with others of my 'faith' before answering. 					

How well do you feel the event was facilitated? E.g. were you encouraged to participate?	☐ Very Poor	☐ Poor	5 Okay	20 Good	11 Very Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always well organised • Exercise a little difficult to understand, but I think most people got it in the end. • Felt it was very interactive 					

Overall how useful did you find the event?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	15	21
		Not at all	a bit	okay	useful	Very useful
What did you find most useful about the event?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking and meeting others x10 • Loved the film • All elements • Informative • Information sharing; networking; discourse • Information giving and talking with people of other faiths • Opportunity to contribute to prioritisation of issues • Survey report and documentary • Awareness of church involvement • Good to have an opportunity to discuss priorities with others • Event was not too long and speakers were concise • Hearing about this year's work by the Faiths Forum x2 • Hearing what's been achieved x2 • Hearing about the audit • Presentation and stalls • All of it, especially the small video that said so much without any words! • "Having your say" • Interacting with other faiths 					
What did you find least useful about the event?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time of the event • Nothing, I really enjoyed it • Some parts too rushed – too full on the time table x2 • Major contributions condensed into minutes • Too many speakers • Nothing • Lack of time • Couldn't see the dance properly 					



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