

# **Southwark Multi-Faith Forum Annual Report 2008/9**



## **SMFF Vision Statement**

Our given aim is to make Southwark a better place to live for all its people from all ethnicities, cultures and beliefs – By being the definitive voice of the faith community in Southwark.

Members of the Forum believe that by working together on practical community activities and by lobbying statutory and Governmental bodies for policies that will help those most in need, we can achieve more for the people of Southwark than we can acting alone.

## **SMFF OBJECTIVES**

1. To promote good relations between different religious and ethnic groups
2. To support religious organisations in the borough to get further involved in projects to improve the quality of life for Southwark residents, particularly the socially excluded
3. To support religious organisations in the borough to access further funds to help them develop projects to improve the quality of life of Southwark residents
4. To lobby the local authority and other government and voluntary agencies to ensure that the views and needs of faith communities are recognised in their policies and their actions
5. To elect the faith representative(s) to Southwark Alliance (Southwark's Local Strategic Partnership), to advise these representatives on relevant issues and to receive feedback from the representatives.





## **The History of the Southwark Multi-Faith Forum (SMFF)**

**Southwark is a borough where Approx 80% residents have a Faith. That makes Southwark one of the most spiritual boroughs in the entire country.**

**On the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2003 at the Damilola Taylor centre the SMFF was launched. Since then its work has been to bring together Faith Leaders to work in partnership for the purpose of Community Development, social cohesion and to capacity build the faith sector so that it can better relate to the statutory sector.**

**Though the Christian faith represents some 62% of the faiths in Southwark, it was felt that for the sake of increased involvement that the representation to the Forum should be spread as widely as possible.**

**This approach to what has worked historically to involve communities within Southwark has been widely accepted and effective in building a greater involvement by seeking to be as inclusive as possible, though it is recognised this kind of involvement is not built purely on the demographics of the Borough. As a result of this type of approach, we have seen hard to reach faith groups come forward to be a part of the work of Southwark Multi-Faith Forum e.g. The Sikh, Jewish and Hindu religions.**

So the numbers of trustees shall be not less than five but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) and not more than fifteen.

The composition of the trustees shall be as follows:

4 representatives from the Christian community in the London Borough of Southwark

- (1) 3 representatives from the Muslim community in the London Borough of Southwark
- (2) 1 representative from the Hindu community in the London Borough of Southwark
- (3) 1 representative from the Sikh community in the London Borough of Southwark
- (4) 1 representative from the Jewish community in the London Borough of Southwark
- (5) 1 representative from the Baha'i community in the London Borough of Southwark

- (6) 1 representative from the Buddhist community in the London Borough of Southwark
- (7) 1 representative from the Rastafarian community in the London Borough of Southwark
- (8) 1 representative from the Jain community in the London Bough of Southwark
- (10) *1 representative from the Zoroastrian community in the London Borough of Southwark*

The SMFF has mastered potential relational issues among its Forum members by having solid working relationships among its management committee, giving opportunities for involvement to as many members as possible, and seeking to be inclusive while remaining relevant to the communities its Faith Groups represent. This has led to remarkably smooth relationships among its committee members and exemplifies the nature of the strong and trusting Faith leadership networks across Southwark.



**MINUTES SMFF AGM MEETING  
 25<sup>TH</sup> November 2008**

1.	The Chair read the minutes of the previous Annual General meeting it agreed unanimously. He ended by thanking all those involved. He further read the achievements report of the SMFF 2007-08.	
2.	Rev. Wade presented the SMFF Accounts which had been prepared by the Accountants used by SMFF. These accounts are not audited because they are under the threshold for such requirements. A copy of the accounts were included in some packs and posted to the website to save paper.	
3.	Rev. Wade highlighted the amount of work carried out by the SMFF and that he felt that more resources were now needed to raise funds to bring the forum to the next level. He thanked CIDU and the team for their support.	
4.	A question was asked about professional fees. Trevor advised this could consist of accountancy fees or trainer's fees. Mark Williams suggested accountancy fees should be under a separate heading.	
5.	David Wade asked that the accounts be accepted and agreed. Kanwar Sattee moved that they be accepted, Eileen Conn seconded it.	
6.	There was a suggestion that LAP could be used as the firm of accountants in future. 8 agreed, 0 objections.	
7.	<p><b>Election of Management Committee (mc)</b> was preceded by an announcement that those who only registered as members tonight would not be eligible to vote as their applications would need to be processed by the MC.</p> <p><b>Election of officers – Moderated by Bev Thomas</b>  <b>VCS</b>          Only members could vote</p> <p>Trevor advised the forum that constitutionally there are 15 ring-fenced places for various faith groups on the MC. 3 of the MC stand down or are re-elected each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Smith</li> <li>• Hussain Malik</li> <li>• Michael Ipgrave</li> <li>• Bola Okoboyejo</li> </ul>	

	<p>Stood down – This meant that there were 3 Muslim places and 2 Christian places for election. The AGM were reminded of the eligibility to vote criteria.</p> <p>2 Christian nominations were made – Shirley Woolford and on person not present at the meeting. Only the nomination for the person present was accepted. It was explained that nominations cannot be taken for those who were absent, but a shortfall in the MC could be filled by cooption at a later date. Within the boundaries of the ring-fence. The 2 Christian reps that stood down did not ask to be re-appointed.</p> <p>The final Management Committee agreed were – Fred Tella, Eileen Conn, Musharraf Chuadhury, Abdisameed Elihour, Rubina Malik, Kanwar Satee, Shirley Woolford, David Wade, Ben White. One position open to cooption.</p>	
	<p><b>The choosing of the main officer positions</b> – The meeting was informed that the officers of the SMFF would be chosen at the next meeting of the management committee.</p>	
	<p><b>8. Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Chair raised the issue of a building for the organisation or host group./ space.</li> <li>○ He also suggested a male and female youth rep position needs to be instituted on the MC. Perhaps as ex-officio members.</li> <li>○ He hopes to have someone early next year to replace Trevor. He wants to meet the grassroots and hold quadrant meetings around the borough.</li> <li>○ Musharraf Chaudhury asked the Chair to formally acknowledge the out-going members of the committee and thank them for their time in office. This was done.</li> <li>○ Former Mayor – Cllr Bob Skelly made 3 key points. The importance of SMFF to the Borough, the support the forum has amongst elected members of the Council, he further spoke of the importance of a Multi-Faith forum in such a diverse community as Southwark. He noted that he was impressed with SMFF as a force for cohesion building.</li> <li>○ Entertainment was by Rashida who sang His eye is on the sparrow.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>9. Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 4 uncontested places</li> <li>• Musharraf Chaudhury</li> <li>• Rubina Malik</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abdessamed Elhauri</li><li>• Shirley Woolford</li></ul> <p>Formally appointed to the SMFF MC. Any other places will be opt to co-option.</p> <p><b>Closing remarks</b> The chair stressed that individuals should not sit on the fence, faith groups have a lot to contribute to the society and the work should not be left solely to the MC. Michael Carcery was invited to have his group perform at the next AGM</p>	
10	<b>NEXT MEETING of the MC : 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 09</b>	

### **Chair's Report**

Dear friends,

As Chair for the period 2008-2009, I have been delighted to see the hard work of our organisation with Faith Groups and Faith based organisations across Southwark in order to ensure the progress of our agenda for faith within Southwark.

We have worked with the voluntary and statutory sectors to ensure that we maximise on the level of services they are able to provide to our members e.g. the Community Safety has offered support to faith groups in order to improve our ability to support groups across the Borough, and that can only be a good thing.

During the period covered by this report, our main strength has been, seeking to capacity build the forum and to plan and restructure the work of the Forum for the future.

Southwark Multi-Faith Forum has been a great vehicle for building solid relationships amongst faith groups which to this point have lacked trust in the statutory sector to deliver on anything of value to the faith sector.



SMFF has been able to build credibility with the faith sector because:

1. We believe in faith groups as the centre of the Community,
2. We believe in faith groups to support and comfort people in the really important matters of life.
3. We believe in faith groups to deliver services in our Borough.
4. And we believe in faith groups because we have faith in faith.

SMFF has been able to raise its profile within and beyond Southwark by supporting and influencing other people's agendas; but this has not been without its challenges and has come at a personal cost of time and effort to attend many meetings and challenge on behalf of the faith communities in Southwark.

Our heart felt thanks go out to, LB Southwark which has seen our efforts to influence and improve the outcomes for the faith community in a positive light. Over the past year we have enjoyed the full support of the Local Authority and hope that we will continue to build on this foundation with the newly elected Members and appointed Officers.

I can foresee that greater things are going to happen for Faith in Southwark if we can continue the work that has began in the Faith sector, and find ways to develop it even in the present financial climate. That through our joint efforts all of the communities of Southwark will benefit, and by our unity demonstrate what faith is able to do.

**What now needs to be addressed is:**

1. We need more resources to expand the range of work we could potentially pursue. E.g. Hosting the Forum in the voluntary sector, capacity building the Management Committee, developing policy and sharing good practice with other faith forums.
2. We need to provide consultancy and more outreach directly to faith groups to increase their capacity to deliver in an improved way the services they already provide and those the community says it requires of request that we provide.
3. We require dedicated administrative support for the SMFF and will be looking to employ the required appropriate staff in the near future depending on funding.
4. After working with the major faith groups over the last 2 years, it would seem logical to spend some time specifically outreaching to the smaller groups to see what impact we can have on their communities.



5. We aim to continue to develop our work with LB Southwark concerning buildings for the use of faith groups.
6. We want to develop a funding plan that will allow us to take the work of the SMFF forward and make the work self-sustaining. The key issue that funding will need to address is sustainability.

We believe that the overall work done during this period and since, has significantly and positively influenced the profile of the SMFF, the needs that have been met by our events remains to be fully realised as impacts, however we are clear from the growing numbers of respondees, that there is a growing awareness of our service, and increased demands for our involvement both in statutory and non-statutory areas of work. We are fit for purpose. Thank you!

### **THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SMFF 2008 - 2009**

Southwark Multi-Faith Forum was established with NRF funding in 2003. The committee has representation from the key faiths within Southwark.

The funding provides for a full-time Coordinator, plus operational costs, such as events, communications and training and development. The post is hosted by the Council's Community Involvement and Development Unit, at the request of the Forum. The main objectives of the funding are:

- To co-ordinate and promote to promote the interests of people from different faith different groups as citizens and service users.
- To act as a bridge and 'advisor of need' between people of different faiths, different ethnic backgrounds and ages and services in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, particularly in relation to community safety, health improvement, educational achievement, and worklessness.
- To encourage and support the participation of faith groups and individuals of different faiths in a range of active citizen activities in the borough, including self-help and volunteering, participation in local community forums and meetings, and representation at partnerships.

**The things we are particularly proud of over the last year are:**

Our work of being “The definitive voice of faith in Southwark”,

- This is demonstrated by the way we facilitated a number of consultations from various quarters of statutory work
- Work done with Community Safety and the Police on the prevent agenda and violent extremism.
- Others parts of our work that need to be affirmed as great achievements are our: Peace Breakfasts
- Work around Change of Use, and getting planning permission to deal with emerging needs of faith groups for buildings.
- We have helped to start and support a Faith Area Network or area based network for Rotherhithe and Bermondsey and want to do this in each of the quadrants of Southwark which will build a geographic network allowing easier access to service delivery on in a physical area.
- We have held successful Peace Breakfasts, which has become an annual event for addressing specific issues which focus our attention on an area where peace can make a difference.
- Work done with health, wellbeing and fusion on the healthy living strategy e.g. Community Scorecard.
- The LB Southwark – Guide to faith premises which originated with the SMFF and was kindly funded by the Planning department.

**What now needs to be addressed**

1. What has not gone so well for SMFF is fulfilling the need for resources to expand the range of work we could potentially pursue.
2. One of the main areas is the need to provide consultancy and more outreach to the faith groups directly to increase their capacity.
3. We also require dedicated administrative support.
4. After working with the major faith groups over the last 2 years, it would seem logical to spend some time specifically outreaching to the smaller groups to see what impact we can have on their communities.
5. Groups need to be educated about the transfer of assets and how to engage with the Council more around its strategy around places of worship for faith groups in the borough.
6. The best practice guide of council services for faith groups

We believe that the overall work done during this period and since, has significantly raised the profile of the SMFF, the needs that have been met by these events remain to be fully realised as outcomes, however we are clear from the growing numbers of contacts, that there is a growing awareness of our service, and increased demands for our involvement both in statutory and non-statutory areas of work.



SMFF's special thanks go out to:

The following people and organisations for 2008-2009

- **The SMFF Management Committee 2008-2009 with a special thanks you to Fred Tella, Eileen Conn and Musharraf Chaudhury for their years of service to the SMFF.**
- The Management and all the staff of the with special thanks to Shanice Duffus for a year of successful service.
- **Southwark Alliance and its staff**
- Volunteer Centre Southwark,
- Victim Support Southwark – Pauline Tio
- Emma Kehoe
- Michael Cleere
- Willowbrook who have helped the faith community with its planning needs.
- Katie Miller
- Paul Bruce
- Anwara Ali
- SHREB
- Steadman Noble
- Franklin Poku
- The management Committee of the SMFF
- Pamela Hamilton & Charlotte Beaumont
- BCDP – Bengali Community Development Project

**Contact Details**

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Appendix 1

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR  
 SOUTHWARK MULTIFAITH FORUM LIMITED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009**

**SOUTHWARK MULTI-  
 FAITH FORUM LTD  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31  
 MARCH 2009**

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2009 Total £	2008 Total £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming Resources From Generated Funds:</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income</b>	0	45561	45561	76101
<b>Other Income</b>				
<b>Investment Income</b>	7	0	7	1
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45,561</b>	<b>45,568</b>	<b>76,102</b>
<b>OUTGOING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Cost of generating Funds:</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>	0	31,992	31,992	65,663
<b>Governance Costs</b>	0	10770	10770	5185
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,762</b>	<b>42,762</b>	<b>70,848</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	7	2,799	2,806	5,254
<b>Fund Balances Brought forward</b>	9,329	0	9,329	4,075
<b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>	<b>9,336</b>	<b>2,799</b>	<b>12,135</b>	<b>9,329</b>



**BALANCE SHEET SOUTHWARK MULTIFAITH FORUM 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2009**

	Notes	2009 Total Fund	2008 Total Fund
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at Bank		12,635	11,838
		<b>12,635</b>	<b>11,838</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors & Accruals : Amount falling due within 1 year	2	500	2509
		<u>12,135</u>	<u>9,329</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>			
Restricted Fund		2,799	0
Unrestricted Fund		9,336	9,329
		<u>12,135</u>	<u>9,329</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by

.....Chairperson

.....Treasurer

on ..... 2009