

**Minutes of Meeting with Director of Bristol Adult Community
Care Services, BDA, Golden Agers Club and Malcolm X Elders
On Thursday 29th March 2007
2 Tudor Road, Easton Bristol, BS5 6BW**

Present: Annie Hudson (AH), Director BCC Adult Community Care
Guy Reid-Bailey (GRB), BDA
Mrs Levy, Secretary Malcolm X Elders
Princess Campbell (PC), G.A.C, Committee & Service

User

Maggie Thompson-Reece (MTR), Chairperson G.A.C.
Madge Douglas (MD), Deputy Chairperson G.A.C.
Ephraim Williams (EW), Treasurer G.A.C. & Service User
Hermine Samuels (HS), G.A.C. Committee & Service

User

Minicent Thompson (MT), Secretary, G.A.C. & Service

User

Aston White (AW), G.A.C Committee & Service User

Welcome and introductions of all in attendance.

Purpose of the Meeting

Annie Hudson had been invited by PC to attend a meeting with GAC, BDA and Malcolm X to see what could be done to assist Black African/Black Caribbean's in moving forward into the millennium to having a Link/Age Centre set up and resources be provided to commemorate 200 Years of the Abolition of Slavery. Unfortunately AH had not been able to attend the meeting previously arranged but Guy Robertson had attended and minutes with the outcome of that meeting had been made available by Ruth Pitter (VOSCUR).

Dialogue of Golden Agers

PC explained that the Church of God of Prophecy started the Golden Agers luncheon club more than 16 years ago without any funding from Bristol Social Services. When the GAC approached BSS for funding they were told that they would need to be a separate enterprise from the church in order for any funding to be given. This happened and GAC was awarded a small amount of funding to form a luncheon club and continued as such until MTR became the

Chairperson in 1998. MTR explained how the club managed to forge links with City of Bristol College for members to engage in the “Passport to Learning” pilot scheme to assist members in educational activities with tutors from the college. This enabled the college to introduce education within a community setting for Black elderly people and included a wide range of courses; computing, design and patchwork quilting, creative writing, flower arranging, RSA Food Hygiene, Health & Safety and Resus Training. The courses enabled the members to empower themselves by increasing skills and gaining recognised certificates. With the closure of Ludlow Close Day Centre the GAC were able to increase their funding by applying for block booking of places by Bristol Social Services to assist those members who had no where to go. The cost of membership is £2 per annum and £2.50 per day per meal. GAC is unique in that it provides a meeting place with help, information and support for those in isolation to give a better quality of life for all. MTR informed that the GAC were only partly funded by BCC and that majority of funding is matched by fund-raising efforts by Coffee mornings, open days, sales etc.

EW commented that it is through good handling of the GAC accounts why they are able to achieve so much and that we have proved that we are able to manage our own funding so he could not see why we could not be trusted with such a venture.

PC commented that because of all of this the GAC became a role-model for other community clubs.

AH commented that the GAC were far ahead of Link-Age and proved that they were continuous with results with all they had achieved.

GRB explained that what was being said gave an overview of the club and its functioning. However a recent meeting with GAC, MX and BDA with Guy Robertson (BCC) it was highlighted that there was “no representation” for Black Older People, no facilities and no resources available. Yet the Chinese and Asian communities have these resources and were assisted by BCC. The black community was here long before the Chinese and Asians as they had come during the 40s, 50s and late 60s after the war to help rebuild Britain’s infrastructure and it is disturbing to know that we have got left behind. It is evident that historically, socially and financially that Black people

in Bristol are disadvantaged. GRB had met with MX, GAC and visited Bethel United Church and is intending to meet with Pastor Brown, New Testament Church of God and others to try to bring all the groups together. It was agreed by those he had visited so far that there should be a forum of black elders to bring all the groups together with the help of BDA with a development point of view. BDA would form an umbrella to represent the black groups to obtain a building for all. A meeting place is required for all black groups to share similar to the Ludlow Close Day Centre but paying £2 is not going to happen so adult care would be needed to assist this consortium for black people.

AH agreed that obviously more funding would need to be obtained but £40,000 is all there for the community to share.

GRB explained furthermore our culture is very different to the Asians, Chinese and Somalians as we are a people with differences of tradition and culture.

HS commented when we look at the contributions that black people in Bristol have made we have not been treated fairly and that the small pots of money here and there is not enough to sustain a growing club.

GRB- The numbers of older black people will double, if not treble in 10 years time and we need to take action now.

AH agreed the culture of black African/Caribbean's regarding Abolition should not stop and that we need to have a continuation of this, it should not stop. The starting point is really important issue, there are not enough facilities residential care etc for older people. We will only develop better services but older people i.e., sharing facilities for a better life. Part of the Older People Partnership strategy agreement is to provide a Link-Age centre and they are now in the process of debating where this should be and it seem logical that this should be developed and modelled on what Golden Agers are currently doing. £40,000 has been set aside to fund the strategy to look at prioritising how to get the centre going and the partnership board is to look at developing this.

MTR informed that herself and Princess attended the Partnership meeting at BCC College Green last Friday and highlighted that BEM has only been offered 3 places on the Older People Partnership Strategy and that some organisations for example The Care Forum had been issued a number of 8 places. HS and GRB felt that the Care Forum did not really represent black people, although they did hold open meeting whereby anyone could attend and have their say.

GRB informed that BDA offers a good mix of specialities where all the groups needs can be met and BDA is in the position where they can assist black groups in applying for funding and that they are in a better position of recognising the needs as the role of BDA is representative of a forum for black older people. BDA would act as an umbrella for GAC, Malcolm X and all the other splinter black groups could come under for guidance and support. GRB reiterated it would be unacceptable for the Link-Age centre to be built in Horfield and that Easton is where the building is needed most.

AH pointed out that she was unable to make decisions about where the centre should be built but that she would be in a position as Director of Adult Community Care with BCC to make recommendations on this. AH went on to say that funding could be sought from various organisations for example, from the Merchant Ventures. It is recognised that a building is definitely needed and there is good arguments to be said that one of these link-aged centre should be for black elders and that money is needed to provide for black elders for transportation, domiciliary care etc. AH was aware that Princess had made the challenge to the Merchant Ventures recently on the Abolition 200 Debate programme on the BBC last week and that the reply from the Merchant Ventures was that Princess should apply for an application form for them to consider her request for funding.

Princess asked how they would go about this and asked whether AH would provide assistance with this.

Mrs Levy commented that we are all to remember that we are doing this for project not for ourselves but for our children and grandchildren, leaving our footprints in the sand in the form of a

legacy, a long-term project to commemorate the Abolition of Slavery for all black people in Bristol.

It was suggested that immediate action and follow up be taken by way of preplanning for funding with BDA, Golden Agers Club and Malcolm X Elders as follows:

1. Princess Campbell, Maggie Thompson-Reece, Guy Reid-Bailey and the Director of BDA to draft a letter to be sent to Merchant Ventures, in the first instance to request for a date to meet.
2. Once the Merchant Ventures agree a date to meet, Annie Hudson BCC will meet and talk with BDA, GAC, and Malcolm X Elder's older black people forum to put together a strategy to apply for funding prior to the meeting date.
3. GRB suggested that Paul Stephenson be asked to assist in the preparations to represent older black people at the meeting with the Merchant Ventures once the forum is put together.
4. AH would be prepared to attend the meeting with Merchant Ventures to provide support for the application for funding.

Meeting closed: 12:35pm

Maggie Thompson-Reece
March 2007