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ENFIELD DISTURBANCES - SPECIAL MEETING

In response to the recent rioting and looting, Enfield REC issued the following statement:

"Enfield Racial Equality Council is saddened by the violence and looting that has occurred in Enfield since the weekend. This behaviour in our community is unexpected, inconsistent with community spirit and totally unacceptable. Bevin Betton, Enfield Racial Equality Council's Chair, said "Enfield has sharp inequalities of ethnicity, age, gender and class, with some wards amongst the most deprived in the country. These problems need to be addressed. However, it is vital to restore peace and safety and EREC would like to offer its support to the Community, local Council and the Police to ensure that work carried out to build good community relations over many years is not lost."

A special meeting of the Strategic Race and Equalities Forum was also held by EREC on 17th August to discuss -

- i) **the impact of the recent events on the local community**
- ii) **the causes**
- iii) **the way forward**

Despite the short notice, 25 people attended including representatives from the Somali, Caribbean, Bangladeshi, African, Asian, Jewish communities and the Over 50s Forum. Their views and concerns were listened to with interest by the Council Leader, Doug Taylor and Councillors Kate Anolue (Deputy Mayor), Christine Hamilton (cabinet member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health), Ayfer Orhan (cabinet member for Education and Children's Services) and Ingrid Cranfield. People expressed feelings of anxiety for their safety as well as a mixture of sadness and anger regarding the destruction and financial

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RESPECT FOR ENFIELD

Respect for Enfield' is Enfield Council's campaign to demonstrate the goodwill and determination among its residents to walk freely in our streets and centres and move forward together as a strong united community.

Pledge

"We, the people of Enfield, are proud of our community and borough and will stand together to ensure that it remains a safe place to live and work.

We are committed to going about our daily business and showing the world that we will not be intimidated. We pledge to protect our local economy and encourage our residents and visitors to enjoy this great London borough".

If you would like to sign the pledge, it is displayed in the foyer of Community House, or sign up to it on-line at www.enfield.gov.uk/respectforenfield

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loss to businesses and to the community, whilst others expressed their frustration that this was something waiting to happen.

The general consensus was that the causes were complex and multi-faceted, ranging from lack of: positive role models and moral leadership, opportunities in employment, education and training for young people, discipline and poor parenting and inversely feeling amongst some that parents were powerless to discipline their own children and address the issues. Suggestions made for tackling the problems included:

- providing opportunities for education, training, employment;
- providing more positive role models and leisure activities;
- building a more cohesive and inclusive community by bringing people together through common interests, such as sport, particularly football and participation in community plays.

A report is being compiled for submission to the strategic bodies, such as the Home Affairs Select Committee, the Mayor of London and the Enfield Council. It will also be sent to the attendees and will be available upon request for interested parties.

EREC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EREC's AGM was held on 11th July at the Enfield Civic Centre at which the Annual Report and Audited Accounts were presented to members and guests. The meeting was chaired by EREC's President, the Worshipful the Mayor of Enfield, Cllr Christiana During. In her opening remarks, she said, "I am delighted to commend the annual report to the members. EREC has been dedicated for many years to fighting racial discrimination and I congratulate them on their progress. I am very proud to act as EREC's president during my mayoral year and thank EREC for its commitment".

Guest speaker Rabbi Emanuel Levy of Palmers Green and Southgate Synagogue talked about the experience of the Jewish community in the UK and their contribution to enhancing community relations. He outlined the persecution of the Jewish community historically as well as anti-semitism in its various forms, including verbal and physical attacks on the community over the years. He pointed out that the Jewish community endeavours to foster good relations, eg the Board of Deputies of British Jews stages exhibitions on the Jewish Way of Life and the Council of Christians and Jews fosters Good relations and establishes close relationships between the two religions. Many local groups between Jews and Muslims have also been established. In Enfield Rabbi Levy is a member of the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education. He felt that the Jewish community gradually overcame discrimination and prejudice by fierce patriotism and by ambition to serve society through scientific, commercial and social enterprise. Close links have also been established with the Police through the Community Security Trust which helps to protect their community buildings. Finally, he expressed a wish to work together with other communities to help make the world a better place to live in.

Retail Trust Offers Small Grants to Those Affected by UK Riots

The Retail Trust has earmarked £50,000 of its reserve funding to provide urgently needed assistance to shopkeepers, shop workers and the families of those who were victims of the recent riots.

Grants of £250 are being made available to help affected retail workers through the immediate difficulties they have been subject to as a result of criminal activities carried out on their premises. Further details are available from the Retail Trust's website at <http://www.retailtrust.org.uk> or by telephoning 0808 801 0808. Should the application be successful, the Trust will endeavour to pay out the emergency grant within 3-4 working days. Individuals and businesses can also donate to the emergency fund online or through a special text service.

Source: The Retail Trust, 12/08/11

COMMEMORATING THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

*Enfield REC in partnership with Enfield Council
warmly invites you to its Black History Month
celebrations*

Date: Saturday 1st October 2011
Venue: Enfield Civic Centre, Conference Room,
Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XY
Time: from 5.45pm to 8.30pm

Please join us for

* **Unveiling of commemorative plaque**

* **Guest speakers**

* **Musical Entertainment**

* **Buffet**

Please confirm your attendance with Sue or Indrani
by telephone on 0208 373 6272 or email to
info@enfieldrec.org.uk

*We are expecting the event to be very popular so
attendance will be limited to those who RSVP first.*

Enfield African Association

Founded in 1985 to render welfare and social services voluntarily to Africans, resident or working in the London Borough of Enfield, including:

- Assistance and Advice
- Representing parents seeking admission to Enfield Schools for their children
- Attending disciplinary tribunals with Enfield parents and educational tribunals on behalf of their children
- Visiting/ministering to elderly and frail African members of the Society

For membership, please apply to:

The General Secretary
Enfield African Association
Room 4, Community House
311 Fore Street, Edmonton
London, N9 0PZ

Tel: 020 8373 6379 (Wednesdays 10-4)

Tel: 020 8807 4398 (Bobby Shodeke)

ENFIELD WELCOME PACK

Following a recommendation from the Enfield Scrutiny Commission titled 'Improving Life Opportunities for Young People in Enfield' (published September 2009), the LBE is developing an 'Enfield Welcome Pack' for new communities to the Borough. The Pack will be a website based guide providing information on local and third sector services, and outlining responsibilities to new communities moving into the borough to access services and information. It is hoped the Welcome Pack will improve the range and quality of advice, information and guidance available to new communities to Enfield.

The Council is seeking to engage the community in designing and agreeing the look, content and distribution method of the Welcome Pack and would welcome your views, such as:

- * **What is the key information that communities require when they are new to the borough?**
- * **What format would suit best? For example, internet, printed copies, pictures**
- * **What is the best method to distribute the Welcome Pack?**
- * **How would it be best to involve the communities and determining what should be in the Welcome Pack?**
- * **How would the Welcome Pack be best updated by the community?**

We would be grateful if you could kindly complete and return to EREC, the attached questionnaire by the **deadline of 14th September** in order that your comments and suggestions may be passed on to the LBE for their consideration/inclusion. The Welcome Pack will be of great benefit to the communities you serve, hence your suggestions are invaluable. EREC trustee, Nisha Patel represented EREC on the LBE's Working Group and provided initial input on our behalf. The pack is due to be launched in October.

Contact us:

Enfield Racial Equality Council

Community House

311 Fore Street

Edmonton

London, N9 0PZ

Phone: 020 8373 6271/2

Fax: 020 8373 6281

Email: info@enfieldrec.org.uk

Web: www.enfieldrec.org.uk



EREC Membership

If you support the work of EREC, then why not join us as a member. Membership is free and is open to individuals who live or work in Enfield and to organisations operating in Enfield, who are committed to furthering our work.

We welcome your comments about this newsletter. If you would like us to include information or an article in our next edition please contact us.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Enfield Racial Equality Council. EREC cannot take responsibility for information or articles submitted for inclusion in the newsletter.

Challenging Racism and Promoting Racial Equality within the London Borough of Enfield

Enfield Residents' Priority Fund

Your chance to improve your local neighbourhood and get involved in local decision making!

Enfield Council is launching a £2.1million fund for you to help address a social, economic or environmental need in your ward, working with your local councillor.

We are looking for ideas from people who live, work, study or do business in Enfield that will tackle deprivation and vulnerability as well as help us achieve:

- Fairness for all
- Growth and sustainability
- Strong communities

Your local councillor will be happy to discuss your idea with you and if keen to progress with the idea will put it forward to a council sub committee for final approval.

For more information and details on how to submit an idea visit www.enfield.gov.uk/residentsfund or call 020 8379 1000



Membership Panel

EREC needs to appoint two members of the General Council to join its Membership Panel. Do you have a little time to spare?

The panel is composed of two Board members and three GC members. Meetings are held approximately 4-5 times a year in the evenings for up to one hour to consider and approve membership forms for individuals and organisations wishing to become members of EREC and/or renewing their membership. (Induction will be provided at first meeting).

To register your interest or for more information about the role, please email info@enfieldrec.org.uk or telephone Chandra Bhatia for an informal discussion on 020 8373 6271/2.