



(Registered Charity No 1118675)

Annual Report

2016/2017



London Borough of

Redbridge



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Name	Faith		Office
Carol Khorsandyon	Baha'i	Re- elected July 2016	
Rev Hemaratana	Buddhist	Re- elected July 2016	
Dr Suhasini	Buddhist	Re- elected July 2016	
Jacquie Grieve	Christian	Re- elected July 2016	Chair
Phil Butcher	Christian	Re- elected July 2016	Vice Chair
Rev. Bernardino Mandlate	Christian	Re- elected June 2016	
Vinaya Sharma	Hindu	Re-elected June 2016	
Appathurai Ramkumar	Hindu	Co-opted September 2016	
Rabbi Lawrence Becker	Jewish	Re-elected June 2016	
Angela Banner	Jewish	Re-elected June 2016	
Ali Qureshi	Muslim	Re-elected June 2016	
Ghazanfer Ali	Muslim	Re-elected June 2016	
Mo Dedat	Muslim	Re-elected June 2016	Treasurer
Harbans Singh Seehra	Sikh	Re-elected June 2016	
Harmander Singh	Sikh	Co-opted September 2016	

STAFF

Saira Yakub

Karen Kent

Meenakshi Kana (Database Officer)

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FOREWORD

This is my last report as Chair of Trustees of Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) so I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere and grateful thanks to all colleagues, fellow trustees (past and present), staff and volunteers who have been such a support to the forum over the years, and to me personally during my term of office as chair. I have had the privilege of being part of RFF since its beginning in 2003. I have seen it grow year on year and this year 2016 -17 have seen that continued growth.

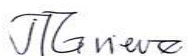
I have valued the opportunity of working with ministers, faith leaders and lay people from so many faith communities, and people of no faith across the borough. RFF is most thankful and grateful to so many of our faith communities for their donations in kind. These contribute considerably to the success of so many of our events. The forum has been well supported by the Council in the joint focus of developing community cohesion with the forum creating opportunities for people of all faiths and none to come together through a wide range of events and activities. This work was commended by the Interfaith Parliamentary Committee when we were invited to make a presentation on the work, with two other boroughs, at the Houses of Parliament.

Although funding continues to be a challenge we have been successful in a number of grant applications that have enabled us to continue some of our proven successful activities as well as setting up new projects and focus activities. As one of the Council's strategic partners we received a grant to support/work for harmony in the community which underpins all our work. RFF Trustees or Staff represent the forum at a number strategic groups. The Walk of Peace, one of our now annual events, attracted over 100 participants. Walking in unity and fellowship plays a significant part in bringing people of all faiths and none together. Public Forums created much valued opportunity to raise issues and challenge stigma related to mental health issues and HIV. RFF was one of the Mayor's nominated charities. It actively supported the events, and received grant that enabled us to start up the successful network meetings. A small grant from Comic Relief enabled us to continue our much valued women's workshops and funding from MOPAC enabled us to organise the first of three workshops this year on community safety (to be continued) working with safer neighbourhood teams. Funding from the Joint Jewish Burial Society was used to develop a school project on 'pathways to genocide'.

I would like to thank all our grant providers who have enabled us to continue and develop our work. I would also like to thank Clem's Accountancy Services Ltd for efficiently examining our annual accounts.

Two social events were greatly enjoyed by supporters. The first was a meal generously supported by the Sikh Community marking United Nations Peace Day. People from all faiths and none enjoyed a delicious meal and the opportunity to chat and get to know each other socially. A large group enjoyed a visit to the Houses of Parliament with Wes Streeting as our guide.

In the light of the recent tragic and devastating events - at Manchester Arena, London Bridge and the Finsbury Park Mosque, and the tragic loss of life in Grenfell House tower block it is vital that we continue to develop harmony in our Redbridge community. I trust that with your valued support and commitment, RFF will face the ever present challenges successfully and continue to promote "Respect Co-operation and Understanding" across the borough.



Chair of Trustees – Redbridge Faith Forum

1. Introduction

The Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) is a registered charity and an independent organisation whose aims are to:-

- bring together representatives of different faith communities in order to gain mutual understanding and promote social cohesion
- give Faith Communities in Redbridge a collective voice by identifying and addressing issues that affect residents.

RFF was established in December 2003 and became a registered charity (1118675) in 2006. Since April 2009 RFF has been one of LBR strategic partners with a focus for *community cohesion issues particularly through bringing faith leaders and communities together*. Redbridge Faith Forum has grown in strength and is recognised as a respected organisation in the borough and beyond. It received the Compact Champions Advancing Equality Award 2012; the activities highlighted in the shortlisted nominations booklet included RFF as one of the shining examples of Compact working which ‘makes a real difference to improve outcomes’. Year on year the forum has continued to build “*A community that respects, tolerates and understands the integrity of each other’s beliefs, culture and traditions.*” RFF adopted **Respect, Co-operation** and **Understanding** as its legend.

RFF is the key organisation in Redbridge for promoting inter-faith dialogue and activity across *all* the major local faith communities, the voluntary sector, the Council and its strategic partners. RFF continues to maintain an inter-faith approach to addressing social issues. One of its strengths is its ability to inform relevant Council bodies about the opinions of faith communities and residents, regarding key social issues arising from forums and events. People of no faith are also welcomed to all events and their presence is greatly valued; they contribute to greater understanding, co-operation and respect, across all people in our community.

2. Vision, Mission and Objectives

2.1 RFF Vision Statement

“Our vision is a plural community in Redbridge that shows mutual understanding and respect for each other's beliefs, culture and traditions, working together for the public good.”

2.2 RFF Mission

The Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) is an independent organisation that gives Faith Communities in Redbridge a collective voice by identifying and addressing issues that affect residents.

It is an organisation that respects and understands the integrity of each other’s beliefs, cultures and traditions through promoting the participation of faith communities in the life and culture of the Borough. It promotes interfaith collaboration by working together, and with other agencies, for the common good. The forum provides events and opportunities for representatives of different faith communities to come together to gain mutual understanding, discuss local issues and promote social cohesion.

2.3 RFF Objectives:

Redbridge Faith Forum’s objectives for 2016-17 were:

- Organise a minimum of two annual open forums to provide opportunities for dialogue and debate.
- Exchange information between faith groups and other partners through RFF e-news (at least 10 monthly circulations per year).
- Work with other organisations and partnerships to strengthen outcomes of its work and events.

- Promote knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths by hosting inter-faith events.
- Promote social cohesion between the faith groups in the borough of Redbridge through:
 - a) Exploring the beliefs common to all faith communities to promote religious harmony
 - b) Interfaith-group recreational activities and other projects (funding and personnel permitting).
- Work to ensure faith perspectives are understood by the Strategic Partners.
- Seek funding as an integral part of its existence.
- Review / update policies annually.

3. Structure, governance and management

3.1 How Trustees of RFF are appointed

The Board of Trustees of Redbridge Faith Forum comprises faith practitioners from the nine main world religions. The constitution of Redbridge Faith Forum was amended at the 2014 AGM. It now states that only people, who are representing the views, values and interests of those faith communities as religions recognised by the United Kingdom and by the national interfaith network (IFN), and if they represent an organisation based in Redbridge, will be able to become Trustees of this Charity. The number of Trustees from each faith community is expected to be as follows:

- two trustees from each of the 5 major faiths (Christian, Jews, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs)
- up to two trustees from each of the following faith groups - (Baha'i, Buddhist, Jains and Zoroastrians)

Trustees, meeting in quorum, have the right to make related decisions as follows:

- To increase or vary representation from a particular faith group.
- In the event of a challenge to the right of an organisation to sit on the Board, to determine whether an organisation applying for a seat meets the criteria for admission.
- To determine whether an organisation applying for a seat on the Board of Trustees that does not meet the criteria for admission may be permitted to observer/consultative status in regards to attendance at Trustee meetings.

Nominations for representation from each faith community are submitted in advance of the AGM. Where there are more nominations than places available an election will take place at the AGM.

Where there are midterm resignations substitutes are recruited from the respective faith group.

3.2 How the Board of Trustees works/functions

The Trustees meet regularly during the year to discuss and agree projects, funding and topics for public forums and events, taking note of issues arising from Central and Local Government that are likely to have an impact on Redbridge residents. Individual Trustees fully represent Redbridge Faith Forum through attendance and participation on a range of partnership group boards/committees. They support and attend the range of community functions organised and encourage attendance from their faith communities.

Office-bearers have met between trustee meetings when required to develop proposals. Urgent decision-making authority is delegated to the office bearers. All decisions made are ratified by the full board of trustees.

3.3 Staffing

RFF employs two part-time members of staff plus from January 2017 a part-time fixed contract database officer. Between them they cover a range of important roles including developing and managing projects, grant applications, fund raising, supporting and monitoring volunteers,

ensuring policies are reviewed and updated, representing RFF at various networks/meetings, as well as the substantial amount of administrative tasks and duties. Together, they maintain contacts associated with this successful charity. RFF owes the staff tremendous gratitude for their commitment, loyalty and hard work.

3.4 Participating in regular volunteering

Two volunteers have supported a range of the administrative tasks in the office. There are five additional volunteers who continue to work with RFF in a range of capacities. Volunteers have gained valuable work experience in I.T., Event Management and Administration. Volunteers have developed team skills and they continue to grow in self-esteem and confidence through the variety of experience gained.

The number of hours volunteered by the Trustees and regular volunteers contributes considerably to the successful functioning of the forum. An estimated 2374 volunteer hours has been a significant donation in-kind. Sometimes it is difficult to envisage this kindness in monetary value, however if we had to pay for the skills and expertise so freely given the estimated total monetary cost would be £47,000. This gives a clear indication that voluntary support greatly enhances the work of RFF. It is with tremendous gratitude that this generous volunteering of time is recognised.

4. RFF Achievements & Activities 2016 – 2017

4.1 Public Forums

[Forum 1 “Being part of the solution – Health & Wellbeing”](#)

This workshop took place at the Ilford Islamic Centre on Wednesday, 11th May 2016, this was the third in a series of workshops run in partnership with Redbridge Concern for Mental Health and included presentations from those who have lived experience of mental ill-health.

All those attending contributed to discussions around the topics of what they considered the definition of “support” to be, considered the effects of stress and anxiety on our bodies, and suggested ways of caring both for ourselves and others to enhance well-being.

It was a very positive and encouraging occasion and 100% of those attending either strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements:-

- ✓ I enjoyed the workshop
- ✓ The information was presented well
- ✓ The length and pace of the presentation was right
- ✓ The workshop improved my understanding of stigma & discrimination
- ✓ After the workshop I will be less likely to discriminate and stigmatise
- ✓ The workshop improved my understanding of how to maintain well-being for myself
- ✓ The workshop improved my understanding of the support available for people with Mental Health Distress

[Forum 2 “In Faith In Health”](#)

This public forum ‘In Faith in Health’ was a partnership event between RFF and the Terence Higgins Trust (THT). To start the meeting representatives from each of the following faith communities: Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh, gave a two minute input on the question: ‘Is faith enough or



should we also be informed and seek good medical advice?’ It was encouraging to hear that health and seeking medical advice alongside prayer is valued by all. Each noted that taking responsibility for ourselves - body mind and spirit – was essential. Some mentioned in particular the need for a wholesome diet and exercise.



Vernal Scott a Community Engagement Officer, Redbridge HIV Prevention Service then gave a most informative and sensitive input on HIV and Aids. He was mindful of the stigma and myths historically associated with the disease. He explained clearly how the virus is and how it is not spread, dispelling many of the erroneous ideas; this set many minds at rest. There has been much progress in both diagnosis and treatment of HIV in the recent past. The stigma which the THT works to address is much of the reason for people not seeking advice, diagnosis and treatment. Vernal explained about free home testing kits which give results in 60 seconds. Once treatment is started individuals can expect the same life span without risk of infecting others. Vernal then encouraged participants to discuss two questions: ‘How can places of worship become more inclusive and accepting?’ and ‘How can faith be used to best support people with health challenges including HIV?’ After

the opportunity for feedback Vernal answered questions from the audience. Several faith communities pledged to become involved with THT’s project and all agreed it had been a very educational and worthwhile event. They went away with sound information to share with their communities.

Forum 3 “Making our Communities Safer”

Receipt of a grant from MOPAC enabled RFF to arrange a series of public meetings on community safety. Each meeting aimed to give local residents the opportunity to meet together to share what makes them feel safe/unsafe and discuss ideas on how to make us feel safer, and to work with local services to identify and tackle issues of concern. The first event was held in the Clementswood Ward at St Cedd’s Church Hall, Seven Kings.

After enjoying some welcome refreshments, participants sat in groups to share their concerns and perceptions about living in Redbridge; this included any experiences of being burgled or feeling unsafe when out and about. Facilitators from each groups fed back the main points raised to the whole group. This led on to discussion and consideration about perceptions of the amount of crime as against the actual recorded incidents of reported crime.



RFF was delighted to welcome Tracy Armes, Community Support Officer and PC Jovita Kazakauskaitė of the Seven Kings Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Tracy explained the role of the SNT in supporting residents to make their communities safer. She assured all present that the team would be happy to visit residents at home to offer security advice and that they regularly patrolled the area.

She advised on the two police call numbers 999 and

101. The first should be used for emergency response. The 101 calls are graded by the operator who forwards reports of crime to the relevant SNT. Landline numbers for the Teams are available on the Met Police website and team members all carry a work mobile.

Sarah Louise-Kaye, Street Enforcement Team Officer then spoke about the Street Enforcement Team (SET). The team comprises 20 officers over 4 sectors – East, North, West and South. Sarah is one of four officers working in the East sector. Redbridge Enforcement Officers work on a shift pattern and cover 7 days a week. Officers are dressed in high visibility bright yellow clothing for their ‘walkabouts’ in the borough. They also wear stab vests and are equipped with body cameras. Their Community Safety Accreditation (CSAS) gives them some Police powers to issue on the spot fines for issues such as fly tipping and littering. The SET has power over environmental issues, highways, abandoned vehicles, skips, untidy front gardens, obstruction, graffiti, overgrown vegetation, domestic waste and commercial waste.



A question and answer session followed which included discussion on whether the perception and fear of crime is much higher than actual incidents of crime. Participants were reminded of the need for everyone to be aware of and be responsible for their and neighbours safety and security. Observant neighbours are vital to the task of detecting and preventing crime especially nowadays when burglary is usually pre-planned and committed in a professional manner leaving no incriminating DNA evidence. The importance of closing windows and locking doors security (especially upvc doors) was stated as was the care needed when posting on social media as this can advertise the fact that people are away from home and homes maybe unoccupied. This was an informative meeting for participants and presenters.

4.2 Interfaith Walk of Peace and Harmony: 23rd October 2016

More than 100 people from all faiths and none joined the RFF eighth annual multi-faith walk through Central Ilford. The theme was “Acting Together for One World In Peace” as the Walk marked the start of One World Week.

The purposes of the walk were to:

- ❖ Enable people of different faiths (and none) to walk together visiting different places of worship.
- ❖ Highlight that we are all part of ‘One World’; learning from one another leading to understanding and respect within and between all people of faith and those of none.

Redbridge Mayor Councillor Gurdial Bhamra, Councillors, Faith-leaders and representatives from all the major faiths in the borough and local residents took part. Walkers were made welcome at five faith venues where, as well as enjoying hospitality, the opportunity was given to consider what contribution each individual as well as communities can make to making the world a more peaceful place.

It was encouraging and inspiring to hear at each venue how the teachings of their faith had led the speakers to consider how important it is that each individual acts responsibly and considerately to work towards peace with their neighbours, and the implications of this for our homes, communities and places of worship.

A booklet was distributed giving a description of the beliefs of the main religions and including prayers for peace. At each venue a prayer was said.



The Walk started from the Buddhist Vihara in Balfour Road, where after a very warm welcome from both the Chair of Redbridge Faith Forum, Jacquie Grieve and the Redbridge Mayor a group of young people shared Buddhist teachings on peace. Rev Hemaratana invited representatives of different communities to light a candle whilst the priests intoned a chant. Plentiful refreshments were available to fortify the walkers.



The next venue was the Hindu Temple in Cleveland Road where Vinaya Sharma welcomed everyone and spoke about peace from the Hindu perspective and the Mayor also took the opportunity to speak to the walkers.

The next venue, Ilford Islamic Centre was just a few minutes walk around the corner in Albert Road and everyone was welcomed by the Imam who introduced two young people who spoke about peace from the Islamic perspective, the equality of men and women and the unity of the human race. As there was not a synagogue on the route in Central Ilford the Islamic Centre had kindly offered that their premises be shared with the Jewish community. Rabbi Larry Becker shared his thoughts from the Biblical account of Jacob and his brother Esau. Some people took the opportunity to visit the Mosque opposite the Islamic Centre whilst others enjoyed refreshments before continuing the walk.



Walkers arriving at Vine United Reform Church were greeted with the most melodious joyful singing from the Congolese choir followed by a warm welcome from Rev Francis Ackroyd. He introduced a group of Vine Church young people who re-enacted the Parable of the Good Samaritan and then shared their thoughts on peace. Members of another Christian congregation that meets at the Vine Church, displayed their artwork on peace. This was followed by an uplifting short musical recital in French by another congregation who meet at the church.



The final destination was the Karamsar Gurdwara where everyone was invited to enter the prayer room. They received a warm welcome from Satwinder Singh a member Gurdwara Management Committee, then enjoyed an informative presentation about peace from Sikh Young People.

The Walk proved to be a wonderful time of sharing and Redbridge Faith Forum is very grateful to all the faith communities who graciously opened their doors in welcome and to everyone who participated. Comments received in feedback about the event:-

"What a privilege to live in a community so diverse, and yet united in our gift of faith, love and friendship"

"A wonderful event! So many people, so many faiths walking together with love, respect and co-operation - learning about each other and each faith's commitment to peace"

"Multi-faith walk as always is a wonderful time of being together. The message of peace is greatly admired that needs to spread around the world."

"This walk to different places of worship has been a wonderful experience of hospitality, diversity and commonalities"

"Enjoyable enlightening experience during the walk. Helps build a sense of community and a sense of camaraderie"

"Really good event with a really good theme of peace which every faith believes in. Hope this will continue and grow. Loved the involvement of young people in presentations. Let's continue to build bridges!"

"Lovely event, such interesting talks to enlighten and inform us at each venue. Made very welcome by all."

"As always, an inspiring experience"

4.3 RFF Interfaith Social Events:

Event 1 - UN Day of Peace Meal – Wednesday 21st September 6.30pm-8.30pm

At the Karamsar Centre (Old Court House), Buckingham Road Ilford IG1 1TP

This event, organised by Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) and hosted by the Karamsar Centre, is one



of a full programme of events and has now become a central feature of the calendar. The evening was attended by His Worship, The Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr. Gurdial Bhamra who met a large number of guests from all faiths and none who packed the hall. During her introduction, RFF Chair Jacquie Grieve, spoke of the importance of such events. Recalling previous similar events, she said, 'This evening is a



celebration of how communities can live and prosper together ... taking the best of all we



can offer in one of the most culturally diverse Boroughs in the country'. Continuing, she thanked all those who supported the work of RFF and in particular our volunteers who continue to work tirelessly in support of our central aims to make our world one of respect, cooperation and understanding. After a delicious three course meal, the Mayor was invited to say a few words. He spoke of the importance of faith and said that he started his Council meetings in prayer, with

representatives of the many different faiths represented in the Borough being part of this. The Mayor also spoke of his continuing visits to the many faith centres and places of worship in the Borough. He recognised the wonderful work that many of these are doing in 'reaching out' to the communities that surround them. The Mayor also announced that in the next year there will be a 'fun run' organised in the Town centre and supported by RFF, which will further aim to bring our community together. The Mayor continued to praise the work of RFF saying that he felt it was 'one of the best in the country'. At the end of the meal, the Mayor was presented with a cheque, by the Chair of the Centre as a donation from the Karamsar Centre to the Mayor's Fund.

Some of the feedback from those attending follows:

"Wonderful meal! Great company! Good to be one community. Thank you!"

"The event was very well organised. It was nice to speak to people from different faiths. The food was freshly made and tasted wonderful. Thank you."

"The Mayor's speech was inspiring and I enjoyed the meal".

"A truly enriching experience, from reception to departure. The food was a culinary experience and delight. The whole evening was a memorable experience. The speeches were thought provoking"

"We only saw smiling faces. This evidenced how the evening enlightened all."

"Thanks for the welcome afforded to us. The venue and atmosphere were great. The fusion of the multi cultural faith is truly amazing. Hope this entente cordiale spreads throughout the country"

"A delightful evening, so nice to see all people in deep conversation with one another! Many thanks"

"Thanks to the RFF and the Gurdwara team who have together made the evening very enjoyable one with good company speeches and a very appetising meal. Thank you"

"Sikh hospitality is ever most welcoming and generous. The meal was greatly appreciated and it was most encouraging that the Mayor was present and spoke about community co-operation and cohesion. Bringing all faiths together for devotions, discussions or socials can only be good for a healthy go-ahead Borough. Many thanks."

Event 2 - Visit to the Houses of Parliament – Wednesday 21st September 6.30pm-8.30pm

A group of Redbridge Faith Forum supporters spent a most enjoyable and informative evening on 30th March being shown around the Palace of Westminster by Ilford North MP, Wes Streeting. RFF Chair, Jacquie Grieve signed the Book of Condolence (22nd March incident) in Westminster Hall on behalf of Redbridge Faith Forum. Wes was an excellent tour guide patiently answering our questions and giving us a real flavour of what it is like to work in such an iconic and historic building. Redbridge Faith Forum would like to thank Wes and his office manager Matt for giving up their time to share their knowledge with us and hosting what proved to be a wonderful interfaith event. One interesting item viewed was the actual "petition bag" in the House of Commons in which Wes planned to put the petition from local residents regarding the proposed closure of King George Hospital Accident & Emergency Department.



4.4 RFF Network Meetings

Redbridge Faith Forum is delighted that the additional funding obtained during 2016-17 has enabled a new programme of quarterly network meetings to be introduced at lunchtime on the last Tuesday of the months of April, July, October and January in Central Library, Ilford. These meetings aim to bring together faith community members, faith leaders, those of no faith and local organisations to discuss issues of mutual concern to those living or working in the borough of Redbridge.

The first meeting took place on 31st January and over 85 people attended to hear from local providers of services to those sleeping rough and the homeless with the theme "Bringing local services to local people!"

Speakers from SHP Outreach Team (Lou Holland) , The Welcome Centre (Phil Herbert) , Salvation Army Night Shelter (Ritah Kambona), Ramfel (Rita Chadha), Housing Justice (Mark Brennan) and the Sunday Drop In Service (Wendy Taylor) described the services they provide in the borough and answered questions from the audience.

Evaluations were very positive with comments made especially about how



well the organisations integrate together to support those who need their services and how very informative the event was.



The audience was reminded that if anyone is concerned about a rough sleeper they can call Streetlink on 0300 500 0914 or log onto their website at <http://www.streetlink.org.uk> to give the location of the rough sleeper and details will be passed to the local outreach team who will go out to check on their welfare. It was noted that the number of rough sleepers sighted on the streets is only the “tip of the iceberg” with many “hidden homeless” people who spent nights on night buses or on a friend’s sofa.

4.5 Strategic Partnership Working

RFF Trustees or Staff represent the forum at one or more of the following strategic groups:- Redbridge Dementia Partnership Board, Understanding Redbridge Communities, RCVS Network Meetings, Community Tension Monitoring Group, Redbridge Local Children’s Safeguarding Board, Voluntary Sector Grants Review Group and Redbridge Compact. Information is circulated to Trustees to encourage civic participation where possible and appropriate.

RFF participated with a stall at the Redbridge Green Fair in May 2016, at the Festival of Learning in the Central Library in June 2016 at Redbridge Community Day (organised by RCVS) in the Town Hall in August 2016 and at the AGM of Redbridge Children and Young People Network in November 2016.

RFF contributes and shares information, ensuring greater awareness of topics discussed for faith leaders and representatives and publishes a monthly e-news with a very wide circulation. RFF also promotes and participates in consultations and is involved in essential work behind the scenes with faith groups.

4.6 Mayor of Redbridge Rainbow Appeal

Councillor Barbara White’s mayoral year in office ended in May 2016 and a team from Redbridge Faith Forum enjoyed participating in the Mayor’s Appeal Quiz Night held on 5th May. Redbridge Faith Forum was delighted to be one of the charities supported in the 2015-16 Rainbow Appeal, fully supported planning, promoting and participating, and wishes to thank Councillor Barbara White for her enthusiasm and support during her Mayoral Year.

4.7 Women’s Interfaith Workshops

The interfaith women's workshops were established to enable women of all ages and from different faith backgrounds to meet together and discuss topics that really matter to them. Workshops are held in different faith venues and the host community opens the session with a short introduction of some aspect of that faith. They are timed to enable women to meet during the day and encourage those who had not felt able to attend evening meetings. Women attend on their own and in groups and forge new friendships and understanding. The topics for discussion arise from questions and suggestions from the women at the workshops. Three workshops took place in 2016-17 all following the theme of Prayer -How? Why? When? To Whom? from different faith perspectives. All workshops have been warmly received and

evaluations indicated that all felt they have learnt something new and have gained more understanding. Many have identified some common strands with their own faith teachings and practice. These workshops are very worthwhile as they give women the opportunity to ask questions in a friendly and non-threatening environment where people are prepared to listen to each other's views and RFF is delighted that Comic Relief have given Redbridge Faith Forum a grant to fund 4 workshops (commencing February 2017).

Workshop 1 – 22nd June 2016 held at the Buddhist Vihara from Buddhist & Hindu Perspectives



Workshop 2 – 15th November 2016 held at the Karamsar Centre from Sikh & Baha'i Perspectives



Workshop 3 – 28th February 2016 held at St Albans Church from a Christian Perspective



4.7 Civic Participation

Working as a Strategic Partner see section 4.5.

All Party Parliamentary Inter faith Group In November 2016 Jacquie Grieve, Chair and Vinaya Sharma, Trustee, were invited to the Houses of Parliament to address this group. They gave a very

presentation about the role RFF plays in promoting community cohesion in the Borough of Redbridge.

Social Enterprise: RFF actively participated in Sophia Hubs “Enterprising Redbridge” project attending workshops and having the opportunity of meeting with a business consultant to consider ways to develop and grow the charity..

Contact with Metropolitan Police – RFF closely liaises with the Police Faith Liaison Office, PC Shahnuaaz Meah,.The charity has also been glad to have the presence of community support police officers at events including the Multi-faith Walk and other events.

Eco-action workshop – RFF promoted and supported this event which took place at Vine Church in February 2017.

Holocaust memorial service in January 2017: RFF promoted and encouraged representatives of different faith groups to attend. Trustees, Members and Staff of RFF attended.

Local Forums – RFF publicised and was represented at the council’s Local Forums through the year.

4.8 Schools Work

Multi-faith representatives of Redbridge Faith Forum worked with year 9 students in a local secondary school in the summer term of 2016 on a project with the following overall objectives:

- ✓ Deepen understanding of the steps which lead to genocide referencing to the Holocaust
- ✓ Increase awareness of how we tend to blame a person or group which is different from us when we face problems
- ✓ Introduce ways of relating to other groups which help us to connect, both personally and collectively
- ✓ Building empathy as an alternative to a ‘blame culture’.

These objectives were developed working with students for three 50-minute sessions through activities, discussion and audio visual aids.

A thorough evaluation of the project with the feedback of students and teaching staff indicated the objectives were achieved; they had broadened their awareness encompassed in the objectives. Using this experience we developed a programme of lessons together with resources, which could be delivered by the teachers. Due to the pressure on schools to introduce new curricular and exam systems we were not able to pilot this programme in the current academic year. Redbridge Faith Forum is hoping to develop the project further and is grateful to the Jewish Joint Burial Society for their funding for this project.

4.9 Consultations

RFF has publicised and representatives contributed to consultations – information was circulated to all RFF contacts and publicised in e-news with encouragement to participate when appropriate.

- Survey for Leisure and Culture
- Parking in Wanstead Consultation
- Additional Licensing Scheme for Privately Rented Accommodation
- Campaign to save King George Hospital A&E

- Have your say on arthritis treatment
- Redbridge Local Plan Consultation
- Ilford Public Realm Consultation
- Redbridge CCG Budget

4.10 Information Sharing

RFF e-news: Feedback from senior officers and from the voluntary sector indicates the value and high quality of the RFF E-News. RFF produced and circulated 11 e-news bulletins between 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, to approximately 400 individuals and groups. It provides free advertising/promotional space for individuals, groups and services from all sectors; this has proved to be an important avenue of sharing interfaith (and non faith) community information. E news also highlights monthly faith festivals.

4.11 Signposting and Referrals:

RFF continues to be a point of contact for signposting and referrals for both service users and service providers in Redbridge. Other organisations and council departments make a RFF a point of contact for advice and information regarding faith and faith communities. RFF does its best to accommodate all requests for signposting but is restricted by amount of staff time available.

5. Funding, Membership and Donations

RFF was successful in a number of funding applications this year and successfully organised fund raising events. Grants and fundraising enabled continued employment of three valued part time staff (including the new fixed term position of part-time database officer) to organise and promote projects and activities. We are most grateful to all our funders: London Borough of Redbridge, London Community Foundation, Comic Relief, Terence Higgins Trust, Voluntary Care, MOPAC and Jewish Joint Burial Society. We are also grateful to all the faith groups and individuals for their generous donations and in kind support such as the provision of venues, presenters and hospitality. (See also 3.5 re the monetary value of volunteers' time). Their continued commitment to interfaith and good community relations is greatly valued. RFF as a charity is increasing the value of its donations through Gift Aid. RFF was delighted to be one of the Mayor's chosen charities for her 2015-16 Rainbow Appeal.

See Appendix for the summary Financial Report 2016/17 (copy of the full Financial Report is available on request)

6. Partnerships and Thanks

Liaising and networking within the voluntary community sector and the statutory sector has steadily increased this year resulting in building stronger links with other organisations. During 2016-17 RFF has enjoyed working with many different organisations and partners. Co-operation with them has been an essential part of our approach to interfaith work and our success. (See table below)

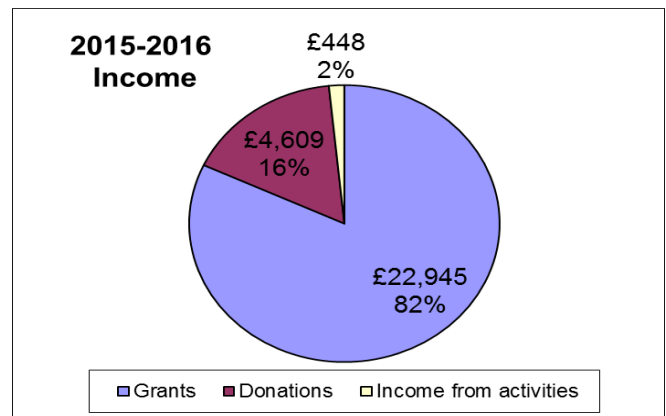
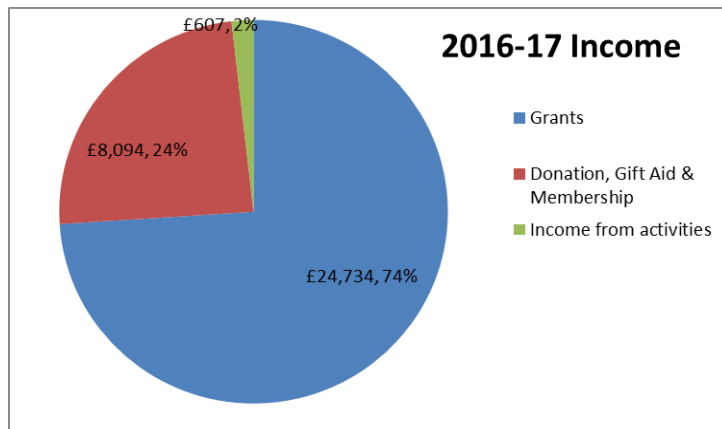
Local VCS organisations	Local faith communities	Local statutory services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAMFEL • Redbridge Carers Support Service • Redbridge CVS • Redbridge Children & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baha'i faith group • Balfour Road Mosque • Belgrave Road Mosque • FORMO • Gurdwara Singh Sabha London East • Ilford Hindu Centre (VHP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBR Adult Social Services • LBR Children's Services - Local Safeguarding Children's Board • LBR Educational Welfare • LBR Strategic Services

Young Peoples Network • Redbridge Concern for Mental Health • Redbridge Equalities & Communities Council • Sikhs In The City • The 3 Faiths Forum • The Welcome Centre • Housing Justice • Sunday Drop in Service • SHP Outreach Team	• Ilford Islamic Centre & Mosque • Ilford Lane Methodist Church • Ilford Town Churches Fellowship • Karamsar Gurdwara, Ilford. • League of British Muslims • London interfaith forum • Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre & Vihara. • Salvation Army • South Woodford Islamic Centre (QMT) • St Alban's Church • St Andrews CofE church • St Cedd's (RC) Church • St John the Baptist (RC) church • Sukkat Shalom Synagogue • The Drive Methodist Church • Vine United Reformed Church	and Equalities & Diversity Team • LBR Street Enforcement Team • Metropolitan Police Service Redbridge Safer Neighbourhoods • LBR Safer Communities Partnership Team (RSCP) • Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)
London wide organisations	Other local organisations	National organisations
• London Boroughs Faiths Network • London Catalyst • MOPAC	• Community Tension • Compact • Fairness Commission • Liberty Credit Union • Local Businesses • Local Forums	• UK Interfaith Network

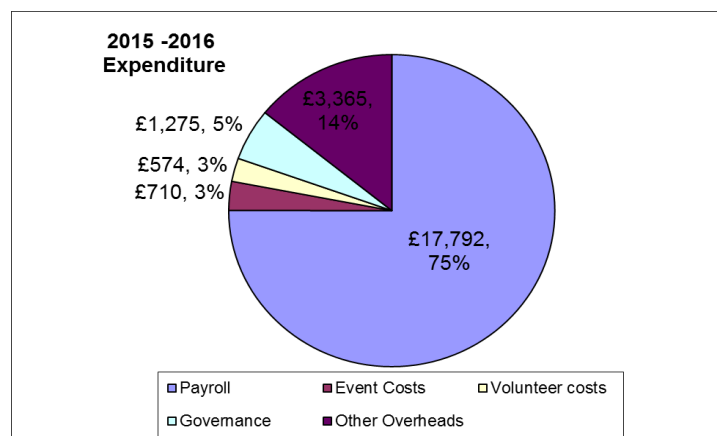
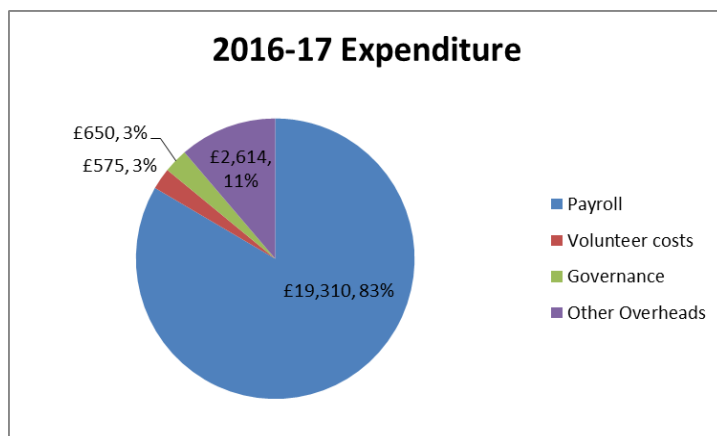
Redbridge Faith Forum wishes to thank all the different organisations/sectors listed and apologise for any omissions – we appreciate every act of support and kindness.

Appendix - Income & Expenditure Summary

	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
<i>Income</i>	<i>£33,783</i>	<i>£28,002</i>
<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£23,149</i>	<i>£23,716</i>



Income for 2016-17 totalled £33,783 comprised of grant income of £24734 from London Borough of Redbridge Core Grant, Jewish Joint Burial Society, Terence Higgins Trust, Comic Relief, Mayor's Appeal 15-16, and MOPAC plus donations, membership and gift aid reclaimed amounting to £8094 and income from activities of £607.



Expenditure in 2016-17 totalled £23149 with payroll costs accounting for £19310 (reflecting the additional post of part-time database officer which took effect January 2017), volunteer costs of £575, governance costs of £650 and other overheads and expenses totalling £1602.