

Minutes of The 2009 Forum AGM

**Wednesday 1st July 2009, 4.00pm - 7.30pm, Conference Room,
RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS**

- 1. Introduction and Welcome from The Forum Chair Rajinder Sohal.** Last year's minutes were approved.
- 2. Apologies received from:** John Rogers, Irene Cameron, Rob Wilson, Lis Rout, Leah Cripps, Jonathan Salmon, Sally Wall, Florence Bardo
- 3. Introduction from the Forum Co-ordinator, Anna Fowler**

Brief explanation of the Forum and its place within the Stronger Together Consortium. Information on the newly re-launched Forum website at www.rvsforum.co.uk and Forum Voice training on Facilitation Skills, taking place on 16th July 2009.

4. Highlights of Annual Report and Accounts

RS highlighted some of the key points in the Forum 2009 Annual Report. He thanked all those involved in the Forum, including the Forum Voices, the Stronger Together team and The Big Lottery Fund. Malcolm Stone proposed and Mike Martin seconded a formal move to adopt the 2009 Annual Report and Accounts, which was passed unanimously.

5. Forum Voice Reports

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - Tim Clewer

TC encouraged local groups to engage with the LSP through the Forum reps. He suggested that they map their achievements and outcomes against the Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets when writing funding applications. He drew attendees' attention to the LSP newsletter, produced and distributed by Stronger Together, and that the next Reading 2020 Forum is planned for Tuesday 17th November 2009.

Reading Children's and Voluntary Youth Services (RCVYS) - Laura Johnson Collard

LJC referred attendees to the RCVYS website at www.rcvys.org.uk for more information on recent RCVYS events and initiatives. She pinpointed RCVYS assisting with the research for the Joint Area Review (JAR) and the SENCO conference that came out of the Reading 2020 Forum in November 2008 as key RCVYS events. She also stated that 500 people had benefitted from training provided by the RCVYS CWDC-backed bursary scheme. NEET

initiatives (young people not in education, employment and training) include a new focus on the retail and leisure sectors and The Family Business Trust, which is providing funding and mentoring support for small business start-ups.

6. Forum Consultancy Project Findings - Richard Usher, Just Ideas

RU presented the key recommendations from a consultancy project that was commissioned to assess the current work of the Forum and pinpoint ways in which it can move forward. The report is available to download on <http://www.rvsforum.co.uk/reports.aspx>. RS stated that the Forum would be taking the recommendations under consideration and acting on them.

7. Election of new Forum Voice positions and vacancies where reps have stood down

The list of registered nominees and their profiles was made available in the delegates packs, and nominees were also taken from the floor where insufficient nominees had been identified to fill the vacancies. All candidates that were in attendance were asked to introduce themselves. The following were voted in as Forum Voices:

Partnerships	Representative
Compact	Alan Magness, Faith Forum
Connect Reading	Susan Van Beveren, The WELL Centre Anna Fowler, Reading Voluntary Action
Reading Disability Partnership	Abu Said, East African Muslim Community
Reading Older People's Partnership	Tomiko Morley, Come Dance with Me
Healthier Reading Partnership	Deborah Wilson, Berkshire Scout Enterprises
Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	Jeremy Sandell (Rep) - Reading Voluntary Action Hazel Broad (Deputy Rep) - Reading Voluntary Action

Additionally, the following were voted in as new Forum Committee members:

Deborah Wilson	Berkshire Scout Enterprises
Eddie Winship	Reading Community Radio

8. Workshops

Delegates split into smaller groups for the following workshops:

Workshop 1 - Effective Locality Working

Facilitator Tim Clewer, Scribe Sarah Mayhew

TC reported back that the workshop discussed the factors needed for successful locality working; representatives locating themselves and their groups within the geographical area; within the LAA priorities and within wider networks such as the Forum.

TC recommended the following links for further information:

<http://www.reading2020.org.uk/Documents/SustainableCommunityStrategy/SCSfinal1707082.pdf>

<http://www.theuninetwork.org.uk/>

Click on Uni Network Rough Guides to Local Area Agreements (LAA).
Reading LAA- Download here

Workshop 2 - Helping Young People Gain Employment Skills Through Volunteering

Facilitator Nick Wooldridge, Scribe Bianca Gallipoli

NW reported back that the workshop highlighted the need for young volunteers and the skills they gain through volunteering to be recognised at national level and by employers.

Workshop 3 - Successful Collaborative Working in Practice

Facilitator Victor Koroma, Scribe Anne Laing

AL reported back that the workshop highlighted the need for good communication, IT development and modernization and the pro-active seeking of partners for successful collaborative working.

9. Closing Remarks

RS thanked the attendees and the Stronger Together team.

The meeting ended at 7.00pm, followed by networking and buffet.