



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



'Work together'

Basingstoke Interfaith Youth Group

Basingstoke Interfaith Youth Group (BIYG) is an initiative that gives young people between the ages of 11-19 the chance to meet people from different cultures and religions, to form friendships, and learn about the community they live in. Young people are encouraged to get involved in community projects that raise awareness about social issues and promote harmony, and well being on their neighbourhoods.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire Interfaith Network, are aware that young people from the range of faiths and religious backgrounds in Basingstoke and Deane are not well represented on existing Youth Forums or have specific opportunities to come together to influence decision makers and share experience.

Also to raise awareness of the different faiths and religions, BDBC with the support of Hampshire Interfaith Network is intending to support Basingstoke Youth Interfaith Initiatives, where young people can come together and discover more about each other, their beliefs and how together they might work to influence key decision makers and promote community cohesion.

Children and young people will also be able to learn about existing youth Forums and how they might be involved in it, should they choose to do so.

FIRST EVENT: 27th March 2008

An evening event, inviting BME community leaders, Faith leaders and parents with their children to partake in the event. the format was a reception and a finger buffet, short talk, youth activities . There were also an opportunity for adults to meet senior representatives of the council, Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire County Council. The Black

The aim of the event was to encourage parents, community, faith leaders and young people to get involved with interfaith activity and to encourage dialogue between the different faiths communities of Basingstoke.

The event was fun and thought provoking for young people and each individual was recognised for their participation and input.

**On 29th April 2008 – regular Meeting with young people to organise the next event
SECOND EVENT: 14th June 2008:**

Young people from different faiths enjoy New Age Kurling tournament 25 young people between 11-19 years of age participated in a New Age Kurling tournament at the Viabes Community Centre on Saturday 14 June. The participants were from various faith backgrounds. The group discussed what other activities they would like to do in the future to encourage and increase their understanding of each other and their faith in a fun and engaging way. It was agreed that a Peace Walk visiting different faith venues or EXHIBITION in Basingstoke would help and promote a message of religious tolerance.

THIRD EVENT: 27th August 2008

Basingstoke's Youth Interfaith group go bowling

30 young people from different faith groups went 10-pin bowling followed on with a discussion at the Carnival Hall about what the group wanted to do in the future.

On 23rd October 2008 – regular Meeting with young people to organise the next event

FOURTH EVENT: 15th November 2008

Basingstoke Interfaith Youth Exhibition

The Youth Exhibition preceded the evening of entertainment which was presented by the young people of the Youth Interfaith Group. The idea of the exhibition had grown from discussions within the group about putting on a fashion show, and after further meetings and suggestions this small idea eventually evolved into a 'Cultural Youth Exhibition'. The group had put together a variety of displays which educated, entertained and entranced all who attended and they did this with copious amounts of thought, energy and enthusiasm, in fact a wonderfully diverse and colourful demonstration of young talent. The "Cultural Youth Exhibition" held at the Vyne Community School hall and 300 people attended the event.

FIFTH EVENT: 29th January 2009

BASINGSTOKE INTERFAITH YOUTH EVENT TO CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS (INCLUDING receiving prizes for the best name and logo competition) FOR THE GROUP.

The event took place at Carnival Hall; twenty one young people attended representing four faiths Christian, Muslims, Hindu and Buddhist.

The young people submitted five different names into the competition (Culture Club, The Youth of Peace, Impulse - together as 1 (Interfaith Members Promoting Understanding Love Support and Empathy), International Youth Race Youth Club, Impulse – together as 1 (Interfaith Members Partaking Under Leadership so Extremely).

The majority of the young people (Thirteen votes) chose '**The Youth of Peace**' to be the name of their group.

Also the young people submitted five different logos, Hands Logo, Impulse logo, Culture Club logo and All As One logo. The majority of the young people (11 votes) chose the 'Culture club logo' which featured the various emblems and symbols from each faith.

Three young people did very well in the competition and each won Festival Place Gift vouchers.

First prize for the best Logo was £25; first prize for best name is £25, also £15 for each of the runners up and £10 each for the third place winners.

The feedback about the exhibition 15th Nov 2008 was very positive and the young people agreed that would like to do something different in July 2009. They suggested the following ideas:

Talent show, fundraising for Gaza and Afghanistan, sports day, cooking event, go out to do something maybe a trip to the funfair or a visit to an activity centre.

The young people decided to hold a meeting in 6 /8 weeks to discuss the arrangements for future event. The next meeting will on 26th March 2009 at 5.30 at the council offices.