
Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Minutes
Monday 10th December 2018, 6.30pm-8.30pm
Lynton House, 304 Bensham Lane, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 7EQ

1. Welcome

- a. The meeting started with a performance from a duo of drummers from the West Indies and Napoli, which was very well received.
- b. The CEO of ARCC Ima Miah welcomed everyone to the AGM. She greeted all the dignitaries, guests, colleagues and friends. Ima went through the housekeeping. She also informed that there will be raffle and a gift hamper at the end of the AGM. Ima went through the agenda items and requested the chair to give his welcome address.

2. Chair's Address

- a. ARCC's chair Mr. Ashtaq Arain welcomed everyone to the meeting. He especially welcomed The Mayor of Croydon Cllr. Bernadette Khan.
- b. He said Voluntary Sector in general is receiving reduced funding over the past few years and many smaller organisations he is in touch with are struggling to survive in the face of austerity. Funding cuts and Government policies against VCS (Voluntary & Community Sector) organisations has affected the sector as a whole. In such a difficult time ARCC was able to attract continued funding from People's Health Trust for the second time in succession, which is a commendable achievement. He specially mentioned ARCC's Monthly Coffee Morning and said it is very popular among Asian and BAME communities.
- c. In terms of future funding ARCC's CEO and Senior Managers are looking into all avenues, one of which is to investigate funding avenues and reach those people who are harder to access. ARCC is trying to do more outreach with Youth to listen to their voices and encourage them to integrate with the society.
- d. He mentioned ARCC was still trying hard to acquire our own premises, however this has been very challenging, and we are doing all we can to look into the opportunities that are out there.
- e. He also mentioned that all the partner organisations are happy with ARCC's work & they are looking forward to continuing the relationship in the years ahead working on different projects.
- f. The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the AGM in such a difficult night. He thanked all Board of trustees who work tirelessly to support ARCC. He mentioned with their continuous support ARCC has become more prominent in the community.
- g. He thanked Madam Mayor of Croydon Cllr. Bernadette Khan and other Councillors and dignitaries for attending the AGM.

- h. He then read a letter from Cllr. Steve Reed who was unable to make the AGM due to parliamentary meeting, but he mentioned in his letter he is looking forward to working on different projects with ARCC in the coming years.
- i. Sarah Jones MP sent a recorded video message as she was unable to make the AGM. She commended ARCC's commitment to community and mentioned that she is fully supportive of the work of the organisation.
- j. The Chair thanked all the volunteers, staff and the partners for their dedication and support for ARCC's work. He said he was very happy to see all the people who had taken the time to attend the AGM.

3. Mayor of Croydon

- a. The Mayor of Croydon Cllr. Bernadette Khan mentioned that ARCC had brought back a lot of fond memories for her, especially during the early days in her political career when she was starting off. In 1994 she was elected for the first time as a Councillor and after 100 years Labour secured a place in Croydon.
- b. She mentioned that in 1995 she became the chair of Social Services and very quickly realised that there is a need of forming an Asian Resource Centre. She strongly believed ARCC could bring the different cultures and religions together under one umbrella as a united voice for the community.
- c. She said after many discussions with the leader of the Council and various officers ARCC was formed on 1999.
- d. She strongly believes that ARCC should have a permanent base and a steady home. She is very pleased to see how ARCC is making progress every year. She herself is an honorary Asian member. She said she is honoured and delighted to be at the AGM.
- e. She further commented that the knowledge, resources and hard work of ARCC is praiseworthy. The growth of the organisation in recent year is immense. She congratulated everyone involved in making ARCC what it is today.

4. Minutes of the Last AGM

- a. The Chair went through the minutes of the last AGM. Members were given the opportunity to ask any questions on the content of the minutes before adoption. The members present raised no objection and the minutes were proposed by Pushpa Baradia and seconded by Jay Patel. The meetings were approved and adopted by the AGM unanimously.

5. Secretary's Report

- a. The Secretary Dilly Surelia thanked Madam Mayor, her consort Mr Qayam Khan, Deputy Mayor of Croydon Cllr. Humayun Kabir and other distinguished guests and dignitaries for taking the timeout to attend ARCC's AGM.
- b. Secretary said that ARCC achieved a lot this year. She said we had reached diverse communities in delivering different project ranging from financial and digital inclusion, young people and parenting as well health and well-being to name a few. Our annual report is reflective of how well ARCC has performed over the past year.
- c. Dilly said ARCC had been selected as the LTO (Local Trusted Organisation) for BLBG (Big Local Broad Green). She mentioned that there will be a presentation later on this giving further detail on the achievements to date.

- d. She also mentioned that ARCC has raised funds through our Annual Dinner & Fundraiser event at Grand Sapphire last year. She mentioned about the funding received from Childhood Trust and match funding we received from the other staff, trustees and supporters of ARCC.
- e. She thanked Croydon Council and all stake holders for their hard work and continued support they had given to the organisation.
- f. Dilly mentioned that the Annual Report had been online for everyone to view for the past week and we had some printed copies available on the tables to read today. She asked the meeting to adopt the report. Eawor Ali proposed and this was seconded by Jay Patel.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. ARCC Treasurer, Rumel Jahur was not available and therefore the Chair, Ashtaq presented the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018.
- b. He gave a PowerPoint presentation of the summary of income and expenditure for the financial year and said the full accounts were available to review online on our website.
- c. ARCC financial statements show that the total income for the year was £379,509. The total expenditure for the year was £276,456. He went through the breakdown on the income and expenditure.
- d. He showed a comparison chart for the past 7 years, which indicated the growth of the organisation. He also mentioned that to sustain at this level the organisation needed to be bold innovative.
- e. After going through the annual accounts, he requested the meeting to approve and adopted the accounts for the year 2017/2018. Bushra Ahmed proposed and this was seconded by Max Menon.

f. Guest Speaker – David Mellis

- a. David Mellis from Legacy Youth Zone gave a presentation and spoke about the new youth centre opening in Croydon where it will be a hub for young people with a range of activities on offer.
- b. He spoke about the successes of this model nationwide and would be a game changer for Croydon.
- c. David went through a presentation and mentioned currently there are 10 Youth Zones in the north west of England and 4 more a planned to open in London by 2020 including the one in Croydon.

g. BLBG Update

- a. Aisha Bryant-Abdullah, ARCC's Strategic Partnership Manager gave a presentation on BLBG (Big Local Broad Green) and mentioned that ARCC had taken over as the LTO (Local Trusted Organisation) 18 months ago.
- b. She explained that BLBG is a resident led group with funding of £1 million over 10 years from the Lottery to make the area a better place to live and work by leaving a legacy, creating a stronger economy and delivering projects in the areas of health and well-being, working with vulnerable people and creating a united community amongst other themes.

- c. She mentioned that BLBG distributes small grant worth to the value of £2,500 for local community project that benefit local residents. To date BLBG have funded 50 projects ranging from working with elderly, victims of domestic abuse and refugee projects.
- d. Finally, Aisha mentioned that with the support of Steve Yewman and his team at Westfield ARCC have secured a Community Hub for BLBG on Keeley Road due to open for the community in the middle of 2019. She mentioned that this was an exciting chapter for BLBG and we are looking forward to the opening.

h. Case Studies

- a. Chandra Solanki one of ARCC's service users spoke about his experience of accessing ARCC projects. He said ARCC has given him the opportunity to be healthy and happy through attending the regular activities on offer.
- b. Dhiru and Pushpa Baradia also spoke about the different activities they attend together including tai-chi, dance therapy and coffee mornings at ARCC. They said they had made so many new friends as a result of attending these activities and were grateful to ARCC for all the opportunities.

i. Organisation Update & Future Plans

- a. Ima Miah, CEO for ARCC gave an update on the projects and activities of the organisation and future plans.
- b. Ima spoke about the projects ARCC was engaged in with trying to engage with young people, and DASV. She said we had an amazing year of delivery and service to Croydon resident's borough-wide & to communities from all demographics. We delivered services in health and well-being, digital and financial inclusion, DASV, Young people and Parenting, Employment and training.
- c. Ima said ARCC had met all of our goals set from the previous year bar one – premises. We secured more funds than any other previous year - increased by 157%, which is an astonishing achievement for the charity. We partnered with over 25 organisations to deliver projects on the ground.
- d. The meeting was informed that we had raised £28,000 for our youth project £4,000 coming directly from our trustee and £1,100 from staff donations.
- e. We supported new charities and organisations to set up including the Manju-Shahul Hameed Foundation for Mental Health and BBSC (British Bangladesh Society of Croydon).
- f. We raised money for causes such as Rohingya humanitarian crisis and Kerala relief funds.
- g. Ima said ARCC had been recognised locally and nationally for its work including Croydon Mayor's award for services to BAME communities, interfaith work 3ff's Award for services to and for faith and belief communities in Croydon.
- h. Ima said ARCC had contributed to the Childhood Trust's Child Poverty Report which will end up as book full of case studies for the Bedrooms of London Project with the hope of raising awareness of the current situation for people living in poverty and low income in London. She added that she had also appeared on the BBC's Asian Network giving an interview about Living Wage failing to cover families' basic needs and the view of the ARCC.

- i. Ima said that she was very proud of the fact that ARCC had managed to raise £25,000 for Young people's project as part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge.
- j. She mentioned coming year 2019 will be 20th year celebration for ARCC and we were really looking forward to celebrating two decades of service to Croydon Communities. Ima said number of events are planned throughout 2019 culminating in a large event to celebrate this milestone for the organisation.
- k. Ima mentioned that ARCC has a clear Business Plan up to 2020 -Our Objectives will be to expand our services to work with communities that are reflective of Asia Pacific and other minority ethnic groups, to reduce social isolation and loneliness in Asian communities, to promote health and wellbeing in Asian communities, to advance dialogue around mental health and domestic abuse in Asian communities, to establish a co-produced youth programme, to increase social integration and social cohesion, to expand our services to neighbouring Boroughs to Croydon i.e. Sutton, Merton, Lewisham and Bromley with a view to expand our services to pan London.
- l. Ima thanked all the trustees for all of their support and encouragement. She said it is essential for the growth and success of any charity to have its legal guardian's trust the CEO's business plan and vision for the organisation.
- m. She thanked all the staff and volunteers without whom none of the magic happens, in fact members of the team gave up their family time on Sunday to come here and set up the hall.
- n. Ima said she was very proud to say if dedication was currency then ARCC would be the richest organisation in Croydon.
- o. Aisha presented the overall Statistics for the organisation during April 2017 to March 2018 and said ARCC participated in different projects around Legal, Financial, Digital Inclusion, Health & Well-being, DASV and Young People & Parenting and working with a huge number of people. She said ARCC had seen a total of 10,155 participants during that period.
- p. Both of them thanked the Council for their support and for working with us closely over the past years. They thanked all the Trustees and all the guests who made the AGM a huge success.

j. Guest Speaker, Steve Yewman, Croydon Partners

- a. Steve Yewman, Development Director of Westfield was invited as ARCC's Guest speaker for AGM. He thanked everyone present and appreciated the good work done by ARCC. He said he is working in Croydon for 20 years and he is involved with many development works for Croydon and also connected with many organisations in Croydon.
- b. He mentioned the community is responding excellently for the development of Croydon and without the Voluntary Sector this development will not be possible. Croydon will be richer from the Westfield development.
- c. He spoke how development of Croydon is a great challenge in itself to meet the aspirations of local community. The contractors and retailers are coming together to meet this challenge.
- d. Steve said young people are the building block of our society and Westfield will give ample opportunity to the young entrepreneurs. More and more young people will start their career and improve their skills as soon as the development comes into reality.

- e. 7,000 people are expected to work in the Westfield development and encourage the community. This development will have lots of apprenticeships programmes, regeneration, new skill development programmes and develop the youths. Croydon will see itself as a city of culture as a result of this.
- f. BLBG Hub will help the residence to build up resilience and skill. It will also help safeguarding the town centre.

k. Dance Performance by Thiru

- a. ARCC's Dance Movement class lead by Thiru gave a fabulous performance. This was received very well by the attendees.

l. Raffle Prize

- a. Raffle Prize for the evening were distributed to the winners.

m. Any Other Business & Closing Remarks

- a. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting. He Said ARCC will continue their support to the community. He requested everyone to enjoy the rest of the evening and use the remainder of the evening to network.