



IRAQI ASSOCIATION

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Iraqi Association 25th Annual General Meeting

Iraqi Association held its 25th Annual General Meeting on 20th January 2013 in Hammersmith, the Charity's chair, Mr Muhy Mahmoud presented Trustees' report and accounts ending 31 March 2012. It was followed by a detailed report on the work of the Iraqi Association during the course of the past 12 months.

The AGM also noted that the move from Palingswick House to Norland House in Shepherds Bush, led to fear and uncertainty among users and members of the charity. Iraqi Association was one of the 15 charities to be evicted by the Hammersmith Conservative led Council. The meeting heard the consequences of this move and how it has affected the potential development of the charity's volunteerism, as the pressure of space and users' expectations have decreased volunteer's placements.

The other point that was discussed was the reality check on embarking on a capital project during the current austerity climate, and whether the focus should be on leasing. The new Trustees was asked to study this further and to consider a better office space to cater for the charity's daily work, the Trustees will take into account the previous consultation meetings which were held with users and members.

The meeting also reported the successful 25th anniversary celebration events of the Iraqi Association in October and November last year. The jubilee anniversary covered different activities, targeting the general public, as well as users of the charity. The activities were held included an exhibition, poetry reading, interactive discussion on the community's history in the UK, seminars on topical community integration, Iraqi film showing by Iraqi directors, and a cultural evening. We are grateful for the backers and sponsors, including the Iraqi Cultural Centre in London and other individual supporters.

The AGM was attended by members and users of the charity, including other grass-root Iraqi non-profit organizations with messages of support for the excellent work of the Iraqi Association and its Jubilee anniversary. The meeting also thanked local MP Andy Slaughter, and the work of David Anderson MP, who presented the Early Day Motion on 6 November 2012 in the House of Parliament in support of the Iraqi Association 25th Anniversary, and its work as a non-sectarian organization.

The election of the board of Trustees took place during the AGM, with a number of changes taking place.

The AGM also highlighted the challenges ahead, particularly the current austerity period and its impact on Iraqi Association's work because of the cutback of local services.

The panel of discussion also mentioned that despite a shoestring budget, Iraqi Association continued to service its users, and stressed that resource development must be one of the top priorities. The meeting also noted the success of the IraqChild project and its important role to help orphan children in Iraq.

