





THE THINGS WE WERE DOING WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE ANYWHERE ELSE, LIKE INTERPRETERS, THE CHAPLAINCY WORK. WE ALSO GOT INVOLVED WITH THE MUSLIM BURIAL GROUND, BECAUSE IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WERE NO DESIGNATED AREAS FOR MUSLIMS TO BE BURIED.



THEN, AFTER A FEW YEARS, THE CITY COUNCIL OFFERED A GRANT, I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW MUCH, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, THAT PAID FOR TWO MEMBERS OF STAFF AND OPPURTUNITIES TO RUN, LIKE, YOUTH CLUB ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE TRIED TO GET INVOLVED WITH AS MANY THINGS AS POSSIBLE.



THE COUNCIL ALWAYS RECOGNISED THE HARD WORK OF THIS ORGANISATION, OVER THE YEARS IT HAS RECIEVED A FEW AWARDS, YOU KNOW, WORKING AGAINST RACISM AND BECOMING RECOGNISED IN THE COMMUNITY.



WE HAVE MORE THINGS GOING ON THESE DAYS... A TODDLER GROUP, THE WOMEN'S AND MEN'S ELDERLY DROP-IN. WE STARTED AN ADVICE SERVICE - ADVICE ON BENEFITS, WELFARE ISSUES, HOUSING, MONEY MATTERS, ANYTHING. WE EVEN DEAL WITH PEOPLE'S BILLS...





MEANWHILE, AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES...

WE USED TO HAVE SEPERATE POTS OF MONEY FOR BME COMMUNITIES, GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY AND THIS TIME WE REVIEWED THE WHOLE THING AND WENT OUT AND SAID WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE SPECIFIC AMOUNTS FOR EACH. WE'D BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IF YOU WORK ACROSS MORE THAN ONE EQUALITY STRAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THE BME LGBT COMMUNITY,



THE DOWNFALL...

THEY MOVED THE GOALPOST INTO ONE EQUALITY, SO THEY'RE NOT GIVING ACTUALLY THE IMPORTANCE, THE FULL IMPORTANCE TO RACE EQUALITY AND ETHNICITY. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS MOVING TOWARDS ONE BODY. I PERSONALLY THOUGHT IT WAS A COST-SAVING EXERCISE, NOT REALLY LOOKING AT WHAT COULD POTENTIALLY BE THE DEMISE OF EQUALITY AS WE KNOW IT FOR THE RACE SPECIFIC ISSUES

THIS PROJECT IS QUITE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY. WE ACTUALLY WON AN AWARD. WE WERE NAMED COMMUNITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR BY THE COUNCIL

I THINK WE HAVE A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WHICH NO OTHER ORGANISATION HAS IN THE AREA

WE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE LOST THE FUNDING WHEN THEY GAVE US AN AWARD - IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

THEY SAID WE DON'T WORK WITH ENOUGH DIFFERENT GROUPS. WE WORK WITH THE YOUNG, ELDERLY, MEN, WOMEN, ALL NATIONALITIES, DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. WE ARE OPEN TO ALL, BUT I THINK THEY SEE US AS JUST MUSLIM

I PERSONALLY THINK IT WILL BE A BIG LOSS FOR THE COMMUNITY IF COMMUNITY PROJECTS STOP WORKING.

IT'S A VERY COMPETITIVE, QUITE CUT THROAT ATMOSPHERE OUT THERE AT THE MOMENT

I THINK ULTIMATELY SOME OF THE DAMAGE THAT'S BEEN DONE NOW WE'LL PROBABLY SEE IT TEN, FIFTEEN YEARS DOWN THE ROAD

IT'S THE BANKERS WHO BROUGHT THIS MESS, AND IT'S THE ORDINARY JOE BLOGGS WHO IS PICKING UP THE PIECES

COMMUNITY CENTRE



THE RISE AND FALL OF THE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION - BASED ON RESEARCH  
AT THE CENTRE OF DYNAMICS OF ETHNICITY. FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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WE'RE ALL  
COMPETING FOR  
THE SAME POTS  
OF FUNDING

SO, IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF  
ALL BEING EQUAL, IT'S NOT  
A QUESTION OF FAIRNESS...

WE'RE OFF TO  
SEE THE COUNCIL  
ABOUT FUNDING



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