

Community Voices – Agenda 2010 Road Shows

Road Shows at Community Centres

Agenda 2010 organised the Road Shows in three local community venues, the Irish Centre, Cheetam Hill on January 12, 2006 at the Pakistani Community Centre, Longsight on February 16, and at Power House, Moss Side, on 2 March 2006. The events were informative, fun-filled, family orientated and entertaining, involving dancing by Chinese, Indian and Afro-Caribbean groups, balloon making, and face painting. The Lord Mayor attended all three events and a broad range of organisations set up stalls and provided information and advice.

Aims

The Road Shows were organised with the aims of raising the profile of Agenda 2010 among community groups and to enable people from the Black and Minority Ethnic communities to shape the agenda on improving race equality across Manchester. The Road Shows have served as a mechanism for taking Agenda 2010 into communities in their own localities.

Attendance

All three events were well-attended, and successful and received positive feedback from attendants. The feedback showed that 63% of the participants rated the Road Shows as 'excellent' and 37% as 'good'.

Out of nearly 300 participants who were registered (excluding a large number of people who attended the Road Shows without registering), Moss Side attracted the highest number followed by Longsight, and Cheetam Hill. 48% of the attendants were agencies and 52% were people living in the local communities.

Themes

The four themes of Agenda 2010, namely, Crime and Disorder, Education, Employment and Health and Social Care had their own individual stalls at each Road Show. While visitors found the information provided at all stalls useful, they also took the opportunity to write their questions and suggestions on a broad range of issues related to the themes, some of which are recorded below:

- Guidance on Stepping Stones (employment scheme) for people on capacity benefits who are interested in going back to work.
- Mentoring support
- Voluntary work
- Opportunities for school leavers
- Part time work
- ESOL

- College entry information
- Dyslexia assessment
- Advice for parents of school age asylum seekers
- Career advice.

Manchester in 10 Years

Here are some ideas of what participants of the Road Shows would like the City to look like in ten years time.

- ✓ More jobs created and educated people come into politics and employment
- ✓ I would like to see more multicultural representation of communities in public services and better opportunities for young people
- ✓ Improve education, employment and police - working with public sector and ethnic minorities to make Manchester cosmopolitan in 21st century
- ✓ In ten years time I would like better transportation
- ✓ Like to see my city more glamorous
- ✓ Recognised as one of the international cities in the world
- ✓ More interaction and opportunities for all communities
- ✓ Nice and clean environment and good future for children and young people

Comments

Some of comments of participants of the Road Shows are quoted below:

“I thought the event was very positive and informative. There was a wide range of information available ranging from Health & Social issues to leisure activities”.

“I was told that the event would outline Manchester City Council's plans for the future and therefore I was somewhat disappointed as someone expressed concern in the area of employment. Apparently many thousands of jobs will be created but many people who live in Manchester will not have the skills and qualifications for these jobs”.

“All great information about health and education”.

“I got very useful information from this event”.

“Very helpful & enjoyable”.

“A very useful exhibition and presentation where I learnt a lot and where I found there was assistance available from various organisations and agencies for Manchester citizens”.

“Great event worth coming to!”.

“Excellent – need more of this right up to 2010 and further, excellent keep it up! Nice food!”.

“I think at the next event I would like to see some information related to child-care especially related to the growing child. It was nice and positive. I feel this addition would make it more interesting”.