

REPORT REFERENCE: **8.0**

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| <b>NAME OF COMMITTEE:</b>             | <b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL<br/>ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b> |
| <b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>               | <b>8 March 2011</b>   |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>                       | <b>Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum</b>                            |
| <b>REPORT BY:</b>                     | <b>June Austin</b>  |
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| <b>IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?</b>          | <b>No</b>   |
| <b>IS THE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?</b>    | <b>No</b>   |

**SUMMARY:** This report provides an update on the Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum meeting attended by June Austin.

**DISCUSSION:** I attended the Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum meeting in February where I was made to feel very welcome. There were 10 members at the meeting which operated on an informal basis and very much an open forum.

The group is having some difficulties in electing a treasurer and a secretary. The numbers attending meetings have dwindled and members do not feel able to take on the responsibilities of the role. The main discussion was focused upon making the public aware of the existence of the group and its activities and perhaps increasing membership and encouraging people from other faiths to be represented. The retiring secretary also said it had been difficult to find speakers for the meetings.

It was suggested that perhaps a website could be developed. A question was raised whether it was possible to make use of the website of the Faiths Forum for the East Midlands.

The chair was going to contact another group member in order to consider the feasibility of starting and maintaining a website. The group funds are currently fairly low.

The group were keen to draw in members from other faiths who may be interested in having some contact through the forum.

In order to find out about other groups and activities it was decided to search and access a range of websites linked to faith groups and associations.

The group were interested to hear about the work of the SACRE. One member was interested in finding out how someone could become involved in the SACRE.

I was invited back to speak informally about RE in schools.

The next meeting is to be held on 14 March 2011 at 7pm.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the report be noted and comments be made as necessary.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** No background papers were relied upon in writing this report.