

**From:** Penny Smith-Orr

**To:** Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

**Subject:** Report on the launch of the Interfaith Forum in Kent on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Summary:** To receive the report on the launch of the Interfaith Forum in Kent on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Recommendation:** SACRE is asked to note the report on the Interfaith forum

During Interfaith Week 2017 there was a meeting at County Hall in Maidstone of people interested in starting an Interfaith Forum for Kent.

We were welcomed by the Bishop of Dover and Mike Hill, KCC Cabinet Member for Community and regulatory Services.

There was a large audience who listened to six speakers who talked about individual faith forums within Kent, Kent SACRE, and also a speaker from Medway and one from Croydon who gave ideas of the type of events they hold and how they started up.

There was a lively debate after the speakers the main points of which were;

What are the key things that Kent could learn from the experiences of other interfaith forums

Kent is a very large area and it might be difficult to organise a Kent wide forum

There are some interfaith groups already running and in some areas people have tried to start a group without success.

Who should be involved in the forum and how can people contact each other.

Mike Hill made some closing remarks and said that the Council would look at making a website page for Interfaith activities and collect contacts from across Kent. He also suggested that there should be another planning meeting in a few months' time to update people on how their suggestions were being taken forward.

Afterwards many people stayed behind for half an hour to talk to the speakers and exchange details. It was a very productive evening and hopefully the Council will be able to act as an umbrella for more Interfaith forums around Kent.

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