

Engaging with Communities

through local environmental improvements



ENHANCE

A guide for
Black Majority Churches
and other
Faith Communities



Volume 1

Foreword

Jesus referred to his disciples in Matthew 5:13 as 'the salt of the earth', salt being a domestic substance that was used for cleansing and preserving. Churches, like salt, are strategically placed to have a cleansing and preserving influence on their environment and communities.

To help churches be the salt in their neighbourhood a pilot study was run to identify ways in which they could improve the quality of their local environment. The outcomes led to the production of this publication which is designed for churches and other faith communities and a sister publication aimed at local authorities and other statutory and voluntary organisations.

Contained in this booklet are some of the stories and examples of good practice from the study, that I hope will inspire and motivate your church to be actively involved in caring for God's creation. In doing so you will be like salt, cleansing and preserving your surroundings.

Revd Ruben King

ENCAMS Black Majority Churches Project Co-ordinator
Minister at the New Testament Church of God, Handsworth

salt
of
the
earth

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Imagine:

- the area around your church being a clean, safe and healthy environment
- gathering the harvest from the church's allotment
- worshipping in an energy efficient building, with high standards of hygiene and sanitation
- being empowered to participate in local decision-making

'...Glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream Of...' Ephesians 3:20 (Living Bible)

The goal of ENHANCE is to inspire congregations to increasingly be dynamists for good, particularly in the neighbourhoods where they gather to worship. Many Black Majority Churches (BMCs) are strategically situated in inner city areas facing challenging issues. Addressing some neighbourhood issues requires practical action alongside the church's spiritual programme.

The ENHANCE project offers churches proven ideas that can be incorporated into existing church structures such as their Youth Department or Women's/Men's Ministry, and will help them fulfil their Christian calling to care for the most vulnerable people in society by acting to improve the quality of their local environment. This approach can also increase the capacity of BMCs to be more involved in local decision-making processes.

Green ideas

This booklet has some suggestions to help you begin. They are suitable for congregations from all denominations, small or large, and include ideas suitable for those without their own premises. Whilst the list is not exhaustive, it should serve to get you thinking and doing.

Each case study is presented with:

- the outline of a problem;
- the action that was taken;
- the outcomes achieved;
- helpful support available.

It is hoped that this approach will assist your congregation to really have an impact in your area.

Would your congregation be interested in:

- organising a litter clean up involving the local community?
- collecting items for people less fortunate than yourselves, holding a jumble sale or recycling waste?
- arranging an educational visit/experience?
- improving the energy efficiency of your building/s?
- developing a church allotment or green space near the church?
- incorporating creation care themes in worship, Sunday/Sabbath School and other departments?

CASE STUDIES

Case study 1 Street clean up

Problem

The car parks and vicinity where Ruach Ministries, Handsworth is sited not only suffer from litter but also from excessive fly-tipping, in the form of builders' rubble, old bathroom suites and kitchens.

Action

Tired of facing such loathsome sights week after week, the church decided to take action and conduct a street clean up. After informing the congregation and making an appeal for volunteers a date and time were fixed. Wheelbarrows, shovels, gloves and other tools were obtained, along with a hired skip. On the day of the street clean up volunteers removed litter and other items from the surrounding area.

Outcomes

- General litter pick;
- Removal of bulky items and rubble from car parks;
- A time of fellowship for the congregation;
- Appreciation from the community.

Helpful support available

- Assistance with a site survey;
- The provision of refuse bags and litter pickers;
- Supply of a skip;
- Collection of gathered litter after the event;
- ENCAMS publication 'Litter - Organising a clean up'.

Issues covered within this booklet are detailed in Appendix 1. The booklet can be obtained free of charge by telephoning the ENCAMS enquiry line on 01942 612639 or downloaded from www.encams.org under Resources.

Case study 2 Community clean up

ENHANCE

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Case study 2

Community clean up

Problem

Lozells is an inner city area with living, trading and recreational spaces blighted by litter, fly-tipping, graffiti and flyposting and overrun with vermin.

Action

The Lozells Community Clean Up emerged from an environmental gathering of Black Majority Churches, who were concerned about their area.

How the clean up was organised

The churches invited representatives from Birmingham City Council (BCC), Groundwork, Lozells and Birchfield Trading Associations and other community organisations to joint meetings to plan and deliver the event. From the initial discussion it became apparent that common goals existed and participants pledged in various ways to support the clean up.

From within the planning group, a small team was formed to assist, plan, market and deliver the event.

The following services were provided by organisations other than the churches to ensure the success of the event:

- Promotional material – facilitated by the planning group;
- Refreshments – provided by the planning group, McDonald's and local businesses;
- A small grant for community groups conducting environmental work – provided by Whitbread Action Earth;
- A taskforce team to offer support during the event – provided by Groundwork;
- Paint and apparatus to remove graffiti – provided by B&Q;
- Financial contribution towards the event – provided by a local trader.

The churches contributed by:

- Informing the congregation and community;
- Providing a venue as a central meeting place;
- Recruiting volunteers for the clean up;
- Preparing refreshments after the event.

Promotion

- Photographs of local eyesore spots were displayed on A3 posters and A5 fliers;
- Promotional material was distributed to places of worship, businesses, schools, surgeries and community venues;
- The clean up was featured on the BBC website;
- An article was featured in the Birmingham Post and there were interviews on local radio stations.

On the day

A meeting place central to the sites was chosen, to which litter pickers, refuse bags, clean up kits and other items were delivered prior to the clean up. On the day of the event, volunteers were given a safety briefing, assigned to a team leader, then issued with protective aprons, gloves, tools, etc. The teams then dispersed and carried out the planned work for each site over a period of approximately 90 minutes. Whilst at separate sites, walkie talkies were used to maintain communication between the team leaders. All volunteers were given refreshments at the end of the event.

ENHANCE

Outcomes

- 70 people took part in the clean up, 50 from local churches;
- 180 bags of rubbish were gathered and graffiti removed from 5 prioritised sites;
- Featured on BBC and Central television local news;
- Attracted sponsorship from commercial organisations;
- Ongoing multi-faith clean ups in Lozells Road area to maintain sites;
- Inspired clean ups in other areas;
- Promoted a sense of community spirit and hope;
- Raised the capacity of community groups to voice their concerns with Birmingham City Council;
- Increased recognition of faith communities from statutory and voluntary organisations.

Helpful support available

- Land searches to clarify ownership of sites;
- Assistance with site surveys;
- Baiting for vermin prior to the event;
- Bulky rubbish collection prior to clean up;
- Provision of skip/flat bed truck;
- Collection of gathered rubbish;
- Provision of plastic bags, litter pickers, gloves, spades, wheelbarrows, etc.;
- ENCAMS publication 'Litter - Organising a clean up'.

"I have been doing assemblies this week and a lot of my students have seen me, along with church congregations and residents getting involved, so the idea of the operation and how it can work has come across to the young people." Revd Jemima Prasadam, St Paul and St Silas Church, Lozells

"There has been a noticeable change in attitudes. We feel we can actually achieve something now." Local Resident



Case study 3

Community drop-in

Problem

The New Testament Church of God in Lozells is situated in a deprived area that suffers from long-term unemployment, poor housing, crime and drug related problems. Negative portrayals of the area in the media have served to cast further shadows of despair over the community in recent times. In response to some of these issues the Social Action Team from the church invited the community, targeting the homeless and those in need, to come and receive clothing, needy packs and hot meals provided by the congregation.

Action

Following a presentation to the congregation, appeals were made to bring surplus items in good condition. In response people brought a range of clothes washed and ironed, coats, shoes, bags and other items. Along with these, 'needy packs' were assembled that consisted of a plastic holdall containing a flannel, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brush, pen, note pad, envelopes and stamps. Additionally, a member of the congregation provided a chiropodist service.

A team was put together to promote the event. They supplied information for announcements to local radio stations and produced and distributed fliers in shopping areas around the church, entertainment venues and local shelter accommodation organisations.

Soup, bread rolls and a selection of other filling snacks were prepared by the kitchen volunteers; curry patties and drinks were donated by two local businesses; and members from the church baked coconut toto and sponge cakes.

Outcomes

- Helping the community gave the church a sense of fulfilling its call;
- The initial one-day event led to the drop-in being repeated over five consecutive days;
- Over 300 people from the community received quality goods and a free hot meal;
- Voluntary organisations attended with stalls displaying materials relating to neighbourhood needs;
- The drop-in continues to run monthly;
- A public meeting was held with West Midlands Police midway through the social action week to discuss the Lozells area.

The public meeting was well attended by the community. As well as being informative, residents and people with an interest in the area interacted with representatives from the police. As a result attendees of the meeting have formed good relationships with the Police Community Support Officers.

Helpful support available

- Promotion through other existing networks;
- Organisations that can facilitate advice sessions;
- Basic health check services;
- Displays and information pamphlets.

Case study 4

Educational visit & energy audit

Educational visit

The Church of God of Prophecy in Winson Green organised an educational visit that included an environmental survey. They also had a free energy audit carried out on their church site.

Action

Children from the church visited the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. British Waterways sponsored the visit and provided resources and support for the children to carry out an environmental survey with members of the public.

Outcomes

- The children saw and learnt about marine life and the environment;
- An environmental survey was conducted and information collated;
- The children were able to discuss their views along with the findings from the survey.

Helpful support available

- Educational activities on offer from local and national organisations;
- A presentation or workshop by a recycling officer;
- Local Agenda 21 or equivalent officer or a warden scheme.

Free energy audit problem

The church wanted to develop a strategy to reduce the running costs of its facilities.

Action

A free energy audit was carried out at the site by Action Energy who subsequently provided a report that examined the amount of energy consumed with cost saving recommendations.

Outcomes

- The church's gas utility supplier was contacted to amend and lower the rate at which the church was charged VAT;
- As light bulbs have needed changing they have been replaced with energy saving bulbs;
- Ways have been suggested to improve space heating and water management;
- There is a greater awareness of energy management and free material to promote it.

Helpful support available

- Local energy advice centre and Local Agenda 21 or equivalent officer;
- Energy providers.



Case study 5

Church allotment

Problem

Housing provisions in urban areas sometimes have small gardens or none at all. Whilst managing an allotment plot can seem an overwhelming task for an individual and requires money or equipment to begin.

Action

The Life and Light Fellowship in Handsworth acquired a plot at the largest allotment site in the UK that accommodates a broad range of gardening styles including organic, raised bed, cottage style, traditional rotation, permaculture and tropical.

To start the process off an initial request was made to Birmingham City Council for an available plot in the vicinity of the church. A booklet was supplied with useful information, including the annual cost for a plot and contact details for local site secretaries to whom further enquiries were made.

After being allocated the plot, gardening tools and seeds were obtained and members of the congregation began working at the site weekly. The church's minibus was made available to transport participants to and from the allotment. Through summer/autumn, a selection of vegetables, fruit and flowers were successfully grown and harvested.

The church used the opportunity to link the experiences of preparing the ground, sowing and reaping, to the church's Bible study programme.

Outcomes

- A bumper Harvest Festival celebration;
- The whole age range of the congregation was involved in the allotment;
- Enabled senior members of the congregation to pass on valuable skills and knowledge about plants, cultivation and cooking various produce;
- Encouraged a good general awareness of environmental issues as well as teaching valuable nutritional lessons;
- The time spent digging, raking, planting, weeding and harvesting was a good way for all to take exercise.

"A great deal of fun."

Dalton Clark, Allotment Co-ordinator, Life and Light Fellowship, Handsworth

"There have been very positive outcomes and we can see the potential of our project. The youth have already learnt a great deal about the childhood experiences of some of the older members and about farming and rural life in the Caribbean. In addition a respect for gardens and the never-ending battle of nurturing the crop you want and not the weeds."

Revd James Herbert, Life and Light Fellowship, Handsworth



What next?

In addition to this, the church organised and conducted a walk around the areas surrounding their church and discussed its environmental setting. The exercise helped them (mainly a gathered congregation) to identify the blights in their neighbourhood and consider how to act to improve the quality of their local environment.

They are now in the process of preparing for a greater harvest next year, whilst considering the possibility of developing a green space close to the church that would be utilised by the community for recreation.

Helpful support available

- Service to rotavate plots;
- Organisations like Groundwork may offer support to develop sites;
- Small grants and sponsorship from commercial companies with environmentally friendly policies.



Case study 6

Beginning in worship

Many of the environmental projects undertaken by churches, including the Men's Forum from the New Testament Assembly in Southall, were launched in special worship services in which Social Action Teams and their intended projects were dedicated to God. These acts of worship, directed by church leaders, brought focal points to the whole congregation, enabling them to consider the work to be embarked on in a biblical framework and contemporary context.

The Men's Forum has two allotment plots that they have obtained free of charge for the first year. They are planning a community clean up and to undertake some work with A Rocha (a Christian nature conservation organisation).

A Rocha International, 3 Hooper Street, Cambridge CB1 2NZ, UK
Tel/Fax: 01387 710286

E-mail: international@arocha.org
Website: www.en.arocha.org

Commendation

Dealing with environmental issues facilitates fellowship and can make a real impact in the community. Further, the lifestyles we adopt in our nation can have an impact on communities across the world and on future generations. By lightening the 'footprint' we leave in our homes, at church and in our community, we will demonstrate our care for our neighbour around the corner, around the world and yet to be born.

The appendices that follow contain useful information to help your church get started. Consider combining with others so that your efforts will be far more significant and enjoyable. Remember you don't have to do it all by yourself; there are many people that can help in all sorts of ways.

Acknowledgements

This resource was developed following the Black Majority Churches Environmental Project pilot study run by ENCAMS (formerly Going for Green and Tidy Britain Group), an environmental charity which aims to achieve litter free and sustainable environments by working with community groups, local authorities, businesses and other partners. The project was supported by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Special Grants Programme.

BMCs Environmental Steering Committee:
Revd Wilma Folyan, Ms Dionne Gravesande, Bishop David Greaves, Revd Ruben King and Revd Dr David Pickering.

The following churches contributed to the above named study:

- Church of God of Prophecy, Winson Green, Birmingham;
- Life and Light Fellowship, Handsworth, Birmingham;
- New Testament Assembly, Southall;
- New Testament Church of God, Castle Vale, Birmingham;
- New Testament Church of God, Handsworth, Birmingham;
- Ruach Ministries, Handsworth, Birmingham;
- St Paul and St Silas, Church of England, Lozells, Birmingham;
- Triumphant Church of God, Lozells, Birmingham.

APPENDICES

ENHANCE

Much can be achieved via informal meetings, arrangements and agreements, however progression to undertake larger projects will in most cases require that groups be formally organised. This may involve appointing officers, opening a bank account, and if applying for funding you may be required to provide a constitution. Putting in place these measures may seem burdensome and time consuming but they are necessary to provide understanding, openness, accountability and protection for individuals and the group.

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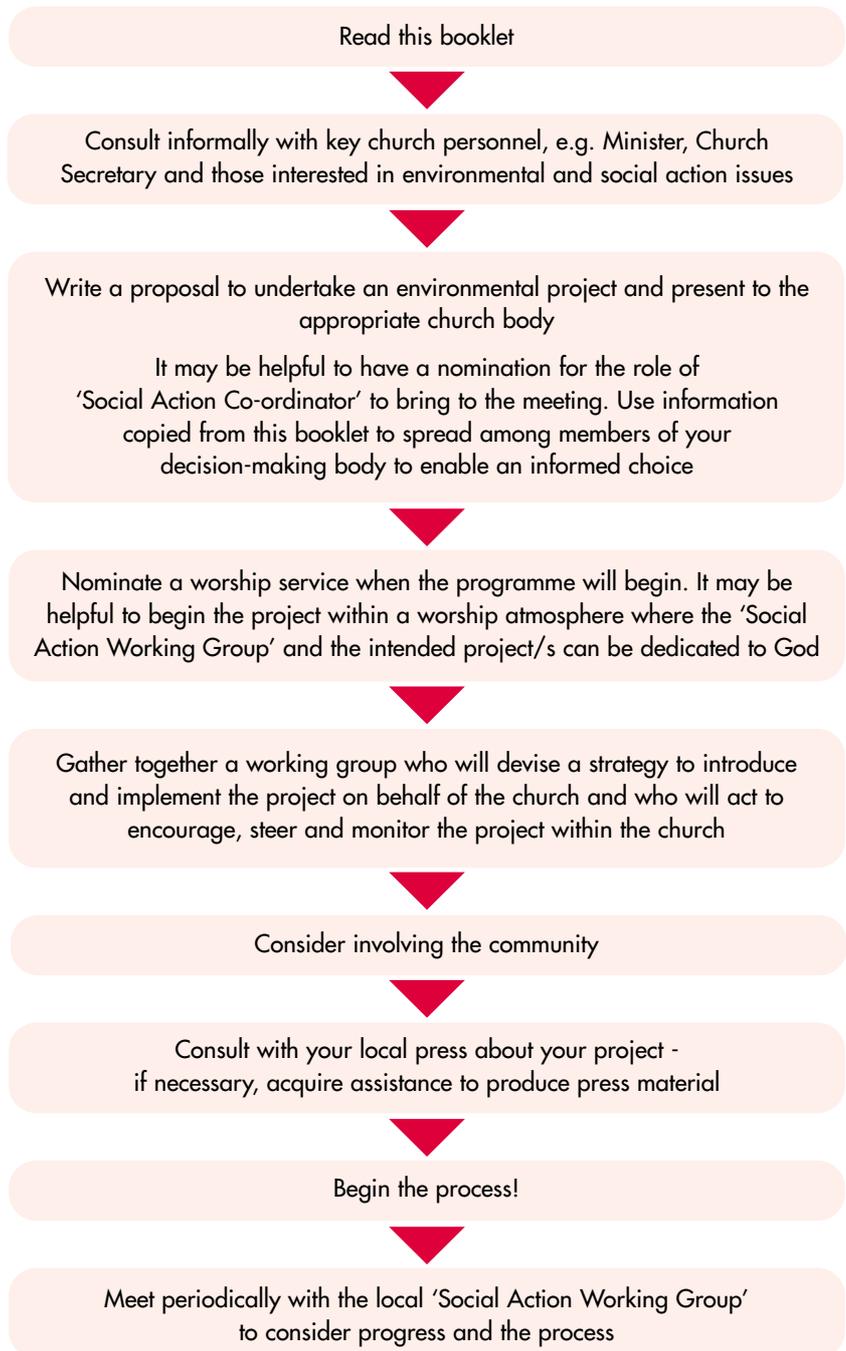
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Appendices 2 to 8 are adapted from the 'How to make your neighbourhood a better place to live', handbook, published by ENCAMS

Appendix 1

Guidelines – How to set up a church environmental project

If you would like your church to undertake environmental activity similar to that described in this booklet, this guide may help you start. The steps necessary for you to take will depend on how your church is governed and may vary for different churches.



Appendix 2

Role of officers

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The Chair

Everyone who chairs a meeting does it in a different way, but there are several things that every Chair should do to make meetings both effective and enjoyable. These include the following:

- Calling the meeting to order;
- Asking for apologies;
- Welcoming and involving new members;
- Assuring that the agenda is followed and that issues are raised at the right time;
- Ending discussion when it has gone on long enough;
- Encouraging everyone who wants to contribute to play a part in the meeting;
- Summarising the decisions agreed and the action to be taken at the end of each item;
- Asking for items to be considered under the heading of any other business;
- Making sure a date is agreed for the next meeting and declaring the meeting closed.

The Secretary

The Secretary's job is more clear cut but will involve more work, particularly outside of the meetings. The main work of the Secretary includes:

- Preparing and distributing the agenda, perhaps with reminders for the meeting;
- Taking minutes at the meeting and writing them up for presentation at the next meeting;
- Writing letters on behalf of the group;
- Keeping copies of all correspondence;
- Advising the Chair on constitutional matters, particularly on the procedure of meetings and elections.

It may fall to the Secretary to handle the communication between the group and the wider community. This may mean responsibility for the production and distribution of a newsletter, although this task could, and should, be shared with others.

Both the Secretary and the Chair need to work closely although, if they sew things up before meetings too much, other members of the group may feel that there is little point in them turning up!

The Treasurer

Handling money is a responsible job and it should be conducted in a transparent manner to eliminate any ground for suspicion. It is important that the group is seen to be credible, especially if it is seeking funding. While it is not necessary for the Treasurer to be head of a finance house, it is useful for the person with responsibility for the accounts to have a head for figures (and a calculator). The main duties are:

- Signing cheques (along with one other nominated member of the group);
- Keeping accounts for what has been spent;
- Having the accounts audited by outsiders once a year (before the Annual General Meeting [AGM]) if a large amount of money is going through the books;
- Preparing financial reports and presenting them at meetings and the AGM;
- Communicating with the bank on a regular basis to ensure that the account is always in credit.

Appendix 3

Sample agenda

Quarterly meeting of the Lozells Social Action Association

Tuesday 3 February 2004

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting
- 3 Matters arising from the meeting
- 4 Correspondence
- 5 Financial report
- 6 Community clean up
- 7 Doorstep recycling scheme
- 8 Autumn fair
- 9 Any other business
- 10 Date of the next meeting

Some items, such as 1–5 and 9 and 10 should always be on the agenda. Items such as 6, 7 and 8 are the ones that take up most of the meeting. It would be very boring if all the items on the agenda were the same at each meeting, so a little creativity is called for.

A useful tip, which would keep people interested and coming to meetings, is to ask people what they would like to discuss at the meeting. It is very simple and can ensure that the Secretary is not seen to be the person who controls what is discussed.

For some groups and some meetings it is a good idea to send out copies of the agenda to remind people about the date of the meeting and to make them think about the items to be discussed. There is nothing wrong, however, in the agenda being given out at the beginning of the meeting. Even now not everybody has access to a computer and it is quite easy to work from an agenda written on a large sheet of paper, displayed at the front of the meeting.

Appendix 4

Sample minutes of a meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the Lozells Social Action Association held on 3 February 2004.

Present:

Joe Smith, Zoe West, Winston Heath, Becky Sharp, John Coddington, Ray Wilson, Andy Brown.

Apologies:

Marcus Stewart.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

Matters arising:

- It was reported that the Chief Environmental Officer had agreed to meet with the association to discuss the community clean up;
- The school grounds will be available for the fair in August.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to report since the last meeting.

Financial report:

The Treasurer presented a report that showed we had spent £42.50 on the production of the most recent newsletter and received £30.45 from the jumble sale. The current balance was £332.64.

Community clean up:

Winston Heath suggested that a short list of the areas to be targeted for the clean up be put together and then prioritised. It was agreed to set up a small subgroup to carry out this task. Winston will convene a separate meeting to undertake this. The outcomes from the subgroup could be discussed at the next meeting before we meet with the Chief Environmental Officer the following week.

Doorstep recycling scheme:

Becky reported that three people involved had prepared a business plan and had started talks with the council's Recycling Officer. It was agreed that Lozells Social Action Association should lend its support and act as a partner in any funding bids.

Autumn fair:

Joe reported that the arrangements for the fair were in hand and that he would have more to say at the next meeting. It was agreed that the programme should not be too full, as it was a good opportunity for people to meet their neighbours.

Any other business:

It had been reported that the Caretaker had found a set of car keys outside the hall after the last meeting. If they had not been claimed by the end of the month, the next newsletter would mention them.

Date of next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Tuesday 4 May 2004.

Appendix 5

Sample of letterheaded paper

Lozells Social Action Association
Church of the Living God
1 Lozells Boulevard
Birmingham
B19 0EN

Please contact:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Website:

Registered Charity Number

Appendix 6

Sample press release (fictional)

ENHANCE

PRESS RELEASE ...PRESS RELEASE ...PRESS RELEASE ...PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Grass Routes

An old petrol station site in south Lozells is to be transformed into a place where local residents can take a walk in pleasant surroundings and young people can develop horticultural skills.

Two-and-a-half acres of land, derelict for several years now, has been bought from ESSO by the Economic Development Department of Birmingham City Council for the sum of £150,000 and is to be the site of a project that will also provide jobs for 20 long-term unemployed local residents.

The initiative, which starts this September, will provide a 1.5-acre horticultural training and development site, an economic development information and advice centre, and a depot for the kerbside recycling scheme.

Grants totalling £500,000 have been received from English Partnerships, Entrust and the European Regional Development Fund. The scheme will be managed by a partnership involving the local authority, Advantage West Midlands and Lozells Social Action Association.

The Chair of Lozells Social Action Association says, 'This scheme will both provide local jobs and improve the local environment. It is a just reward for all the hard work carried out by the Lozells Social Action Association on the behalf of the community.'

Further information from Joe Smith, Press Officer, Lozells Social Action Association 03954746726289

.....ENDS

Appendix 7

Sample constitution

Name of group Lozells Social Action Association

Date when this constitution was agreed 6 May 2003

(attach minutes of the meeting when this constitution was approved)

You may choose to use the church's bank account or set up a separate account for which the opening date must be recorded.

The purpose of the group will be to work for the improvement of the quality of life in Lozells.

The affairs of the Social Action Association will be managed by the Church and Pastor's Council.

Officers – The following officers will be elected to serve for one year: Chairperson, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer.

Annual General Meeting

Each year an Annual General Meeting will be held at which the officers will be elected by secret ballot. The AGM will be widely advertised one month before it is held and nominations for the officers' posts will be invited. If there is only one nomination for each post the officers (if they agree) will be elected automatically. If there is more than one nomination an election must be held. Voting slips must be prepared and completed and counted by the outgoing Chair and Secretary.

At the start of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous AGM, the outgoing officers must present an annual report including financial accounts.

Any changes to this constitution must be made at the AGM, or if urgent changes are required, at an extraordinary general meeting. Intention to make changes should be advertised one month in advance.

Monthly meetings

The management committee of the association must meet quarterly at which a quorum will be two-thirds of the committee. Co-options will be allowable up to a maximum of half the number of committee members. At each meeting accounts will be presented and discussed.

Dissolution

The group can dissolve itself at any time but must do so at an extraordinary general meeting, after the usual period of notification. The disposal of the assets of the group may be agreed at this meeting after proper debate.

Appendix 8

Where to get help

ENHANCE

There are many ways of finding further information, such as:

- Local organisations providing information and advice - these include Councils of Voluntary Service (CVS) and many voluntary sector bodies.

For CVS ask the local authority. CVS may not be able to help directly but may know organisations that can. They are good at guiding you around local voluntary sector resources. There is usually one CVS for each local authority.

- Some local authorities can be a very useful resource for community groups, as they collect much information about local communities and can provide practical help as well.

Local authorities can be difficult to find your way around. If the central reception cannot help, ask for the Corporate Policy Unit, Regeneration Unit, or Local Agenda 21 team.

- Local Strategic Partnerships are increasingly important in providing support for communities who wish to become involved in making their neighbourhood a better place to live.
- At a regional level you may get some assistance from either the Government Office or Regional Development Agency.
- National organisations which provide volunteer labour locally, such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).
- National organisations which provide information and advice about the bigger picture. These include New Economics Foundation and the National Council for Voluntary Service.
- Academic institutions. There are colleges close to most communities and these can provide both information and advice and also offer student placements.

Appendix 9

'Litter - Organising a clean up'

This publication gives very useful guidelines for community groups who wish to conduct a clean up in their area. It covers the following issues:

- Planning ahead
 - Risk assessment
 - Getting help
- Volunteers
 - Community involvement
- Equipment and preparation
 - Protective gear and equipment
- Informing, instructing and organising
- Publicity
- Sponsorship and funding
- Being considerate
- Avoiding danger
 - Public liability insurance cover

The booklet can be obtained free of charge by telephoning the ENCAMS enquiry line on 01942 612639 or downloaded from www.encams.org under Resources.



Appendix 10

Useful publications

ENHANCE

‘ENHANCE – Volume 2

Engaging Faith Communities in local environmental improvements’

A guide for local authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations.

This is a sister publication produced by ENCAMS.

‘Faith and community: a good practice guide for local authorities, by Local Government Association’

This 48-page publication sets out existing good practice in relations between local authorities and faith communities and provides advice and information on developing these relationships. The purpose of this publication is to encourage local authorities to develop good working relationships with faith groups and inter-faith structures in their area. (February 2002)

Contact details

Tel: 020 7388 0008

Fax: 020 7388 7124

Email: info@lga.gov.uk

Downloadable from:

www.lga.gov.uk/Publication.asp?lsection=0&ccat=28&id= SX9E82-A7806AE2

‘Black Minority Ethnic (BME) voluntary and community organisations: a code of good practice’

The Active Community Unit has produced this code of good practice as a framework of partnership between Government and the BME voluntary and community sector.

Downloadable from:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/volunteering/codes.html

‘“Faith” in urban regeneration? Engaging faith communities in urban regeneration’

This research project was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and is based in four cities: Bradford, Coventry, London and Sheffield.

The research was aimed at ascertaining if, how and why involvement in official regeneration programmes differs between the major faiths: Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism.

Downloadable from:

www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/pdf/413.pdf

Building partnerships: Mental health services and the faith communities

As part of the Working Together in London programme, the King’s Fund and colleagues from black and minority ethnic groups produced a briefing entitled:

‘Black Majority Churches and mental health services’

Downloadable from:

http://194.66.253.160/HealthSocialCare/mental_health__building_partne.html

‘Black Majority Churches UK Directory 2003’

The African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance (ACEA) together with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland jointly produced the second edition of this Directory.

Contact details

ACEA, Whitefield House,
186 Kennington Park Road,
London SE11 4BT

Tel: 020 7735 7373

Fax: 020 7735 7275

Email: acea@eauk.org

Website: www.aceauk.org

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published the following:

- **‘Rainforests are a long way from here. The environmental concerns of disadvantaged groups’**, September 2001
- **‘The contribution of large, independent neighbourhood regeneration organisations to regeneration’**, October 2001
- **‘The Groundwork movement: Its role in neighbourhood renewal’**, January 2002

Contact details

Website: www.jrf.org.uk

Church Urban Fund/New Economics Foundation/DTLR Special Grant Programme have published the following:

- **‘Building on Faith’**, Doreen Finneron & Adam Dinham (Eds) CUF, October 2002

Downloadable from:

www.cuf.org.uk/resource/publications/index.htm

- **‘Faiths, Hope and Participation – Celebrating faith groups’ role in neighbourhood renewal’**, September 2001

Downloadable from:

www.neweconomics.org/uploadstore/pubs/Faiths,%20hope%20and%20participation.pdf

‘Community regeneration and neighbourhood renewal – Towards a Baptist response’, was published by the Baptist Union in 2001

The Inter Faith Network has published the following:

- **‘Local Inter Faith Activity in the UK: A survey’**
- **‘Partnership for the common good: Inter Faith structures and local government’**

Contact details

The Inter Faith Network for the UK,
8A Lower Grosvenor Place,
London SW1W 0EN

Tel: 020 7931 7766

Email: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

‘Vision for sustainable regeneration: environment & poverty - the missing link’, was published by Sustainable Development Commission in October 2002

Downloadable from:

www.sd-commission.gov.uk/pubs/regeneration02/index.htm

Appendix 11

Useful contacts

African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance (ACEA)

Established in 1984, the African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance exists to reflect Black Christian Faith in Britain and to promote unity, reconciliation and understanding among all Christians in the UK.

ACEA is a membership organisation and individuals, churches, businesses and organisations are actively encouraged to join.

Contact details

ACEA, Whitefield House, 186 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BT

Tel: 020 7735 7373

Fax: 020 7735 7275

Email: acea@eauk.org

Website: www.aceauk.org

Black Environment Network (BEN)

Ben was established to promote equality of opportunity with respect to ethnic communities in the preservation, protection and development of the environment. Its website contains information regarding its work and details of resources, training/consultancy and grants.

Contact details

BEN UK Office, 1st Floor, 60 High Street, Llanberis LL55 4EU, Wales

Tel and Fax: 01286 870715

Website: www.ben-network.org.uk

Black Information Link (BLINK)

Blink is the website of the 1990 Trust. This is an independent, community-interactive site for justice, equality, anti-racism and social inclusion.

Website: www.blink.org.uk

Black Training & Enterprise Group (BTEG)

This is a high profile national organisation working to improve opportunities in black* communities.

Its mission is to ensure fair access and outcomes for black communities in employment, training and enterprise, and to act as a catalyst for enabling black groups and individuals to play an active role in the economic regeneration of local communities through partnership with others.

*Black includes people of African, Caribbean, South Asian and South East Asian origin

Website: www.bteg.co.uk

Christian Aid

Since its inception, Christian Aid has worked on long-term development projects where the need is greatest, working with people and communities, regardless of race or creed. Today it works in around 55 of the world's poorest countries and is supported by over 40 different Christian denominations in the UK and Ireland. Recently Christian Aid has embarked upon working with the UK's Black Majority Churches and new churches; this has proved to be an exciting and rewarding partnership.

Contact details

For work with Black Majority Churches
Tel: 020 7523 2180
Website: www.christianaid.org.uk

Church Urban Fund (CUF)

Church Urban Fund supports a variety of community projects which care for marginalised people living in urban areas and enables local workers to tackle the effects of poverty and transform their neighbourhoods.

Contact details

Church House, Great Smith Street,
London SW1P 3NZ
Email: enquiries@cuf.org.uk
Website: www.cuf.org.uk

Ethnic Minority Foundation (EMF) and the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO)

These organisations were created to enable the social regeneration of black and minority ethnic communities.

Website: www.emf-cemvo.co.uk

Faith in Business

Aimed at members of Black Majority Churches, Faith in Business is a Phoenix Fund and European Social Fund project led by ABi Associates Limited.

The partnership includes the Christian Business Network and Premier Christian Radio.

Website: www.abi.co.uk/Projects.htm

Gingerbread

Gingerbread is a support organisation for lone parent families in England and Wales. Gingerbread was started in 1970 and is a registered charity maintained by lone parents. At its website you will find valuable information about support for lone parent families.

A report '**Supporting black lone parents**' is downloadable from: www.gingerbread.org.uk/sblp.html

National Gospel Development Agency (NaGoDA)

The vision for this agency is to facilitate the social and economic potential of the Black Majority Churches and other Black faith based groups.

Website: www.nagoda.org.uk

Queens College Birmingham

Pg.D/MA in Christian Education

Contact

Dr Anthony G. Reddie
The Queens Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education
Somerset Road, Birmingham, B15 2QH
Tel: 0121 452 2660
Email: agr@queens.ac.uk

University of Birmingham, Theology Department

MA/Diploma in Black Theology

Contact

Dr Robert Beckford
Elmfield House, Bristol Road, Selly Oak,
Birmingham B29 6LQ
Tel: 0121 414 3344
Email: beckford@hhs.bham.ac.uk

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ENHANCE



“I witnessed how Black Majority Churches were fired up by environmental action and saw how local communities appreciated and joined in the ventures that made a real difference to their neighbourhood. This is faith in action and mission in practice and I commend this way of working.”

Bishop Derek Webley, New Testament Church of God, Handsworth

“This was an opportunity to give the congregation an external focus which encouraged us to take a closer look at our own attitudes and values.”

Revd James Herbert, Life and Light Fellowship, Handsworth

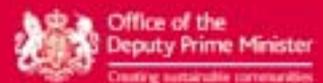
“We believe in community building and therefore are keen to involve all people (young, old and all faiths) in taking responsibility for their area.”

Revd Jemima Prasadam, St Paul and St Silas Church, Lozells

“Christians sometimes overlook how the state of the environment affects where we live and work, as well as our recreation. Not caring for the environment can have an adverse effect on people’s health, wellbeing and the opportunities for those who live in it. ENHANCE exists to remind us to be good stewards of the whole of God’s creation, which includes the environment as well as people.”

Mark Sturge, General Director, African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance (ACEA)

**For further information about ENHANCE visit
www.encams.org/enhance**



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