

Fun Day and Mosque Open Day a success

A "highly attractive" fun day and mosque open day was hailed a success by local organisers in Cheadle and Gatley, Cheshire.

A fire engine and a police van were available to show how the fire bridge and police services operate.

There were also a lot of games and sports activities taking place, including cricket and an egg and spoon race, that kept the children and youngsters busy.

"The whole occasion was a good gathering of people from all mixes of the community. There was no prejudice and all different colours, races and religions got along harmoniously. It was very friendly with a turnout of approximately 800 visitors," Irfan Munir reported.

There was a brief presentation about Islam which included a tour of the local mosque that had several historical pictures on display inside.

The food and clothing stores were said to be "very busy".

Local MP Mark Hunter, Lord Meyers of Stockport, Ex Lord Mayor of Stockport Mr Peter Burns, Chairman of the Heald Green Festival Team Ged McAndry also attended the event.

Police meet public in anti-terror CCTV row

Police will hold an open meeting in Birmingham in a further bid to restore public confidence amid the anti-terror camera row.

West Midlands Police and the Safer Birmingham Partnership came under fire after they controversially erected 216 CCTV cameras in predominantly Muslim parts of Birmingham.

The cameras, installed in Washwood Heath, Sparkbrook and other parts of the city as part of Project Champion which have been paid for by anti-terrorist funds, have since been covered or switched off.

Derek Webley, chair of West Midlands Police Authority, said the meeting would explore how faith in the force could be 'rebuilt'.

He said: "Project Champion is the subject of intense scrutiny.

"This meeting is about understanding how trust and confidence has been adversely affected and how it can be rebuilt by communities and the police working together.

"The authority, knowing the concerns which have arisen from the proposed use of CCTV cameras, wants to listen to members of the public."

The meeting will place at the Bordesley Centre in Sparkhill on Tuesday at 7pm.



Independent reviews of Project Champion are being undertaken by Thames Valley Police and the city council's Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The project board, made up of top-level police officers and council officials, is due to meet at the Council House early next month where an extensive public

consultation will almost certainly be approved.

Assistant Chief Constable Sharon Rowe and Chief Superintendent Surjit Manku visited Alum Rock Road in Washwood Heath earlier this week to get people's views.

Public opinion appeared to strongly support the cameras yet

some anti-camera campaigners claim the majority of people in the area are opposed to their use.

Steve Jolly, whose Facebook group Birmingham Spy Cameras – NO THANKS! has attracted almost 800 members, claimed hundreds had signed a petition against the project and that the police's feedback was not representative.

Islamophobic rant blamed on 'hackers'

A Sheffield councillor believed she was the victim of cyber hackers after an anti-Islamic message was sent from her email account to a list of senior colleagues and Town Hall officials.

Liberal Democrat Gail Smith, who represents Mosborough and is cabinet advisor for culture, sport and tourism, said she was "shocked" to find out about the chain message.

It begins: "Are we fighting a war on terror or aren't we?"

"Was it or was it not started by Islamic people?"

The author of the email says they don't care about Muslims who are victims of abuse by coalition soldiers or mistreatment in prison.

It adds: "I'll care about the Koran when the fanatics in the Middle East start caring about the Holy Bible, the mere belief of which is a crime punishable by beheading in Afghanistan"

"I'll care when the British media stops pretending that their freedom of speech on stories is more important than the lives of the soldiers on the ground."

The email concludes: "If you agree with this viewpoint, pass this on to all your email friends.

"If you don't agree, then by all means hit the delete button. Please don't complain when more atrocities committed by radical Muslims happen here in our great country!"

The message was forwarded from Cllr Smith's private email address to councillors



including Lib Dem leader Cllr Paul Scriven and cabinet members, some Labour councillors and officers.

Asian councillors including Lib Dem cabinet member Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed were not on the list.

Cllr Smith said: "I don't agree with the views expressed in this email and I'm shocked someone has been able to hack into my personal email account and send it.

"I have changed my password and contacted everyone to let them know that this was some kind of virus or scam and to ignore the email's contents.

"At the time the email was sent, I was out on my rounds as a chiropodist. The email addresses were an old list of mine."

Cllr Smith said she did not know the person who sent her the email, named as David Cowley. Her service provider Sky could not comment on individual cases.

Could you be a Foster Carer?



"Outstanding" - Ofsted

www.talawafostering.com
info@talawafostering.com
020 7688 0089

Talawa
FOSTERING SERVICES

We need foster carers for new mothers, siblings and for children of all ages (0-18). We seek carers from all sections of the community and hope to help address the urgent need for Asian carers in particular.

WE OFFER:

- Generous payments (tax-free)
- 24 hour support
- Regular training and development
- Mentoring from experienced carers

YOU MUST HAVE:

- Time to care for children
- Commitment to working with families
- One or more spare rooms
- Patience and tolerance



To find out more about fostering, call Sian on 020 7688 0089, email us at admin@talawafostering.com or check out the website www.talawafostering.com