Milton Keynes LCU IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday 23rd September 2025

TIME: 6pm-7.40pm

LOCATION: Kiln Farm Gurdwara, Tilers Rd, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes

Initials	**Position**
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LCU Commander, TVP
GB	Staff Officer, TVP
NS	CADO, TVP
AV	Insp, TVP
KM	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
DH	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
AH	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
AS	IAG Member
JH	IAG Member
HC	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
EY	IAG Member
SH	Guest
LP	IAG Member
AA	IAG Member
AKe	Admin Support, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
HS	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
TLJ	IAG Member
PW	IAG Member
JW	IAG Member

1. **Welcome and short briefing** **AK**

   The Chair welcomed all those present, introductions were made and apologies given.
   Those present were informed from 2026 there will be no paper agendas, attendees will be asked to provide their own, preferably digitally. Please remember to send items to the Chair ready for the agenda to be distributed at least one week before the meeting.

2. **Previous minutes** **All**

   The IAG Minutes are published on the TVP Website and can be viewed here: Milton Keynes Independent Advisory Group | Thames Valley Police

3. **AOB** **All**

   EB reminded all that AOB was a chance for communities to tell TVP what they needed to hear. Racial incidents are not investigated unless there is a crime. TVP appreciate not all incidents are recorded. The

media has reported what they believe to be 'over-policing' of racial incidents. But we need to hear, what does it feel like living in present times, with the way the world is currently?

AH remarked that there had been some 'flag' issues but we have a pro-active council who deal with things. Some of the community feel apprehensive and are concerned about how the media is portraying everything.

EB said that, online, life looks awful for seldom heard communities – but how is it in real life?

AH added that on the street, life is as it was. But online, current tensions are apparent. It puts people on edge and we wonder what the authorities are doing to protect us? Using language like, 'get out' is racially motivated.

JS is not worried and has had no personal experiences relating to the hostility shown online. The community are aware of an incident in Birmingham where a Sikh woman was attacked, but nothing in MK.

Things are better than the racism of the late 80's/early 90's but it does feel like we are going backwards.

RRK highlighted that speeding, noise and fly-tipping are problems in the rural areas. Fly-tipping on an industrial scale is worrying. A rave near Lavendon had caused some upset.

DH reported that there had been 1 x racial incident at Woughton Leisure Centre (graffiti). Staff were told to report, photograph and remove ASAP. MK College had been given support and safety advice on a variety of topics. There is a consultation on the Public Space Protection Order regarding the car cruise. There is also a draft Community Safety Strategy document regarding Domestic Violence, VAWG, ASB, retail theft, acquisitive crime and serious violence. The consultation for this ends on 10th October and links to send your views will be forwarded on by AKe. Please take part.

Also re: IAG ToR – please can we have the agenda a week beforehand, as discussed in May 2025.

AK reminded all to submit items for the agenda by next week (10th Oct).

SB said although the synagogue was a focal point, Jews are not as readily identifiable by sight and there had been no issues of racial abuse. During services, security are present. Online however, was different.

SB to ask if anyone in the community has heard of any online abuse relating to the UK Govt.'s recognition of Palestine.

AK asked if the Synagogue ever had any visitors from neighbouring cities. SB replied that attendance was not great so services are not held every week and when held, it was sometimes on Zoom. SB went on to explain that there are different 'strata' of Jews and work is going on to merge the mid-observant and more liberal communities in MK.

ZM wished SB a Happy New Year and asked if there was going to be a new Rabbi led community at the Reform Synagogue, and if the community ever met with other groups.

SB explained they were trying to grow the community so they could progress succession planning.

HC referred to the anti-migrant protests and how the HK Chinese Community were feeling worried and scared and were staying at home. They felt it was awful online and exacerbated by the flags and St. George's red crosses on roundabouts.

EB said if the flags and crosses had caused criminal damage or were an obstruction, Police/Council can act.

HC replied saying there are up to 2,000 HK Chinese families in MK and you can feel the tension, not in the young people, who are safely integrated at school, but in the elderly.

NS informed everyone that it is National Hate Crime week from 11th October and a hall has been hired for Police/Council to talk to the HKC community about reporting a hate crime.

EB offered to send a personalised reassurance message to the HK Chinese community, either by letter, social media post or email.

ZM said they had utilised car park attendants at Granby Mosque. On WhatsApp groups it was being shared that acid attacks were likely and people should keep windows closed in cars etc.

EB reassured the meeting that, as CBRN force lead there was nothing to say this is a trend and do not share this false information.

ZM reminded everyone that St. George had overseas origins.

NR spoke about the racial slurs NHS staff have directed towards them regularly. They are using staff to educate each other in a 'peer to peer' initiative. They think of the incident in Birmingham in terms of how it pulled communities together. There was mention of 2 x TVP Mental Health Officers who attended a Care Quality Meeting on 22nd Sept and made a big impact by talking to people and fostering invaluable working relationships.

TG was in London on the day of the protests and observed the ironic behaviour of protesters purchasing English/British flags from Asian shopkeepers before marching on to protest. They even asked her, 'where are you from?' but why do they think it's OK to ask this? TG went on to talk about an abandoned vehicle that turned out to be broken down. EB said it was a fine example of an overstretched public service.
LP fed back that the elderly are concerned and worried about what they can and can't say in today's climate, in case they are viewed as racist.
AJS reported that there was some anxiety in the Filipino community as non-whites.
KM has asked at the Mosque but nothing to report.
SH said that following the London protests, the Afghan Community fear deportation, especially those who arrived within the last three years. It is building mental pressure. They fear commenting/posting on social media in case their families who still live there get a 'visit'.
NR feels that anxiety levels have gone back 50+ years. It makes the older generation fearful.
JH agreed that in the LGBTQ+ community, it does feel like it did 40/50 years ago in terms of prejudice. Schools are struggling with new legislation around gender identity and children have questions, but staff don't know what to say. There was an incident in Midsummer Place where some young people experienced assaults and name calling but they went to a Centre: MK security guard and the Police to report it. It transpires that the shopping areas don't share security reports due to GDPR and Centre: MK won't investigate as it happened in Midsummer Place. There is under reporting in the community.
The Police Officer, 'James' is due to visit the Q:Alliance space and talk with the young people directly next week. JH also remarked that the IAG needed representation from the disabled community as that is lacking.
AV spoke about asking the Police Cadets the question about how does it feel in today's world, because they had expressed some worry around the terminology used to describe a person in the context of a Radio training exercise. They were uncomfortable using words like old, young, black or white to label people. Similar to how the elderly feel about getting it wrong and landing in trouble.
TG remarked that maybe we all need some training on how to refer to people.
AH reported that security at Wolverton Mosque had improved and they had refreshed the car park.

4. **LCU Commander's Update** **LCU Commander**

EB spoke about two press articles that had reported events incorrectly showing Police in a bad light and Police had been forced to explain what had happened in each case to put things right in the media.
EB provided an update regarding Child Sexual Exploitation. Many children who go missing repeatedly are at a greater risk of exploitation of some kind. In MK, a great number of these children were living at home with parents, as the Council wanted to keep them with their families for as long as possible. Many of the parents and guardians were struggling to set boundaries. TVP met with the Council, who then decided to put many of the children into care, at a cost, but this has resulted in missing episodes dropping by 70%. This is better for the children and frees up Officers to deal with other matters.
EB also gave a talk about the planning considerations and work that went in to the recent State Visit of the President of the United States, Donald Trump.

5. **Chair's Summary** **IAG Chair**

AK asked for an updated presentation in due course re: the evolving facial recognition and AI tech.
The meeting closed at 19:40hrs

6. **Next Meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 22nd October 2025**

Location: TBC

7. **Remaining Meeting dates for 2025**:

10th December

EVENTS CALENDAR