

Iron Aid Foundation

Registered Charity Number 1134493

Recap of 2010-2011 Vision for the coming year.

Iron Aid Foundation was primarily setup to establish a Community Centre within the Northwood/Pinner/Eastcote area. In addition a secondary goal was to undertake fundraising activities for worthy causes and we also wanted to engage with the wider non-muslim community to foster communication, understanding and community cohesion.

The last year has been challenging in terms of finding a suitable property or land within our target area. We are continuing to look for suitable properties in the Northwood/Pinner area suitable land and property are proving difficult to find. In order to be viable there has to be ample parking, a D1 usage (which allows for community uses and places of worship etc) and 24/7 access. Houses and shop fronts are not suitable as we would quickly outgrow these.

Iron Aid did put an offer in for one building but unfortunately there were certain covenants imposed on the building that meant we would not be able to offer regular gatherings there nor have access for whenever we needed.

We have put one further offer in for another property which has yet to be built. The developer accepted our offer but we have not heard back from him for some time and feel that the whole project may have been abandoned. Our building was part of a bigger development which may have been axed due to the current financial downturn. However due to the lack of communication from the developer there is no way to be sure. From our perspective we are exploring other opportunities.

Our relationship with the St John's church has gone from strength to strength and we now use the funds we have raised so far for acquisition of the property to rent the Hallowell Hall, hence we are able to deliver on the vision of Iron Aid Foundation (at least to some degree) which was to provide a facility for Community Cohesion and Worship. We are in the throes of submitting a request to increase the amount of time we rent the hall on a regular basis.

Our fundraising has fallen into two broad areas. Firstly we raise funds for our core project which is to acquire (or rent) a Community Centre and we are receiving regular donations for this. Secondly we raise money for worthy causes and in this past year we have raised money for the floods in Pakistan, Humanitarian crises and most recently we organised a sponsored walk up Mount Snowdon to raise money for two local children who needed medical treatment overseas. In total we have raised over £22,000.00 for these causes.

The Coming Year

We are very excited about the prospects for the coming year. Iron Aid Foundation is now an established institution in the area and we have started the important work of engaging with the local community both Muslim and non-Muslim.

Community Cohesion

We will continue to engage with the Elders of the St Johns church with a view to establishing a trusting and mutually beneficial relationship. This relationship will be based on open and respectful dialogue to foster understanding and good community relations.

Use of Hallowell Hall

Iron Aid Foundation will use funds to “block book” periods of time in the hall and then make these periods available for community purposes such as teaching, discussion groups, fundraising, community events and so on.

Fundraising

Iron Aid Foundation is committed to raising money for worthy causes as well as for our own core cause. Previously we have organised two sponsored hill walks (Ben Nevis and Mount Snowdon) Charity Dinners and ad hoc events such as bazaars at Hallowell Hall.

Our vision for an engaged and open relationship with the wider community in the area and establishing a community centre remains as strong and vibrant as ever and as we Muslims say: “Insha –Allah” (God Willing) we will succeed.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Trustees of Iron Aid Foundation.