

Iron Aid Foundation Registered
Charity Number 1134493

Recap of 2017-2018 and our Vision for the coming year.

As defined in our Articles of Incorporation, Iron Aid Foundation was established with specific local community-oriented goals. These goals are core to our belief of providing services (religious, social, education and welfare) to the local community in the area and to promote good citizenship within the Muslim community as well as driving engagement and social cohesion with the wider non-Muslim community.

Premises for Community Centre

Iron Aid's primary objective has been to establish a community based facility, from which we can encourage local Muslims to participate in the obligations and good behaviour that Islam teaches us. At a basic level these obligations include praying 5 times a day; Jummah (Friday) prayers and Taraweeh (Ramadan) prayers. Additionally, these obligations intrinsically mean we must also be fully participative in working and developing close relationships with all members of the local community. The community facility will also be a base from which we can hold community charity events, social gatherings and offer practical support e.g. mother and toddler, sports facilities and an elderly drop-in centre. At the moment Iron Aid is typically using the St John Church facilities on an ad-hoc rental basis. Given the tremendous community demand and needs, clearly a longer-term strategy based around either a more formal arrangement with St John's Church or an alternative property ownership model needs to be achieved.

Fundraising

We have all been touched in recent months by the tragic refugee events, particularly in the Middle East and South Asia, as such, in conjunction with the support of our local community, we have successfully held several charity fund raising events. Typically, fund-raising events have been run by local community volunteers with donations coming from all sections of the community both personal and business. Charity is one of the foundation pillars of Islam. As such it continues to encourage Muslims to participate in charitable events from across the spectrum, particularly those that aim to help members of the community who are in need or disenfranchised. In total, we have raised and donated around £35,000 this year.

St John's Church

We continue to engage with St Johns Church and have established a trusting and mutually beneficial relationship over the last decade. This relationship is based on open and respectful dialogue to foster understanding and good community relations. Given our usage of the St John's Church Hall facility, we have developed a symbiotic relationship. Our ambition is to continue strengthening our relationship and working towards optimising our Halls usage.

Community Cohesion

Iron Aid continues to engage in community dialogue, this has involved working with the local synagogue to prepare and pack gifts that were to be donated to the needy.

Iron Aid are now regularly working with local police to combat crime in the area and we attend the local police ward panel meeting as well as helping to actively promote the neighbourhood watch scheme. The local Northwood based police officers have enjoyed attending the Eid celebration events and have used the opportunity to make themselves known to many of the local Muslim community.

The Coming Year

We are very excited about the prospects for the coming year. Iron Aid has continued to mature and maintain focus on providing services for and with the local community whilst improving its own internal governance processes and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance.

Iron Aid has worked hard to broaden its reach and in the recent holy month of Ramadan we saw the number of worshippers grow even further. We also hosted an informal Iftar (breaking of the fast) with one of the Councillors from the Three Rivers District Council. Iron Aid continues to focus on its vision to establish a centre that will serve as a focal point for our local community needs and as we Muslims say: "Inn Shaa Allah" (God Willing) we will succeed.

Trustees of Iron Aid Foundation.