

Mehfil-e-Abbas (a.s.) Project - Referendum: Community Information

On 25 March 2012, the General Body voted for the following motion at the Annual General Meeting:

“It is hereby resolved that the Building Committee arrange a referendum within 6 months of this AGM on whether the location of the new Community centre should be moved to another site. All relevant information shall be shared before this referendum date.”

We will inshAllah be holding the Referendum from the 23rd to 25th September 2012. This document sets out the method in which this will be carried out, as well as our rationale. We are sharing this with the Community in advance so that all Members are aware of the process.

Process

9 September 2012	Summary information pack posted to Members. If you don't receive the information by 17 September then please contact the Jamaat Office. A more comprehensive information package will also be made available on the website and from the Jamaat Office.
Sun 23 September 2012	<u>Presentation Day</u> (1.15pm) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1.15pm - Salaat- 1.45pm - Lunch- 2.15pm - Recitation from Holy Qur'an- 2.20pm - Introduction from President- 2.25pm - Presentations, Question and Answer & Discussion- 4.55pm - Sura Fateha.- 5.00pm - Voting
Mon 24 September 2012	Evening voting (7.30pm - 9.00pm)
Tue 25 September 2012	Evening voting (7.30pm - 9.00pm)
Thu 27 September 2012	8.00pm Announcement of Results Next Steps Presentation by Buildings Committee.

Referendum Text

We, the General Body:

- MANDATE the Building Committee and the Executive Committee to pursue wholeheartedly the Mehfile Abbas (a.s.) Project at:

[] 17 Clifton Road, having purchased additional land, in a form similar to Option A;

[] another site away from 17 Clifton Road, in a form similar to Option B.

- AUTHORISE all of the Trustees to enter into such agreements as prudently required to give effect to the Mehfile Abbas (a.s.) Project as identified in this vote;

- REQUEST a further general meeting be called to deliberate this referendum if the Building Committee consider that proceeding with this referendum result is not viable OR any additional land is not acquired by 23 September 2013.

Information

Prior to the referendum, the following information will be sent to the Community's Members:

- Comparison of current facilities, and the proposed facilities;
- Demographic & budget analysis;
- Build and maintenance costs for each option;
- Strengths / weaknesses analysis of each option.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why have you chosen this wording for the referendum?

The purpose of the referendum is to provide the Community a chance to set the direction for the new Mehfile Abbas (a.s.) Project. The referendum presents two viable options for the Community, either (i) redeveloping our current site or (ii) moving to a new site. The options presented are based on the work undertaken over the last six months by the Building Committee which is going to be shared with the Community. We have carefully considered the wording of the text within the Building Committee, the Executive Committee and the Electoral Commissioner.

2. Where can I find the relevant information so I can make a decision?

We are committed to ensuring the Community has all the information available to make an informed decision. To do this, we will ensure that the essential information is summarised and this summary will be posted to all our Members. The complete information package will be made available online and on request from the Jamaat Office.

3. What will happen after the referendum?

The Building Committee will work whole-heartedly on delivering the option the Community wants to proceed with. This means we will need to obtain detailed designs, obtain reports from consultants, and (if required) begin the process to bid for land.

4. What happens if we vote to move, and we struggle to find a site or get planning permission? Or, what happens if we vote to increase the footprint of our current centre, and then cannot buy the land or get planning?

We understand that it is always sensible to have a backup plan if we cannot proceed with our first preference (for example if we cannot get planning permission). Therefore we will prioritise the Community's preference, but also make sure we make some progress on the backup plan at the same time. As explained in the referendum text, the Building Committee will not stop work on the first-choice plan without a General Meeting, where we will explain why the Community's preference is no longer viable and present options to the Community.

5. How accurate is the budget and forecast costings?

We are currently working with and have met our architects, real estate professionals, a quantity surveyor, Birmingham Property Services, the Community's accountants as well as the Treasury team to ensure we are presenting the most accurate numbers we can to the Community. However, we want to be absolutely clear that these are very early forecasts - the costs have been developed by looking at the costs involved in other projects per square metre and then looking at the meterage we require. We will continually keep the Community informed in relation to budgets, fundraisings and costs.

6. Why are we having voting in person?

The Building Committee, the Executive Committee and the Electoral Commissioner have deliberated at length to ensure that a suitable mechanism is found. We have allowed three days of voting to encourage maximum participation.

7. Can I vote in the referendum?

If you are a Member of the Community, yes. The whole Community is invited to take part in the Presentation Day, and we are keen to hear your views before, during and after the referendum.

8. What if I am not available to attend on Sunday?

You will be able to vote on Monday and Tuesday evening. We have agreed that Sunday's proceedings will be broadcast live (via the normal streaming service), as well as being recorded and made available on KSMNET.org as soon as possible. Further, an "addendum" document will be prepared by the Buildings Committee on Sunday evening and made available on the website and Imambargah on Monday & Tuesday; detailing any additional information from the outcome of the discussions or question & answer sessions that happened on Sunday.

9. When will the votes be counted?

The votes will be counted after voting has closed (Tuesday 25 September 2012, 9pm), with the results announced on Thursday 27 September 2012. Following this announcement, the Building Committee will make a short "next steps" presentation to explain the work that they will inshAllah undertake.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Building Committee at buildingcommittee@ksmnet.org.

Naushad Mehrali (Community President)

Shaheed Fazal (Building Committee Chairman)

Bashir Damji (Electoral Commissioner)