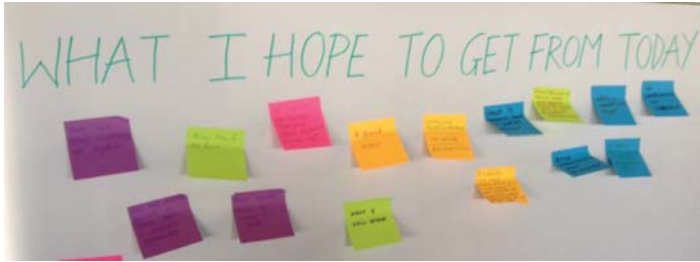


What a morning! Alhamdulillah the workshop went well. Thanks to everyone for their efforts in organising the day. The organisers invited the community to attend the workshop via email, facebook page, posters at the masjid, announcements at Jumma', flyers sent home with madressa children, whatsapp group, as well as reminding people face to face. We had around 35 people attend (plus children).



## KICKING OFF THE DAY

As people arrived, we asked them to write down what they hoped to get out of the day.



## DOING FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH + OUR HISTORY

We then started with a talk from Maulana Aslam, who spoke about the importance of having hope and that service is done for the sake of Allah. All efforts, no matter how big or small, are important.

The president of the Islamic Society of Algester, Masood Ayoob gave a history on the origins of the society and when we first started at Algester. He recalled how for a long time there was no need to go upstairs, as the congregation fitted on the ground floor. Alhamdulillah how our community has grown. He also provided an update on the building of the masjid.

We then completed our warm up activity of multicultural bingo. It did take a bit of encouragement for people to get started, but it was a great way for us to make connections with each other.



## CAFE CONVERSATIONS

We then congregated around tables. Each table had a question. The questions were designed for us to have deeper conversations about what we value as a community. They were:

- What is the role of a masjid?
- The most important issues facing us are...
- A healthy community means...
- Being part of a community means...

Participants moved around each table in order to give their input. Thank you to our table 'hosts' who did a great job of taking down notes and keeping the conversation going.





## MAJOR THEMES

Major themes that came out were:

- The masjid as a centre for learning
- The masjid as a safe haven
- A healthy community is one which is warm, inclusive, accepting.
- Active participation
- Contribution to and perception with the greater community (muslim and non muslim)

Following a delicious morning tea break participants gravitated to whichever theme they were most interested in to have a brainstorming session.

The next step was to develop action plans from these ideas, however due to time constraints we decided this would be the subject of a follow up workshop as participants agreed they valued the face to face contact and discussions.



## HIGHLIGHTS

Our younger members also provided input. Asked to draw what they would like from the masjid, they mentioned:

“Flowers that never die. A rainbow close by.”

“Lots of nature – trees and birds.”

“An apple tree. Rainbow in the sky.”



It was a reminder of the importance of beauty and that a community is not just people and buildings, it is also our environment and creatures of all kinds.



## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

The best thing from the workshop was:

- “Openness and ability to have our say”
- “It was open and relaxed. Well presented and organised”
- “I felt closer brotherhood in helping each other”
- “Active participation, networking, getting everyone’s feedback”
- “The brownies”
- “Seeing all the issues we face from different perspectives. Finding solutions for them by hearing what people had to say”
- “Hearing other views”
- “Sharing”
- “Feeling connected to community”



## NEXT STEPS

A few people expressed their interest in attending the workshop but were unable and so provided feedback via email; this was included in the conversation and brainstorming stages. We are looking at running the next workshop in October, possibly at a different time.

**We really hope you can make it as we would love to have everyone’s input.**



Check out the FB page for more pictures [www.facebook.com/IslamicSocietyOfAlgerster](http://www.facebook.com/IslamicSocietyOfAlgerster)