



Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

TO COUNCILLOR:

G A Boulter
J W Boyce

Mrs S B Morris (Chair)
R E R Morris

Dear Councillors and the Residents of South Wigston et al

I hereby invite you to attend a meeting of the **SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM** to be held at the **FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHESHIRE DRIVE, SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE18 4WA** on **TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2016** at **7.30 PM** for the transaction of the business set out in the Agenda below.

Residents are reminded that if they wish to discuss in confidence other issues that affect them, there is a surgery session with Borough Councillors and the Police between **7:00 PM** and **7.30 PM**.

For further information, please contact the Community Engagement Officer, Veronika Quintyne, by telephone on (0116) 257 2648 or e-mail at veronika.quintyne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Council Offices
Wigston
Date Not Specified

Mark Hall
Chief Executive

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>PAGE NO'S</u>
1.	Local Policing Issues	
2.	Amended Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 08 June 2016	1 - 7
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 07 September 2016	8 - 17
4.	Consultation on the Draft Oadby and Wigston Council Local Plan	
5.	Resilience Partnership Community Response Plans	
6.	Oadby and Wigston Community First Responders	
7.	South Wigston Traders' Update	
8.	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting	
	a) Sir Edward Garnier & Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	18 - 19
9.	Chair's Updates	20
	a) Capital Projects Update	

b) Requests for Spending and Update on Forum Budget

10. Items Raised by Residents and Suggestions for Future Items

11. Date of the Next Meeting

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHESHIRE DRIVE, SOUTH WIGSTON, LE18 4WA ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair - Councillor Mrs S B Morris

COUNCILLORS:

G A Boulter, J W Boyce

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

V Quintyne (OWBC), J. Cooke (The Conservation Volunteers), D Cliffe(Voluntary Action Leicester), A Thorpe(OWBC)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

T Sumpster, M Ray, Geoff, A Hargreaves, C Burdell, C Sutton, R Pearce, P North, T Kennea, V Ward, W Simmons, D Tebbutt, P Tebbutt, N Bevans, D Bevans, k Brooke, B Smith, P Beasley, C Kitchen, K Hall, Y Johns, D Gohil, A James, J William, J Sealey, E Meachem, L Hargreaves, K Potterton, R Elliot, Sheila Moseley Wigston, Alison Court Hindoostan Avenue, Carl Walters Marstown Avenue

APOLOGIES:

R E R Morris (Councillor), R Hughes, PC C Sutherley (Police Officer), L Wills(Phoenix Therapies)

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
1.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 08 MARCH 2016</u></p> <p>The minutes were endorsed by the residents as, a true and accurate record of the last meeting. They were signed by the Chair.</p>	
2.	<p><u>GREEN SPACES</u></p> <p>Before the presentation, the Chair wished it to be formally recorded that the Council appreciates the involvement of residents on this issue, notes the Council's joint work with the community on this, and supports the proposed submission for designation of Local Green Spaces in South Wigston.</p> <p>Adrian Thorpe, the Council's Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager, outlined the Council's position on Local Green Spaces. He provided background information on the Council's role in designating Local Green Spaces in the forthcoming Local Plan. It was emphasised that Local Green Spaces are areas which can contribute to positive social, economic and environmental benefits, improving public health, well-being and quality of life.</p>	

	<p>A presentation on Local Green Space focussed on the Saffron Road Area. The presentation was produced by the Saffron Trees Action Group. Residents were requested to help protect local trees and the identified Local Green Spaces by supporting the proposed submission.</p> <p>The presentation showed photos of the tree landscape in the area and the open space that is being proposed for protection as Local Green Space. Some residents have already written to Adrian Thorpe in support of the designation of Local Green Spaces in South Wigston.</p> <p>A submission time frame for getting the letters on green space support is to be extended over the next couple of weeks. Marbled White butterflies are based in this area, therefore important to keep this in mind. More trees are to be planted in the future.</p> <p>A resident raised a question as to how many trees need to have a tree protection order applied in order to create an identified protected green area. There is no required number.</p> <p>The Chair raised a motion with residents on the proposal put forward by the presenters T Sumpter and M Ray that the Forum was in support of the proposed submission by Saffron Trees Action Group for the designation of Local Green Spaces in the area in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Thirty two residents voted in favour of the motion. There were no dissensions or abstentions</p> <p>The Chair wished it to be recorded that the Council was appreciative of the joint effort between local people and the Council on the issues of identifying Local Green Spaces.</p> <p>A single A4 sheet listing some facts about trees was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Adrian Thorpe will respond to these submissions in due course.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Circulate the slide presentation with the minutes.</p>							
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></p> <p>Police Community Support Officers, PCSO 6678 Joshi and PCSO 6118 Parnaby provided an update on South Wigston crime. This covers the past three months and are recorded as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="279 1937 1284 2049"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Last 3 months</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Previous 3 months</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Burglary Dwelling</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Last 3 months	Previous 3 months	Burglary Dwelling	4	4	
	Last 3 months	Previous 3 months						
Burglary Dwelling	4	4						

Burglary other than dwellings	5	6
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2	5
Robbery	1	0
Other Crime Issues:		
<p>A stolen car was returned to the owner. The thief was apprehended and arrested for attempting to assault a Police Officer in the course of this return.</p> <p>There was one robbery on Blaby Road. Enquiries are ongoing.</p> <p>One racist incident reported. An Asian male was followed and assaulted. This is being investigated as a priority.</p> <p>There are no major anti social behaviour issues in the area.</p> <p>The Police are working to eliminate illegal cannabis production. There have been two previous incidents of cannabis being grown. A further Cannabis drug factory was discovered in South Wigston. The Police have closed it down.</p> <p>The Chair expressed thanks to the Police for the update.</p>		
Kennedy House New Occupants		
<p>The Leader of the Council informed residents there are approximately 57 or 58 single, male asylum seekers /refugees in Kennedy House. There are no female occupants.</p> <p>The house is owned by the Shaw Trust. It has planning permission as a resettlement centre. It is managed by G4S.</p> <p>The Police visit Kennedy House almost daily. No incidents have arisen in relation to the new occupants taking up residence. Some of the occupants have previously worked for the British Government, whilst in their country of origin.</p> <p>Kennedy House ceased being a residence for homeless men some eighteen months ago.</p> <p>A multi agency forum has formed in South Wigston to offer support, advice and guidance to the occupants. The Voluntary Sector is providing assistance to the occupants in relation to such issues as the learning of conversational English.</p> <p>In relation to Public Sector Housing allocation, the two year residency criteria for local housing applications would apply to Kennedy House occupants in line with Council Policy. The chief executive is to liaise with charities with regards to the food bank.</p>		

	<p>Speed Monitoring Device</p> <p>Councillor Boulter noted the Speed Monitoring Device is sited on a lamp-post. It measures speeding traffic. Oadby and Wigston Council is waiting for the County Council to sonic test this device. Wigston also has a speed monitoring device in situ. Oadby residents are contemplating the usefulness of having one installed based on the implementation in Wigston.</p> <p>The Speed Monitoring Device has currently been removed from Dorset Avenue to Saffron Road. It will be returned to Dorset Avenue in approximately a year`s time. The battery is not solar powered. It is replaced at key intervals.</p> <p>A resident expressed the view that the monitoring device was a good tool for cutting down dangerous speeding.</p>	
4.	<p><u>PHOENIX THERAPIES UPDATE</u></p> <p>An update was provided by a representative of Phoenix Therapies on work being done to date. This work has been funded by an award from the Residents Forum. The work is focussed on South Wigston residents.</p> <p>A course was started three weeks ago. The location is the Bassett Centre Hub, Bassett Street, South Wigston. Eleven people have signed up to the Course. Phoenix Therapies thanked the Forum for providing the award for this Course.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>A video is to be brought to a future meeting of the Residents Forum to support an update on the usefulness and impact of the course.</p>	
5.	<p><u>OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH LITTER CAMPAIGN</u></p> <p>Due to ill health Colin Robertson was unable to attend the Forum to provide an in-depth update on the Take Pride Litter Campaign. Primary schools are being contacted to take part in the litter campaign.</p> <p>Pride of the Borough stated that three businesses have joined the Pride of the Borough Scheme. Hunters have also joined the Scheme. It was requested to let the Chair know if anyone wishes to join the Scheme so they can be directed to the relevant contact point.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Pride of the Borough for this update.</p>	
7.	<p><u>SOUTH WIGSTON TRADERS' UPDATE</u></p> <p>The South Wigston Traders representative informed the Forum that, the Christmas Capers event on December 3rd 2016 requires volunteers.</p> <p>TESCO in South Wigston is to host a fun weekend event from 23rd to 26th June 2016.</p> <p>Parklands Primary School is having a community Poly Tunnel installed. This should be in situ by September 2016</p>	

8.	<p><u>CHAIR'S UPDATES</u></p>	
8a.	<p><u>CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE</u></p> <p>Christmas Capers</p> <p>Christmas Capers requested funding of £4,000. The traders do not make a profit from this event. Attendance at this annual event sees stall holders coming from as far away as Grimsby and Abingdon in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>There are currently 35 bookings for stalls to date.</p> <p>9 residents voted in favour of awarding the £4,000. There were no votes against and no abstentions.</p>	
8b.	<p><u>REQUESTS FOR SPENDING AND UPDATE ON FORUM BUDGET</u></p> <p>St Thomas Church Young Peoples Group</p> <p>Saint Thomas Church in South Wigston is to set up a youth club provision for 6 to 7 year olds. The Group requested a start up award of £400. On a vote for this proposal. The majority of residents were in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.</p>	
9.	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></p> <p>Speed Awareness Monitor On Dorset Avenue</p> <p>The Speed Awareness Monitoring Device on Dorset Avenue has now been moved to Saffron Road. The monitor is battery operated. It does not work by solar energy.</p> <p>Wigston also has one of these devices in Situ. Oadby is considering, based on the usage in Wigston whether one should be purchased. The Device will be returned to Dorset Avenue in a year's time. It is to be noted that some residents view the device as a sound deterrent to speeding traffic.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>An update on the effectiveness on the use of the Speed Monitoring Device is to come back to the Forum at least twice a year.</p> <p>Care Of Trees On Blaby Road Park (Amendment)</p> <p>A resident reported that the trees on Blaby Road Park are not well looked after. Some still have ties around them which need releasing. Posts also need removing. It was noted that there is nothing to prohibit voluntary public action on releasing the ties on the trees. The Chair emphasised it is preferable people join the tree protection volunteering scheme in addressing such issues. The Chair noted this is the job of the Tree Officer and a Tree Strategy for the borough is to be developed. A resident enquired about the</p>	

cost of felling a tree. The Chair clarified that if an application comes to the Council to fell a tree, it costs money to assess if the felling is needed. This is part of the Tree Officer's role. Some cherry trees are protected, but not all. Anyone who is unsure whether a particular tree is protected would have to write to the Council to find out. There is no Council Jurisdiction to fell trees on Ministry of Defence land.

Action:

Councillor Boulter is to pass on the observation that the trees require some attention to remove ties and stakes to the newly recruited Tree Officer

Graffiti On South Wigston Railway Bridge

Rail Track has been notified of the graffiti on the railway bridge. Graffiti on Aylestone lane has also been reported. The Council is not allowed to remove graffiti on the railway bridge. A Rail Track officer is looking at having murals placed on this bridge.

Fly Tipping On Clifford Street And Leopold Street

Fridges have been fly tipped on Clifford Street and Leopold Street. Residents have been informed the area of fly tipping constitutes a private road. This is a road way behind the shops.

Action:

The Council is to address what is to be done with regards to the fly tipping.

Countesthorpe Road -Recycling Is Overflowing

There is a fridge dumped at the back of the Bassett Street area. The Council noted this fridge is to be moved by Monday 13th June. There is a chair dumped at the back of the shops. Environmental health is to look into this.

Where there is fly tipping on front and back gardens of private property, the Council has no jurisdiction to act. If the Council does act re private land it would be open to be sued for stealing. If the Council was to lay down poison it could be prosecuted for possibly killing someone's cat or dog.

The Cafe Opposite South Wigston College.

A resident enquired whether it was permissible for a very large wheeled bin to be situated on the pavement. The bin was described as belonging to a shop opposite South Wigston College. It was recommended the bin be placed at the back of a shop.

Parking On Pavements And Grass Verges

The Police can issue a ticket for parking on pavements and grass verges where there is an obstruction. It has to be proved that the parking is causing an obstruction.

	<p>Persistent Barking By Dogs</p> <p>On the question of persistent barking by dogs, the Chair advised residents to keep a diary for a month, noting the times and duration of the barking. This information is then to be sent to the Council's environmental health department for action.</p> <p>Hanging Baskets In South Wigston</p> <p>The Chair confirmed hanging baskets will be going up in South Wigston. Some are to be placed along Blaby Road.</p> <p>A health and safety statement has been issued. It states hanging baskets placed on the roundabout in South Wigston are too dangerous to be manually watered. This issue is being resolved by Councillors.</p> <p>On the 15th June, at Blaby Road Methodist Church, the Green Space Group meets to discuss planting flowers on adhoc areas of land around the Borough.</p> <p>For further information on this project contact; J.cooke@tcv.org.uk.</p> <p>The Council is not encouraging residents to plant flowers on adhoc areas of land.</p> <p>The Chair suggested discussion on this matter would be best taken up with the Friends of Blaby Road Group.</p> <p>Callanetics Class 14 June 2016</p> <p>A Callanetics class is to begin on; Tuesday 14th June at Fairfield Community Centre, Cheshire Drive, South Wigston.</p>	
10.	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting of South Wigston Residents' Forum is: Tuesday September 7th 2016 @ Bassett Street Hub, Bassett Street, South Wigston, LE18 4PE Time: 7.30pm.</p>	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50 PM



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CHAIR

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WEDNESDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2016

Agenda Item 3

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE
BASSETT STREET COMMUNITY HUB, BASSETT STREET, SOUTH WIGSTON,
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE18 4PE ON WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT
7.30 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair- Councillor John Boyce

Councillor B Boulter , Councillor R E R Morris

Residents in attendance: C Walter, M Ray, T Sumpter, R Pearce, J Guesford, L Shaw, N Hall, P.M Chenery, R Hughes,

K Gunn, J Naylor, K Hall, Y Johnson, R Carter, J Sealey

Others in Attendance: V Quintyne (OWBC), J Griffiths (OWBC), J Cooke (The Conservation Volunteers), D Cliffe(Voluntary Action Leicester),Police Community Support Officer J Darby, L Wills (Phoenix Therapies),P North (Phoenix Therapies),C Robertson (Pride of the Borough)

Apologies: Councillor S Morris (Chair)

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.																					
11.	<p><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></p> <p>Police Community Support Officer J Darby presented the crime prevention statistics. These cover the last three months. They are noted as follows.</p> <table align="center"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Last 3 months</th> <th>Previous</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3 months</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary Dwelling</td> <td align="center">6</td> <td align="center">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary other than Dwelling</td> <td align="center">3</td> <td align="center">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft of Motor Vehicle</td> <td align="center">0</td> <td align="center">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Motor Vehicle</td> <td align="center">10</td> <td align="center">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery</td> <td align="center">0</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>One empty property was burglaried. Sporadic thefts took place from unsecured vehicles. Sat Navs were targeted. Police consultations of residents are ongoing. Blaby Road park was flagged as a problem area. The problem was resolved .No additional problems have been reported. One man was placed on an Anti Social Behaviour contract for stealing from children and for assaults. He is now excluded from the South Wigston area.</p> <p>Young people performing anti social behaviour acts have been visited by the Police and given suitable warnings. A project on bowling and citizenship is being established by Police Constable Carl Sutherley. Cycle lanes on the Saffron Road are the responsibility of the County Council Highways</p>		Last 3 months	Previous	3 months			Burglary Dwelling	6	4	Burglary other than Dwelling	3	6	Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	3	Theft from Motor Vehicle	10	5	Robbery	0		
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	<p>department. The County Council is carrying out consultation on removing traffic islands and other road furniture. A resident was concerned this may mean children are at risk from running between the traffic.</p> <p>The Police are aware of people parking on double yellow lines on Countesthorpe Road. This is to be addressed.</p> <p>Parking on double yellow lines is an issue for the County Council Highways department The Police act when there is an obstruction.</p> <p>It was reported that people are driving the wrong way down one way streets, driving at speed by St Thomas`s church, going through to the petrol station and driving onto the footpath.</p> <p>PC Darby will report these issues to PC Sutherley for informing the Highways Forum.</p> <p>Councillor Boulter will raise the following issues with the County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a request for a Lollipop Lady on Blaby Road • People parking on Stoneygate Road on double yellow lines, throwing rubbish around the area at night and in the morning. 	
12.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON JUNE 2016</u></p> <p>An amendment to section 3 of the June 8 2016 minutes was received by tonight`s Chair Councillor J Boyce The amendment was agreed by Councillor .S Morris, the usual Chair. The changes have been added to the minutes of June 2016.</p> <p>Action: A copy of the amended minutes will be circulated at the meeting of November 8th 2016 and added to the Council`s website.</p>	VQ
13.	<p><u>FUNDING UPDATES</u></p> <p>The planting baskets for Blaby Road were purchased and hung.</p> <p>St Thomas Children`s Group award of £400 was endorsed by the Policy Finance Development Committee.</p> <p>Oadby and Wigston Community First Responders are to present at the November 2016 meeting.</p> <p>Phoenix Therapies Group presented a proposal to the Forum for funding. This is titled,` Take the Weight Off Your Mind`.</p> <p>The Families Foodies are to provide an update for the next Forum meeting.</p>	
14.	<p><u>LEISURE FACILITIES UPDATE - PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>A paper copy of the Leisure Facilities update 2016 presentation was circulated at the meeting. Following the presentation residents were invited</p>	

	<p>to ask questions.</p> <p>A new programme on managing diabetes has been successfully introduced. Diabetes is one of the local Authority`s biggest health issue. New sessions to help manage this issue are to be offered</p> <p>On the question of whether access to a cafe could be made available all the time the venue is used, the Officer noted people are able to access tea and coffee from a vending machine.</p> <p>A resident requested an obstacle course gymnasium be installed.</p> <p>Action: Circulate an electronic copy of the Leisure Facilities presentation.</p>	VQ
15.	<p><u>CUSTOMER SERVICE UPDATE</u></p> <p>Jacky Griffiths provided a verbal update on developments with the Customer Service Centre in Bell Street. The Centre opened 12th October 2015. A range of Council Services including a benefits online service are provided to residents.</p> <p>Two satisfaction surveys are carried out annually. A 100% satisfaction with services was recorded for the March 2016 survey. October 2016 will see the next survey activated.</p> <p>Compared to feedback at Bushloe House between August 2015 and August 2016, there was a 258% increase in resident satisfaction with Customer Centre services. In the future more choice is to be offered as to how residents receive services. Online services are to be provided to reach people working various hours. The Officer requested residents respond to the widely advertised Council Tax Support consultation.</p> <p>Residents questions were responded to as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council provides a range of services and for this identify the recipients as service users, for other processes designated the term residents. • A request for a Customer Service Centre at South Wigston Library was previously met but the low take up did not justify the maintenance of the resource. The Customer Centre in Wigston has been placed where all residents can best access it. • The Council Office at Bushloe House is not almost empty. Discussion is taking place on its further use. The building was not appropriate for housing a post office due to the nature of its business and for security reasons. A post office opens in Wigston 20th September 2016. • In order to get the process right in registering residents to vote, some residents may have got two voting return papers. The Officer responsible for the process of ensuring everyone is enabled to vote is very diligent and wishes to get this democratic process right. 	

	<p>Residents were encouraged to respond to the current online consultation on the Council Tax Support Scheme. A leaflet explaining the Scheme and direction to the link to access it was circulated.</p> <p>On concluding her presentation update, the Chair expressed thanks to the Officer</p>	
<p>16.</p>	<p><u>LITTER CAMPAIGN</u></p> <p>The Campaign has been running since the end of 2015. People are being invited to take part by forming litter picking groups and sending the message to friends, neighbours and Community Groups. Primary schools are being liaised with, as are links through the Leicester Universities and the media.</p> <p>Residents were requested to spread the word about the campaign and get involved. A hard copy of a flyer about the Litter Campaign was distributed. It states how people can get involved in the Litter Campaign and who to contact for more information.</p> <p>A resident suggested the Litter Campaign could establish an award through Pride of the Borough to recognise groups of people or an individual for their contribution to the Campaign.</p> <p>Pride of the Borough organise regular litter picking sessions. For more information, contact Brocks Hill Country Park and Centre, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ. Email:</p> <p>Telephone: 07874 228491 Email: potb.oadbywigston@gmail.com</p> <p>The Chair thanked Colin Robertson for presenting the update.</p>	
<p>17.</p>	<p><u>PHOENIX THERAPIES - PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>An electronic presentation titled; "Take the Weight Off Your Mind", was shared with residents by Phoenix Therapies representatives. The presentation outlined the courses provided and their impact on participants.</p> <p>A working partnership has been formed with the South Wigston voluntary Organisation Helping Hands. This will help with delivering the course to 50% of people using Helping Hands who experience mental health problems.</p> <p>Funding has been awarded for a bespoke "Take the Weight Off Your Mind" course to the Council's Youth Council. This will address the mental health needs of young people in South Wigston. An award for this work has also been received from the Trustee Savings Bank.</p> <p>Phoenix Therapies requested £1000 from South Wigston Residents Forum to run a course. Oadby Residents Forum also awarded Phoenix Therapies £1,700 for a bespoke course for its residents and Wigston Residents Forum awarded them £1,000 on the basis that South Wigston Residents Forum would match fund this sum.</p> <p>The Chair put a motion to residents asking if they wished to have the proposal funded. One resident proposed it, another seconded it. On voting 9</p>	

	<p>people were in favour of awarding the funding .There were no abstentions or dissenters. The motion was agreed. The Chair thanked Lainy Wills and Paula North for presenting the update.</p> <p>Action: Circulate the presentation with the minutes to residents.</p>	VQ
18.	<p><u>SOUTH WIGSTON TRADERS' UPDATE</u></p> <p>The South Wigston Traders Group Chair noted that Christmas Capers will take place.</p> <p>Countesthorpe Car Park is identified as a place for a public bike stand in the Council car Park.</p> <p>Action: The Chair is to take this forward for discussion.</p>	Chair
19.	<p><u>CHAIR'S UPDATES</u></p> <p>On the question of whether an under spend could be used to tidy the bus shelter area by the Salvation Army, the Chair stated this area is to soon undergo painting.</p>	
20.	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></p> <p>Parliamentary Question Time by Sir Edward Garnier MP. This relates to governance issues at Oadby and Wigston Council.</p> <p>Residents asked the Chair for clarification in relation to questions raised at Parliamentary Question Time by Sir Edward Garnier, Harborough MP. This relates to the MP's speech on governance issues at Oadby and Wigston Council.</p> <p>The issues in question related to the sum of £550,000 spent on legal costs and critical comments concerning management of the Council, which were reported in the Leicester Mercury. Residents asked why they had not been informed about this.</p> <p>The Chair responded with the following points in relation to questions posed by residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the day the information was raised in Parliament, the Chair was informed at very short notice this was to happen, with very little time to respond. • The issue concerns a Council staff group grievance which is still being dealt with by lawyers and is not open for sharing with the public. • On receiving the grievance the Chair did not assume it was one sided. An independent body went through the evidence. Sir Edward Garnier has taken it out of context and has not visited Oadby and Wigston Council offices since February 2016. • The grievance if wrongly dealt with could have cost the Council more than half a million. Time is being taken to ensure the Council follows employment procedures properly and get it right. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the full context of the issue, may not have led anyone to do a different one from the current one. • Reserves are in place to cover this type of emergency. • Sir Edward Garnier indicated a sum of £500,000 for the cost of arbitrating the current staff /employer issue as he has added in funds for temporary staff coverage costs. • A press release was put out this morning. Most of this press release can be read on Radio Leicester`s website. • This issue has been on the Council agenda a number of times. • The Chair is happy to share what is in the public domain. He noted the information is redacted. • <p>A resident stated Sir Edward Garnier is talking on behalf of residents.</p> <p>It was also questioned, if there was good governance at the Council, why was the resignation of Councillor Boyce and the Senior Management advocated by Sir Edward Garnier.</p> <p>Another resident stated they felt the Council does not respond to issues, nor does the Senior Management and that the Council on the issues raised, is position protecting the Council and is not accountable to residents.</p> <p>A resident proposed this matter be added to the agenda for the next Resident Forum meeting in November 2016.</p> <p>County Council Minimum Waste Strategy</p> <p>The County Council has for the past months been consulting on its Waste Strategy. The Local Council has raised objections to having a waste sight placed in residential areas. The issue has been raised with the County Council many times and ignored. The County Council has now got a policy. An exception has been raised to this policy.</p> <p>Calenetics Session</p> <p>Residents were requested to note, Callenetics classes are soon to take place in South Wigston. For further details contact: Dave Cliffe [dave.c@valonline.org.uk].</p>	
21.	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Tuesday 8th November 2016, Fairfield Primary School hall, Cheshire Drive, South Wigston at 7.30pm.</p>	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15 PM



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CHAIR
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TUESDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2016
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ADDENDUM NO. 1

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE BASSETT STREET COMMUNITY HUB, BASSETT STREET, SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE18 4PE ON WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Amendments to draft minutes – amended wording to be added or corrected in italics

Min Ref 12: Addition of omitted item

The resident who raised the amendments to the minutes of the June meeting asked the Chair when in this meeting time would be given to discuss Edward Garnier's Adjournment Debate of the previous day, 6th September. The Chair said it could be at Chair's Update.

Min ref 15: Addition of omitted item

A resident asked that we be called citizens or residents because that means we have rights and duties. We are not customers and shouldn't be referred to as such as that takes our rights away. The Leader of the Council said this would be considered.

Min ref 20: Amendments to incorrect wording and to rectify omissions

Para commencing the issues in question – amend to:

The issues in question related to: 214 grievances taken by 9 senior managers against the senior management team; estimated £550,000 spent on investigation, legal costs etc; and critical comments concerning management and governance of the Council. Residents asked why Forum meetings had been told nothing in the eighteen months since the resignation letter of one of those staff appeared in the Leicester Mercury after the May 2015 election.

Immediately after bullet points recording Chair's comments, the draft record of residents' points is inaccurate and incomplete. Remove all 4 paragraphs purporting to record what residents said. Replace with amended items as follows:

A resident stated that there is no way that 214 allegations from 9 senior managers can possibly be 'just a staffing issue', it can only be a problem with management and governance.

A resident stated that the Council does not respond – doesn't reply to correspondence or phone calls, nor does the Senior Management, and that residents have nowhere to go with issues other than to their MP. Edward Garnier is acting on behalf of residents.

Another resident stated the view that the Liberal Democrats have had a majority for over 20 years, do not have a strong opposition, and have drifted to a position of protecting the Council instead of fulfilling their role of holding the Council to account, and representing residents. The same resident had to ask the Chair why he was shouting at her.

Another resident stated if they were a chief executive and had 214 grievances against them, they would be seriously considering their position. In addition, in the light of Edward Garnier's call for the Senior Management Team and the political leadership to resign, they asked of the Chair, 'Are you going to resign?' The Chair replied, 'no'.

Another resident expressed concern at the enormous cost of the issues and pointed out that this is Council tax money paid by residents.

Another resident asked that this matter be added to the agenda for the next Forum meeting in November 2016. The Chair agreed to this.

The Chair stated that if any resident wrote to him with their e-mail he would forward relevant documents to them – although some would be redacted.

ADDENDUM NO. 2

Changing the Forum Meetings

The present Forum meetings are very poorly attended, and don't appear to fulfil the purpose for which they are run.

Sharon has agreed to discuss the structure of these meetings.

I would like the following proposals discussed and voted on in the hope that the meetings work more in line with their purpose, and result in more positive outcomes.

1. **Reduce the number of presentations.** Our last meeting had just 10 minutes to discuss Edward Garnier's adjournment debate. The swimming pool presentation was given over 20, and to which our input was irrelevant.
2. **Give more time for residents to question and give their views.** This is the only place for public discussion between residents and ward councillors. There has to be more space for views, opinions and ideas to be openly exchanged.
3. **Send agendas and minutes out a week in advance.** This should be standard practice. They shouldn't be given out on the night.
4. **Give residents a big say on what goes on the agenda and order of discussion.**
5. **Make agendas and minutes easily accessible on line** i.e. by typing in South Wigston Residents' Forum, and getting all relevant documents for that forum, in one place, in date order. An http link is useless for open resident access.
6. **No vote on money applications on the night of any presentation.** There should be a proper written presentation and costing the first time, for residents to take away and consider. They can then ask questions before voting at the next Forum.
7. **Have an agreed quorum – e.g 10 residents present before a vote can be taken.**
8. **Have a discussion and review about increasing attendance.** The present system seems to be that only those who attended the last meeting are contacted for the following meeting. We need an action plan to involve more people.
9. **Keep an expanding list of people who attend forum meetings.** Add newcomers automatically so that the list can grow.

Agenda Item 8a

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Response to House of Commons Debate on 6th September 2016

Oadby and Wigston's local member of Parliament, Sir Edward Garner MP, organised a debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday night 6th September in order to raise issues about the Council with the Minister for Local Government.

Sir Edward did not inform the Council that he was going to do this until two hours before it took place, therefore the Council was not able to respond or defend itself by providing Sir Edward with any information prior to this debate.

After he had heard Sir Edward's speech John Boyce, the Leader of the Council said:

"Unfortunately Sir Edward did not let the Council know that he was going to hold this debate. What I do know is that Sir Edward had a constructive meeting with senior council officials in February of this year and my understanding is that he went away from that meeting with an open invitation to raise any issues he had about the Council direct with any of us at anytime.

We also offered to provide him with any information that he wanted, which was declined as Sir Edward has not been in contact with anybody from the Council since that meeting in February.

The Council is therefore concerned that Sir Edward does not have the full facts and from the first reading of his speech any solid evidence to support his claims that the Council is dysfunctional.

Sir Edward is correct that the Council has had to deal with a difficult and complex internal staffing issue and it has put in place an independent and fair process. In order to do that correctly, regrettably there is a cost attached.

One of our main priorities has been to ensure that these internal issues have not had any adverse effect on the delivery of valued front line services to residents. For example the Council still provides free parking for shoppers, weekly refuse and recycling and the recent opening of two new leisure centre facilities.

The Minister for Local Government said in his response to Sir Edward concerns: 'Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is in many respects a well performing organisation that punches above its weight and there is evidence to support this'.

The Minister did not recommend Sir Edward's call for central Government intervention in any way regarding the running of the Council and he said he was pleased to see that the Council was already working closely with the Local Government Association (LGA).

The LGA have in turn confirmed to the Minister that the Council has a thorough understanding of what happened and what it needs to do to put it right. The Minister

also confirmed that the Council's external auditors KPMG have also been kept informed and it does not feel there are any matters that warrant further scrutiny.

Finally, Sir Edward makes that comment that the atmosphere with Council offices is "poisonous". I can confirm that is not the case and my understanding is that Sir Edward has only visited our offices once in the last five years."

ENDS

Agenda Item 9

South Wigston Residents Forum – Chairperson’s Update

The Local Plan will contain planning policies that drive, as well as shape sustainable development in the Borough throughout the Plan period up to 2036. The Plan will also protect and enhance the Borough’s historic heritage and green open spaces.

So far, the Council has undertaken the first stage of public consultation; this took place between Monday, 12th October and Monday, 23rd November 2015 and focussed on the Key Challenges that the Borough would encounter during the plan period.

The comments and the responses from this previous consultation have been taken into account by officers whilst producing this Preferred Options document that is now to be consulted upon. The Preferred Options document contains the Council’s preferred approaches to tackling the key challenges and delivering sustainable development for the Plan period. The document is being publicly consulted on for a six week period that commenced on Friday, 4th November and will continue through to 5pm on Friday, 16th December 2016.

Once adopted, the new Local Plan will supersede the Saved Local Plan, the Core Strategy and the Town Centres Area Action Plan. The Borough Council will adopt the new Local Plan in Summer 2018.