

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE
BASSETT STREET COMMUNITY HUB, BASSETT STREET, SOUTH WIGSTON,
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE18 4PE ON WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2017 COMMENCING AT
7.30 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor J W Boyce (Chair, Acting)

COUNCILLORS

G A Boulter
Mrs S B Morris

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms V Quintyne (Community Engagement Officer)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

3 Borough Councillors (Wigston)
1 Police Representative
15 Residents

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Richard E Morris.

11. LOCAL POLICING ISSUES

The Police provided a written update for the crime statistics which covered the last 28 days. This update included:

- The recovery of 5 Mopeds used in anti social behaviour activity
- 3 uninsured cars were recovered.
- Property from a burglary was recovered.
- The Beat Team is carrying out extra patrols around Kenilworth Road following the logging of an increase in anti social behaviour.
- Patrols continue to be carried out in areas where burglary have taken place. Residents have been provided with crime prevention advice.
- Residents were advised to lock and secure their vehicles ensuring no property is left in view. Anyone with a suspicion of criminal activity may be taking place was advised to call 101.
- The crime trend is force wide and not just limited to South Wigston.

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

A NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR SOUTH WIGSTON

A new community centre for South Wigston is to operate from the old Telephone Exchange, on Albion street. It is to operate as a youth club and provide other community accessible facilities. A grant from the Council is in process. It was observed that parking could be problematic by the Council supporting the development. No written objections to

this proposal have been received by the Council.

REPORTING OF FLOODING ON GLOUCESTER CRESCENT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

With regard to reports of flooding on Gloucester Crescent, Councillor Boulter reported the concerns to the County Council. The issue has now been resolved. Three drains were affected by tree roots.

AMALGAMATION OF SOUTH WIGSTON AND WIGSTON RESIDENT FORUMS

A motion was proposed that Wigston and South Wigston Resident Forum should not be amalgamated. This was seconded. The motion, on a show of hands was unanimously carried.

CUTTING OF BLABY ROAD PARK HEDGE & CRACK ON LEFT HAND SIDE OF PATHWAY

It was questioned why the hedge was not being cut and why there is a crack on the left-hand side of the path.

Action:

Councillor Bill Boulter agreed to investigate the matter and report back to the next meeting.

WASTE SURVEY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK (INFORMATION ONLY)

Residents were informed that consultants have been appointed to carry out a further consultation, this is likely to be carried out before Christmas and will be based on the Plan.

CHANGE TO BUSES SERVICING THE FAIRFIELD ESTATE

Arriva Bus Service held a public meeting to which Councillor Boulter was not officially invited. The residents are to form a group to address the bus service cut. Councillor Boulter was invited to join it. This he has consented to do.

Action:

Councillor Boulter, along with the residents will form a working group to help move the bus issue forward to a positive outcome for South Wigston residents.

13. REVIEW OF THE RESIDENTS' FORUMS CONSULTATION

Before a full discussion was had on this item the Chair provided background information. All Resident Forums would be debating the future of the Forums and be given the opportunity to discuss how the Council should be allocating Forum funds, monitoring and evaluating proposals and the process for that.

The process needed to be one proportionate to the proposal brought. Discussion took place on the draft proposal form. This form was regarded positively. It was still a work in progress.

Residents were also invited to take and respond to three questions on yellow card. This

consultation card had previously been shared and responded to by Wigston and Oadby Resident Forums. The deadline for the return of the responses to the three questions is; October 13th 2017. Responses for collation are to be sent to the Community Engagement Officer at: veronika.quintyne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

Following discussion residents are to note it was agreed that:

Funding applications could be in a range of £0 to £500 with use of a more simplified form. Multiple funding applications for the same items and for the same sums should not be presented to the three forums.

Questions on making funding proposals should be placed with the Community Engagement Officer before the Forum meeting, and be placed on the agenda for discussion.

All groups requesting funding should have accounts,

Draft minutes be made ready within 10 working days and placed online within 15 working days. Minutes should not be verbatim but provide an essence of what was discussed with the actions.

Action:

Place matters arising within the minutes not the Chair`s Update for the next meeting.

A resident quoted a point made at the Wigston Forum, that Forums are different to Council meetings because there aren't papers and recommendations. The discussion is the key part of the meeting and the minutes should set out residents' questions views and comments, otherwise it loses its democratic purpose. Another resident pointed out that minutes need to be accurate so that people's comments are not misconstrued by being recorded wrongly. A motion was proposed that the Forum should have minutes with action points – not notes. 9 residents voted in favour of this. There were no dissenting votes.

It was requested by a resident that those who abstain in relation to a voting item should have their abstention counted.

A motion was brought to vote on not changing the terms of reference.

Councillor Boulter said that at the Wigston Forum the residents wanted the Terms of Reference kept. A resident said that it is significant if Wigston wish to keep them as well. Another resident said the Terms of Reference are simple, clear, and allow for discussion and for residents' to express views. Change could mean the Forums become less democratic. A resolution was proposed that the Terms of Reference be kept unchanged. 12 voted in favour, with no votes against.

On the 2nd and 3rd page of the proposal form there should be no voting by people with a vested interest.

In the Capital Project Funding Guidelines, there should be a clear statement that people with a vested interest in an application for funds cannot vote on the proposal.

Funding should not be awarded every year to the same group.

Have fewer presentations.

The Community Engagement Officer do a headcount of all residents attending at the start of the meeting.

The Chair added that the Forum budgets were based on population size and Section 106 which for the future would come through money from the new homes bonus for top ups.

A proposal was put forward that no funding proposals should be agreed until a common framework for applications, including written ones and an evaluation is in place and agreed. No resident spoke against the proposal. Following a vote with a show of 13 hands, the proposal was carried.

Action

A process for requesting urgent grants is to be written into the funding criteria.

Action

Place as standing agenda items for discussion; planning, planning implications and Council Tax.

Action

Advertise the Forums in the Letterbox magazine, the library and in local meeting places and business, but not in political party magazines or newsletters.

A number of residents asked about the chairing of South Wigston Forum as the Council had agreed Forums could be chaired by any Councillor, and the view was expressed that residents should have a say. Senior management had told residents the Leader could not Chair the Forum because of Conflict of Interest. John Boyce confirmed that he was Chair for that meeting but would not be Chair in the future. He confirmed no conversation had been had in the Council as to who should chair the Forum meetings. This discussion will include resident choice.

Action

The Chairmanship of the Forum with a solution or process is to be placed on the agenda for November.

14. STAFFING ISSUES

Residents were informed that: Members were informed as to this internal issue as much as legal advisers allowed.

Legal Advisers advised the Chair that no information should be shared which would make an individual`s identity known or on matters which in the future could come into the Public domain. Freedom of Information requests are available to share.

Actions have been taken and the matter is concluded.

15. CHAIR'S UPDATES

CHRISTMAS CAPERS

A resident challenged why £3500 for Christmas Capers was listed as approved and spent, as the proposal was rejected at the June Forum. Another resident said that this was a revenue item and asked why this had happened. Sharon Morris said it was a mistake. The Chair confirmed the money would not come out of Forum funds.

Concern was expressed about the funding of Christmas capers over the years.

It was requested that when the next allocation for Forum budgeting comes up could the case be looked at for redressing deprivation in South Wigston.

15a. COUNCIL BUDGET OPTIONS 2018/19 AND 2019/20

The Council is addressing a range of budget saving options.

Residents will be consulted.

15b. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Family Foodies

Family Foodies are in the process of preparing a project update to feedback to the Forum.

15c. FORUM BUDGET UPDATE

The Forum budget update will be corrected to remove the £3500 to Christmas Capers. When that correction is made, the Forum will have funds available of £23,306.

15d. SPENDING REQUESTS

PW Circuits Factory bin request

Retain this on the itinerary to resolve.

Resident request for a dog bin on Saffron Road

Leave on the itinerary and follow up.

16. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

Taxidermist and smell of dead carcasses

Retain the issue on the Taxidermist and disposal of dead carcasses. To be resolved with Environmental Health.

Missing Benches

On the Blaby Rd issue and the two parallel benches, the issue of the benches has been resolved. The gate is the missing item.

Building work on the Premier Drum Site

Work has started at the Premier Drum site to build Lidl and Wickes. The road layout is to be adjusted. The traffic light sequence will be altered to keep traffic flowing.

Items for November Agenda

Community Centre

Arriva Bus cuts

17. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is November 15 2017.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.25 PM



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Chair
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Wednesday, 08 November 2017
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