



**TO COUNCILLOR:**

G A Boulter  
J W Boyce

Mrs S B Morris  
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 **WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2017** at **7.30 PM** for the transaction of the business set out in the Agenda below.

If residents wish to discuss in confidence other issues that affect them and, or, the locality there is a surgery session with Councillors, Council Officers and the Police between **7:00 PM** and **7.30 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Council Offices  
Wigston  
**31 October 2017**

**Anne Court**  
Chief Executive (Interim)

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**For more information, please contact:**

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Oadby and Wigston Borough Council



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**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 13<sup>th</sup> 2017. Responses for collation are to be sent to the Community Engagement Officer at: [veronika.quintyne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto: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 motion was proposed that the minutes should not be action points srstructured,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.

The Terms of Reference and Council point that terms of reference should be sustainable and not change were read. A resolution was taken that the terms of reference be kept unchanged.

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> page of the proposal form there should be no voting by people with a vested interest.
- A protocol should be put in place for this Forum on allowing grants until the final proposal form has been accepted
- 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.

No conversation has not 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**

Following discussion of the Christmas Capers proposal it was confirmed that the proposal at the last meeting was rejected. It was seen as a revenue item.

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

PFD (Policy Finance and Delivery) Committee is to discuss this proposal with the new 151 Officer.

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 currently has funds available of £19,806.

**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.

**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**  
.....

**Wednesday, 08 November 2017**  
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**Oadby & Wigston**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Tell Us. Have your say and Be Heard. Share your ideas. We are listening.**

**Report Back from three consultation questions by respondees of South Wigston Residents Forum**

**Date: October 13<sup>th</sup> 2017**

From 24 cards distributed at the Residents Forum on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 3 responses were received. The contents of the responses are added here for feedback at the Residents forum to be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

The contents represent the actual stated words of the three residents who responded.

**1. How is your Forum working for you ?**

**Answer:**

Not including whole of community. Meetings do not need presentations unless relevant to the topic. Meetings not in interest of residents.

**2. What could your Forum be doing differently?**

**Answer:**

More inclusive Agenda with topics residents want to talk about.

No mobile phones

Councillors to listen to residents.

Money in fund ( Forum) needs to be accountable before being granted and afterwards.

**What more could your Forum do to make it more accessible to more residents?**

**Answer:**

Publicise.

Make meetings more where people will be listened to and feedback given.

### How is your Forum currently working for you?

It is not working. The Forum has become a propaganda and public relations exercise for the Council and the Liberal Democrats.

Nothing of importance has been brought voluntarily to the Forum for many years.

The residents are seen as a captive audience to which information is given and from which no involvement is needed. This consultation exercise is an example of the lack of understanding between councillors and residents. The yellow sheet looks as if it has been produced by a GCSE student in a hurry. The consultation time is ridiculously short. The amount of open discussion almost nil. That Wigston Forum has had five returns says it all.

There is no dynamism in the Forums. This is largely because serious debate is not encouraged, and large issues are ignored. No votes are taken, so councillors cannot be held to account. They are only too happy to take away the 'mood' of the meeting. This usually results in nothing being done.

The constant power point presentations of issues upon which residents can have no effect have led to a fall in attendance.

### What could your Forum be doing differently?

Fulfilling its terms of reference. These should not, under any pretext, be changed.

By fulfilling those terms the Forum would become an open, active arena for citizen participation. This should be seen as a positive opportunity.

Discussing issues of importance and relevance to residents, and genuinely seeking and acting upon their views. Brocks' Hill is an example. The plan was accepted before residents were asked to comment.

Stop using the Forums as an easy means to tick a required national or local consultation box. The Defra consultation is an example. Residents had to sit through 40 minutes of a presentation, but could have no impact or affect on what was before them. Why should residents turn up to have their time taken with something they cannot affect or change? Discuss things residents can influence, or will be of use to them.

Take clear votes on issues and record them. Councillors have consistently kept decision making vague. The result is nothing is carried through, and no one can point to what was actually agreed or decided.

Voting means keeping proper records. This means taking accurate minutes. The present minutes in all three Forums are unsatisfactory. It may be time to employ a professional minute taker. The present monies paid to Forum Chairs is excessive to the work

required. Half of this should be used to employ a professional minute taker for all Forums.

The minutes should also properly reflect the mood of the meetings – including recording criticism of the Council, and elected members. To date, any criticism of the Council has not appeared in the minutes, unless challenged under amendments. This is unhealthy. It's a form of censorship.

Putting a proper funding system in place:

- The original Forums didn't allocate money
- Applications should be reduced and carefully defined
- All applications should be submitted in writing
- All applications should account for spending and return unused funds.
- Any application refused should not be passed by the back door of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee.

Having relevant officers, including the CEO, attend the Forum to answer questions more often.

### **What could your Forum do to make it more accessible to residents?**

Discuss important issues.

Have the agenda set by residents and the Chair.

Take votes on issues.

Keep proper minutes with votes recorded and criticism of the Council included.

Build the Forum around simple psychological principles. Organisations need three ostensibly simple steps to make them effective.

Purpose: What is the organisation for?

Mastery: The members propose and decide. They then expect decisions to be moved forward. The means of action are known to all and clearly defined. In the case of the Forum, the organisation should be owned by the residents.

Feedback: Decisions are acted upon and the results fed back. Here, residents can then understand what has happened and why. People can see the results of decisions and reflect upon them. This will inform future decisions.

Bring topics of interest and importance to residents e.g. why do people cycle on pavements, and how do we live with this.

Bring the large issues facing the local authority into the Forum e.g. the impact the ending of central government funding to local authorities will have in 2020.

## **How is your Forum currently working for you?**

The terms of reference are brilliant and shouldn't be changed.

Unfortunately the wealth of opportunity offered by the terms of reference haven't been fulfilled for some considerable time. This has been due to:

- Top down agenda planning and style of chairing
- Too many presentations
- Not enough time to talk about issues of importance to residents – because it's squeezed out to the end, or has to be wrestled back from a packed agenda.
- The Forum is supposed to give residents a greater say in Council decisions. But mostly residents don't hear about issues and decisions which may affect them until it's too late.
- Very poor follow up on issues with limited reporting back of whether things have been resolved. Councillors tend to either say something can't be done, or say they'll take an issue back - but with no outcome or follow up. It seems to be like a black box.
- Poor governance of Forum funding – minimal requirements for properly presented plans and costings at application stage; no apparent checking or oversight by named officers in finance; poor or non-existent monitoring, review and reporting.

## **What could your Forum be doing differently?**

Lots of time at the beginning of each meeting for residents to discuss issues that are important to them. Much more open style of chairing to facilitate discussion.

Far fewer presentations – residents' time shouldn't be taken so the Council can tick a 'consultation' box or do PR.

Be much more open about current issues the Council needs to decide about and have open discussion about them in the Forum. Residents could be more up to date with possible changes or spending decisions. And Councillors could hear wider views about how proposals might affect their constituents. E.g. How would residents feel about the possible closure of public toilets?

Examples of issues which could be discussed early in the process might include:

- Options for saving money
- Options for major developments and the likely costs
- Significant planning proposals – (It is fully understood that Councillors cannot give a view before any decision, but that doesn't preclude outlining proposals in order to hear residents' views.)
- Much greater openness as early as possible about any difficulties the Council is facing
- Honesty about mistakes or fallibility

More explicit use of working groups. Needs to be a focus on making a difference. That could be to work more closely on trying to solve a local problem, or to bring about completion of a project to benefit the area. Councillors and residents working together might help achieve an outcome more

promptly than the current pattern of issues being 'taken back'. Collaboration would be an important part of residents being more involved.

Need for much more robust system for every stage of funding to local groups – proper proposals and costings; oversight by named officer in finance; submission of accounts; monitoring, review and reporting during grant period and at conclusion of project.

**What more could your Forum do to make it more accessible to more residents?**

Fewer presentations: they make people feel they're a 'captive audience' and unable to respond – so they end up staying away out of boredom.

Actions to be taken and reported back far more swiftly. That would help people feel that being involved is worthwhile if it helps things to improve.

Have a working group in each Forum to plan specific ways to increase attendance. That has to include that the Forum itself is set to work more effectively as above.

South Wigston Residents Forum – 08/11/2017

### ***Chairperson's Update – November 2017***

The Local Plan contains planning policies that drive, as well as shape sustainable development in the Borough throughout the Plan period up to 2031. The Plan will also protect and enhance the Borough's historic heritage and green open spaces.

So far, the Council has undertaken the two stages of public consultation; the first taking place between October and November 2015, the second between November and December 2016. Those periods of consultation sought to focus upon the Key Challenges and the Preferred Options for the Borough's Local Plan.

The comments and the responses from those previous consultation periods have been taken into account by officers whilst producing this Pre-Submission draft document that is now to be consulted upon. The latest draft of the Local Plan contains the Council's preferred approach to tackling the key challenges and delivering sustainable development for the Plan period. The document is currently being publicly consulted on for a six week period which commenced on Monday, 6th November through to 5pm on Monday, 18th December 2017. The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan and its supporting evidence based documents are available to view online on the Council's website, or in the Council's Customer Services Centre in Bell Street, Wigston; Wigston Library; Oadby Library; and, South Wigston Library.

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.