

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OADBY RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT CIVIC SUITE,
BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON
THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT

J Kaufman Chair



Meeting ID: 2973

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
S Z Haq
K J Loydall
I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Smith Community Safety & Youth Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sgt. M Body Leicestershire Police

70. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Bushloe House has planning permission and has been sold. The buyer has asked for a small amendment to the contract for this.

Oadby Pool Site a planning application is imminent for this. The developer that has bought the site expects for this to be this month, and a Section 106 agreement with the County Council is also being discussed. An ecology report concerning the badgers is also underway.

Food waste collections beginning 30 March 2026. A residents queried this scheme as it was previously trialled in the Borough and stopped. The new scheme is central government funded.

Devolution – Cllr. Haq noted that the Government’s consultation on the three submitted plans for Leicestershire is now live and residents are encouraged to complete this. The consultation runs for 6 weeks and the Government will then review. A response is expected by summer recess.

Rain Gardens – Residents are frustrated with the lack of a meeting on this to date. The proposal will be heard again this evening.

Iliffe Park – No update available. M Smith will chase for a further update as residents are frustrated with the lack of information. The Council has approved a new parks strategy, following public consultation, placing a focus on the development of the smaller parks in the Borough.

71. POLICE UPDATE

Sgt Body introduced himself to residents as Local NPA Sgt and gave an overview of crime figures for Oadby. Burglary – in the last 100 days, 2023 – 37 burglaries, CSP funding and Safer Streets items were provided in response to these figures, 2024 – 16 burglaries, marked difference following previous years' intervention. 2025 – 10 burglaries. Police actions, patrols, incentives and initiatives appear to be working in relation to burglaries which present as the main public concern. The detection rate for burglaries is unfortunately low, but seasonal sprees are a focus for the Police.

Vehicle Crime – including vehicle interference (stolen plates etc.) through to theft of motor vehicle 2023 – 24, 2024 – 16, 2025 – 18.

Shop Thefts – Dedicated officers have been working across the NPA to collate evidence of shop thefts, with criminal behaviour orders having been issued to some perpetrators, including bans from specific stores in the area.

Cannabis Warrants – A number have been undertaken over the last 6 months, with one house having over 400 plants growing in them. This is approx. £70k worth of cannabis removed from the streets. Sometimes police are criticised for not moving fast enough but there is a strict process that has to be following through evidence gathering, intelligence gathering, and via the courts. Reports can be made through the Police website and crimestoppers.

University of Leicester – Bike Register – Students were having bikes stolen from Halls of Residence. There is a higher chance of registered bikes being returned to their owners if stolen.

eBikes and eScooters – Working with schools around the legality of scooter use, with messages going out via the schools to parents. There are fire risks associated with aftermarket batteries.

School Parking Wardens – Local officers have been out with school parking wardens were possible, this is an action that needs to be balanced against other areas of work. This work will continue.

Social Media – Lots of comments and questions are being asked via social media, or in relation to social media posts. There is a lot of misinformation being shared regarding burglaries, or the same incident being raised multiple times which can inflate the perception of crime.

Speed Cameras – Raised by a resident. Data can be collected via speed guns by PCSOs which is passed to the Road Safety Team. Decisions on local placement sites etc. are not made by local NPA officers.

Oadby Industrial Estate – Car Cruises – Road Safety Team are aware of these and have action plans in place for the cruise dates. Section 59 notices have been issued to some drivers and ANPR cameras are in use by the police. A resident also raised an issue of speeding vehicles on the A6, suspected of racing, which appears to be a weekly occurrence – some of this is linked to the car cruises and the Roads Policing Team are aware. Residents are encouraged to report incident via 101 or the online form to build evidence and intelligence. A resident highlighted an incident on the Saturday before Christmas of a gathering of vehicles in laybys along the A6 which were entering the carriageway at speed; this wasn't reported at the time.

Oadby Parade – Car Parking outside takeaways and around Chestnut Avenue – This is an ongoing issue which residents are growing frustrated with. The Police have attended the shops that are regularly linked to the vehicles to discuss and deter the parking. Vehicles parked on corners or dangerously the Police will attend. Reports need to be made via 101 or the online form in order to build intelligence. Parking Wardens are responsible for parking enforcement. Dangerous Parking refers to vehicles that block sight lines for other drivers, or poses a danger to members of the public. Blue Badge holders have dispensation to park on double yellows. Zig-Zag parking is a Police matter. Councillors have looked at placing planters outside of Bru to block vehicles accessing the pavement, this is awaiting funding. Cllr. Ridley noted that LCC employ traffic wardens, and that their website highlights that obstruction on the pavement adjacent to double yellow lines is still the responsibility of LCC's wardens. Residents are frustrated with the lack of representation of LCC Highways at the Forum which is an ongoing issue. The Government has announced that local councils will be granted powers to remove obstructions from the highway, there is no timeline for this presently.

Domestic Violence – The increasing figures were queried. It was confirmed by Sgt. Body that reporting and recording of domestic incidents have changed, and an argument in the household could now be logged as a domestic incident without necessarily being violent. The NPA has a really high detection rate, one of the highest in the County, which also increases figures. DA Protection Notices are also being utilised by local officers and the courts locally. Data can be provided on detected crimes and positive outcomes.

CCTV Cameras – M Smith provided an overview of the redeployable CCTV units operated in the Borough and how they are moved around depending on seasonal crime trends and data-driven need.

72. CHAIR'S UPDATES

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73. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

OWBC Local Plan

OWBC housing number has changed from 240 to 389 which must be reflected in the Borough's local plan. The plan was to be resubmitted for OWBC due to this change. A resident queried what would happen if the Council does not have the land or infrastructure, or developers, available to meet the government targets. The Council is currently assessing if the Borough can meet this need. If the land supply isn't available other areas will pick up the shortfall. Residents queried if the housing planning will include schools; this was confirmed as yes.

Development Control Committee – Padel Courts, Washbrook Lane

The application is scheduled for the 26 February 2026 meeting. We have speaking rights but best for him to discuss with the committee clerks how these are exercised. Cllr. Haq noted that this may now be March 2026 due to the Lead Planning Officer falling unwell. The Planning Portal will be updated when the application moves forward. A resident noted that he and his wife submitted objections to this plan which never appeared on the website. Cllr. Haq noted that objections are collated into figures, and if multiple objections are received that are similar they are summarised on the application rather than appearing individually. Another resident noted that they are concerned that objections, or letters of support, are being summarised. It was confirmed that all objections are read individually

and logged, and that summaries are presented in reports for brevity. The clearance of waste on the site was also raised and Cllr. Ridley updated that officers had visited the site and found nothing buried under the surface when tested – residents are surprised by this as they witnessed materials being buried and provided photographs.

Brocks Hill Toilet Signage

Cllr. Kaufman and a resident both raised this as Jennos are providing public toilets. Cllr. Kaufman will pursue this with relevant Council Officers as it is still believed the toilets should be signposted.

School Parking Issues – Ridge Way, Oadby

LCC operates a camera vehicle which does act as a deterrent, and local Police officers do attend the school as often as possible in relation to other duties and parking issues at other schools. A resident queried the CCTV camera on the Ridge Way and confirmed that it is owned by OWBC and accessible by the Police.

Overgrown and Poorly Maintained Pathways – Hunters Way, Oadby

This was raised in advance of the Forum via email. Privately owned hedges growing into the highway are enforced by LCC Highways. There is an online reporting form for this that can be found via <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem>.

Rain Gardens – T Lester

T Lester spoke on the proposed Rain Gardens project for the Parade discussed in October's meeting of the Forum. The Pride of the Borough Group met with T Lester before Christmas to discuss this, and made introductions to the Washbrook Wombles. Meeting with these groups reinforced the public desire to see green spaces improved and maintained in the Borough. The Council's Planning Team had confirmed that it does not have capacity to meet to discuss this proposal, due to work on the new Local Plan, but Members are still keen to meet with T Lester to maintain momentum. A short presentation was provided to M Smith by T Lester which will be included in the Minutes of this meeting. The rain garden proposal will also positively impact the on-street parking issues previously raised in the meeting, and create a green pathway connecting the Botanical Gardens through to Brocks Hill. Maintenance of the gardens would need to be planned for within the project proposal, and that even a 'do nothing' approach is not cost free or cost neutral – the area proposed for these installations are not designed to have 2-tonne vehicles parked upon them which will start to cause damage to the surfaces and infrastructure – a rain garden preventing parking would alleviate this. The community groups spoken to are enthusiastic, and funding streams are available to be explored including Severn Trent. If the vision for the Parade is that car users take priority then honesty would be appreciated, but it is hoped the vision on offer provides more pride, public safety, and climate resilience. The Chair asked if a Town Council can be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of this Forum – Cllr. Haq noted that this may not be possible based on guidance from Central Government, but that an 'Area Committee' may be possible. Cllr. Haq spoke of the Town Centre Manager and their focus across all three town centres, and a desire to see a balance between cars and pedestrians in the town centres. Cllr. Haq is also happy to join any meeting with T Lester to look at a 'legacy' for Oadby & Wigston. M Griffiths introduced himself to residents as an Alderman of the Borough, and highlighted his frustration at the lack of a meeting having taken place to date – the Chair provided a brief explanation of why there have been delays in a meeting being arranged, with illness and officer and Member availability both factoring.

Road Safety on Wigston Road

Residents raised a fatal collision on Wigston Road two years ago; this was raised at the

time as a road safety concern and advice was given that until an investigation and court outcome was complete no changes to the road could take place. This has now occurred and local residents have now put forward a request to meet with local and county councillors to now discuss low-cost options to improve the road safety in this area. Part of this proposal would be a 20mph speed limit through Oadby Town Centre. Where the road passes St George's Nursery there are serious concerns with the speed of passing vehicles. Initial support has been indicated by local PCSOs and the MP for Harborough, Oadby and Wigston. Previous discussions regarding this proposed the removal of the bus shelter on Wigston Road to improve sight-lines – officers previously highlighted a need for the outcome of any investigation to be known before the decision to remove a bus shelter is made. The outcome should now be available and Members will chase this with relevant officers in the Council, with the item to be raised at the next meeting of this Forum. Residents also highlighted another incident on Fairstone Hill where a member of the public was injured. With a large housing development straddling the Oadby / Harborough border traffic issues are only going to increase. Another resident highlighted that these incidents highlight a need for better public transport in the area to reduce the number of cars on the road, or for the number of 30-minute free spaces in our car parks to be increased.

Car Parking behind M&S

A resident queried where the funds from this car park end up. It was confirmed that the funds are received by OWBC, and that the pot holes that have been raised as a concern are on a section of the car park owned by Lynn House.

74. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None raised.

75. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

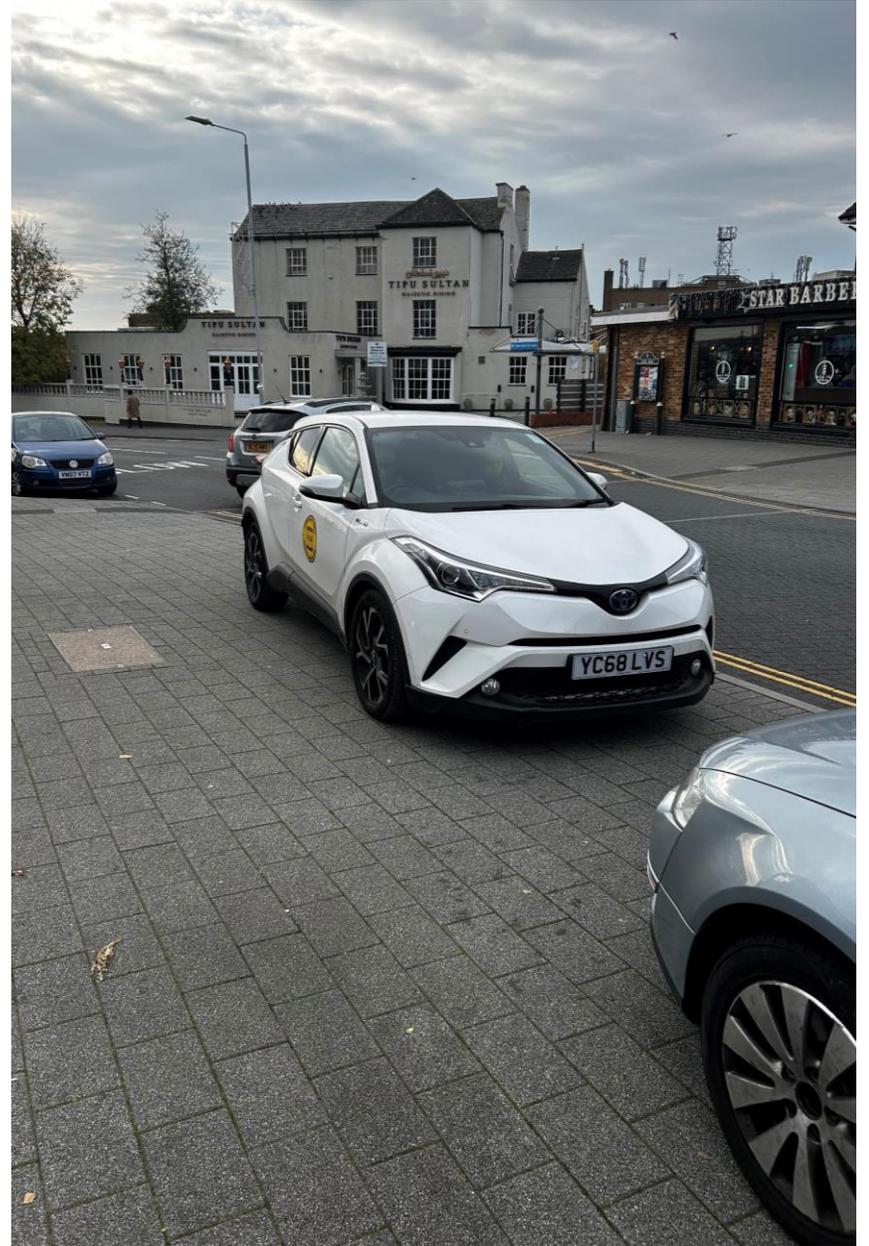
Thursday, 14 May 2026 – 18:30 – Brocks Hill Council Offices

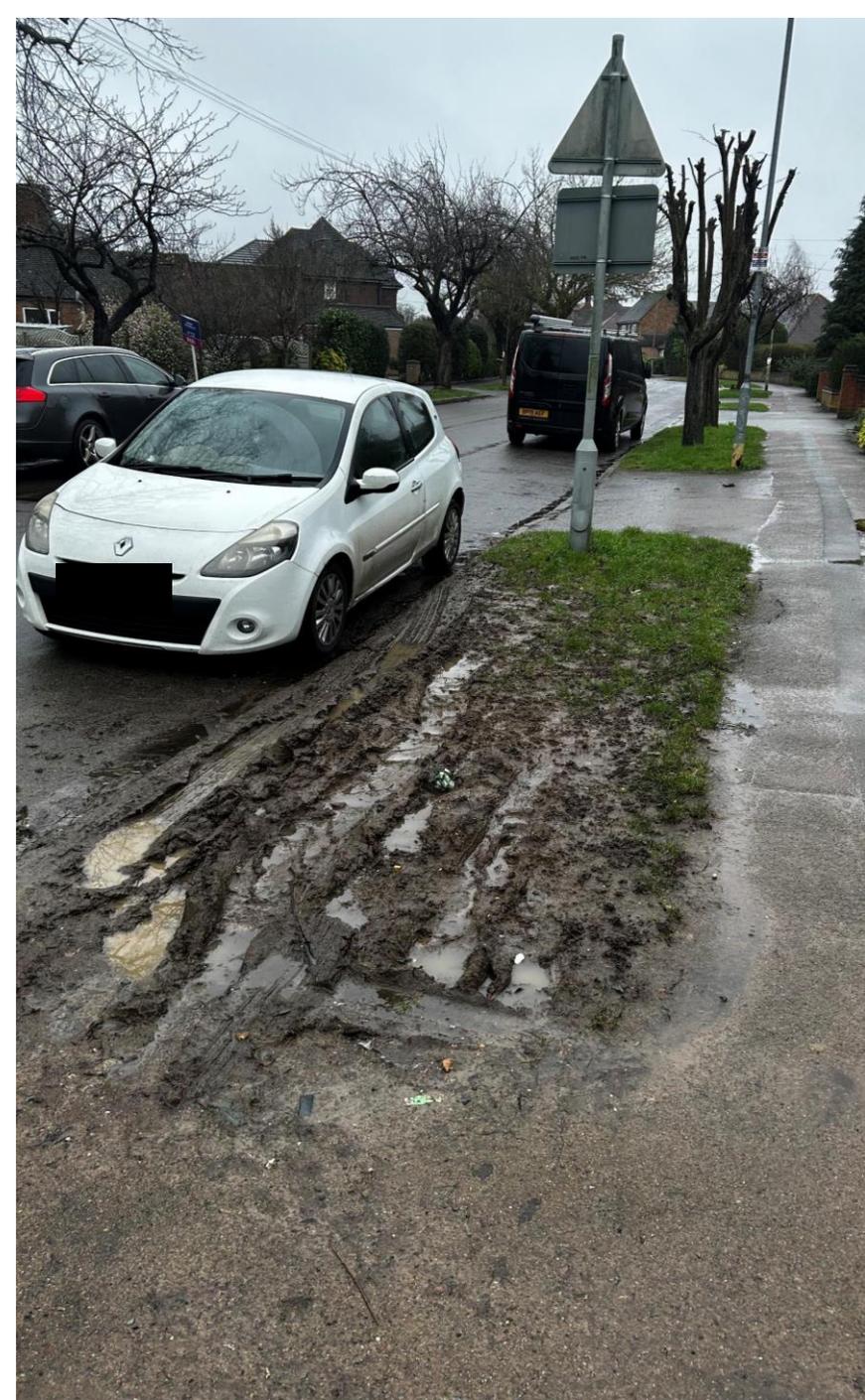
76. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AGREED

1. **M Smith** to seek a further update on Iliffe Park works.
2. **Cllr. Kaufman** to seek an update on toilet signage for Brocks Hill.
3. **M Smith** to include the LCC Highways reporting form in the Minutes of this meeting.
4. **M Smith** to coordinate with noted Members and Officers to arrange a meeting with T Lester to discuss the rain garden proposal.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.04 pm







Funding Opportunities

Severn Trent Community Fund

£20,000 to £50,000

Panel	Submit your application by 23:59	We'll let you know the outcome by
March 2026	Sunday 1 February 2026	April 2026
September 2026	Sunday 2 August 2026	October 2026

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Close

The Costa Coffee Community Grant

In celebration of our 50th Birthday in 2021, we created the Costa Coffee Community Grant.



We put out a call to our team members to nominate the charities and groups in their areas that were making a huge difference in their communities. We then provided £50,000 in direct grants to 100 different organisations across the country. Since then, we have continued to distribute this grant on an annual basis with our 2023 grant supporting a wide range of charities such as Smartworks, hospitals and sports teams.

National Lottery – Environment Programme *

Summary

Funding is available for not-for-profit organisations to tackle environmental challenges at the local level and will support community-led projects that help people engage with, care for, and protect nature.

Funding can be used for a wide range of activities, including creating community gardens, rewilding green spaces, tree planting, outdoor learning, repair and reuse sessions, food-growing initiatives, and energy-saving projects such as solar panel installation.

Key Criteria

- Applicants should apply at least 16 weeks before the anticipated project start date
- The Lottery now states it will not accept applications written for you by private businesses or consultants
- It will not fund improvements to school facilities or projects that mainly benefit teachers, pupils or parents. Projects must involve and benefit the community outside of the school

~~Amounts available: Between £300 and £20,000 (for up to two years)~~

~~Application deadlines: Open but scheme closes 17th December 2025~~

International Tree Foundation – Tree Planting Grants

Summary

Funding is available for community groups, schools, and local organisations to support tree planting and conservation projects on public or publicly accessible land.

Projects may also include community engagement and educational activities

Key Criteria

- Applying organisations must have signed permission from the owner or manager of the land indicating that the project meets all legal requirements
- The projects must be planting indigenous tree species, be engaging the community in the planting and have clear plans for maintenance and sustainability

Amounts available: £2.05 provided per tree for woodlands and hedging, plus two maintenance grants of £0.10 per tree in the first two summers

~~Application deadlines: Applications can be submitted anytime from July onwards. Final deadline 12th December 2025 (The application process consists of an initial eligibility check followed by a detailed proposal for shortlisted projects).~~