

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THYTHORN HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE - HORSEWELL LANE, WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE LE18 2HR ON WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

G A Boulter                      Chair



**Meeting ID:** 2974

**COUNCILLORS**

L A Bentley  
M H Charlesworth  
J K Ford  
C S Gore  
K J Loydall  
C J R Martin

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

M Smith                              Community Safety & Youth Officer

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

PC G Morgan                      Leicestershire Police  
PCSO C Hayter                    Leicestershire Police  
Cllr. J McDonald                Leicestershire County Council

**109. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr. Martin notes that he was present at the previous meeting but his attendance has not been recorded.

Item 104, Council Budget – The figure of homeless people in temporary accommodation should be 100 and not 1000.

Item 105, Flags on Lampposts – Wording queried, proposed change to "A residents asked about the many flags..."

**110. POLICE UPDATE**

PC Morgan introduced himself and PCSO Hayter to residents. As far as Wigston has gone from the Police's position some nearby areas suffered from a spate of burglaries but Wigston has not seen an increase.

The Police have today received a green light to take planned actions around eScooters / eBikes in the Borough. Parking on Meadow Way was raised by residents within Item 4, the lack of restrictive road markings were raised where the zig-zags outside of the school are the only markings. Parking is a deferred power which sat with the Police for some time but now sits with LCC, and has done for some years. Police will get involved in parking issues if the parking is dangerous, i.e. putting pedestrians and other vehicles at risk, or parked in a way which forces people into oncoming traffic. The Police and Council can remove vehicles that are blocking the egress of a driveway, but no power exists to remove vehicles

blocking access to driveways. If a vehicle is out of road tax for 2 months and 1 day and on the highway the Police can remove the vehicle under DVLA powers. The Police noted that some recent parking issues have related to vehicles that have broken down in the cold weather, and that a balanced approach needs to be taken to this. As a beat team the control team will defer to LCC normally, but PC Morgan noted he is happy to visit areas where problem parking is reported but can't promise action will be taken if powers do not exist.

A resident raised concerns with the volume and speed of vehicles using the shortcut of Guthlaxton Way between Welford Road and Newton Lane – farm vehicles are a usual culprit for this and its not always possible to see number plates on them. The Police will do enforcement with speed guns in areas where multiple or regular complaints are received – they have previously attended Launceston Road. The Police need to be aware of the issues, with reports being made, in order to take action. Residents note that the new estate in this area may be contributing to the changes to the flow and speed of traffic. The resident who raised Guthlaxton Way as a concern noted that they received a letter from the Council in response, which they do not believe they should have received, which highlighted the Council is “afraid to take action” due to the nature of the agricultural businesses. Cllr. Loydall noted the importance of residents making reports in order to gather the required evidence to take action. Cllr. Bentley asked if the letter referred to by the resident could be shared with him, and provided an overview of the Planning Conditions which restricts the use of some of the roads to certain types of traffic around the new build estates. The new road connecting through to Newton Lane is near completion which will move some traffic away from Guthlaxton Way.

Cllr. Martin raised the number of vehicles driving around at night with no headlights, one headlight, or fog lights on, including delivery drivers, and asked if the Police are still pulling over vehicles with these issues. PC Morgan noted that officers do pull over vehicles doing this where possible. It was also noted that the number of drink drivers in the Wigston area has increased and that the Police are taking action to address this in the coming weeks. PC Morgan noted that he is happy to be a point of contact for registration numbers of vehicles which concern residents to be sent through to for them to be looked into.

## **111. CHAIR'S UPDATES**

**Local Government Reorganisation:** Consultation from Central Government is out, and the Chair has encouraged residents to respond to the survey to have their say on the three proposed plans for the future of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A response from the Government is expected in late Spring or early Summer. The consultation can be completed via <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/leicestershire-and-leicester-and-rutland/>

**The Old Crown, Moat Street:** No application has been submitted for a change of use of the building at present. Scaffolding is up at the building but it is unclear what works are underway. A resident queried what the Council would class as ‘inappropriate plans’ for the building. The Chair noted that anything that preserves the building, and does not cause a disturbance to neighbours with noise and vehicles may be deemed as acceptable. The ownership of the building is not a Planning consideration. Ongoing works cannot be inspected by the Council until a planning application is submitted. Once the building opens the Council can enforce any breach of existing planning conditions. The existing ‘plans’ for the building put forward by the current owners are publicly available, and have been passed to the Council. The building’s location in a Conservation Area will affect what can be done with the building. The Council’s Planning Officers and Enforcement Officers are

aware of the Old Crown, and Cllr. Bentley will enquire with them regarding the current works. Residents noted there are new windows to the rear of the building that may breach conservation orders.

**The Elms:** Enforcement has been taken regarding the windows but no results to date. Residents raised concerns regarding parking at and around the Elms during events that they are hosting. There are no planning restrictions regarding this as events fall within the permitted use of the building. Parking is the responsibility of LCC.

**Council Budgets:** OWBC has proposed a 2.5% increase in Council Tax, which is less than the recommend 2.9%. There will be no increase in charges for car parks or garden waste. The meeting to confirm this is taking place tomorrow night. LFRS is increasing their total charge to £91, OWBC is £258, and Police £315. County Council precept increase will be 2.99% approved today. A resident noted that they are pleased that the garden waste charge is not increasing, and highlighted that the existing charge is higher than Blaby District's charge of around £45. The charge for a second garden waste bin has increased however.

**Homelessness:** Around 100 people remain in bed and breakfast which is costing the Council approx. £1m annually. Most of these individuals are homeless through no fault of their own, with an increase in landlords evicting tenants before new legislation comes into force. Government Inspectors are interviewing the Council this coming Monday in respect of its response to homelessness.

**Admiral Sportswear:** The Council is doing a feature on Admiral Sportswear to celebrate their work in the World Cup. Neville Chadwick passed all of the photographs taken for this to the Getty Institute who charge £360 per image. Europa Sport, Belvoir Sports etc. all operated in the Borough.

**Register of Social Landlords:** The Government is inspecting the Council as a social landlord, a score of 1 is perfect and a score of 4 is "not very good". The Council is hoping their current standards will result in a rating of 2. This is a very involved process for the Council, similar to an Ofsted inspection.

**Willow Park Play Area:** This has been redesigned to support better access for disabled children, and has officially opened today. Willow Park was chosen for this due to the location of the existing car park.

## **112. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

**School Parking on Meadow Way:** See Police update.

**Area underneath Wigston Library:** Appears to be being used by a number of rough sleepers. This has not been reported to the Council as far as the Chair is aware, and the last survey of rough sleepers did not find any in the Borough. Residents highlighted a number of sleeping bags at this location. M Smith will raise this with the Council's Housing Team.

**Admiral Sportswear Building:** The third company to refurbish the building is currently continuing the work to turn it into flats. The previous two companies have gone bust.

**Old Working Men's Club, Long Street:** The land is in poor condition and becoming an eye sore. No planning applications have been put forward for this area. South

Leicestershire Islamic Society has registered the Old Crown as its charity address and has approached the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness for use of the land as a car park for the Old Crown.

**Nail Bars and Turkish Barbers:** Are there any restrictions on the number that can operate in the Borough. No, this is driven by market forces.

**Spion Kop:** The planning application put in for the parapet of the bridge was refused. Works still need to occur on the bridge but there is no current plans around this.

**Grass Cutting:** Some parcels of land are now privately owned and are not being appropriately managed. The Council can enforce on this if they are not maintained.

**Viking Road / Aylestone Lane:** There is significant flooding here which was reported to Cllr. McDonald at this meeting, as County Councillor, for LCC Highways to address. The junction of Oadby Road and Bull Head Street was also raised which M Smith will report to LCC Highways. Flooding along Bull Head Street occurs regularly due to a number of springs which empty into this location. Local knowledge around flooding is being overlooked when planning applications for new build houses are being submitted, with experts reporting flooding once in 100 years for some locations which are flooding regularly. The volume of traffic increasing in the Borough due to the number of new build properties was also raised by residents, where it was also noted there are longer term plans to build the new Eastern Distribution Road putting a new motorway junction close to the rear of Countesthorpe and Blaby. This has been 'on the cards' for over 60 years.

**Light Pollution Issues:** Are these handled by the Council as the lights from the tennis courts on Horsewell Lane are illuminating far more than their courts. Cllr. Bentley will look into this.

**Bull Head Street Citybound:** Proper resurfacing works are required now instead of patching works as the condition has further deteriorated following the cold and wet weather. The surface is now posing a hazard to pedestrians, particularly near to the Police Station and Morrisons.

**Pedestrian Controlled Lights:** The lights do not appear to be controlled by pedestrians, and appear to be operating on a time delay where there is a significant wait between pressing the button and the lights changing. There are also concerns with the length of time the crossing near to Cedar Avenue are taking so long to change that the 'request light' for pedestrians is timing out. Traffic lights at the Welford Road / Newton Lane junction are only letting a handful of cars through at a time. The Chair noted that LCC are able to amend the timing of the lights. M Smith will report this matter through to them.

**Meadow Way Development:** There are no plans submitted for development here, but it may feature in the Council's new Local Plan. Expressions of interest for landowners to see their land developed have been requested, and are being assessed, but it is believed the Borough will need to declare an unmet need for housing. The Local Plan will cover development for the next 30 years in the Borough. A resident queried how Local Government Reorganisation will affect the Local Plan when it occurs; it is likely the new authority after reorganisation will draft their own Local Plan.

**Little Hill Estate Pavements:** Residents noted that the condition of the footpaths on the estate has significantly declined, and require resurfacing. This is the responsibility of LCC Highways and should be reported to them.

**Street Lights:** A query was raised as to whether the brightness of the lights has been decreased. It is thought that some of the street lights have been dimmed to 30% as a cost saving measure but not all, however this is significantly affecting visibility for drivers and pedestrians. There is an evidenced based process, which requires police support, for street lights to be brightened. Residents asked if some lights near to bus stops can be brightened – this can be looked into. A request was made for the street lights to be assessed by LCC as since the alteration of the lights to LEDs the overall cost will remain the same regardless of brightness. Residents also noted that as some of the 'next stop' signs on buses are not working, stops have been missed when the dimmed street lights are making it difficult to see where the bus currently is.

**Bus Shelter Refurbishment:** The condition of some shelters is very poor, with a resident asking if they are to be refurbished. It was noted that if the money can be found to do so then they will be refurbished. A number of meetings ago some Levelling Up funding was proposed for use on bus shelters, this is likely to still be the case but the full amount of funding required is still being sought. The Horsewell Lane bus shelter is 50% stronger than others in the Borough due to previous vandalism.

**Oadby Waste Site:** A resident noted that today they were unable to recycle plastic at the tip and were advised to put them into general waste. Milk bottles are not currently being accepted as recycling at the tip, and Cllr. McDonald was asked to look in to this as an LCC Councillor. Oadby & Wigston's recycling waste goes to CasePak and they do accept plastic milk bottles. The County Council's waste does not go to CasePak, and their operatives cannot do milk bottles which is why residents are being directed to put them into general waste at Oadby Tip. Hard plastic does go to landfill from the tips.

**Oadby and Wigston Civic Orchestra:** The last concert for the Orchestra will be taking place on 28 February at Beauchamp College. The conductor will be retiring after 60 years.

**County Council's Council Tax Increase:** Cllr. Martin queried on behalf of residents present why Council Tax is increasing when Reform campaigned on a platform of no increases. Cllr. McDonald noted that Council Tax could have increased by 5% but is only increasing by 2.99%.

### **113. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None raised.

### **114. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 20 May 2026 – Thythorn Hill Community Centre – 19:00

### **115. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AGREED**

1. **M Smith** to include a link to the Government's Local Government Reorganisation consultation in the Minutes of this meeting.
2. **Cllr. Bentley** to speak with the Council's Planning Team regarding the works at the Old Crown.
3. **M Smith** to alert the Council's Housing Team to the potential of a homeless individual sleeping under Wigston Library.

4. **M Smith** to report the road surface conditions, flooding locations and pedestrian controlled lights timing raised in this meeting to **Cllr. McDonald** at the County Council.
5. **Cllr. Bentley** to look into the issue raised regarding light pollution from the floodlights at Wigston Tennis Club.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.20 pm**