

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT
FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHESHIRE DRIVE, SOUTH WIGSTON,
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE18 4WA ON WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT
7.00 PM**

PRESENT

G A Boulter Chair



Meeting ID: 2975

COUNCILLORS

R H Adams
K J Loydall
C A M Walter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Smith Community Safety & Youth Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

PCSO Breslin Leicestershire Police

9. APOLOGIES

- Cllr. C Gore

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held on 11 December 2025, were declared true and accurate.

11. MINUTES FROM JULY 2025

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2025 were declared true and accurate.

12. POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Breslin introduced himself to residents and encouraged residents to raise concerns they may have. The car park on Windlass Drive was raised as a location of interest for residents, with NOS cannisters being found there which are clearly being used by drivers who then leave the site in their vehicles whilst under the influence. NOS cannisters can be legitimately possessed so the Police do not have specific powers of seizure. Patrols in the areas raised by residents (Windlass, Cromwell, Namur) can be increased by the Police. PCSO Breslin noted that he has attended Windlass Drive car park every shift he has been on duty. When the car park comes into Council ownership a height barrier will be installed at this location.

Shop thefts in South Wigston are down 50% compared to Q3 last year, with 90% of incidents associated with individuals from Eyres Monsell. Op Detect has been running with 2 dedicated, full-time officers for 6 months which has had a huge impact on the number of

incidents at the One Stop on Gloucester Crescent. Targeted shoplifting at the One Stop has been almost eliminated.

Op Pedalfast, targeting eScooters and eBikes, has been implemented in the Borough as per the Leicester city centre. Local officers are addressing the use of illegal eScooters and eBikes as traffic offences. Courts have been reluctant to prosecute previously. Local officers can now seize eScooters and eBikes on the spot without issuing guidance or a warning, and are conducting plain clothes operations targeting riders. On the first day of the Op seized an £800 eScooter issued a fine and summons to the rider. Some eScooter riders are intimidating as they travel in groups with balaclavas or other face coverings. ASB overall is down 31%.

ASB incidents near to the One Stop on Gloucester Crescent has also significantly reduced.

Speeding vehicles on Gloucester Crescent were raised again. Local officers have attended with a speed gun previously, and their presence has deterred speeding, but this reoccurs at other times. Residents also raised that vehicles are travelling on the opposite side of the island near Nova Laboratories at speed. Police are spending a significant amount of time on Gloucester Crescent in marked vehicles currently which will deter speeding. A resident queried if any figures were available from the speed camera van that was parked on Dorset Avenue; these aren't currently available.

The perception of burglaries on the Fairfield Estate is higher than reported incidents. There has been a 100% increase in patrols in the area, with marked and unmarked vehicles, and uniformed and plain clothes officers. 350 homes have been visited. Target hardening items have also been handed out to households. The average burglaries in the area significantly reduced from 2024 to 2025, and in 2026 to date there have been 2 burglaries reported. By comparison Eyres Monsell have had 39 burglaries and Wigston 55 in the previous year. Of the 15 burglaries on the Fairfield Estate in 2025 none of the properties had an active burglar alarm.

Problem parking was queried with the Police noting that most parking issues, apart from zig-zag parking and dangerous / obstructive parking, are the responsibility of LCC's parking wardens and not the Police. LCC are reportedly increasing the number of wardens in the area. A further question was asked of the Chair regarding parked vehicles obstructing an ambulance, with the residents requiring resuscitation in the street on Waverley Road by paramedics, as the ambulance itself could not reach them. There are yellow lines halfway down Waverley Road. Residents noted that OWBC bin lorries are mounting the payment here to get by parked vehicles. M Smith was asked to raise this at the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership, and with LCC Highways. M Smith will also ask LFRS to visit this location with a fire engine.

13. CHAIR'S UPDATES

Local Government Reorganisation: The Government's consultation on the three proposed plans for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is currently up and running. Residents have been encouraged to complete this survey and have their say on which of the proposed plans they would prefer. Once devolution has taken place there may be options for the development of Parish or Town Councils for the Borough. OWBC proposed half a million pounds in the budget to support devolution works. This consultation being ran and promoted only online will disenfranchise a large number of people in the Borough, but sits outside of OWBC control as it is a Central Government consultation. M Smith will ask Comms about the possibility of the consultation being promoted on the Council's noticeboards. A postal address is available on the Gov.uk website for this survey for

residents to respond in writing.

Council Tax: Council Tax has been increased by OWBC by 2.99%. There have been no increases in car parking charges or garden waste charges. The Police precept is expected to increase by £315 a year, LFRS £91, OWBC £268, and the County Council has also increased by 2.99%.

Local Plan: The Council's Local Plan for the next 30 years is being developed, and is currently going through consultation. Government figures say the Borough must build 380 houses per year but there is not the land for this, which will likely result in an unmet need being declared. If the new town is built on the Harborough / Oadby border 800 homes will be on the Oadby side which would satisfy building needs for 3 years.

Homelessness: This is likely to increase through March until Section 21 evictions are removed. 66 families are in Bed and Breakfast accommodation currently. This will cost the Council £1m this year.

Council Housing Inspections: Government inspectors will be visiting the Borough and assessing the condition of its housing stock. Ratings are on a 1-4 scale, with the Council hoping for a 2 currently, with 1 being the highest. The review focuses on the Council's paperwork and processes for housing stock.

William Gunning Park: New play equipment will be being installed here this year. £245,000 was allocated by the Council for play equipment in the Borough in this financial year.

Covid Memorial: No progress as yet. Considerations are being given to if the memorial will be for South Wigston only or for the whole Borough.

Litter Bins: Money has been allocated in the budget to replace some of the older bins. Residents raised the progress of siting a bin on Windlass Drive – one was sought from another area for here but none were in good enough condition. A new bin is being arranged for Windlass, with land for it to be installed on to be identified. As some of the land along Windlass is privately owned this can't be litter-picked by the Council's operatives. The public open space at this location is still owned by Barrats, and the Council will not take it on until the land is returned to a reasonable standard. Residents noted that the land was maintained a couple of years ago but it was still not taken over. Similar issues are occurring at the new estate off of Newton Lane where no bins or public noticeboards have been installed by the developer, and no Section 106 monies were made available to facilitate this. The land on these estates should be maintained by a maintenance company.

Food Waste Caddies: These are being distributed now for receipt by 30 March, with the service starting in April. The collection vehicles have been ordered, using Government funding, which has also paid for the caddies. The Government was going to fund the service itself but instead removed £100,000 from the Council's budget, leaving the Council to pay the 6 new workers for the service from its own budgets. The Chair also noted that the County Council will no longer be accepting plastic milk bottles at its tips for recycling, and instead will be directing them into general waste.

Children's Homes: A large number of planning applications are now being received in the Borough to turn residential properties into Children's Homes. The Council tends to refuse these due to there being too many in one area, but this is often overturned by the Planning Inspector through the appeals process.

14. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Parking on Grass Verges: A resident raised concerns that the grass verges are being damaged so severely by vehicles parking on it that underground services may be placed at risk. The County Council owns most of the verges and will not pursue means to stop vehicles parking on them. Some verges have bollards installed on them, but these have been knocked down by larger vehicles impacted by parked vehicles whilst trying to access factory sites.

15. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None raised.

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 27 May 2026 – South Wigston Methodist Church – 19:00

17. SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

1. **M Smith** to raise parked vehicles blocking roads on the Fairfield Estate at April's meeting of the Community Safety Partnership.
2. **M Smith** to ask the Fire Service to attend highlighted streets on the Fairfield Estate to assess emergency access.
3. **M Smith** to ask the Council's Comms Team if the Government's Local Government Reorganisation consultation can be promoted on the Council's noticeboards.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.07 pm