



TO COUNCILLOR:

R H Adams
G A Boulter (Chair)

R E R Morris
C A M Walter

And the Residents of South Wigston etc.

I invite you to attend the following meeting to consider and discuss the items on the agenda below.

Meeting: South Wigston Residents' Forum

Date & Time: Wednesday, 25 February 2026, 7.00 pm

Venue: Fairfield Community Primary School, Cheshire Drive, South Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 4WA

Contact: Mark Smith (Community Safety & Youth Officer)

t: (0116) 257 2675

e: mark.smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Council Offices
Oadby

13 February 2026

Anne E Court
Chief Executive



Meeting ID: 2975

ITEM NO.

AGENDA

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Wednesday, 27 May 2026 – 7pm – South Wigston Methodist Church (TBC)

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Agenda Item 2

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT
SOUTH WIGSTON METHODIST CHURCH, BLABY ROAD, SOUTH WIGSTON, LE18 4PB ON
THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

G A Boulter Chair



COUNCILLORS

Meeting ID: 2934

R H Adams
C S Gore
C A M Walter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Kind Project Officer
M Smith Community Safety & Youth Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held on 23 July 2025, were not available due to technical difficulties at the time of Agenda publication. These Minutes are now available and will be presented at February's meeting for approval.

2. POLICE UPDATE

There was no Police representative present at this meeting. Residents in attendance were upset with this as the Police have not been in attendance for several meetings now. Cllr. Loydall confirmed that this will be added to the Agenda for the Community Safety Partnership to discuss with NPA Officers.

3. FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS UPDATE

M Kind presented to Residents an overview of the incoming weekly Food Waste Collections in Spring 2026.

Communal waste schemes will be provided with a large external bin, and the same internal food waste caddies.

Biogen will process the food waste, removing all plastics, into pellets that will either be used as compost and fertilizer, or as biomass for energy generation.

The Council was told in the beginning that this process would be fully funded by the government as it is a directive to provide this service. This is no longer the case and funding is only guaranteed for the first year of the scheme, and may become a service funded through Council Tax in the following years.

Concerns were raised around rats and foxes getting into the bins, despite the locking.

handle, as there has been previous experience of this in schemes operated within Blaby District where the resident raising this concern previously lived. It was noted that the Council has to deliver the bins to households as part of the scheme, but the decision to use them is entirely at the discretion of the household.

Residents asked if the rolls of bags will be available via the Council once the first roll provided has been used up. It was noted that any plastic bags can be used, and that there is no requirement to use a bag with the bin and caddies although the suggestion is to do so as it is cleaner. The first 52 bags provided by the Council are compostable.

The food waste collection is a service the Council has to provide so there will be no stickers to be placed on the bin as per the garden waste collection. Householders can put their house number on the bins as they may already do so with household waste and recycling bins.

The purpose of the scheme is to reduce the amount of food waste that goes into the non-recyclable household waste bins.

South Wigston residents would normally have a waste collection day on Boxing Day, but this would now be collected on Saturday, 27 December.

4. CHAIR'S UPDATES

Devolution: The Council has made its submission of a 'North, South, City' plan to the Government at the end of November. The City's bid sees its boundaries extended into the surrounding areas, including Oadby & Wigston. The County's bid sees one Council for all of Leicestershire, excluding the City. A decision from Central Government is expected in February / March. Parish or Town Councils may be set up following the devolution process. Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will cease to exist after 2027/28.

Spion Kop: Planning application made to extend the parapet of the bridge. The bridge is known to be in a poor state with rusting ironworks underneath, but these works are not included in the planning application. In the recent wet weather a large amount of water collected on the railway line following the track lowering works. A query was raised to whether the nationalisation of the railway will affect these works; this is not thought to have an impact. The 'blue bridge' on Aylestone Lane was planned to be replaced but this has not yet occurred.

South Wigston Christmas Capers: The event went very well, and the lights in South Wigston are thought to be very good. An increased budget is available for next year to replace some of the related electrical sockets. The Council has no plans to stop putting Christmas lights up.

Council Budget: The Council is facing increased costs as are all councils, businesses and households. The Council cannot raise its Council Tax by more than 2.99%. The Police precept is expected to increase by £14 annually. The County Council's precept is the largest component of Council Tax.

William Gunning Park: Some improvements are going ahead, with equipment being repaired and replaced. A budget has been allocated for this. Residents have raised concerns around flooding and standing water on William Gunning Park which is an annual occurrence. The Council has had the standing water tested last year and the results showed no toxic elements. Residents believe that there used to be a drain at the location the puddle forms, and that a blockage may be causing the flooding – residents proposed a

dye test to identify where drains and manhole covers may be linked. Residents also noted that this flooding is close to the site of the old pavilion so there must be some drainage there linked to the showers that used to be in the building.

Blaby Road Park: Council Officers are able to make some budget decisions below a certain value. A proposal was made to the Council for an organisation to take over the Pavilion at Blaby Road Park, and manage some elements of the park. The Council is going through a process of generating revenue through the use and hire of its buildings, including pavilions. The cost of running the bowling green at Blaby Road Park far exceeds the income the pavilion generates. The proposal received covers renting elements of the park from the Council for a number of years, including the pavilion, football pitches, and bowling green. A meeting is taking place between Council Officers and the company that made the proposal to finalise this arrangement, including addressing problem parking on grass areas of the park at weekends. The company is known to have rented parking from NWSL College to resolve this issue already. Members became involved in the process after the bid was taken by the Council. Residents noted that the wooden fencing along the eastern edge of Blaby Road Park is in a poor state; this was confirmed to be fencing belonging to the houses that back on to the park, some of which have gateways onto the park that should not be in place.

Homelessness: 96 people are in temporary accommodation at present. The Section 21 legislation received royal assent and will come into force next year. It is thought that some landlords will evict their tenants ahead of this legislation coming into force. The expected homelessness costs to the Council are believed to be £1m for 2025/26. Private landlords are not an option for temporary accommodation as the funding used by the Council, in line with the law, does not cover the cost of private renting, leaving many in bed and breakfasts.

5. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Public Toilets: None in South Wigston or Oadby, one block in Wigston at Peace Memorial Park. It is not a statutory duty for Council's to provide public toilets. Facilities are available within several businesses within each town centre. The toilets on the Junction Road car park in Wigston were closed due to vandalism and unhygienic conditions; the presence of this block is being reviewed and may be demolished or sold off. The toilet located at the entrance to Blaby Road Park had issues with the door automatically opening; this had occurred whilst in use previously by residents, and repairs were not cost effective.

Pot Holes on Saffron Road: Residents raised concerns with pot holes near to St Thomas' Church, and apparent road sinkage near to Tigers Road. Residents believe that HGVs have caused this damage as part of the prison works. Additionally a bollard on Gloucester Crescent is sinking, causing deformation of the road. M Smith was asked to report these issues to the County Councillor for South Wigston.

Canal Street Shops: Residents queried what is happening with these shops as most of them appear empty. Councils have no jurisdiction over what type of shops / businesses can open – these are based on market forces. Residents believe that some neighbouring properties are being effected by rats from the empty shops. Years ago Severn Trent used to pay the Council to bait the sewers but this is no longer the case, and Severn Trent should be doing this work themselves now. The Town Centre Manager will be made aware of these concerns.

Fairfield Primary School: Vegetation growing across the boundary into private gardens.

M Smith will approach the school about this issue as it is ongoing. Some of the trees here now appear to be dangerously leaning.

6. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None raised.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 25 February 2026 – 19:00 – Fairfield Primary School

8. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AGREED

1. **M Smith** to report the condition of the road surface on Saffron Road to the County Councillor for South Wigston.
2. **M Smith** to inform the Council's Town Centre Manager of the Canal Street Shops / rats issue raised by residents.
3. **M Smith** to approach Fairfield Primary School regarding the ongoing issue of vegetation growing over their boundary into private gardens.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.07 pm

Agenda Item 3

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT
SOUTH WIGSTON METHODIST CHURCH, BLABY ROAD, SOUTH WIGSTON, LE18 4PB ON
WEDNESDAY, 23 JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

G A Boulter Chair



COUNCILLORS

Meeting ID: 2900

R H Adams
K J Loydall
R E R Morris
C A M Walter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Smith Community Safety & Youth Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Flynn
PCSO A Ghrairi
Leicestershire County Council
Leicestershire Police

90. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No matters arising.

91. POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Ghrairi introduced himself to residents. Residents queried the number of on-beat police officers available for South Wigston; promotion for recruitment and available funding were noted as issues for the Police, but are matters dealt with at a higher level than the local beat teams. Crime stats were queried in regard to is there an increase in South Wigston; there is a noted change in shop thefts with Op Detect in place to address this. ASB has not changed significantly for South Wigston. Visible patrols are taking place, including visiting areas in marked vehicles. Praise was given by one resident to the Police for their involvement in an incident they had reported to the Police recently. Residents raised how previous PCSOs in South Wigston used to patrol on bicycle, and were much more visible in the area due to this; it was asked if the Police would be willing to utilise the bikes again which will be fed back to PCSO Dom. Concerns were raised about the long delays on the 101 number for non-emergency calls which, whilst not urgent, do have an impact on residents such as anti-social behaviour. The online reporting mechanism was promoted here but it was acknowledged that this isn't always suitable for some residents. Thefts from the One Stop on Gloucester Crescent were raised, and the deployment of CCTV noted to be taking place in the near future to deter this.

92. LFRS UPDATE

No LFRS representative was present at this meeting.

93. CHAIR'S UPDATES

South Wigston Residents' Forum

Wednesday, 23 July 2025, 7.00 pm

*Printed and published by Community & Wellbeing,
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council
Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ
~ Page 7 ~*

Devolution "Have Your Say" Survey – All district and borough councils will be abolished within 2 years under the direction of central government. Councillors are fighting for Oadby and Wigston to stay as a complete Borough and not be absorbed by the City. The proposal put forward by the districts is to see the County split into a north and south authority, with the City remaining unchanged. The County Council plan prefers one authority for the County, and the City plan sees the City expanded into the County, with one County Authority surrounding it. The Government's decision on this is expected in November. Town Councils are one option being proposed in some groups to see local government engagement maintained. It was noted that the City Mayor role may also be dissolved under the devolution process. If the Borough is joined with the City then Council Tax is expected to increase for residents.

County Councillor - The Chair noted that the new County Councillor for South Wigston was invited to the meeting but is not present – he will be invited again to October's meeting.

Homelessness – 94 in temporary accommodation, 14 families in B&B, 140 in the system we have a duty to. £244k spent to date on homelessness, so expected to be £1m in the year, from a £7m budget. This is a statutory duty for the Council. Landlords are selling up so the number of homeless cases is increases. The Council has bought some properties and is approaching landlords to rent properties to the Council; the funding shortfall is around £60p/month however from what the Council is entitled to claim toward expenses.

Spion Kop – The County Council states that no works are taking place at Spion Kop, however it is evident from residents that this is happening, with the lines having been lowered. Bridge works themselves have no expected start date but it is thought it will be reduced to one lane once they begin. There are some concerns about the stability and longevity of the bridge so it may still need replacing due to corrosion.

Oadby Tip – Will be closing for three months to enable major concrete works to take place. Alternative sites are Whetstone or Kibworth. Freeman's Common is only available to City Council residents, and postcodes will be asked for.

VJ Day, 15 August – Service at the Council Officers at 10:30am with a flag raising.

Bushloe House – Has now been sold, with contracts to be exchanged imminently. This will become an 80+ bed care home, with the main house being retained. All other buildings and extensions will be removed and redeveloped.

Blaby Road Park / Bowls Club – Officers were asked to explore revenue generation through the use of the Council's buildings, including pavilions. A group has been found that wants to hire Blaby Road Pavilion and part of the park itself for a large sum of money. The bowling club and football teams that already use this site are part of these considerations. The Council is not looking to duplicate services in the Borough, with a meeting going ahead with the group in the near future. The main concern is that the Bowls Club is protected given its 100+ year history, and the costs incurred in maintenance are being sought to be offset by the hiring group. If this is to go ahead the Chair has proposed residents in South Wigston are consulted before the final decision is made.

Wigston Sign – Residents asked how much the sign cost, with the response being £10k. Residents stated that some of the letters aren't straight, and there is an alignment issue with the sign as a whole. The money for the sign was confirmed as coming from the Conservative government's "Levelling Up" funding and not from Council Tax – the purpose

of this funding was to improve town centres, with works to continue in South Wigston this year.

New Rector for St Thomas' and All Saints Church – Interviews to take place in a couple of weeks.

94. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Weed Clearance – Residents raised concerns about weeds in gutters and on pavements – this was noted as being a County Council responsibility, with the County Councillor not present at the meeting. This will be passed over to them.

Cornwall Road – Car Parking and Untaxed Vehicles – Details will be passed to the enforcement officer so a visit can be made. The DVLA can also be notified for an enforcement visit.

Drop Down Curb in Manor Street – This was raised previously, and passed to the County Council, but no response was received by the resident within the last 2 months. The Chair noted that a response was provided to him last week that LCC will not be altering the drop down's position, but will reset the paving stones.

Overgrowth from Fairfield Primary School into Gardens – Residents are seeing a large amount of brambles, ivy, and vines growing out of the school grounds into their gardens. Residents also noted that there are items of clothing and equipment left on the playing field following the end of term which are an eyesore – these were removed recently following mowing, but does not reflect well on the school itself.

Covid-19 Memorial – Residents asked if there could be a memorial erected in the Borough for those residents that passed away from Covid-19. Other areas in Leicestershire have done this already, including Loughborough. Councillors will explore this, with Blaby Road Park being one potential location.

Abandoned Vehicle – An abandoned vehicle, left in place for 2 years, was raised as a concern within the car park of the Countesthorpe Road flats. This will be passed to the Council's Housing Team to look into. It was also noted that customers using the Turkish barber opposite the car park, and using the Cue Club, are also parking in the flat's car park to avoid paying the main car park fees. This is being looked in to across the Borough as a whole.

Property adjacent to William Gunning Park Entrance – Planning Officers should have visited following the previous meeting. An update on this will be sought as some of the building appears to be overhanging the park's boundary.

Gloucester Crescent Tree Felling – Fully mature trees along Gloucester Crescent are being felled near to the Dalby factory. These trees are covered by a TPO which was in place for a period of time; when the TPO expired the landowner felled the trees before a new TPO was put in place, although legally the TPO is considered concurrent. The Council is taking action against the landowner for this, and for the ring-barking of some other trees on site which will cause them to die. Replacement trees are expected to be planted following action.

Large Eucalyptus Tree on Saffron Road – The tree is nearly 100ft tall now and is causing significant mess for neighbouring properties – it is now subject to a TPO however, with residents requesting the TPO is rescinded. The Council's Tree Officer will be contacted

regarding this.

Bassett Street Flat Application – 32 flats are being proposed to be built on the site of the former Appliance Depot. No update is available for this presently as it is not thought to have been to the Council's Planning Committee as yet for approval. Members will call this in to Development Control.

Dunton Street, Former Laundrette – Query raised as to what is happening with this building. Planning to be consulted.

Kirkdale Road Bridge – This requires resurfacing, and will be passed to the County Council.

95. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Recycling Update to be presented once the Government changes come through. Food waste bins will be implemented next year – the Council has ordered the lorries and bins for these collections. Residents have concerns that the exterior food waste bins will not be rat proof.

LFRS Requested again.

96. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 29 October 2025 – 19:00 – Fairfield School

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.00 pm