

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OADBY RESIDENTS FORUM HELD AT  
THE OADBY COMMUNITY CENTRE, SANDHURST STREET, OADBY ON  
THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 6.30 P.M.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor D Carter – Chairman

Councillors L Kaufman, J Kaufman, B Dave, S Dickinson, D Gamble, S Haq

**Others in Attendance:**

I Dobson (OWBC)

Councillor H Loydall (Senior Citizens Action Group)

S Lucas (Pride of the Borough)

M Fenwick (Leicestershire Constabulary)

**Residents in Attendance:** J Pooley, O & W Cockburn, P Van Der Willk, L Green, K Ross, D Honeywell, L & D Harrison, A R Wood, P Bates, M J Bates, Z Haq, Dr T Chowdhury, D Needham, C Foulds, J Roe, G Tomkins, D J & M G Burton, H Moore, R Broady, C & S Marlow, S Bolton, E A Keywood, J Feber, G Lamb, P Ballard, D Bromley, N Atter, A J Budd, E J Henry, D A Kent, K Solanki, A Bond, D Palmer, W A Torr, S M Sarwar.

**Apologies:** R Thakor, G P Sutcliffe, John Pelmore, Alice and Gerry Schofield, Howard Smith, J Vickerstaff, Jack Hier, P Bliss

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp															
<b>7.</b>	<p><b><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></b></p> <p>PC Mike Fenwick provided an update on crime figures for the period since the forum last met is summarised below:</p> <table align="center"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>This</th> <th>Last</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Criminal Damage:</td> <td>15</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary in Dwelling:</td> <td>19</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary Other than Dwelling:</td> <td>7</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Vehicle:</td> <td>25</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>PC Fenwick reported that monitoring of the Fludes Lane area over a 3 month period using various methods did not result in any witnessing of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>He went on to update residents about a community speedwatch scheme that would be rolled out across Oadby. Volunteers will be operating speed guns as part of the scheme.</p> <p>Residents heard about Operation Moon which will seek to address seasonal spikes in burglaries. This will comprise of</p>		This	Last	Criminal Damage:	15	26	Burglary in Dwelling:	19	10	Burglary Other than Dwelling:	7	20	Theft from Vehicle:	25	9	
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	<p>educating residents, advertising through matrix boards and increased police presence.</p> <p>Residents were encouraged to report sightings of a group of young people on mini motorbikes.</p> <p>A resident raised concerns about parking on double yellow lines at Launde School. PC Fenwick stated that operations will continue to take place periodically.</p> <p>A resident enquired whether the switch off of street lighting by the County Council had resulted in a increase of reported crime. PC Fenwick stated that no evidence of an increase had been identified. He went on to say that the Police require more data to identify reliable patterns.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>SENIOR CITIZENS PRESENTATION</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Helen Loydall addressed the Forum in her capacity as chairman of the Senior Citizens Action Group.</p> <p>Residents heard that the Senior Citizens Action Group had once been a committee of the Council but was now an independent constituted group, which allowed it to access different revenue streams for the benefit of it's Members and objectives.</p> <p>Mrs Loydall informed the meeting that the Group has four key objectives which are 1) Contribute to the physical and mental health of its members 2) Act as a communication channel 3) Combat social exclusion 4) Promote social cohesion.</p> <p>She went on to say that residents of the Borough that are 55 years of age or over can join the mailing list at no cost. The meeting heard that Members receive 3 mailings per year which provide information from the Chairman, a diary of events, invitations to meetings of the forums and useful information.</p> <p>Mrs Loydall provided details of Forums and activities which are summarised below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Health Forum – Usually held in March at the Salvation Army Centre in South Wigston. This has included activities such as Laughter Yoga and Armchair Exercises.</li> <li>2) Financial Assistance Forum</li> <li>3) Council Services Forum – This has included presentations on refuse, benefits, Brocks Hill and leisure services.</li> <li>4) Young at Heart Day – Usually held at Parklands Leisure Centre. This is a full day event and includes many activities and a lunch for Members to enjoy together.</li> </ol>	

	<p>5) Christmas Concert – This is usually held at the Elms Social Club</p> <p>6) Spring Concert – This is usually held at Guthlaxton College on a Saturday afternoon. Transport is provided to those members that require assistance.</p> <p>The Forum heard that in addition to the above, the Senior Citizen Action Group organises day trips and visits on a non-profit basis which has included trips to the theatre and other attractions.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH PRESENTATION</u></b></p> <p>Simon Lucas made a presentation to the meeting in his capacity as Pride of the Borough Chairman. The meeting heard that Pride of the Borough is an umbrella organisation for environmental projects which works closely with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council.</p> <p>Residents heard that Pride of the Borough formed as a constituted group in 2004 with the following aims and objectives:</p> <p>a) Improve the environment of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston</p> <p>b) To work with Oadby &amp; Wigston Borough Council to support the Borough’s entry into East Midlands in Bloom</p> <p>c) Encourage and support community activities that will increase pride in our borough.</p> <p>The following achievements were highlighted to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tangible improvements to town centres and neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Gold Award in East Midlands in Bloom for the last four years</li> <li>• Silver Gilt in Britain in Bloom</li> <li>• Increased volunteer activity in the borough</li> <li>• Greater neighbourhood co-operation</li> <li>• Residents taking pride in their borough</li> <li>• Raise the profile of the Borough to a national level</li> </ul> <p>Residents heard that Pride of the Borough organise awards for excellence in various categories of horticultural displays at businesses and private homes.</p>	

	<p>Mr Lucas promoted Pride of the Borough's membership card which also acts as a loyalty scheme by offering discounts at selected local businesses throughout the Borough.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b><u>CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman referred to the updates document circulated at the meeting and the briefing note in respect of urgent care services provided by the Chief Operating Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group.</p> <p>A resident informed the meeting that the Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed to review the basis for reducing opening times at weekends and bank holidays following representations.</p> <p><b><u>Requests for spending:</u></b></p> <p>Nigel Atter of Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 Group thanked the Forum for the funding of roller banners for an exhibition held on St Peters Church in August. The Forum heard that the exhibition will be transferred to Oadby Baptist Church in September. It was noted that Oadby Methodist Church and Oadby Library have requested to exhibit in the future.</p> <p>Mr Atter informed the meeting that the Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 group is preparing the next exhibition which will feature the first three casualties from Oadby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private Walter Gregory</li> <li>• Private Matthias Summerland</li> <li>• Private George Willcocks</li> </ul> <p>Funding was requested for 9 posters describing the three soldiers named above for the next phase of development at a cost of £432.</p> <p>The meeting commended the work of the Group and a suggestion was made that a more substantial amount of funding could be released for a longer term commemoration project. Mr Atter indicated that this would be welcome and that he would be happy to report regularly to the Forum.</p> <p>The Chairman put the following proposals to the meeting which were approved by a show of hands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) approval of £432 for 9 posters for the next phase of the exhibition</li> <li>2) a more detailed proposal on a longer term commemoration be worked up and considered at the next meeting of the Forum.</li> </ol>	

	Mr Atter thanked the meeting for supporting the Group.	
11.	<p><b><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS</u></b></p> <p>Residents were invited to raise any issues of concern which are summarised below:</p> <p><b><u>Leicestershire County Council Matters:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grass verge outside Launde School is in a terrible condition and would benefit from being hard surfaced.</li> <li>• No curb on Chestnut Avenue as part of the public realm works. It was confirmed that this problem will be resolved upon completion of the works.</li> <li>• Blocked drains and gulleys on the A6. It was agreed that a county councillor would conduct a site visit with the resident to resolve this longstanding complaint.</li> <li>• A grass verge at the junction of Stoughton Drive South has been damaged following works at a residential property. A resident requested that action be taken to require the owner to repair it. It was agreed that a County Councillor would raise with the planning department.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Other Matters:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resident enquired about an article in a recent newspaper which suggested that the Forums were no longer being supported. The Chairman clarified the matter by reminding residents that Leicestershire County Council had withdrawn funding for other Forums around the County. He went on to confirm that, as the Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston Forums have been independently run by the Council since their inception they would continue to run. He emphasised that the Forums maintained huge support from Borough Councillors.</li> <li>• A Councillor confirmed to a resident that empty commercial properties are still subject to business rates.</li> <li>• A resident raised a concern that gardens belonging to private homes which back onto Fludes Lane (section from A6 to Prince Drive) appear to be encroaching on public land.</li> <li>• A resident raised a concern that the footpath from Wheatland Close has become overgrown.</li> <li>• A resident requested an update on an empty house on Uplands Road which has been vacant for a number of years. It was agreed that something be brought to the next meeting.</li> </ul>	

**The Meeting Closed at 21:04**