

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS FORUM HELD  
AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES ON MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2014,  
COMMENCING AT 7 P.M.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor G A Boulter – Chairman

Councillors M Charlesworth, M Chamberlain, L Eaton, R Eaton, H Loydall,  
J Gore

**Others in Attendance:**

I Dobson (OWBC)

Councillor H Loydall (Senior Citizens Action Group)

S Lucas (Pride of the Borough)

PC S Kaya (Leicestershire Constabulary)

**Residents in Attendance:** R Hailes, L Hailes, D Foreman, R Rockett, M Drage, Mr & Mrs Needles, M Hilton, M Curtis, J Naylor, G York, M & J Butler, M Barke, G Lamb, R Elliott, C Ambrose, C Walters, J & M Elliott, D Walton, G Styles

**Apologies:** F Broadley, L Broadley, L Bentley, K Loydall, S & J Lobb, L Pires, A & G Schofield

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
<b>8.</b>	<p><b><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></b></p> <p>PC Shiela Kaya provided an update to the meeting on various police schemes and initiatives currently in operation which can be summarised as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citywatch – the aim is to improve safety in retail shops. This scheme encourages retailers to share information and keep in contact with police and other retailers by radio. It was launched in early September.</li> <li>• Residents were informed about ‘problem solving plans’ which seek to reduce Anti-social behaviour and crime hotspots by studying historical data and concentrating on specific problems.</li> <li>• Residents heard of the ‘waymarker’ initiative which seeks to deter crime by an increase in the visibility of police at particular locations.</li> </ul> <p>The Police encouraged residents to report issues so that they are logged and help to build a picture of crime hotspots.</p>	

<p><b>9.</b></p>	<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> <li>5) Christmas Concert – This is usually held at the Elms Social Club</li> <li>6) Spring Concert – This is usually held at Guthlaxton College on a Saturday afternoon. Transport is provided to those members that require assistance.</li> </ol> <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>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<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</p>	

	<p>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  b) To work with Oadby &amp; Wigston Borough Council to support the Borough's entry into East Midlands in Bloom  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 past 4 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>11.</b></p>	<p><b><u>WIGSTON TRADERS UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Residents heard that Wigston Traders were unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.</p> <p>It was reported that the Macmillan Coffee morning scheduled for 26 September 2014 will commence at 9am.</p>	
<p><b>12.</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>An update was provided in respect of grit bin locations previously agreed by the Forum. Residents noted that a site approved at Mere Road had been ruled out following consultations with residents in the proximity of the agreed location. It was suggested that Duffield Avenue would be assessed as a potential site as a replacement.</p> <p><b><u>Requests for spending:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>All Saints Church</u></b></p> <p>The Church Warden of All Saints Church requested that the Forum consider funding £3500-4000 for the replacement of the wooden war memorial.</p> <p>He went on to inform residents about insufficient wiring in the tower of the church to sustain outside lighting, which has been a prominent feature for many years. The Forum heard that an estimate for the replacement of the wiring would be brought to the next meeting for consideration.</p> <p>Residents approved £4000 for the project to replace the existing war memorial with a new wooden war memorial.</p> <p><b><u>Seats for Bus Shelters</u></b></p> <p>Residents discussed the maintenance of street furniture and requested that £1000 be allocated for the replacement of 5 seats within bus shelters. Paddock Street and Aylestone Lane were suggested as initial locations.</p>	
13.	<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>Leicestershire County Council Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reservation on Bull Head Street near Newton Lane would benefit from a sign to control traffic turning.</li> <li>• Request for a bus stop on Barnstaple Close/Launceston Road. It was advised that Highways and bus company will need to assess and if approved, Forum could fund.</li> <li>• Residents requested an update about speed activated signs. The Chairman confirmed that this matter is still being progressed and has been held up due to technical issues at the County Council.</li> </ul>	

**Other issues:**

- A resident raised the lack of dog litter bins around Pullman Road and Cherry Street. This was acknowledged by the Chairman and it was confirmed that the matter was being looked into with the potential of a standard litter bin being installed in the area.
- A resident raised concerns about the pricing structure at the new leisure facilities.
- A resident raised concerns about the grass area near the old Premier drum factory. The Chairman confirmed that the owner of the building would be responsible for cutting the grass and also repairing the damaged fence.
- A resident wished to make it a matter of record that the town centre cleaner in Wigston does an excellent job.
- A resident raised concerns about inaccurate bus timetables in Wigston. The Chairman confirmed that it would be raised with the bus company.
- A resident queried food storage at a premises on Bell Street and the storage of goods outside the premises. It was confirmed that this would be investigated by Environmental Health and reported back.

**The Meeting Closed at 20:16**