

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS
FORUM HELD AT FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHESHIRE DRIVE,
SOUTH WIGSTON ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014, COMMENCING
AT 7.30 P.M.**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor S Morris – Chair

Councillors J Boyce, J Gore, R E R Morris

Others in Attendance: I Dobson (OWBC), S Lucas (Pride of the Borough),
H Loydall, (Senior Citizens Action Group), PCSO Vinnie Preston, PCSO Chris
Thornton, PC Carl Sutherley.

Apologies: G Boulter

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp																					
8.	<p><u>LOCAL POLICE ISSUES</u></p> <p>PC Carl Sutherley provided an update on crime figures for the period since the forum last met is summarised below:</p> <table> <tr> <td></td><td style="text-align: center;">This</td><td style="text-align: center;">Last</td></tr> <tr> <td>Burglary in Dwelling:</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Burglary Other than Dwelling:</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Vehicle:</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Theft of Vehicle:</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Robberies:</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Anti-Social Behaviour:</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> </table> <p>A resident enquired whether the switch off of street lighting by the County Council had resulted in an increase of reported crime. PC Sutherley 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> <p>The Forum discussed this matter with most residents supporting reinstating of night time lighting. One resident raised the point that savings required by the County Council and also environmental benefits of the scheme must be acknowledged when considering part night lighting.</p>		This	Last	Burglary in Dwelling:	3	3	Burglary Other than Dwelling:	5	10	Theft from Vehicle:	10	9	Theft of Vehicle:	0	3	Robberies:	0	0	Anti-Social Behaviour:	9	14	
	This	Last																					
Burglary in Dwelling:	3	3																					
Burglary Other than Dwelling:	5	10																					
Theft from Vehicle:	10	9																					
Theft of Vehicle:	0	3																					
Robberies:	0	0																					
Anti-Social Behaviour:	9	14																					

	<p>The Forum raised issues of litter and anti social behaviour on Blaby Road Park. PC Sutherley emphasised that the park is a valuable and well used resource and that instances of crime are very low overall. He went on to say that the Police and community must work together as a team to resolve low level issues.</p> <p>The following updates were provided by PC Sutherley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Residents were informed about ‘Tiger Territories’ which seek to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime hotspots by studying historical data and concentrating on specific problems. It was noted that a strong relationship is being forged between Tesco management and the Police in tackling anti-social behaviour. • Residents heard of the ‘waymarker’ initiative which seeks to deter crime by an increase in the visibility of police at particular locations. 	
9.	<p><u>SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM PRESENTATION</u></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> <p>1) Health Forum – Usually held in March at the Salvation</p>	

	<p>Army Centre in South Wigston. This has included activities such as Laughter Yoga and Armchair Exercises.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Financial Assistance Forum 3) Council Services Forum – This has included presentations on refuse, benefits, Brocks Hill and leisure services. 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. 5) Christmas Concert – This is usually held at the Elms Social Club 6) Spring Concert – This is usually held at Guthlaxton College on a Saturday afternoon. Transport is provided to those members that require assistance. <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>	
10.	<p><u>PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH PRESENTATION</u></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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the environment of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston b) To work with Oadby & 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>The following achievements were highlighted to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tangible improvements to town centres and neighbourhoods • Gold Award in East Midlands in Bloom for the last four years • Silver Gilt in Britain in Bloom 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased volunteer activity in the borough • Greater neighbourhood co-operation • Residents taking pride in their borough • Raise the profile of the Borough to a national level <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>	
11.	<p><u>SOUTH WIGSTON TRADERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>South Wigston Traders provided an update to the Forum on recent activities of the organisation which are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A noticeboard has been installed in Tesco for advertising local shops, community news and business cards. • The South Wigston Traders Association have recruited two new businesses as Members • Christmas Capers is currently being organised and will take place on 6 December 2014. Residents heard that volunteers are being encouraged to get involved. • Two vacant shops in South Wigston have now been occupied by tenants. 	
12.	<p><u>CHAIRMANS UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred residents to the Chairman's Updates document which was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman provided a short update on the Council's Customer Service Transformation Programme that is currently underway.</p> <p>Residents heard that services were being reviewed to provide customer service that aimed to deal with issues at the first point of contact. She went on to say that staff would be trained to deal with more complex issues and self service computer terminals would be available for simple enquiries or transactions.</p>	

13.	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></p> <p>The Chairman suggested that a further presentation by an outside body similar to Senior Citizens Action Group and Pride of the Borough could be arranged for the next meeting. Residents approved the suggestion.</p> <p>Residents raised the following issues or concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemorative plaque on Hassles Bridge was not restored following works that have now long been completed. • Roundabout at the junction of Canal St/Blaby Road is dangerous and needs to be moved. The Forum was united in its view that this needs to be reviewed by Leicestershire County Council as local knowledge confirms that the roundabout is dangerous in practice. • Speed humps at the end of Paisley Road are dangerously high. • Light of Light Church, Dorset Avenue – concerns that the planning conditions have not been fulfilled. 	
-----	---	--

Meeting closed at 21:06