

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2014  
COMMENCING AT 7:00PM**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair: J Kaufman

Councillors: Mrs L Kaufman, Mrs S B Morris and R Morris

Officers in attendance: K Garcha, Anita Pathak – Mould

Others in attendance: Priti Joshi (Chair of Multicultural Group), Emma Padfield (Youth Forum), Daria Eckert (Youth Council) and Bhavin Gohil

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
1.	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></b></p> <p>Approved.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>APPOINTMENT OF A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER</u></b></p> <p>The Head of Corporate Resources introduced the new concept of a Community Engagement Officer and that the Council had successfully appointed an experienced Officer who had experience of public sector equality duties and community engagement. Her name is Veronika Quintyne and she was due to join the Council in November 2014.</p> <p>The Head of Corporate Resources talked of how the Community Engagement Officer would work within and over two service areas, namely Community and Corporate Resources, where she would seek to bring all of the community together especially the under-represented community factions; for example, by being in attendance at all 3 town centre forums, resident/tenant meetings/community engagement forums etc.</p> <p>The Head of Corporate Resources confirmed that the first set of priorities for the Community Engagement Officer would be to revisit our Equality Agenda and advise on how to progress that, update our website, review our EIAs, provide training and ensure that all under-represented groups were touched and aware of this forum for community engagement.</p> <p>The Head of Community also echoed what has been said by the Head of Corporate Resources and mentioned how they would assist Brocks Hill in the</p>	

	<p>promotion of celebrating diversity and faiths and seek to gain the inclusion of the volunteers, Youth Council and Forum, Senior Citizens Group, Multicultural Group etc and in particular would sit and work with Mark Smith.</p> <p>The Chair also asked that the newly appointed Community Engagement Officer also forge links with external agencies such as Council of Faiths, Interfaith forums ran by the County Council, MOSAIC.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S B Morris asked for clarification as to whether Brocks Hill were going to have a Youth Forum of their own because she couldn't see the logic or reason to re-create that concept when the Youth Council and Youth Forum worked. The Head of Corporate Resources and the Head of Community both confirmed that they were unaware of any such action since they agreed the current model worked well.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Forum were pleased that we now appeared to have an experienced (+20 Years) Officer joining us so we could all contribute to making the Borough more inclusive to live and work within.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>DEMOCRACY WEEK AND CHILDREN COMMISSIONER'S TAKEOVER DAY</u></b></p> <p>Emma Padfield and Daria Eckert respectively from the Youth Forum and Youth Council talked of how they were hosting an event for Democracy Week by getting three people from each school hosting a debate on 5 political issues, with a view to stimulating the minds and interests of the Youth into politics. It was fun and meant to be a learning curve for those young people who display an interest in national politics.</p> <p>In respect of the Takeover Day, it was understood that external agencies and parties such as the Police, Fire Brigade etc would also work with the Council and generate an interest. They talked of how they were putting together a newsletter to this effect highlighting important interest generated events such as these.</p> <p>Councillor R Morris also referred to the fantastic idea in respect of Supersonic Boom which was to be hosted opposite Elizabeth Court in the park on 24 October 2014 from 10am – 4pm.</p>	

**This Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.**