

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS  
FORUM HELD AT FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHESHIRE DRIVE,  
SOUTH WIGSTON ON WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2014,  
COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor J Boyce – Chair

Councillors G Boulter & R E R Morris

Residents in attendance: T Sumpter, M Rae, V Ward, P Draycott, R Elliott,  
C Walter, R Pearce, R Hughes, J Sealey.

Others in Attendance: C Holmes (OWBC), I Dobson (OWBC),  
PC C Sutherley, PCSO T Joshi, V Quintyne (OWBC) K Parkes/J Bhatha  
(OWBC).

Apologies: Councillors S Morris & J Gore

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp																		
<b>14.</b>	<p><b><u>LOCAL POLICE ISSUES</u></b></p> <p>PC Carl Sutherley provided an update on crime figures for the period since the forum last met is summarised below:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">This</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Last</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Burglary in Dwelling:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary Other than Dwelling:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Vehicle:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft of Vehicle:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robberies:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>PC Sutherley reported that crime and anti-social behaviour are low in South Wigston and that it is generally very well managed. He went on to say that there would always be instances of crime but that problem solving plans to address specific issues are working well with managing issues as and when they arise.</p> <p>He informed residents of two projects currently in operation;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blaby Road Park &amp; Tesco area – plain clothes operations to deal with low level anti-social behaviour. Residents heard that an incremental approach to</li> </ol>		This	Last	Burglary in Dwelling:	6	3	Burglary Other than Dwelling:	4	5	Theft from Vehicle:	3	10	Theft of Vehicle:	5	0	Robberies:	0	0	
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	<p>dealing with anti-social behaviour through a series of warnings and working with parents has seen a reduction in problems. Monitoring will continue</p> <p>2. Speeding around Gloucester Crescent/Saffron Road/Dorset Avenue has been monitored and is considered to be a low offence rate.</p> <p>PC Sutherley informed the meeting that the Policing structure will change in February 2015, which will allow a greater focus on community policing and will set up proactive neighbourhood teams to target incidents. He stated that the service would remain the same from the public's perspective.</p> <p>Residents voiced their concerns around speeding which is perceived to be more than a low level offence amongst people living locally.</p> <p>The Forum discussed the possibility of purchasing a mobile speed activated sign to gather data in the area and act as a deterrent to speeding.</p> <p>A discussion took place around monitoring devices installed by Leicestershire County Council. It was suggested that Saffron Road is proposed a suitable location at the next Highways Forum.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to bring an item to a future meeting in relation to Police changes giving details of how they will affect local residents.</p>	
<p><b>15.</b></p>	<p><b><u>MULTICULTURAL GROUP PRESENTATION</u></b></p> <p>This item was cancelled due to the unavailability of the presenter.</p>	
<p><b>16.</b></p>	<p><b><u>GREENING OF THE BOROUGH PRESENTATION</u></b></p> <p>The Country Parks and Environment Manager made a presentation to the Forum on the Council's Greening of the Borough Strategy.</p> <p>The long-term vision is that within the Borough:</p> <p>"there will be opportunities for involvement by all, with a thriving high quality environment, sustainable economy and healthy communities that are prepared for future environmental challenges, such as climate change".</p> <p>Residents heard that the Council's Greening the Borough Strategy was adopted by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council in September 2012 as an over-arching strategy for</p>	

working with communities, institutions, businesses and across the Council's own services to achieve the objectives set out below.

- an attractive place to live, visit, work and play;
- better access to open spaces;
- enhanced amenities for all;
- improved self-sufficiency;
- increased environmental and economic sustainability;
- partnership opportunities championing environmental improvements;
- practicable opportunities for people to improve and celebrate their environment.

The Environment and Country Parks Manager informed resident that the Strategy encourages working with others to reach the following shared objectives to:

- provide a quality green environment, with areas of significant interest and encouraging sustainable land use;
- provide better access to the natural environment benefiting health and well-being in the community, whilst developing and nurturing environmental education, responsibility and action for all ages, especially our children;
- encourage residents to remain local, through the enjoyment of the Borough's amenities and a sustainable local economy;
- improve the biodiversity and wildlife interest of the Borough;
- support residents and businesses to develop more environmentally sustainable lifestyle
- choices and practices, reducing dependence on finite resources;
- promote, support, assist and encourage residents of all ages and abilities to contribute, through a variety of volunteering opportunities across the Borough, in a manner appropriate to their needs and aspirations.

The Forum heard of a variety of projects that had been undertaken under the Greening the Borough Strategy including partnership working with organisations in local schools to improve an understanding of where food comes from and how to grow and cook it.

	<p>Residents heard about the below projects or ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage wildlife to your garden; grow organically and be pollinator friendly.</li> <li>• Complete a Home Energy Check and review the energy saving tips to find out how you can reduce your energy consumption and impact on the planet (<a href="http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk">www.energysavingtrust.org.uk</a>).</li> <li>• Try to reduce your car travel - walk or cycle where possible; utilise public transport; join a car share group; or work from home when feasible.</li> <li>• Join in with some local volunteering with the Countryside Rangers or the Environmental Wardens (<a href="http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/volunteering">www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/volunteering</a>).</li> <li>• Try to reduce the amount of waste that you produce and always recycle and compost where possible (<a href="http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk">www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>). Consider swapping items (<a href="http://www.freecycle.org">www.freecycle.org</a>; <a href="http://www.swishing.co.uk">www.swishing.co.uk</a>).</li> <li>• Switch to a renewable electricity, a natural gas tariff or investigate the viability of generating your own energy (<a href="http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk">www.energysavingtrust.org.uk</a>).</li> <li>• Try to reduce your food miles - shop locally, buy seasonal produce and if appropriate support the local farmer's market (<a href="http://leicestershirefoodlinks.org.uk/">http://leicestershirefoodlinks.org.uk/</a>).</li> <li>• Have a go at growing your own food and eat a healthy, fresh diet. Join the Leicestershire Master Gardeners programme for support and information.</li> <li>• Join or start up a local Pride of the Borough 'in bloom' project (<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/prideoftheborough/">https://sites.google.com/site/prideoftheborough/</a>).</li> </ul> <p>Residents were encouraged to get in contact with the team to get involved or to share their ideas by emailing <a href="mailto:informationofficer@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">informationofficer@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>Residents heard that the management plan for Greening of the Borough projects will come into effect in early 2015, where a project relating to Pochins Bridge will feature.</p>	
17.	<p><b><u>SOUTH WIGSTON TRADERS UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Rob Elliott of the Traders Association informed the Forum that they had attracted 3 new Members since the last Forum, which will further establish the Association.</p>	

	<p>Residents heard that Christmas Capers is scheduled for 6 December 2014. It was noted that the Christmas lights will be switched on at an earlier time of 5:30pm.</p> <p>A resident queried the accuracy of the financial report within the Chairman's Updates document. It was agreed that the reporting should be accurate and not rounded for simplicity, as a matter of good governance.</p>	
<p><b>18.</b></p>	<p><b><u>CHAIRMANS UPDATES</u></b></p> <p>The Forum agreed to purchase a mobile vehicle activated sign for use in South Wigston to address the ongoing concerns of residents in relation to speeding vehicles at a cost of £3k.</p> <p>A resident raised concern about committing to spending Forum funds as the meeting was not very well attended.</p> <p><b>Green Waste</b></p> <p>The Chairman informed residents that the collection of green waste service requires changes to the way in which it currently operates to address health and safety concerns in relation to crews and also to ensure that the service allows a continued collection of green waste for residents without introducing a charge.</p> <p>The Forum heard that, from February 2015, there will be a choice to have up to four reusable garden waste sacks (which can hold up to no more than 7kg each) or to have a green wheeled bin instead which will hold up to about ten sacks worth of garden waste. It was noted that additional bins can be purchased for around £25.</p> <p>Residents discussed this matter with the majority of people making the point that the waste collection service is excellent and that crews do a remarkable job. In response to comments that bins or waste is left behind, the Chairman confirmed that the Council is working hard to maintain high levels of customer service. It was reported that training will be taking place before the new scheme commences to ensure that these kind of concerns are addressed.</p>	
<p><b>19.</b></p>	<p><b><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>None were raised.</p>	

**Meeting closed at 20:38**