

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OADBY RESIDENTS FORUM HELD AT
THE BARNABAS CENTRE, ST PAULS CLOSE, OADBY ON WEDNESDAY
20 NOVEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 6.30 P.M.**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor D Carter– Chair

Councillors L Darr, D Gamble, S Haq and R Thakor

Residents in attendance: C Marlow, S Marlow, J Sherlock, P Bliss, D Hudson, H Hudson, F Smart, E Davidson, F Friedman, J Pooley, G Orwin, M Orwin, Mr & Mrs Gill, M Whearity, L Harrison, D Cunningham, P McCrichley, A Day, B Culpin, G Lamb, J Vickerstaff, D Needham, J Bunce, J Wheeler, N Waghela, P Ballard, D Burton, M Burton, R Turner, R. K Turner, H Smith, D Bromley, M Eglen, B Eglen, J Shrigley, A Torr, C Foulds, W Cockburn, O Cockburn, M Bradley, A Wood.

Others in Attendance: C Holmes (OWBC), I Dobson (OWBC), PC M Thomas, PCSO L Brown, V Quintyne (OWBC), S Gutteridge (Oadby Traders), K Parkes/J Bhatta (OWBC).

Apologies: Councillors B Dave, S Dickinson, J Kaufman, L Kaufman,

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp															
12.	<p><u>LOCAL POLICE ISSUES</u></p> <p>PC M Thomas 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>Burglary in Dwelling:</td> <td>11</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary Other than Dwelling:</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Vehicle:</td> <td>10</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Criminal Damage:</td> <td>12</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>PC Thomas informed residents of current projects currently in operation;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operation Moon has been successful in reducing burglaries in Oadby and is likely to be extended into the New Year. 2. Parking around schools is being monitored and the Police are working with Launde Primary School and Manor High School as a priority. 		This	Last	Burglary in Dwelling:	11	19	Burglary Other than Dwelling:	7	7	Theft from Vehicle:	10	25	Criminal Damage:	12	15	
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	<p>3. Speeding around Manor Road has been dealt with by way of fixed penalty notices. It is likely that a mobile van will be sited in the area in the near future.</p> <p>PC Thomas reported that the above operations had led to a reduction in crime in Oadby.</p> <p>The Police referred to ‘goodie bags’ that had been distributed at the Forum which contained information and an ice scraper. PC Thomas made the point that residents should be careful not to leave their cars unattended when trying to de-ice them.</p> <p>A discussion took place around parking near schools, where it was made clear to the Police that it is an issue of great concern to residents. The Police reassured residents that they were monitoring the matter and encouraged residents to report dangerous or obstructive parking to build up a body of evidence. Residents were also encouraged to use the Police website to report matters such as this.</p> <p>A resident started a discussion about the potential for reporting accident figures in relation to injury to the Forum to measure whether they are improving or not. The Police explained that the Road Safety Unit hold such data and that the local team may not be best placed to report on this matter.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that an annual presentation may be an option and that the matter would be investigated with the Police.</p> <p>A resident thanked the Police for their report and for working to reduce crime in Oadby.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p><u>MULTICULTURAL GROUP PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>This item was cancelled due to the unavailability of the presenter.</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>GREENING OF THE BOROUGH PRESENTATION</u></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>	

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 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 residents 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.

Residents heard about the below projects or ideas:

- Encourage wildlife to your garden; grow organically and be pollinator friendly.
- 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 (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk).
- 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.
- Join in with some local volunteering with the Countryside Rangers or the Environmental Wardens (www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/volunteering).
- Try to reduce the amount of waste that you produce and always recycle and compost where possible (www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk). Consider swapping items (www.freecycle.org; www.swishing.co.uk).
- Switch to a renewable electricity, a natural gas tariff or investigate the viability of generating your own energy (www.energyavingtrust.org.uk).
- Try to reduce your food miles - shop locally, buy seasonal produce and if appropriate support the local farmer's market (<http://leicestershirefoodlinks.org.uk/>).
- Have a go at growing your own food and eat a healthy, fresh diet. Join the Leicestershire Master Gardeners programme for support and information.
- Join or start up a local Pride of the Borough 'in bloom' project (<https://sites.google.com/site/prideoftheborough/>).

Residents were encouraged to get in contact with the team to get involved or to share their ideas by emailing informationofficer@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

A resident complained about the lack of assistance received from the Council in respect of clean up work that has been undertaken by some residents at Fludes Lane. The Environment and Country Parks Manager encouraged the resident to get in contact as she had no awareness of the

	<p>work or requests for assistance.</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 Fludes Lane will feature.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p><u>OADBY TRADERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Chairman of the Traders Association updated the Forum about the switch on of the Festive Lights which took place on 1 November 2014. Residents heard that in addition to the £5k of funding granted by the Forum, a further sum of £2,740 had been raised by the Traders Association. It was noted that the Association intends to continue to build on the display for future years and work with businesses to raise further funds.</p> <p>It was noted that it is likely that the Festive Lights will be switched on in October in 2015 to include Diwali in the period that they are on.</p> <p>Residents congratulated the Oadby Traders, particularly for raising the additional funds to supplement the Forum's contribution.</p>	
<p>16.</p>	<p><u>CHAIRMANS UPDATES</u></p> <p>The Forum considered the Chairman's update document which was circulated at the meeting. The Chairman gave a verbal update on the issues outlined in the document.</p> <p>Residents heard that the Pride of the Borough Loyalty Card could be bought at a cost of £5 and offered discounts from local businesses in addition to supporting the organisation.</p> <p>Residents were updated on the following Matters which had been raised at the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocked drains on the A6. Councillor Gamble had attended the sites with the concerned resident and confirmed that 11 gulleys are blocked or partially blocked. The matter has been raised with County Highways and an inspector will visit the site within a few weeks. • Grass verges near Launde School – Raised with Highways. The matter is not a priority and as such no current funds exist to deal with the matter. • Overgrown bushes on pathway near Wheatland Close. This will be dealt with in Spring by Highways. • Damaged grass verge on Stoughton Drive South – referred to planning enforcement. • Vacant property on Uplands Road – there is no current enforcement case on this matter. The Council is aware of the property and has powers to bring empty homes back into use, which will be considered. 	

Green Waste

The Recycling Co-ordinator 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.

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.

Residents discussed this matter with the majority of people making the point that the waste collection service is excellent.

The Officers confirmed that the demonstration bins would be left at Brocks Hill Environment Centre so that residents could inspect if they so wished.

Requests for Spending

Oadby Remembers

Nigel Atter of Oadby Remembers made a presentation to the Forum setting out a range of activities and exhibitions over 2015-2018 period comprising the below materials and costs.

12 Exhibitions @£432	£5184
12 Promotional materials @£200	£2400
1 Contingency budget	£1500
Website design and hosting yr1	£275
Website hosting yr2 to yr4	£750

The Total cost for the proposed 4 year project was reported as £10109 and represented a longer term proposal as requested by the Forum at it's previous meeting.

A resident informed that Forum that he had visited the exhibition at St Peters Church and found it very informative. He expressed his gratitude to Oadby Remembers for the commemoration of those men that died from Oadby. Mr Atter emphasised the importance that all of the fallen are remembered by the project.

It was confirmed that the materials could be used by local schools following the completion of the project.

A resident commended the work of the project so far but queried whether the Forum could afford to fund the project to

such an extent. The Chairman confirmed that there were adequate funds for the Forum to allocate if it saw fit to do so.

Mr Atter confirmed that other sources of funding have contributed to the work so far and that Oadby Remembers would continue to look for additional funds.

A proposal was made that £3750 be allocated in the first instance, which would fund the first year of the project. It was suggested that alternative funding be looked for and if necessary, the project come back to the Forum next year.

The meeting was unanimous in its support of this proposal.

Litter Bins – Uplands Road

A request was made for two litter bins at the top of Uplands Road and near Manor High School due to a litter problem. The Chairman stated that this would be investigated and the retail premises in the vicinity of the problem would be contacted to see if it could contribute.

A resident suggested that the school is contacted and young people are encouraged to stop littering.

Bus Shelter – Howden Road

A resident requested a bus shelter for the bus stop on Howden Road. The Chairman confirmed that a cost would be worked up and brought back to the meeting.

Public Benches – Burton's Corner

A resident requested that the Forum fund the provision of one of three benches to be sited at Burton's Corner at a cost of £1k. Epic Accessories has committed to buying one and alternative funding is being sought for the final bench.

The Forum approved the purchase and installation of one bench at Burton's Corner.

A resident offered to assist in gaining funding for the third bench if needed.

Public Bench – Fludes Lane

A resident requested a bench to be installed on the recently cleared land at Fludes Lane.

A resident raised concern about potential anti-social behaviour problems resurfacing and suggested that the Police be consulted on this matter.

	<p>The Chairman suggested that the resident raises this idea in his discussions with the Environment and Country Parks Manager for consideration as part of the management plan for the area, and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>Ellis Park Fountain</p> <p>A resident requested that cleaning and maintenance work be carried out on the fountain in Ellis Park. It was agreed that costings will be brought to the next meeting.</p>	
17.	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></p> <p>Residents were invited to raise any issues of concern which are summarised below:</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushes overhanging A6 near Sainsbury which is making walking on the pavement very difficult. County Councillor to report to Highways. • Concerns about part night street lighting were raised. Residents heard that a number of County Councillors were challenging this decision. Police confirmed that there is no evidence of a correlation between the switch off of street lights and an increase in crime. <p>Other Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that some litterbins are not fitted with cigarette extinguishers and it could cause fire hazard. • A resident urged residents to join their local Patient Participation Group so that GP Surgeries could benefit from local input. • Residents heard that town centre bins are emptied daily. • A resident reported that the flood basin by Bluebell Close is effectively permanent. The Chairman reported that a report is being worked up by the Council, SevernTrent, the Environment Agency to resolve this and other flooding matters. • A resident noted a number of empty shops in the area and made the point that it would be desirable for a variety of businesses to take tenancy rather than the saturation of particular business types. • A resident raised concern that two planters originally sponsored by the Oadby Rotary Club had been removed from Oadby Centre. The Chairman confirmed that the agreed period of sponsorship had long elapsed. 	

Meeting closed at 20:53