

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS FORUM HELD
AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON MONDAY 24
NOVEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor G Boulter – Chair

Councillors L Bentley, M Chamberlain, M Charlesworth, H Loydall and K Loydall

Residents in attendance: D Foreman, R Hailes, L Hailes, S Lonslow, M Smith, R Taylerson-Whyte, C Taylerson-Whyte, R Rocket, M Drage, M Sturgeon, R Dickson, M & J Butler, L & G Blackbourn, A & G Schofield, G York, M Briggs, Mr & Mrs Warner, P Lapworth, C Towell, J Buck and C Ambrose.

Others in Attendance: C Holmes (OWBC), I Dobson (OWBC), PC J Piskula, PCSO S Parnaby, V Quintyne (OWBC), L Pires (WigstonTraders), K Parkes/J Bhatha (OWBC) L Taylerson-Whyte (Youth Council).

Apologies: L Broadley, B & M Hilton

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp								
12.	<p>The Chairman introduced Lara Taylerson-Whyte to the Forum as the co-chairman for the meeting. Miss Taylerson-Whyte is a Youth Council Member and requested the opportunity to co-chair the meeting as part of the Children Commissioner’s Takeover Week.</p> <p><u>LOCAL POLICE ISSUES</u></p> <p>PC J Piskula provided an update on crime figures for the period since the forum last met as set out below:</p> <p align="center">Last 3 months</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Burglary in Dwelling:</td> <td align="right">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Vehicle:</td> <td align="right">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robberies:</td> <td align="right">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shoplifting:</td> <td align="right">13% of current crime</td> </tr> </table> <p>PC Piskula informed residents that Operation Moon has been successful in reducing burglaries in Wigston and is likely to be extended into the New Year.</p> <p>Residents heard that parking around schools is being monitored and the Police are working with priority locations. It</p>	Burglary in Dwelling:	16	Theft from Vehicle:	27	Robberies:	2	Shoplifting:	13% of current crime	
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	<p>was also reported that schools that have identified parking as an issue can request an Order to be made by Highways so that obstructive parking can be enforced against.</p> <p>A discussion took place around parking near schools, which residents made clear is a problem in the area and needs to be prioritised.</p> <p>A resident enquired about a spate of lead thefts from the roofs of buildings. The Police responded by confirming that they are aware of the matter and have been dealing with it as best they can.</p> <p>PC Piskula reported that there has been a recent focus on reducing anti-social behaviour in Wigston town centre and that partnership working with local businesses has been successful.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p><u>MULTICULTURAL GROUP PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>The Chairman of the Oadby and Wigston Multicultural Group made a verbal presentation about the activities of the Multicultural Group.</p> <p>She informed residents that the Group helps to facilitate events across different community groups. It was noted that the next event is the Holocaust Memorial Day on 26 January 2015 at Peace Memorial Park.</p> <p>The Forum heard that a Borough wide event is currently being planned for members of different community groups to come together and meet, eat and drink. The date and time will be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>A resident enquired about keeping abreast of activities without being connected to the internet. It was confirmed that interested persons can opt to be kept informed by post.</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> <p>Residents heard that the Council's Greening the Borough</p>	

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.

Residents heard that the management plan for Greening of the Borough projects will come into effect in early 2015, where a project relating to Clifton Bridge will feature.

	<p>Residents raised the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents noted saplings on Little Hill estate were all but destroyed. It was agreed that it be taken up with the Clean and Green Team. The Chair of Little Hill Residents association was requested to contact the Environment and Country Parks Manager. A resident complained about the lack of restoration following works carried out by Highways on the Wakes Road Roundabout. It was reported that Pride in the Borough planted 500 bulbs on the embankment at Wakes Road roundabout. A resident informed the Forum that there is a broken down tree lying in the verge in Wakes Road. It was agreed that this matter would be looked into. 	
<p>15.</p>	<p><u>WIGSTON TRADERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Chairman of the Traders Association updated the Forum about the switch on of the Christmas Lights which is scheduled for 26 November 2014 at 6pm. The event has a range of activities and stalls planned including a charitable egg and spoon race to raise funds for Little Lives, Big Journeys.</p> <p>It was noted that £564 was raised as part of the Macmillan Coffee Morning reported at the last meeting.</p> <p>She went on to say that the town centre looks great following the works around Bell Street. She thanked the traders for their considerate approach to work carried out around the businesses. The Forum agreed that the contractors had carried out a good job and resolved to send an email thanking them for their work.</p> <p>The Forum thanked the Traders for the Christmas Lights display.</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>The Chairman informed residents that the costings for the re-wiring of All Saints Church to be provided by the Church Warden had been delayed.</p>	

	<p>Green Waste</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>The Chairman confirmed that wheeled bins would not be introduced for general waste and recycling collections.</p> <p>Residents discussed this matter with the majority of people making the point that the waste collection service in the Borough is excellent.</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"> • Concerns were raised about a further planned 20% reduction in library opening hours. • A resident requested that the County Council considers phasing the traffic lights on Wakes Road so that in off peak times, they are not operational. • Concerns were raised about the part night lighting scheme in respect of safety of people working or socialising during the switch off periods. <p>Other Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request from a resident had been received for an additional bench on Horsewell Lane Park. It was agreed that some clarification on location is brought to the next meeting. • A resident raised concern about the state of bus shelters in Wigston. The Chairman confirmed that they are to be painted shortly and that funds released by the Forum will pay for the replacement of seating in some shelters in Wigston. • A resident enquired about the progress in respect of the 	

	<p>refurbishment of Wigston Pool. The Chairman reported that following some additional unforeseen works, the Pool would be open around July 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is intended to put the trees taken out from Wigston Town Centre as part of the public realm works to grass verges on Holmden Avenue. Any objections or comments of support to this proposal are requested to be sent to the Council.	
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Meeting closed at 20:53