

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OADBY RESIDENTS FORUM HELD AT BAPTIST CHURCH HALL, LEICESTER ROAD, OADBY ON WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2015, COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor D Carter–Chair

Councillors: S.Haq, J Kaufman, B.Dave, A Bond, B Fahey,

Residents in attendance: P Bliss, S Dickinson, T Fahey, L Kaufman, A Yilmuz, M Whearuty, K Rimi, G Harris, A Harris, J Bryan, G Orwin, M Orwin, M J Bates, P Sale, D Wheeler, L Harrison, H Smith, R G Wright, S Bolton, K Hambleton, K Turner, R Turner, G S Williams, T Chowdhury

Others in Attendance: PC M Fenwick, PC S.Henderson, V Quintyne (OWBC), S Gutteridge (Oadby Traders), G Lamb (Pride of the Borough)

Apologies:

J Pelmore, Councillor D Gamble, Councillor L Darr (Mayor), Councillor G.Atwal, Councillor R Thakor, Councillor T Khong, J Vickerstaff ,H Vickerstaff, C Bott

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Responsible																		
23.	<p><u>LOCAL POLICE ISSUES</u></p> <p>Prior to the Police providing a verbal update crime report the Chair reminded residents that, the Resident Forums were established to give residents a voice to air borough issues which matter to them. The Forum meeting hosts an open surgery period from 6pm to 6.30pm for residents to raise individual concerns one to one with Councillors, the Police and other officers.</p> <p>PC M Fenwick provided an update on crime figures for the period since the Forum last met. This is summarised below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Current</th> <th>Previous</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Burglary Dwelling</td> <td>22</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOTD</td> <td>03</td> <td>03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Motor Vehicle</td> <td>16</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Criminal Damage</td> <td>13</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Burglaries are down by 4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criminal damage figures were reduced. 2. Thefts from motor vehicles have increased, particularly from BMWs, Mercedes, and tool thefts from vans. 3. There were 25 incidents of burglaries. This is a priority area for the Police. 4. Operations are in place to combat criminal damage. 5. There were 54 incidents of anti-social behaviour emanating from the centre of Oadby. <p>A system called Columbus is being used to map crime data in the locality. Columbus helps the Police to plan strategies and solutions.</p>		Current	Previous	Burglary Dwelling	22	26	BOTD	03	03	Theft from Motor Vehicle	16	15	Robbery	0	0	Criminal Damage	13	15	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of police volunteers for the Community Speed Watch schemes is ongoing. • There are still issues around parking and speeding around schools. for example Launde Primary School and Manor High School. <p>There is concern about the increased use of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) in the borough. Use causes hallucinations, disorientation, fainting and risk of death. The Police are aware of gas canisters on the industrial estate.</p> <p>Residents were requested to inform the Police if they come across wrappers left around which indicate the use of “legal highs”.</p> <p>Reporting can be done by residents accessing the Police website, clicking the bottom banner icon to access the Beat Team. Contact can also be made via Twitter and Facebook. Residents can also join in discussion via a monthly Police chat room session. There is also access to a police newsletter and a form for residents to provide information about illegal activity happening in their area. Ring 101 to report an incident to the Oadby Beat Team. The Police are also hosting surgeries in the borough Information posters are to be placed on the Borough Council noticeboard.</p> <p>A resident reported accidents around the Manor Road Extension and Copse Close areas.</p> <p>As a priority signage is being created to address residential car parking on the Grange estate.</p> <p>Action is being taken on irresponsible parking on pavements.</p> <p>In concluding the presentation the Chair thanked the Police for the update.</p>	
24	<p><u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW FOR ENGLAND</u></p> <p>The Community Engagement Officer explained that the County Council had approached the Boundary Commission to look at recommending a new pattern of wards across the County so each Councillor would be providing support to an average of 9,984 electoral voters.</p> <p>The Boundary Commission was seeking feedback and comment from electoral registered voters on whether they agreed with recommendations to change Oadby and Wigston electoral ward divisions. This is in order to: provide what it termed “electoral equality”, reflecting the interests and identities of communities and promote effective and convenient local government.</p> <p>It was outlined that the proposed recommendations to address County Councillor representation of electoral voter numbers at County Council level required residents` feedback and comments. Feedback and comments were being requested from all three Resident Forums to inform the proposed Boundary Commission recommendations. Residents were also informed they could make their own submission on the Boundary Commission recommendations, on line using the following web site link.</p>	

	<p>http://www.leics.gov.uk/oadbyandwigston_electoral_review_proposals.pdf</p> <p>Residents were informed their comments would be gathered together and used to provide a Borough wide response to the Boundary Commission recommendations. The deadline for submission of comments to the Boundary Commission is 21st July 2015.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Community Engagement Officer would circulate a copy of the Oadby and Wigston Council submission response based on the recommendations made by attendees to all three Resident Forums.</p>	Veronika Quintyne
25	<p><u>FRIENDS OF BROCKS HILL – CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS PROPOSAL (Presentation)</u></p> <p>Mike Bates on behalf of the Friends of Brock`s Hill Group gave a presentation on a proposal to increase the number of Conservation Volunteers across the whole borough over the next two years. The outcomes would be to increase further community engagement with a focus on biodiversity sites across the Borough, up skill volunteers including health and safety legislation establish ongoing volunteer groups, work towards recruiting a Project Officer for Volunteer development who would help run training courses and make the Borough a better place to live ,learn and work.</p> <p>The Project is focussed on the whole of the Borough.Voluntary Action Leicester is willing to help set up “friends” groups to support the project. The established “friends groups” would make their own applications for funding. There is also a funding box at Brocks Hill to raise funds.</p> <p>A resident questioned whether Grange Country Park now belonged to the Council. The Chair clarified that the Park was not yet officially Council owned. This is being progressed.</p> <p>Residents awarded £2,000 to the Brocks Hill project. This award is to be actioned with Finance once approved by council`s PFD committee.</p>	Veronika Quintyne
26	<p><u>OADBY TRADERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>It was reported that matching benches are being placed in Oadby Parade. On Sunday 16th August the Oadby Parade is to be closed for a classic and sports car show organised by Oadby Town Centre Association.</p> <p>The festive lights switch-on is planned for November 7th 2015.The switch-on is to coincide with Divali. Input is to come from members of the Hindu and Muslim communities, a male voice choir and Billy Bragg`s funfair More details will be brought to the next Resident Forum meeting.</p> <p>The Chair brought to the Forum`s attention a request by a resident about making shops more accessible to people with a disability.</p> <p>The Traders Group noted they are working to address how shops can be made more customer accessible using ramps for people with a disability.</p> <p>The Farmer`s Market has been moved to prevent traffic bottlenecks. A request was made to get feedback from the community about the good and not so good points of the Farmer`s Market in order to improve its use. The Market is held on the fourth Friday of the month.</p>	
27	<p><u>PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH</u></p> <p>The Pride of the Borough is coordinating entry to East Midlands In Bloom. The judges are arriving tomorrow , 9am till 1pm to carry out the judging in Oadby.</p>	

<p>28</p>	<p><u>CHAIRMAN`S UPDATES INCLUDING,CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATES REQUESTS FOR SPENDING AND UPDATE ON THE FORUM BUDGET</u></p> <p><u>Customer Services transformation</u> Customer Services transformation has concluded The opening times are to be circulated to Resident Forum members. Councillor Gamble is to bring an update on Customer Services Transformation.</p> <p><u>Speed Activated Road Signs</u> An investment has been made in Speed Activated Road Signs in Wigston and South Wigston They are used as a means of reducing speeding. Residents requested information on how effective these are in the reduction of speeding. A Slow-Slow sign on Copse Close links with the mobile sign.</p> <p><u>Cottage Farm site Development</u> Developers appealed and were successful in their application to develop the Cottage Farm site. The Council was unsuccessful in its application for a judicial review relating to the development of the Cottage Farm site. The Council is seeking further legal advice .</p> <p><u>Ellis Park Fountain</u> The Chair clarified the cost of repairing and bringing the Ellis Park fountain back into use, including treatments to prevent listeria formation. The cost of full repair inclusive of enabling water consumption would incur future unsustainable ongoing costs. Following a Resident Forum vote inclusive of one abstention, It was agreed to keep it in a decent aesthetically pleasing state of repair, plus clean and refurbish the notice board next to it to complement the fountain.</p> <p><u>Parklands Leisure Centre</u> Removal of two stones from Sandhurst Street School, weighing some 50 pounds and 50 centimetres square was discussed. It was proposed that these stones be relocated to Ellis Park, depending on future development. It was agreed to bring this back to a future Forum meeting for discussion.</p> <p><u>Burton`s Corner Seats</u> Three seats have been funded. Orders for the seats have been placed by the Council. Brookside Construction is to install the seats complete with plaques. A litter bin is to be added which echoes the style of the seats and placed on the Parade. Paving is to be weeded. The Council Depot was contacted about the spraying of the weed killer. On behalf of the Forum the Chair thanked Peter Bliss from Oadby Civic Society for his work on this development.</p> <p><u>Uplands Road Bin</u> The Forum supported the installation of a bin on Uplands Road. It was noted that if a recycled one could be used then this would save the Council £450.</p> <p><u>Bus Shelter on Howden Road</u> Residents were informed a bus shelter on Howden Road would cost about £3,200. The Services Committee discussed this last night, along with a proposal that some bus shelters on the main traffic routes carry advertisements.</p> <p>A resident queried by what criteria the purchase of a bus shelter was justified For example is this based on how many people would use it or the feelings of residents</p>	<p>Veronika Quintyne Councillor Gamble</p> <p>Veronika Quintyne</p>
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	<p>in its proposed vicinity, as the bus shelter would be located almost outside of Brocks Hill Primary School. Planning considerations were needed. Upkeep would be absorbed by the Council. Cleaning and painting at a cost of £550 would be incurred, however there was no revenue impact on the Forum. It was agreed that more information for justifying supplying the shelter was needed.</p>	<p>Veronika Quintyne</p>
<p>29</p>	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF ITEMS</u></p> <p>Councillor Carter is to be notified of any requests for future funding of projects. The grey post boxes which are currently still in place will be removed by March 2016.</p> <p>It was suggested the bin near the park bench outside of ASDA be moved further down the A6 as there is a litter problem there. The ward Councillor is to be requested to look into this.</p> <p>Residents identified that there are bushes overhanging the A6. Councillor Gamble is to liaise with Highways to address them being cut back.</p> <p>The date of the next Resident Forum meeting is: Wednesday September 2nd 2015 at 6.30pm.</p> <p>Residents were reminded that should they wish to discuss issues that affect them before the full meeting begins at 6.30pm, there is a surgery session with the Police, Councillors and Council Officers between 6pm and 6.30pm.</p>	<p>Councillor Bond</p> <p>Councillor Gamble</p>

Meeting closed at 20:00