

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS` FORUM HELD AT THE
COUNCIL OFFICES,COUNCIL CHAMBER, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY
16 SEPTEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor G Boulter – Chair

Councillors: L Broadley, F Broadley, H E. Loydall, K Loydall, L.A Bentley , L Eaton, M Charles worth, M Chamberlain,

Residents In Attendance C Maes, M Brigg, L Hadilos, R Hadilos, M Hitton, P Reeves, D Foreman, M Waugh, C Cookson, D Needles, R Needles, M A Sturgeon, D Walton, A Schofield, G Schofield, G A York,

Others in Attendance: V Quintyne (OWBC), S Ball (OWBC).T. Bentley (First Responders), R.Moughton (First Responders), P Cousons (Wigston Civic Society), S Robshaw (OWBC)., PC S Lewin

Apologies:

Residents: Sue Lobb, John Lobb, Carolyn Holmes (Brocks Hill Country Park and Centre Manager), L Pires (WigstonTraders), L Blackbourn, G. Blackbourn, PC Damien Hyatt

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Responsible																
32	<p><u>1.Local Police Issues</u></p> <p>A correction to the minutes is to show PC Damien Hyatt attended the Resident Forum meeting inn June 2015.</p> <p>PC Stephen Lewin provided the Police Feedback to residents. Crime figures were reported as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="260 1451 1302 2000"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Previous 3 Months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Last 3 Months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary Dwelling – 7 and 7 attempts</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">The figure is both combined as currently the Police system cannot distinguish between the two for Stats purposes)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Unattended Motor Vehicle – 9 -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft Store – 37 with 17 detected-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery – 1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Making off without payment – 1-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOTD`s.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> </table>	Previous 3 Months	Last 3 Months	Burglary Dwelling – 7 and 7 attempts	- 5	The figure is both combined as currently the Police system cannot distinguish between the two for Stats purposes)		Theft from Unattended Motor Vehicle – 9 -	0	Theft Store – 37 with 17 detected-	13	Robbery – 1	0	Making off without payment – 1-	0	BOTD`s.....	4	
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	<p>Theft Other 5</p> <p>Training was provided for Macdonald`s staff, plus football sessions between the young people and the Police.</p> <p>ELS Cafe is open on Friday nights supporting positive activities for young people. EIS Cafe was used in the Summer to facilitate youth Work. There is planning in place to find a permanent Youth Group location.</p> <p>Trespassing on Wigston College Patch was reported. The College is to circulate letters to parents to address this.</p> <p>Mcdonalds is working with staff to alleviate problems of anti social behaviour. The training is titled” Building Better Relationships”. They are also working with the Impact Team.</p> <p>There is a Burglary Plan in place and advice is being provided to residents.</p> <p>Three people were arrested and charged with burglary in the Wigston area.</p> <p>Residents were advised to lock their sheds.</p> <p>Cycles were left unsecured in the Town Centre. Residents were advised to lock their bikes.</p> <p>It was noted that pavement parking is a County Council issue.</p> <p>In concluding the update the Police stressed residents are encouraged to contact the Police on telephone number 101 to report offending behaviour and criminal activity.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Police Support Officers for the update.</p>	
33	<p><u>2 Local Government Boundary Commission Review for England</u></p> <p>The Community Engagement Officer explained that the County Council had approached the English Boundary Commission to look at recommending a new pattern of wards across the County so no Councillor would be providing support to on average no more than nine thousand electoral voters. The Boundary Commission was seeking feedback and comment from electoral 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. 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 also informed their comments would be gathered together and used to provide a Borough wide response to the Boundary Commission</p>	

	<p>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 based on the recommendations made by the Resident Forum attendees to all.</p>	Veronika Quintyne
34	<p><u>Consultation of residents on tree planting in Holmden Avenue</u> Residents were consulted about the return of a number of trees to Holmden Avenue. The trees currently reside at Oadby Depot. Residents overwhelmingly are in favour of the trees being returned to the Avenue but retained in their pots.</p>	
35	<p><u>Customer Services Information Centre moves to Bell Street.</u> The new Customer Services Centre officially opens 12th October 2015.</p>	
36	<p><u>Parking Areas on Estates</u> There are a number of private parking areas on Little Hill and the Meadows estates. Some are kept in a messy state. At the Forum suggestions for their use were made by residents. For example they could be sold and the profits divided between the householders. The Council could issue a Section 215 Notice to enforce clean up. A charge could be placed on the property, following an initial letter being sent to the householder to clean up the land. Several complaints have been received by the Council due to the unkempt nature of some of these pieces of land. Number 7 Launceston Road was identified as an eyesore. It has been sold.</p>	
37	<p><u>Usage Figures for Bus Shelters</u> Residents discussed the usage of bus shelters at the junction and Horswell Lane and between the Junction and Barnstable Road. Arriva have been contacted about the use of the bus stops. Arriva will support the bus shelter on Oadby Road and Horsewell Lane. Three companies wish to buy bus shelter space for advertising. A contract for this would be for 20 years. The Council's Service Delivery Committee is deliberating on the funding for bus shelters and will report on this. The County Council has to be consulted with and they charge this Council a licence fee. A plan must be drawn up so a dropped curb should not be blocked. The Council must also consult with householders if a bus shelter is to be placed outside of a property. A protocol for bus shelters is being developed.</p> <p>A resident request was made for a bus shelter for Church Nook with a seat. The current one has a seat in it. Church Nook is to be further considered. The payback scheme will address refurbishment with repainting in the Spring.</p> <p>Arriva have stated the bus shelter on Paddock Street is sufficient. All shelters consist of poly carbonate sheeting. A question was raised as to whether the polycarbonate sheeting should be refurbished or replaced altogether. It was suggested that the most badly damaged bus stop be replaced. The lesser</p>	

	damaged one should be kept and be repainted.	
38	<p><u>Wigston Traders Update</u></p> <p>An update report is to come to the next meeting.</p>	
39	<p><u>Chairman`s Updates including, Capital Projects Update, Requests for spending and Update on the Forum Budget.</u></p> <p>The Chair provided a verbal update on activity and spending flowing from the Resident Forum budget.</p> <p><u>Bell Street Pedestrianisation</u></p> <p>Bell Street pedestrianisation is to be discussed at a Highways meeting in October. The blocks have been sanded but not sealed yet. A mechanical sweeper cannot be used as it sucks the sand from between the blocks. The blocks will need to be cleaned before they are sealed.</p> <p>Bags are being used inside the bins and the tops of the bins are to be replaced.</p> <p>A new sign is to go on Bell Street.</p> <p>A resident asked whether the black granite blocks on the pedestrian walkway on Bell street can be fixed into place. These blocks are being moved around by people. The Chair assured residents that once the pedestrianisation scheme is complete the blocks will be put back in place permanently. The blocks are for sitting on. European money paid for their purchase.</p> <p>Slabs have been designed to be non-slip and a lacquer is placed on them which lasts approximately nine months The entrance will also be blocked off from traffic. Up to 10am and after 4pm only specific vehicles will be allowed access. Parking tickets are being given for non compliance. Discussion of non compliance is taking place with Harborough Council. This Council still has a four year contract with Harborough.</p> <p>The Post Office is looking a finding a trading space in Bell Street.</p> <p>The Co-op in Kelmarsh Avenue is owned by different traders to the one in Bell Street. The Council is in discussion with various businesses regarding the Co-op and Post Office premises.</p> <p>From October Pennywise will not continue to place sale items on prohibited areas of the walkway. The County Council has been requested to serve a notice on Pennywise to stop items being place on the walkway illegally.</p> <p>Following a question, residents were assured Bushloe House is to remain in public ownership. It is a listed building.</p> <p>Heath`s Fish Shop and the arcade are owned by someone who resides in Switzerland. The butcher`s is now closed and the shutters are damaged.</p>	

Regardless of where a shop owner resides a formal enforcement notice can be followed up to clear untidy land.

A resident raised the question as to whether Helping Hands voluntary service was still providing a service. The Chair said he would find out if this is the case. Residents were informed that money advice and support can also be accessed from The British Legion, Salvation Army. The Council does not fund the Citizens Advice service nor Helping Hands.

A resident complemented the way in which the grass verges were being cut recently. Blaby Council has a contract to cut the grass in Oadby and Wigston.

Items raised by Residents and future spends

A number of residents raised the issue of a lack of meeting spaces for young people. The suggestion was for informal spaces where young people could meet, for example bespoke spaces for them to sit with built in shelter. The Chair noted the Young Peoples Forum engages with young people on such issues.

The Europa Sports factory has been sold. Work is being done to create an imports garment business to open in January 2016.

A suggestion was made that Birkett house could be used as a community centre as there is a need for a communal meeting point in Wigston. It was noted that the Horsewell Lane development is to provide this.

Number 37 Newton Lane is on a list of property to be monitored. Its current state is not considered bad enough to take formal action against it. A report is being written on the basis of bringing empty property back into use. Any property empty for more than three years will be served with a notice. A resident identified that 28 Aylestone Lane was in a bad state of repair. The Council charges over 100 percent Council Tax on empty properties where the owners can be found.

December 11th 2015 will be the last green bag collection. There is no intention to charge for green waste collections

A sign has been put in place as to where the Christmas tree is to go.

Wigston Civic Society produces a free newsletter. It can be accessed online from www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk

Petition on Bus route change to the 49a

409 signatures have been taken for the petition against stoppage of the bus

service to Kenilworth Road. If this route is sustained there will be no access to the Health Centre or Tesco's. Timing will also be out for the number 47 bus. Arriva will move the service from November following consultation with the Traffic Commissioners. Four thousand petition leaflets have been circulated. These are to be returned freepost.

The previous road works have finished. New road works will begin in half term week outside of Wigston Academy.

The development of Wigston Swimming Pool is on schedule to finish on time. It opens in late autumn 2015.

Following a resident query, the Chair clarified that with the demolishing of Oadby Pool, the land will still be owned by the Council and may go for the provision of housing stock.

A scheme to be brought back to the Resident Forum re the War Memorial.

A 24-hour bus lane to boost bus times in Oadby and reduce traffic congestion and pollution is under consultation. This trial lane brought in last November has led to a 44% drop in bus journey times between Oadby Parade and the city boundary.

November 11th 2015 will see Remembrance services taking place in Peace Park and across Oadby and Wigston.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 has been moved for health and safety reasons. The memorial date is; 26 January 2016 at 5.30pm. The venue is; the Council Office, Council Chamber, Bushloe House, Station Road, Wigston.

Residents were reminded should they wish to discuss local issues of concern to them in confidence, before the full meeting begins, there is a surgery session with the Police, and Councillors between 6.30pm and 7.00pm. The date of the next Resident Forum meeting is: Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm