

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

**HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON ON WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair: J Kaufman

Councillor: Sharon Morris

Officers in Attendance: V Quintyne, Samuel Ball,

Others in attendance: H.E Loydall (Senior Citizens Action Group), B. Gohil (Volunteer) C Huscroft, Oadby and Wigston Lions; & Wigston Food Bank; Vinod Ghadiali, Oadby and Wigston Hindu Community Association; Shantilal Thanki, Oadby and Wigston Hindu Community Association; Pushpa Parmar; Oadby and Wigston Hindu Community Association; Jitendra Ramaiye, Oadby and Wigston Hindu Community Association

<b>Min Ref</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b> Apologies: L.Kaufman (Volunteer), M.I. Noormohamed; Oadby and Wigston Muslim Association, Caroline Freeman, Jenkins Centre	
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.</u></b>  The minutes of June 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2015 were approved subject to adding the following amendment. Councillor Sharon Morris`s apology for non attendance is to be recorded.	
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>REVIEW OF THE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AGENDA</u></b>  The Equality and Diversity Agenda work plan is being progressed. It is available on the Council web page at: <a href="http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/files/documents/equality_and_diversity_agenda/Equality%20and%20Diversity%20Agenda%20June%202013.pdf">http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/files/documents/equality_and_diversity_agenda/Equality%20and%20Diversity%20Agenda%20June%202013.pdf</a>  This Agenda is the Council`s framework for working with community groups and organisations to ensure its policies, plans, strategies and projects are fit for purpose, specially as they relate to the most vulnerable groups in the borough.  <b>3a Equality and Diversity Workshops and Equality Assessment Workshops</b>	

	<p>These workshops are being developed principally with the Council's Human Resources Team. They are focussed principally for Council Members and Staff.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><b><u>CELEBRATING DIVERSITY CALENDAR – LUNCHTIME SEMINARS</u></b></p> <p>The calendar listing celebratory events continues to be developed. Suggestions for the inclusion of festivals were received and noted.</p> <p>The focus of the calendar listing is to mark key festivals, events and union days which reflect the local diversity of Oadby and Wigston. This is in order to promote shared learning, knowledge and community cohesion in the borough as well as helping to inform local people as to the variety of celebratory events marked by the diversity of Oadby and Wigston Borough.</p> <p>The listing of events fits into the Equality and Diversity work plan. The first starter event will mark National Mental health day celebrated nationally each year on the 10th October 2015 .As the 10<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend it was proposed to host two lunchtime seminars facilitated by Leicestershire Suicide Prevention Partnership . The focus of the seminars will be on celebrating good mental health, underscored by the Mental Health Day theme of “Dignity”. The seminars are to be used to help people identify strategies for managing depression, anxiety and issues of suicide. The seminars will also support identifying other coping strategies, including finding help, advice and support.</p> <p>The date arranged for this event is: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015.Two one hour sessions are to be offered. 12pm till 1pm and 1.30pm-2.30pm. The venue is the Council Office, Council Chamber ,Station Road, Wigston. Bookings are to be made on a first come first served basis by contacting:  <a href="mailto:veronika.quintyne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">veronika.quintyne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  or telephoning: 0116 2572648 Monday and Friday and 0116 2572709, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.  To address any aspect to the calendar becoming unwieldy it was agreed that the focus should be on</p> <p>An annual celebratory learning and networking event for Senior Citizens in the Borough is to be added to the list. This year's Senior Citizen`s event titled “ Young at Heart” was held on Thursday, 20 September 2012, 9:30am to 4pm at Parklands Leisure Centre the Senior Citizens' Action Group. The day was held to encourage senior citizens of the Borough to try new health focused activities, for example crafts and gentle sports. Lunch</p>	

	<p>and afternoon tea was provided and the turnout was excellent.</p> <p>Other days added to the celebratory listing were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Sight Day</li> <li>• All Saints Day. It was agreed to remove All Soul`s Day.</li> <li>• Remembrance Day flag raising in November</li> <li>• The festival of Vaisaikhi</li> <li>• The Carol Concert marking the Christmas season hosted by the Methodist Church</li> <li>• The Churches together event in April 2016</li> <li>• Passover</li> <li>• Chanukah</li> <li>• An event to mark the Queens reign on the throne.</li> </ul> <p>Other events to be celebrated over the forthcoming months are Black History Month, EID, Divali, Christmas, Holocaust Memorial Day 26 January 2016 and Holi in March 2016.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION: 1</u></b></p> <p>VQ is to check with Councillor Carter as to the World War1 event taking place in Oadby.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION: 2</u></b></p> <p>Vinod Ghadiali is to confirm the correct dates for Holi and Navaratri and send them to VQ to insert into the Celebratory Awareness Days listing.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION: 3</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Kaufman is to clarify the dates for Chanukah and Yom Kippur and send them to VQ to insert into the Celebratory Awareness Days listing</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:4</u></b></p> <p>Vq is to check with Lesley Evans as to the official flag raising days and add these to the listing.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS RAISED</u></b></p> <p><b><u>5. a Change of timing to attend the Community Engagement Forum Meeting.</u></b></p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed that another email be sent to previous and newly invited organisation representatives to</p>	

	<p>establish if a meeting in the day at 2pm was a viable option as opposed to an evening meeting.</p> <p>Another Councillor will need to be identified to replace Councillor Sharon Morris at the CEF meetings if the consensus is for a day time meeting.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION5</u></b> Circulate a note to all those organisations invited requesting feedback on whether they are in favour of the Community Engagement meetings taking place at 2pm on a quarterly basis.</p> <p><b>5.b Oadby and Wigston Multi-cultural Group</b> The Chair requested attendees discuss the reforming of the Oadby and Wigston Multi-Cultural Group with their networks. Details of anyone interested in being on a committee to manage this Group are to be sent to Councillor Kaufman. There is funding available to support a multi-cultural group in the Borough</p> <p>It was affirmed that the Community Engagement Forum (CEF) Group did not have the same focus as a multi-cultural Group and is the Council's framework for addressing how service, strategies, plans, and policies might be best developed to ensure they are fit for purpose and meet the needs of all residents by working with community groups, voluntary organisations and the three residents forums.</p> <p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b> The date for the next meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Council Office, Council Chamber, Station Road, Wigston, LE18 2DR at 7pm. This time is subject to change dependent on feedback from representatives on the change of the meeting to 2pm.</p>	<p><b>Veronika Quintyne</b></p>
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**The Meeting Closed at 8.30pm**