

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE  
COUNCIL OFFICES, COUNCIL CHAMBER, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON  
WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.00pm.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor G Boulter – Chair

**Councillors:** L.A Bentley, M Charlesworth, L Eaton

**Residents In Attendance** M Endall, M Harrington, G A York, M J Butler, P Knight, R Hailes, L Hailes,

S Lonslow, J Corr, D R Needles, D Foreman, P Reeves, Y Buck, J Buck, Mr Rogers, Mrs Rogers, C Cookson, M Drage, Mr Lobb, Mrs Lobb, C Towell, R Carter, K Hambleton, D Walton, M Briggs, G Warner, F Warner, C P Maes.

**Others in Attendance:** V Quintyne (OWBC), S Ball (OWBC).T. Bentley (First Responders), R.Moughton (First Responders), P Cousons (Oadby & Wigston Civic Orchestra) Carolyn Holmes (Brocks Hill Country Park and Centre Manager), C Humphreys (Natural Discovery Volunteer Programme Development Project Officer).

L Pires (Wigston Traders).A Thorpe (OWBC), J Carr (OWBC).

**Apologies:** PC S Lewin ,H E. Loydall, K Loydall , B Hilton, F Hilton

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Responsible														
40.	<p><b><u>1.Local Police Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Police gave their apology for their inability to provide the crime update. The Chair requested residents state any issues of concern and these will be recorded and passed to the Police.</p> <p>A copy of the Crime figures were reported and circulated at the meeting for residents:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="261 1536 1153 2002"> <tr> <td>Previous 3 Months</td> <td align="right">Last 3 Months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary Dwelling – 7 and 7 attempts</td> <td 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 align="right">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft Store – 37 with 17 detected-</td> <td align="right">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery – 1</td> <td align="right">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Making off without payment – 1-</td> <td align="right">0</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	
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															

	<p>BOTD`s..... 4</p> <p>Theft Other 5</p> <p>A concerned resident reported inconsiderate parking around the Little Hill School area. This concern will be passed to the Police.</p>	
41.	<p><b><u>LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION DISPLAY</u></b></p> <p>A display presenting the new Local Plan for the Borough Consultation was set up in the hall. It showcased the Council's Local Plan and constituted consultation information for residents. It outlined how the Council is preparing a new local plan to cover new housing development and allocating land for houses. The town centres and the countryside will see key challenges for the Council in this arena.</p> <p>Residents were invited to pose any questions about the Plan to the two officers attending this meeting. The consultation period lasts till November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015.</p>	
42.	<p><b><u>2 NATURAL DISCOVERY VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT- PRESENTATION</u></b></p> <p>Carolyn Holmes, Brock`s Hill Park and Conservation Centre Manager gave an update on this Programme. Casey Humphreys, the newly appointed Natural Discovery Volunteer Development Project Officer was introduced. She will be based at Brocks Hill Centre and work with local volunteers. Part of Casey`s role will be providing training and tool usage.</p> <p>Residents were informed that a 60% Heritage Lottery fund contribution had been received in relation to the Natural Discovery Volunteer Development Programme- Celebrating our Borough`s Natural Heritage Programme.</p> <p>The Programme promotes bio diversity and directly supports the Council`s greening of the borough policy. It will have the outcomes of: increasing visitors to the Borough, and improving the quality of life of people in the Borough.</p> <p>The Heritage funding has assisted with the purchase of a battery operated five - seater Nissan van. It costs three pence a mile to run. It will also contribute to community events. A piece about the Programme is to be featured in the Leicester Mercury. This Programme covers the whole borough.</p> <p>The Programme is being developed with input from Voluntary Action Leicestershire and South Wigston Working Group. Twelve training events are to be offered to people over the year plus two annual volunteer events. This will mean engaging with people of diverse age groups. A Winter and Summer celebration event will also be run, accompanied with the display of projects. A listing of initial conservation training projects for Brock`s Hill was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The Programme will help reduce anti-social behaviour and promote good mental health and well being and access to leisure for everyone. Part of the plan is to develop "health by stealth", for example by felling a tree and building a web page to involve local people.</p>	

	<p>Clifton Bridge as part of this programme was restored in the Summer. The River Corridor was restored with the help of the local community .New friends volunteer groups are to be set up to encourage local people to care for green spaces in the Borough. Local businesses will be connected with help set up the work. Charnwood Foods are involved in supporting the volunteers.</p> <p>Hedgerows have been created in Chicken Alley. Skills training will be provided on hedge laying and coppicing. This will all add to the building of a biological record d for the Borough. Volunteer taster days are also to be offered. Four thousand hours of volunteering has been contributed.</p> <p>An outcome of the Programme is, over the next two years to increase the number of Super Conservation Volunteers across the whole borough. The Programme will focus on increasing further community engagement, focus on biodiversity sites across the Borough, up skill volunteers , further establish ongoing volunteer groups, incorporate health and safety legislation, work towards recruiting a Project Officer for Volunteer development, run training courses and make the Borough a better place to live ,learn and work.</p> <p>There is a link between this Programme and Pride of the Borough. There will be opportunities for people to work in the wild environment and the training is here to benefit everyone.</p> <p>On concluding the presentation the Chair thanked Carolyn Holmes for the update.</p>	
<p><b>43.</b></p>	<p><b><u>PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH</u></b></p> <p>The Pride of the Borough is launching a Take Pride, Stop the Litter Campaign across the whole Borough. Colin Robertson from Pride of the Borough presented information to the residents about the Campaign.</p> <p>This Stop the Litter Campaign came about this Spring after a group of people did a litter pick in scrub land in the ASDA car park area. This led to the filling of 49 green recycling bags of a mixed array of rubbish. Crisp packets; take away food cartons, larger cans, bottles and other items dropped by people.</p> <p>The Campaign over the next two months is to see work with schools and residents. Six senior schools in Oadby and Wigston are now involved. A poster design competition is being run with schools in the Borough.</p> <p>At the three Resident Forums where presentations are to be made, residents are to be requested to complete a brief questionnaire about addressing the cleaning up of litter in the Borough. The completed questionnaires would then be collected in at the end of the meeting and used as consultation feedback.</p> <p>In January 2016 a media campaign is to be launched. The outcome of this campaign is to help make the borough a cleaner place to live, work and play and foster a sense of pride in the Borough. An article is to be placed in the December issue of the Council magazine Letterbox about the Campaign.</p>	

	<p>The Campaign is addressing four key actions. The Supermarkets are also being contacted to get involved with the Campaign, including displaying the campaign poster. On completion of the presentation the Chair thanked Colin Robertson.</p>	
<p>44.</p>	<p><b><u>WIGSTON TRADERS UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Wigston lights switch on is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015.there will be a fare from 12Noon to 8pm.there will be craft and food stalls. The food vendors will be local. Santa will be coming at 4pm /4.30pm will in the coop in a grotto. The switch on is aimed for 6pm.firemen and police will be there. James Plummer a singer will be performing. Monies raised will go to a charity for teenage cancer support.</p> <p>The Council depot is to provide big dustbins to help with the overflow of rubbish and to clean the streets afterwards.</p>	
<p>45.</p>	<p><b><u>CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Oadby and Wigston Community First Responders</u></b></p> <p>The Oadby and Wigston Community First Responders returned to provide a verbal update on how they spent the award given by the Forum a year ago. The Responders work to the protocols of East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS) and to EMAS guidelines. They can mobilise to an incident at times faster than it takes an ambulance to arrive. The ambulance service alerts them. They take up the slack between 999 calls and the ambulance arriving.</p> <p>The Responders started their volunteering role in February 2014. The award has helped with the purchase of professional kits and equipment such as a defibrillator, Jackets costing about £90.00, holdall for £60 to £100. They carry oxygen and nebulisers.</p> <p>The Responders use their own cars and now have three teams in place covering, Oadby, South Wigston and Wigston. They can cancel an ambulance if they find on arrival it is not required. This is done via the CAP Team.</p> <p>Since their setting up, the Responders have helped 57 people suffering a fall, 54 with chest pains,12 diabetics,15 suffering a cardiac arrest, people suffering allergies, take on average 30 calls a month and have logged 600 to 700 hundred calls equivalent to some 1,400 hours over the last ten months.</p> <p>The Responders carryout funding events and will be doing fund raising marathons but would like to come back to the Forum to request some funding but not as much as the first award. The Responders are developing their media presence via social media such as Twitter. Once set up they will send the link to the Community Engagement Officer for circulation. An article on the Responders will be placed in the Council's Letterbox magazine in the near future.</p>	

The Responders said they will come back to the Forum in March 2016. On conclusion of the update the residents gave the responders a round of applause.

### **Pedestrianisation of Bell Street**

Pedestrianisation of Bell Street begins December 14<sup>th</sup> 2015. The bollards will be up and staying up. When the bollards go up the black boxes will be put back in their proper place.

A resident asked if cyclists will be banned from the pedestrianised area. The Chair stated that over the next 18 months this will be addressed. A resident noted that the previous consultation done on pedestrianisation showed 84% of people wanted Bell Street to be cycle free. The surface has now been sealed so a sweeper can be used on it. This was done a fortnight ago.

The Black boxes on Bell Street are to be sunk into place and the ground beneath the waste bins are to be repaired and the bins cleaned off.

### **Shakerdale Road Junction.**

The Shakerdale Road junction to Aylestone Lane is to be improved. This will provide two lines of traffic. This will be a major improvement. A speed table is to be provided by the slip road. Over 80 cars have been stopped from speeding.

### **Petition concerning the 49a bus service**

The issue of buses blocking drives on Kenilworth Road has been addressed. The 49a bus service will be doing a circular route onto Saffron Road. Commuters will be able to get off the 49a and connect with the 47 bus. This will mean only having to buy one ticket. A bus route reorganisation is to take place in November. The Council has been requested not to put up anymore bus shelters as this bus route will close.

### **The Tip**

The County Council is to keep Oadby tip open on the days it is currently listed as open for. It will remain open 5 days a week over the Summer and open later in the Winter. Whetstone Tip will open when Oadby's is closed. There will be a charge for anything which is not domestic waste. For example it costs £3 to dispose of a window. Green garden waste collection ends the end of November and the first week of December 2015. Residents were also reminded that they must either have a bin or a bag for green waste but not both.

A resident was concerned that charging at the Tip would lead to an increase in fly-tipping. It was noted there has been incidents of fly-tipping on verges in Little Hill estate. Charities are also charged for taking second hand clothing to a tip in this Borough.

46.

**ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident asked the Chair why the food recycling scheme is to stop. The Chair confirmed that a specialist tip was required for this trial project. Usage had also dropped off. It was also becoming unsustainable in that the Council needed to buy specialist starch bags to place in the bins. It was therefore uneconomic to sustain it. Residents can buy a green core and compost at home with a discount through the County Council website.

A concerned resident asked if the issue of shopkeepers placing their wares on the pedestrian walkway was resolved. The Chair noted that the Highways department was informed of this issue and will be visiting the offending business in the very near future.

A resident suggested the Council might wish to inform the post office as to relocating in any available empty industrial unit. The Chair stated the Council as much as it wishes to see a solution to the closure of the post office must be seen to be neutral in such matters. It is hoped to be able to accommodate the Post-Office before January 2016. The Chair confirmed to residents that the Council is not going to purchase the Dunelm building.

The plans for the Co-op at Kelmarsh Avenue are going to Council Committee for deliberation Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015. A planning application has to be made for building on the beer garden part of the site. A resident was concerned that this application if granted could lead to chaos and accidents.

County Councillors are to be requested to check on the state of the facings of lights at Newton Lane which, a concerned resident noted requires repairing.

A resident asked what the County Council's policy was on allowing skateboarding on the Jitty on Bell street. The Chair affirmed skateboarding and cycling were not allowed.

Following a question from a resident, the Chair confirmed that Wigston Swimming pool will open the first week in December 2015.

**Requests for Funding**

William Peardon Court Residents Association requested funding for training its group members and for the provision of stationery. £600 was awarded. 15 people voted in favour of the request. No residents voted against this request.

The Phoenix Therapies Group and Wigston Bi-Polar Group requested £1,700 to provide weekly therapy sessions and the purchase of training materials for people who are bi polar/ manic depressive. 12 people voted in favour of the request and there were no objections.

Oadby and Wigston Civic Orchestra requested funding of £500 to support the development of the orchestra's celebratory concert in February 2016 and celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 25 people voted in favour of the funding and

**Councillor  
Charlesworth**

**Councillor  
Bentley**

	<p>there were no objections.</p> <p><b><u>Future Funding Proposals</u></b></p> <p>The Chair raised the question with residents as to whether future funding proposals should be submitted on a form, at least two weeks before the Forum meets. No conclusive decision was made on this.</p> <p><b><u>Items for a future agenda.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddock Street left turn .A written response is to be obtained by County Councillors.</li> <li>• Enforcement on the use of empty buildings in the Borough.</li> <li>• Arriva and bus routes. A discussion with the Council.</li> <li>• Planning application for the Old Admiral building.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Advertisements of Events</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peace Park coffee morning takes place; 28 November 2015, 10am till 1pm in the Pavillion.</li> <li>• St Thomas Church Christmas Fayre, in the meeting room, South Wigston to raise funds for Mapplethorpe Children`s Home. !0am till 1pm, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2015.</li> </ul>	
47.	<p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>Monday 14 March 2016, @ Council House, Council Chamber, Station Road, Wigston, LE18 2DR .Time 7.00pm .</p> <p>Residents are reminded that they may discuss issues of concern to them with Councillors and the Police in confidence between 6.30pm-7.pm (i.e. before the full meeting begins at 7.00pm).</p>	

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**