

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS` FORUM HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES,
STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON MONDAY 14 MARCH 2016, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor B Boulter – Chair

Councillors: M. Charlesworth, L. Bentley, L Broadley, F Broadley, M Chamberlain, HE Loydall,
T Barr

Residents in attendance:

G A York, M Endall, M Harrington, D Needles, D Needles, R J Carter, CP Dingle, P Reeves,
C Towell, MJ Butler, JM Butler, M.A Drage, B J Dearing, D R Moden (Mrs), DR Moden (Mr), J Chauhan, B
H Orsley, J E Beaumont, G Schofield, A Schofield, S.Lobb , J Lobb, Mrs Warner, Mr Warner, DG Barker, D
Walton, P Lapworth, D Foreman, J Elliot, L Darling, M Hilton, B Hilton

Others in Attendance: PC D Hyatt, PCSO K Baladi, V Quintyne (OWBC), L Pires (WigstonTraders

Apologies:

Police Constable D.Hyatt, G Lamb

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Responsible
48	<p><u>LOCAL POLICE ISSUES</u></p> <p>PC Carl Sutherley on behalf of PC Hyatt provided an update on crime figures for the period since the Forum last met as set out below:</p> <p><u>Crime Statistics 11/11/2015 to 14/03/2016</u> Burglary Dwelling – 39 Burglary other than Dwelling – 21 Theft of motor vehicle – 8 Theft from motor vehicle – 13 Theft Stores – 40 Robbery – 2</p> <p>There was one petrol station arrest. Patrols are ongoing in the local cemetery. Extra patrols have also been made in Peace Memorial Park.Both the pavements in Aldeley End are being parked on. This is causing congestion problems, inconveniencing pavement users. The Police are to address this. Police have apprehended those placing g graffiti across Oadby and Wigston.</p> <p><u>BLUEPRINT 2020</u> Inspector Lucy Batchelor on behalf of the Police, presented an overview on the Police Change Programme This is titled; “Blueprint 2020”.Blueprint 2020 provided an overview of future policing, joint working with other agencies such as Probation and the Ambulance Service and covered the implications for change on policing in the Borough and the wider Leicestershire region.</p> <p>The presentation outlined, performance and success areas, changing demands, policing strategic priorities, Leicestershire Police and the recent Comprehensive Spending Review, programmes to projects and strategic alliance with Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire’s police forces.</p>	

	<p>It was clarified that In relation to the budget, it has reduced from £175 million in 2010 to £168 million in 2015. In order to maintain policing levels of service and where possible minimise the reduction in the number of officers and staff there needed to be large savings made. Savings have to date has come to just over £36 million since 2010.</p> <p>Questions from residents ranged from, how feedback from these presentations is taken to government, to how it is to be identified what policing can and cannot achieve. All feedback will be given to the Police Chiefs.</p> <p>Action: 1 Circulate a copy of the presentation with the minutes</p>	<p>Veronika Quintyne</p>
49	<p><u>ELLIS POOL SITE OADBY</u></p> <p>As a borough wide item of information, Residents were informed the Ellis Pool site is now closed and boarded up against vandalism. The land is to remain in Council ownership. No decision has been made about the development of the Pool site.</p> <p>Officers are working on the outcome of a feasibility study re future options for use of the pool site land.</p>	
50	<p><u>NATURAL DISCOVERY VOLUNTEER PROJECT DISPLAY BOARDS</u></p> <p>The Natural Discovery Volunteer Development Project display boards were displayed by Casey Humphries. She is based at Brocks Hill Park and Centre. The Chair directed residents to the display at the front of the hall. This display covered the Volunteer Programme for the Borough. For more information residents are to contact:casey.humphreys@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>	
51	<p><u>EDIBLE FOOD TRAIL</u></p> <p>Alex Hewins presented on this item .He is proposing to take a bid on the Edible Food Trail to the Big Lottery. This item was brought as a means to gauge feedback on it before it is submitted to the Lottery Fund.</p> <p>The project will support sustainable food growing groups across the Borough. The outcome of the project will be local people using key areas of public land to grow food which all residents can harvest. This will lead to improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>All food crops will be available cost free. It will also help food banks to replenish their stocks and encourage local people to grow their own food. Common land would be used to plant fruit bushes and fruit trees, with some planting in planters. school children are to be involved in the project</p> <p>It was suggested the Project proposal engage with schools, community groups and Friends of Peace Park, which facilitates a sensory garden.</p>	
52	<p><u>ARRIVA BUS ROUTE 49a</u></p> <p>Sean Bloxam, Transport Manager from Arriva updated residents on the Arriva 49a bus route. The old bus route will continue to be run. It will not run at night or on Saturdays or Sundays. The last bus Monday to Friday will be the 6.22pm.</p> <p>Arriva will leaflet the route to inform residents of the change. Councillor Boulter implored residents to use or lose the service.</p> <p>Bus Drivers were requested not to use their horns at night. Residents asked if a cross borough bus route was in sight. This was said not to be commercially viable.</p>	
53	<p><u>FUNDING UPDATES</u></p> <p>William Peardon Court Residents Association requested funding for training its</p>	

	<p>group members and for the provision of stationery. An update on this is to come to the Forum in due course.</p> <p>The Phoenix Therapies Group and Wigston Bi-Polar Group were awarded funding to provide weekly therapy sessions and the purchase of training materials for people who are bi polar/ manic depressive. An update is to come to the next Forum meeting.</p> <p>Oadby and Wigston Civic Orchestra requested funding to support the development of the orchestra's celebratory concert in February 2016 and celebrate its 50th anniversary. An update is to come to the next Forum meeting.</p>	
54	<p><u>PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH</u></p> <p>Due to apologies proffered, the Chair read out an update on behalf of Pride of the Borough.</p> <p>The Pride of the Borough Loyalty Card was promoted. It allows shoppers to access a variety of discounts from a range of local businesses. The annual joining fee remains £5.00. It can be accessed from Customer Services, Bell Street and Brocks Hill Centre, Oadby.</p> <p>Currently, there are 400 Pride of the Borough business members. Four new members were recruited.</p>	
55	<p><u>WIGSTON TRADERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Town Centre trade is quiet. A few businesses have closed. Smaller shops are struggling. Residents were encouraged to shop local and encourage their families to shop local. It was suggested Leicester Road could do with a facelift to smarten it up.</p>	
56	<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><u>Capital Projects Update</u></p> <p><u>PADDOCK STREET BUS SHELTER</u></p> <p>There is a new bus shelter for Paddock Street. Two licences have been applied for. A street licence is required to place a bus shelter. The cost of the licence is £240. This has caused a slight delay. The same licence charge applies to bins.</p> <p>Following damage to the bollard in Bell Street, the Council has purchased a new one and two spares. A report on longer-term options re the bollard is to go to Committee. Options on alternatives to bollards are to be discussed. Emergency services hold a key to access Bell Street.</p> <p><u>PEDESTRIANISATION OF BELL STREET</u></p> <p>On the issue of pedestrianisation of Bell Street, Residents were requested to make their views known to County Council. A Resident requested 10 miles an hour speed limit be placed on Bell Street.</p> <p>The consultation will close on August 7. People can have their say and fill in a short questionnaire by visiting www.leics.gov.uk/wigston-bell-street</p> <p>Hard copies can be requested by writing to: Leicestershire County Council, Environment and Transport, Engineering Design, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RJ.</p> <p><u>SHOPKEEPERS USE OF THE HIGHWAY</u></p> <p>The Highways department is addressing shopkeepers placing items on the pavement. It is instigating action as appropriate.</p>	

SALE OF THE CO-OP BUILDING

A sale is imminent. Residents were reminded that the new post shop on Leicester Road is not the new post office. The Council approached the post office for a temporary Wigston post office. This was refused.

The Chair explained the Local Development Order process as some residents thought this might affect the post office development. He acknowledged there is to be development over the next thirty years and the risk of Government forcing the use of Greenfield sites if Brownfield sites were not used.

In the discussion on the Local Development Orders, Residents stated more car parking was needed. The Chair stated there is to be a purpose built car park erected. The Chair requested Residents put their views forward to the Council on the Local Development sites. The Council is to develop housing, shops and industrial options without losing car parking spaces.

COMMUNITY GROUP NOTICE BOARD

Following a request for a notice board to place community group information, the Chair stated such purchase for Bell Street is acceptable. It costs £2500 for a static notice board and £800 to paint them.

Residents were also directed to the Community Engagement Officer for finding out how to access the Town`s electronic notice boards

Action:2

Bring this as an item for discussion at the next meeting.

REQUESTS FOR SPENDING AND UPDATE ON FORUM BUDGET

Provide a seat for the Bus shelter next to the Health Centre on Station Road. The majority of Residents in attendance agreed. No dissenters.

The Civic Society was awarded £400 to purchase and plant 4 trees near the footpath between Willow Avenue and the Central Park. Guidance is to be sought from the Council`s Open Space Manager by the Society as to the type of trees most suitable to plant there.

There was one proposer for this project. All residents in attendance voted in favour. No dissenters.

Leaflets were circulated at the meeting about the County Council tip. The leaflet clarified the cost of using the tip and what items can be received. Payment must be by bank card not cash.

On green waste collection, there is to be a fortnightly collection from March till November 2016.

The Chair noted that the Government is to cut disability benefits. Four Leicestershire MPS voted for this. Residents were requested to write to their MP to express their disapproval.

Residents asked what the Council was doing about addressing empty buildings in the district. The Chair clarified the Council has a policy and an officer is engaged in addressing such matters in the Borough, including bringing them back into use.

The development near Moat Street is due to be completed. The Council is monitoring its progress.

**Veronika
Quintyne**

	Residents were reminded that should they wish to discuss in confidence local issues of concern before the full meeting begins at 7.00pm, there is a surgery session with; the Police, Councillors and Council Officers between 6.30pm and 7.00pm.	
57	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Wednesday June 29th 2016 : <i>-subject to confirmation at Council AGM</i></p> <p>Time:7.00pm</p> <p>Venue: Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2DR</p>	

Meeting closed at 20:37