

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE
COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2016
COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair - Councillor G A Boulter

COUNCILLORS (7):

L A Bentley
Mrs L M Broadley
F S Broadley

M H Charlesworth
R F Eaton
Mrs L Eaton

K J Loydall

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (1):

Ms V Quintyne

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (26):

A Schofield
B Hilton
C Huscroft
C Towell
D Foreman
D R Needles
G Blackburn
G Lamb
G Schofield

J Buck
J M Butler
L Blackburn
L Wills (Phoenix Therapies)
M Drage
M Hilton
M J Butler
M Sturgeon
M Warner

P Cousins
P Lapworth
P Payton
P Reeves
PC D Hyatt
R Burnham
R S Darlaston
S Lonslow

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
1.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2016</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting held March 14th 2016 were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>	
2.	<p><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></p> <p>The Police presented the crime figures for the last three months. There has been a significant decrease in burglaries.</p> <p>There were 9 shed and garage break-ins.</p> <p>In the last three months Theft from motor vehicles totalled 16. There was an increase on this of 3. Peugeot cars were being targeted regardless of car age.</p> <p>Theft of motor vehicles equalled 3.</p> <p>There was a decrease of theft from stores.</p> <p>Robbery previously totalled 3. In this quarter nil. There were no particular areas of the district targeted for break ins. There was one robbery on the park and an attempted robbery of Nationwide Building Society. Children</p>	

	<p>between the ages of 12 to 16 were identified as the main victims of robbery. There are currently no suspects for the graffiti which has appeared on walls in the Little Hill area.</p> <p>The Council offered to remove graffiti from the walls of the Sainsbury store. The Store declined this offer. Sainsbury stated it will remove the graffiti.</p> <p>Where there are issues of obstruction by motor vehicles residents were reminded they can ring the Police on the 101 hotline to make reports. The Police will speak to parents and schools about the consequences of parking which causes resident and road user inconvenience.</p> <p>A resident wished the Police to be aware of possible motorcycling on school playing fields over the school holidays.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>PHOENIX THERAPIES UPDATE</u></p> <p>Phoenix Therapies gave a power point presentation to residents. It was titled: Take the Weight off Your Feet. A paper copy of the presentation was circulated at the meeting. Testimonials from users of the Project were read aloud.</p> <p>Ten people attended this course. It ran for two hours a week for 10 weeks. It was estimated that the Project in terms of Health savings, saved the Health Services £20k to £30K.</p> <p>Testimonials shared with residents noted how participants on the course improved on their mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Improvement was measured by participants filling in a self evaluation form. The form consisted of five measurements. It questioned how participants felt at the beginning and end of the course and how the course impacted on their life.</p> <p>The course has concluded and the Group participants continue to meet at the Bassett centre, South Wigston to support each other.</p> <p>Residents asked if Phoenix Therapies had received funding for follow up work with participants. A project to support young peoples` health starts soon in Oadby and South Wigston. Funding has been obtained from The Conservation Volunteer Project (tcv) to support this work. No funding has been received from Health Services.</p> <p>Phoenix Therapies was requested to return to the Forum, and put together a more firmly costed proposal. This is on the basis that they request a minimum of £1000 from each of the three Town Forums to support the proposal.</p> <p>Phoenix Therapies are enlisting the support of Leicester University and De Montfort University for the collation of work achieved to date.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH</u></p> <p>Pride of the Borough was formed in 2003. Initially it was used as a means to enter East Midlands in Bloom The judging for East Midlands in Bloom</p>	

	<p>includes how communities are working together, not just flower arrangements in gardens.</p> <p>The Litter Picking Campaign has seen groups of people working together to build a strong sense of pride in community, through working to reduce litter.</p> <p>Litter picking takes place the third Saturday of each month. Saturday 16th July at 10am for two hours is the next meet up date. Magna Road is the meeting point.</p> <p>East Midlands In Bloom judges visited the Borough July 6th , 2016 to rate Oadby and Wigston Borough.</p> <p>Pride of the Borough for the past two years has worked with businesses.37 businesses now offer a discount to Oadby and Wigston Borough Pride of the Borough card holders.</p> <p>Card membership costs £5 per year. The cards are available from Brocks Hill Conservation Park and Centre, Oadby Library and Customer Services on Bell Street.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>WIGSTON TRADERS' UPDATE</u></p> <p>Wigston Traders Group no longer exists. The Town Centre Manager is working to re-establish this Group. In the main time The Lions Group is working with the former Wigston Traders Chair Louise Pires.</p> <p>The Oadby and Wigston Lions will co-ordinate the Christmas Lighting deliberations and help to build a new Wigston Traders Group.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>CHAIR'S UPDATES</u></p> <p>Electronic Notice Board Access</p> <p>On the question previously raised as to how residents can place a notice on the town`s electronic notice board, the Chair stated; residents need to contact Mark.Hryniw@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or ring him on 0116 25722706. Mark is the Town`s Business Manager. Charities can place an advert free of charge. Businesses are charged a fee.</p> <p>Request for a Community Notice board in Bell Street Customer Centre On the question of a second notice board accessible to residents being placed in the Customer Services Centre in Bell Street, the Chair stated Customer Services is addressing this. A notice board is to be erected which will not be obscured by the shutter.</p> <p>Sale of the Co-op Building</p> <p>The Co-op building has now been sold to Edinburgh Woollen Mills. Work is progressing to fill the Lord`s Electrical shop and Heard the butchers..</p> <p>A resident expressed thanks to the Chair for his continued effort in working to have a post office returned to Wigston.</p> <p>A Seat for the Pharmacy Bus Shelter</p>	

A seat for the bus shelter next to the pharmacy on Station Road is being ordered at the same time as the bus shelter for Oadby. This is to maximise the Council's finance ordering process. Order of a bin near to Horsewell Lane Bus Shelter

Residents agreed to a bin being placed next to the Horsewell Lane bus shelter. The bin costs £400.

A Defibrillator to be placed in the Sainsbury Store

The Chair is to discuss the placing of a new defibrillator within the Sainsbury store. A defibrillator costs about £1,250. The purchase was agreed by the residents in principle. This is to be discussed at the next Resident Forum meeting. Instructions for use accompany the defibrillator.

Glenfield Hospital Children's Heart Unit Closure

Glenfield Hospital Children's Heart Unit is to close. The Chair stated if residents are not in agreement with this they need to make their objections known by requesting the Council write a letter noting their concern. The majority of residents voted by a show of hands for the Council to write a letter on their behalf expressing concern to the closure.

Consultation on the Accommodation Strategy for Older People-2016 to 2026

Leicester County Council is running an electronic consultation on the Accommodation Strategy for Older People -2016 to 2026. Residents were encouraged to view the website and express their view. The deadline for having your say is midnight of Friday 23 September 2016.
<http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-consultations/accommodation-strategy-for-older-people-and-extra-care-review>

Consultation on Highways Planning by Leicester County Council

Leicester County Council is to consult on highways planning until September. There is to be an expected £10million saving in the 2017 budget.

Memorial Service in Memory of Victoria Cross holder William Ewart Boulter

Thursday 14 July at 12 noon sees a short twenty minute memorial service at the bottom of Bell Street. This is in remembrance of William Ewart Boulter who was awarded the Victoria Cross in France in 1916. A tree is to be planted and an interpretation memorial board erected in his honour. Everyone is welcome to attend the event.

Continued Consultation on Pedestrianisation of Bell Street, Wigston till August 2016

The County Council consultation on Bell Street Pedestrianisation goes on until August 2016.

	<p>Residents were encouraged to express their views in the consultation. Full pedestrianisation means cycles cannot be banned from being ridden under County Council rules.</p> <p>The Bollards have been knocked over. There is only one more bollard in stock. Should this last one be damaged the Council will place a gate at the end of Bell Street which will only be accessible to emergency vehicles and the Farmers` Market.</p> <p>Marone Square Refurbishment</p> <p>Residents were asked for their thoughts on the refurbishment of Marone Square. It is proposed to :remove the tall walls which are contributing to anti-social behaviour, create a picnic area with seating, create a space for young children to play on anti vandal proof games such as a hopscotch and add a basketball hoop for older children.£5,000 was suggested as the sum for this refurbishment. Residents agreed to £5,000 being spent on this refurbishment from the Forum fund if the Council could not fund the whole scheme.</p> <p>Future Town Budget Savings</p> <p>The Chair noted the Council will need to save at least £860,000 in the 2017 budget. In 2018 the saving will be around £260,000.The Council will consult residents on how much and why.</p> <p>It was noted that business rates go to the Council but they do not make up for the budget cuts in Government subsidy..</p> <p>The LED Lighting Programme</p> <p>The LED lighting programme is going forward shortly. There is still a street light curfew in Oadby and Wigston. The street lighting is controlled by a computerised system which switches the lights on and off, including individual lights.</p> <p>Concrete lamp posts are to be replaced as part of a separate programme.</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Grass Cuts in 2017</p> <p>Grass cuts are to be reduced to three in 2017.This is a County Council duty to cut Highway verges.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></p> <p>Trees in Wigston</p> <p>A resident raised the problem of two twenty foot trees in the South West periphery of the cemetery becoming a potential hazard as they may fall. The Chair confirmed a newly appointed tree officer is identifying all Council owned trees in the Borough and following up on reports of possible hazards. The Council is aware of the trees in the cemetery.</p>	

	<p>A tree in the Len Phillips Memorial Garden has split. It is to be removed and replaced in the Autumn.</p> <p>Trees and bushes overlapping the highways are cut by Highways and the Council bill the householder if not done in the specified time.</p> <p>The Chair is to address the issue of overhanging bushes and big adverts outside of shops which are a potential hazard to blind or partially sighted pedestrians.</p> <p>Hedges on the Meadows were noted by the Civic Society as causing a potential hazard. The Council Aboralist is aware of these.</p> <p>A resident suggested more trees be planted on Holmden Avenue using the consultation feedback requests of residents who were amenable to having a tree placed outside of their residence. The current number of trees look sparse on the Avenue. This is to come back for discussion at the next Residents Forum meeting.</p> <p>Pavements used for Placing Shop Trolleys, Tables and Chairs</p> <p>The Council has a policy on the use of pavements being used by shopkeepers to place trolleys. Letters of enforcement to stop this practice can be sent to shop keepers.</p> <p>County Council Highways is responsible for issuing the licence to shop keepers who wish to place chairs and tables on the pavement in front of their shop. The licence extends to goods for sale on the highway. The revenue goes into the Highways budget.</p> <p>Emergence of a Car Wash between Leicester Road and Long Street</p> <p>Councillor Lee Bentley at a resident`s request is to check out the emergence of a car wash which has appeared at the juncture between Leicester Road and Long Street.</p>	
8.	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Wednesday 14 September 2016 Time: 7pm Venue: Council Office, Council Chamber, Station Road, Wigston, LE18 2DR</p>	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50 PM



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CHAIR
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WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016
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