

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM
HELD AT THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHESHIRE DRIVE, SOUTH
WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE18 4WA ON TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2016
COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair - Councillor Mrs S B Morris

COUNCILLORS (3):

G A Boulter

J W Boyce

R E R Morris

RESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE (27):

C Walter, T Sumpter, M Ray, R Pearce, M Webster, P Hyatt, G Flaviani,
T Tetley, M Tedd, R J Carter, D J Davey, R Hughes, J Jones, M Wilmot, L Howe, J B Smith,
S Mosley, D Johnson, Y Johnson, D Tebbutt, P Tebbutt, R Muggleton, S Avery, P Picton, C
Sutton, J Sealey, J Guesford, S Malik.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (5):

V Quintyne (OWBC) J. Cooke (Local Peoples Programme / The Conservation Volunteers),
PC C Sutherley, K Jebson-Hambly (OWBC), G Lamb (Pride of the Borough)

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.																		
22.	<p><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></p> <p>Police provided an update on crime prevention for the period since the Forum last met. This is summarised below:</p> <table align="center"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Last 3 months</th> <th>Previous 3 months</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Burglary Dwelling</td> <td align="center">6</td> <td align="center">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary other than Dwelling (sheds/garages/business premises)</td> <td align="center">2</td> <td align="center">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft of Motor Vehicle</td> <td align="center">2</td> <td align="center">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft from Motor Vehicle</td> <td align="center">6</td> <td align="center">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery</td> <td align="center">-</td> <td align="center">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Other Crime Issues</u></p> <p>An elderly lady was distracted by burglars who stole items from her property.</p> <p>An Asian family`s property was burgled. It was assumed the burglars may have targeted the property with the view to stealing jewellery.</p> <p>Vehicles around the Saffron Road corridor were targeted.</p> <p>The Police are targeting illegal and inconsiderate parking.</p> <p>The Police continue to consult residents regarding community safety in the area. This includes their perception of anti social behaviour. Since the last reporting of crime stats, no major policing issues have arisen.</p>		Last 3 months	Previous 3 months	Burglary Dwelling	6	6	Burglary other than Dwelling (sheds/garages/business premises)	2	3	Theft of Motor Vehicle	2	0	Theft from Motor Vehicle	6	10	Robbery	-	0	
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	<p>A resident requested the Police to address the issue of motorists being forced to use the red marked bus lane as a cut through, as they are driving towards Leicester City. The understanding was those bus lanes were not to be used by cars.</p> <p>In Wigston Magna, Fredrick Street, teenagers were spotted riding at speed on pavements, without bicycle lights or visibility clothing. Concern was expressed that this may lead to collision with pedestrians.</p> <p>A request was made for the alleyway to be prescribed as pedestrians only.</p> <p>Action: The Council is to address this concern</p> <p>A concerned resident wished to see Bell Street be a cycle free zone. It was explained that the County Council has allowed cyclists access, although the Council did not agree with this decision.</p> <p>Action: Councillor Boulter agreed to discuss this issue with the resident.</p>	
23.	<p><u>AMENDED MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 08 JUNE 2016</u></p> <p>The amended minutes of June 6th 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record. The minutes were proposed and seconded for the Forum`s acceptance. There were no dissenters.</p> <p>A resident requested the Forum include fewer presentations and that the next Forum meeting agenda set aside an hour to discuss how to make the Forum work.</p>	
24.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p>	
24a.	<p><u>SIR EDWARD GARNIER & OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>A vote was taken on a proposal to bring forward the Sir Edward Garnier issue previously raised. Fifteen people voted in favour of this. Following the vote, the Chair brought the item forward for open discussion. This was previously to be discussed under item 8 on the agenda.</p> <p>The following points made were recorded as follows:</p> <p>The Chair stated the current issue relating to the grievance between the Council and employees cannot be discussed. The matter is covered by law and Human Rights legislation.</p> <p>A printed written response by the Council on this matter was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Action: Circulate the written response to residents.</p> <p>The grievances raised were made back in May 2015. An investigation concluded in 2015. 214 grievances and more were said to have been made. The investigation dismissed them.</p>	

The Local Government Association was brought in to do a thorough investigation. Only those interviewed were allowed to talk about it.

A question was asked as to if any of the 214 grievances were upheld. The Chair stated she could not discuss the grievance matter any further as it is not yet concluded.

The Chair was asked if she or any other Councillors apart from the Leader of the Council were involved in the grievance. The answer was in the negative. This was done so Councillors were "kept clean" from the matter.

The question was asked if HR was involved at this point. The Chair stated this could not be answered at this time.

Questions can be asked once the process is over. Councillors can only raise questions once the process is over.

A resident noted that 214 grievances were raised against middle to senior management and it seemed suspicious that none can be questioned about.

The Chair stated Councillors and the Public must be careful not to say anything on this matter as they may be liable to be sued if they say the wrong thing.

It was noted that some residents are upset by this matter and the monetary cost.

A Resident made observations from the Penn document referred to in the meeting . Quotes were made from Hansard. It was noted Mr Penn did not give Oadby and Wigston a "clean bill of health". Mr Penn's report is available on the worldwide Web. The Resident expressed concern residents were not told anything. She felt there was nothing to stop the Council talking about the governance of Oadby and Wigston. She read a section from the report which noted that "culture change may take longer" at the Council.

The Council's Change Management Committee were said to be concerned residents had not been told anything.

The resident expressed an opinion that the Council is doing a "cover up".

Another resident expressed the view that "nine peoples' lives have been made hell".

Councillor Boyce stated that 15 people were involved in the grievance. He noted that action is still being taken. The Penn Report went to the Change Management Committee and all reports do not go to all Residents Forums.

A resident is concerned there is an issue of trust between the Council and residents.

A resident noted the situation between Sir Edward Garnier and the Council has adversely affected the Council.

A resident noted that Sir Edward Garnier is acting on behalf of the residents and some officers gave no response.

The Chair stated the Penn document has many parts of it redacted. As it

mentions peoples identities.

Councillor Boyce explained how grievances are dealt with in the Council.

The Penn report is freely available online.

Richard Penn was suggested as an adviser to Oadby and Wigston Council by the Local Government Association. The grievance reports are not on the website. A second part of Mr Penn's report is on the website. Elements are redacted.

On Change Management training at the Council, there are two more months of training for Councillors. The Change Management Committee will not exist forever. The Council is doing all it can to resolve this situation acting within the law and therefore cannot resolve it until the law allows for resolution.

The Chair will come to the next forum meeting and provide an update on progress.

A resident stated his behaviour was such at the previous meeting because he had been "unnecessarily provoked".

A question was asked as to whether Mr Penn was known by a person in the Council. It was stated that Councillor Darr was a Councillor in Bradford twenty years ago and Mr Penn was an officer there.

The Penn report was noted as critical of the Council's local structure.

Questions were raised as to why the Council needs a Change Management Programme, which should have been in place twenty years ago. The Chair noted the Council had gone through change in, 2000 and 2008.

A resident stated the Council should have used the Forum as an opportunity for discussion when things go wrong.

The Chair stated this Forum does not stop the opportunity to bring challenges to services by residents.

Noting the Penn report the Chair stated this Council has done a significant amount but cannot share all the information.

A resident called for an extraordinary meeting to be held.

Councillor Boyce would like to brief Members on this issue but is unable to widely at this stage.

A resident noted a petition could be called to have an extraordinary meeting. The Chair noted that if the Council gets to the end of the employment process, the Chair can then call an extraordinary meeting.

The Chair is concerned that if this is done next month and the issue is still not resolved she would still not be able to provide answers to questions in full.

A resident asked if Sir Edward Garnier was invited to come and have a chat in the recent past with, the Chief Executive and the offer is clear he should

	<p>come.</p> <p>Councillor Boyce noted that since February no invitation had been made to Sir Edward Garnier. On the last discussion with Sir Garnier it was expressed that Sir Garnier was to assist the Council to access funding.</p> <p>There is a future commitment from the Chief Executive, Mark Hall, once the process is complete to, inform residents what has happened and when.</p> <p>The Chief Executive will provide a briefing on where the Council is at and make a statement once everything is over residents will be able to say what the case was about and know the cost.</p> <p>A resident stated that he thought tonight's meeting was a waste of time and he had come to the meeting to talk about an issue that affected South Wigston</p> <p>The Chair stated she is open to putting information about the Change Management training on the next Forum agenda. At the end of the Change Management Programme there will be some culture change and the Council will change if it is needs changing.</p>	
25.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 07 SEPTEMBER 2016</u></p> <p>Residents stated that the draft minutes of the September 7 Forum were not a true and accurate record. Amendments to the September Forum minutes were circulated to all present, read, and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>A copy of this document, marked as 'Addendum No. 1', is filed with these minutes.</p> <p>A resident raised that they had document of proposed changes to the forum meetings. The resident requested that further consideration be given at a future meeting as to how the forum meetings were to work.</p> <p>A copy of this document, marked as 'Addendum No. 2', is filed with these minutes.</p>	
26.	<p><u>CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT OADBY AND WIGSTON COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN</u></p> <p>The other matters.</p>	
27.	<p><u>RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLANS</u></p> <p>The other matters.</p>	
28.	<p><u>SOUTH WIGSTON TRADERS' UPDATE</u></p> <p>The other matters.</p>	
29.	<p><u>OADBY AND WIGSTON COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS</u></p> <p>The Oadby and Wigston Community Responders requested an award of £190 from the Residents Forum. This was for the purchase of two high visibility jackets. They requested the same sum from Oadby Residents Forum, which was agreed.</p>	

	<p>The Responders are now seeking an award of £190 from South Wigston Residents Form to purchase two jackets. The same sum is to be requested from Wigston Residents Forum.</p> <p>The jackets will help to address the shortage of official equipment required. The jackets will be accessible to other Responders of which there are eleven in total. The jacket cost will include the embroidered crest of this Council and EMAS (East Midlands Ambulance Service).</p> <p>The proposal was agreed. There were no dissenters.</p>	
30.	<p><u>CHAIR'S UPDATES</u></p> <p>The other matters.</p>	
30a.	<p><u>CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE</u></p> <p>The other matters.</p>	
30b.	<p><u>REQUESTS FOR SPENDING AND UPDATE ON FORUM BUDGET</u></p> <p>The other matters.</p>	
31.	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></p> <p>The other matters.</p> <p>Residents are reminded that should they wish to discuss issues that affect them before the full meeting begins, there is a confidential one to one surgery session with the Police and Councillors between 7.00pm and 7.30pm.</p>	
32.	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next South Wigston Residents Forum meeting is scheduled to take place on: Tuesday 7th March 2017 at 7.30pm. Venue: Bassett Street Hub, Bassett Street, Wigston LE18 4PE.</p>	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.04 PM



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CHAIR

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TUESDAY, 07 MARCH 2017

ADDENDUM NO. 1

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE BASSETT STREET COMMUNITY HUB, BASSETT STREET, SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE18 4PE ON WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Amendments to draft minutes – amended wording to be added or corrected in italics

Min Ref 12: Addition of omitted item

The resident who raised the amendments to the minutes of the June meeting asked the Chair when in this meeting time would be given to discuss Edward Garnier's Adjournment Debate of the previous day, 6th September. The Chair said it could be at Chair's Update.

Min ref 15: Addition of omitted item

A resident asked that we be called citizens or residents because that means we have rights and duties. We are not customers and shouldn't be referred to as such as that takes our rights away. The Leader of the Council said this would be considered.

Min ref 20: Amendments to incorrect wording and to rectify omissions

Para commencing the issues in question – amend to:

The issues in question related to: 214 grievances taken by 9 senior managers against the senior management team; estimated £550,000 spent on investigation, legal costs etc; and critical comments concerning management and governance of the Council. Residents asked why Forum meetings had been told nothing in the eighteen months since the resignation letter of one of those staff appeared in the Leicester Mercury after the May 2015 election.

Immediately after bullet points recording Chair's comments, the draft record of residents' points is inaccurate and incomplete. Remove all 4 paragraphs purporting to record what residents said. Replace with amended items as follows:

A resident stated that there is no way that 214 allegations from 9 senior managers can possibly be 'just a staffing issue', it can only be a problem with management and governance.

A resident stated that the Council does not respond – doesn't reply to correspondence or phone calls, nor does the Senior Management, and that residents have nowhere to go with issues other than to their MP. Edward Garnier is acting on behalf of residents.

Another resident stated the view that the Liberal Democrats have had a majority for over 20 years, do not have a strong opposition, and have drifted to a position of protecting the Council instead of fulfilling their role of holding the Council to account, and representing residents. The same resident had to ask the Chair why he was shouting at her.

Another resident stated if they were a chief executive and had 214 grievances against them, they would be seriously considering their position. In addition, in the light of Edward Garnier's call for the Senior Management Team and the political leadership to resign, they asked of the Chair, 'Are you going to resign?' The Chair replied, 'no'.

Another resident expressed concern at the enormous cost of the issues and pointed out that this is Council tax money paid by residents.

Another resident asked that this matter be added to the agenda for the next Forum meeting

in November 2016. The Chair agreed to this.

The Chair stated that if any resident wrote to him with their e-mail he would forward relevant documents to them – although some would be redacted.

DRAFT

ADDENDUM NO. 2

Changing the Forum Meetings

The present Forum meetings are very poorly attended, and don't appear to fulfil the purpose for which they are run.

Sharon has agreed to discuss the structure of these meetings.

I would like the following proposals discussed and voted on in the hope that the meetings work more in line with their purpose, and result in more positive outcomes.

1. **Reduce the number of presentations.** Our last meeting had just 10 minutes to discuss Edward Garnier's adjournment debate. The swimming pool presentation was given over 20, and to which our input was irrelevant.
2. **Give more time for residents to question and give their views.** This is the only place for public discussion between residents and ward councillors. There has to be more space for views, opinions and ideas to be openly exchanged.
3. **Send agendas and minutes out a week in advance.** This should be standard practice. They shouldn't be given out on the night.
4. **Give residents a big say on what goes on the agenda and order of discussion.**
5. **Make agendas and minutes easily accessible on line** i.e. by typing in South Wigston Residents' Forum, and getting all relevant documents for that forum, in one place, in date order. An http link is useless for open resident access.
6. **No vote on money applications on the night of any presentation.** There should be a proper written presentation and costing the first time, for residents to take away and consider. They can then ask questions before voting at the next Forum.
7. **Have an agreed quorum – e.g 10 residents present before a vote can be taken.**
8. **Have a discussion and review about increasing attendance.** The present system seems to be that only those who attended the last meeting are contacted for the following meeting. We need an action plan to involve more people.
9. **Keep an expanding list of people who attend forum meetings.** Add newcomers automatically so that the list can grow.