

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREENING THE BOROUGH WORKING GROUP HELD  
AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY  
2017 COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM**

<b><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></b>		
Chair - Councillor D M Carter		
<b>COUNCILLORS (5):</b>		
Miss A R Bond	J W Boyce	R H Thakor
G A Boulter	M H Charlesworth	
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (6):</b>		
S Glazebrook	Ms S Lane	Ms M Smith
B Kew	Mrs A Lennox MBE	A Thorpe

<b>Min Ref.</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Officer Resp.</b>
<b>30.</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b>  An apology for absence was received from Councillor F S Broadley and Mr Henry Pearson, Arboricultural Officer.	
<b>31.</b>	<b><u>NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2016</u></b>  The notes of the previous meeting held on 28 November 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.	
<b>32.</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b>  None.	
<b>33.</b>	<b><u>FORWARD PLANNING / LOCAL PLAN (VERBAL UPDATE)</u></b>  The Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager gave a verbal update on Forward Planning / Local Plan.  He advised that the Planning Policy Team were currently working on the new Local Plan which will supersede the current saved Local Plan, Core Strategy and Town Centres Area Action Plan. Two public consultation events had already taken place in Winter 2015 and Winter 2016. The next steps would be the Pre-Submission Consultation which will take place late Summer 2017 and the adoption of the new Local Plan in 2018.  The role of the Local Plan was said to set out the long-term development strategy for the Borough. All planning related decisions that are made by the Council would need to be in line with the new Local Plan. The new Local Plan's strategy would consider the future role of places and make decisions on where new development should be concentrated and where it should not. It will also identify where, and how many, new homes should be built, the locations where businesses need more land to expand, which areas need to be regenerated, where new shops should be located and which areas should be protected from development (such as open spaces and countryside).	

	<p>Councillor J W Boyce stated that the Council had little or no control on the number of houses due to the Government's White Paper on the subject so it was best to concentrate on the quality-side of any future proposed developments.</p> <p>Councillor G A Boulter asked if the materials used in any future developments could be specified.</p> <p>The Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager stated that it was possibly out of our control but materials could be specified to be in-keeping with the local area and could specify a local palate of what is expect to be used.</p> <p>Councillor M H Charlesworth asked that, if the Council built over and above the Local Plan (i.e. over 155 per year) if there was to be an added bonus.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce stated that the Council would struggle to meet the target every year for the next 20 year plan and there was a need to make green wedges stronger to ensure that materials, designs and construction specifications are met.</p> <p>The Chair asked how strong the Council's Local Plan was.</p> <p>The Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager stated that the Council needed to ensure that any evidence was as strong as possible, especially where sites had not been identified. If the Planning Inspector agreed, it would protect the site(s) for a period of time. He also advised that there would be a full Members' Briefing on Wednesday 8 March 2017 which would cover the Local Plan, Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) and the Housing White Paper stating that all Members were invited to attend.</p>	
<p><b>34.</b></p>	<p><b><u>BOROUGH ENTRY SIGNS UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>The Facilities and Administration Manager presented her report which was duly noted.</p> <p>It was reported that the Policy, Finance and Development Committee had now agreed to the increase in expenditure in relation to the Borough Entry signs. As a result, a meeting was held with the Pride of the Borough Group and came away with the strap line 'East Midlands in Bloom Winners, Britain in Bloom Finalists'. This wording was agreed by all Members.</p> <p>The Pride of the Borough Group had requested that all planters to be kept and reused elsewhere.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce stated that there were (are) three concrete posts still <i>in situ</i> on Saffron Road, Wigston and asked if they could be removed.</p> <p>The Operations Manager advised that he would visit the site, survey the posts and action as necessary.</p>	
<p><b>35.</b></p>	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager presented his report which was reviewed and duly noted.</p>	

### **Elizabeth Court, Wigston**

The Interim Community Services Manager said that the remedial works at Elizabeth Court were due to start April/May 2017 after the completion of the external wall contract and would be due for completion towards the end of September 2017. The replacement windows would also be carried out during this time.

Councillor J W Boyce raised the issue that some of the problems were with usage and asked what can be done to overcome this issue.

The Interim Community Services Manager advised that they will be running education programmes for residents to advise on good ventilation practice(s).

### **Wind Turbine at Brocks Hill Country Park, Oadby**

The Interim Community Services Manager said that enquiries had been received from members of the public regarding the future of the wind turbine. A feasibility study would be carried out to see if it can be economically repaired.

Councillor M H Charlesworth stated that there was not enough wind where it was sited for optimum use and would possibly be a waste of money trying to repair.

Councillor J W Boyce stated that if it was in the wrong position, could it be re-sited. This option was to be included in the feasibility study. If it could not work or could not be re-sited, it should be removed.

The Facilities and Administration Manager advised it was installed to demonstrate the possibility of producing electricity. The best site in the Borough was on land Oadby and Wigston Borough Council did not own. In the Borough area, wherever it was sited, it would not generate large volumes of electricity.

Councillor J W Boyce stated that the wind turbine needed to be able to demonstrate or produce electricity and at present it did neither.

The Interim Community Services Manager stated that the wind turbine had also been vandalised but the extent of the damage was at present unknown until the feasibility study is carried out.

The Chair accepted that the feasibility study be carried out and upon the findings a decision be made and the item to be brought before the Service Delivery Committee.

### **Notice Board at the Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston**

The Interim Services Manager stated that he had viewed the notice board and confirmed it was rotten. Work was currently in hand to replace it and suggested that the replacement needed to be better managed.

Councillor Miss A R Bond asked who was responsible for updating the notice board.

Councillor G A Boulter stated that the notice board needed to be of the

	<p>same size and that only suitable items are to be displayed and it should not be used for any commercial or political literature.</p> <p>The Facilities and Administration Manager advised the group that an article would be going into the next edition of Letterbox giving the criteria for material to be displayed. She also stated that all other notice boards in the Borough are in fairly good condition.</p> <p>Councillor M H Charlesworth stated that the notice board on Bull Head Street, Wigston never had anything displayed on it as a local resident removed anything put on it. A discussion took place on whether to re-site the notice board or to get a cover for it.</p>	
36.	<p><b><u>ARBORICULTURAL UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>The Arboricultural Officer sent his apologies to the meeting. Those present at the meeting noted the Arboricultural Update report.</p> <p><b>Tree Strategy</b></p> <p>It was asked if the Tree Strategy had gone out to consultation but no one present was able to confirm. The Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager advised that he would make enquiries to liaise with the Communications and Business Performance Manager.</p> <p><b>Tree Works</b></p> <p>The Chair commented on the mature trees on the Borough's highways. As they were all planted around the same time, it was said that it could be the case that they all be cut down around the same time. He enquired as to whether the Council currently had any dialogue with Leicestershire County Council (LCC). It was said that possibly due to maintenance issues, LCC did not favour trees along the highway.</p> <p>Councillor G A Boulter stated that he was concerned at the loss of poplars and enquired as to whether it possible to re-plant more of the same at suitable locations.</p>	
37.	<p><b><u>VOLUNTEER PROJECT AND NATURAL GREEN SPACES</u></b></p> <p>The Interim Health and Leisure Manager presented her report which was duly noted.</p> <p><b>Open Spaces – Fludes Lane, Oadby (Encroachment Issues)</b></p> <p>It was reported that the trees etc. had been removed.</p> <p>Members expressed their gratitude to the Senior Democratic Services Officer / Legal Officer for his swift action.</p> <p><b>Volunteering</b></p> <p>It was suggested by the Interim Health and Leisure Manager and Councillor J W Boyce for volunteers to attend other groups to try and break down barriers and promote the benefits of their work.</p> <p>The Chair stated that it was positive to see a steady increase in the number</p>	

	of volunteers. He thanked all Officers for their hard work.	
<b>38.</b>	<p><b><u>OPERATIONAL SERVICES (VERBAL UPDATE)</u></b></p> <p>The Operations Manager presented his verbal update.</p> <p>He stated that the Peace Memorial badge bed had been ordered and had been agreed with Councillor G A Boulter and Councillor K J Loydall.</p> <p>It was stated that in Central Avenue, Wigston a number of whips and trees had recently been planted.</p> <p>It was stated that grasses had been planted in some areas to replace winter and Summer bedding. Councillor G A Boulter stated that grasses would attract more litter and this would need to be picked up.</p> <p>The Operations Manager advised the meeting that he had been very disappointed with the quality of products from the garden centre who supplied the products.</p> <p>The Operations Manager advised that they were currently working together with Customer Services in relation to the waste consultation.</p> <p>Councillor Miss A R Bond was concerned about the wooded area/copse located next to ASDA, Oadby on the main A6. It was subject to a lot of rubbish being dumped, fly tipping etc. and last year the Rotary Club in Oadby collected over 40 bags of rubbish. She said she had contacted ASDA who did not wish to take any responsibility and she believed the land in question was owned by Leicestershire County Council.</p> <p>Councillor M H Charlesworth said that for fly-tipping incidents on a path or highway needed to be reported to Leicestershire County Council but if it was on privately owned land there was no one to report it to.</p> <p>Councillor J W Boyce thought that there was something we can do.</p> <p>The Interim Community Services Manager advised that a full report would be going to the next Service Delivery Committee which would pick up all the points raised on fly-tipping.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for all their contributions during the past year.</p>	
<b>39.</b>	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>To be confirmed.</p>	

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.40 PM**



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**CHAIR**  
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**THURSDAY, 13 APRIL 2017**  
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