

PART I

Article 7 – Residents Forums

Current wording

In order to give local residents a greater say in Council affairs it has appointed a forum for each of the towns within the Borough, Oadby, South Wigston and Wigston.

7.01 General role of the Residents Forums

The Resident Forums will discharge the functions delegated to them by Council as set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

7.01.1 Finances

Residents forums will have budgets delegated by Council to enable local groups, organisations and individuals to apply to their local forum for funding of projects that seek to improve the quality of life for people who live or work in the Borough. Prior approval for the spending of each Resident Forum budget is subject to the approval of the Policy Finance and Development Committee

Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions

RESIDENTS FORUMS

GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ALL FORUMS

- To increase public involvement in public services
- To help shape the Council's policies for public services
- To challenge and give feedback on the performance of public services
- To promote community cohesion
- To report to the relevant committees

PART II

Proposed Wording

In order to give the local community a greater say in Council affairs, it has appointed a Forum for each of the towns within the Borough: Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston.

7.1. General Role of the Residents' Forums

The Residents' Forums will undertake the role as set out below.

1. Purpose

The Residents' Forums facilitate and enable a constructive relationship between the Council and the residents of the Borough. They provide an opportunity for the

Council to consult the public on its policy decisions, service planning and Council consultations on areas of work that have the potential to impact on residents.

The Residents' Forums ensure that issues important to residents are brought to the attention of the Council and vice versa, always acknowledging that a diversity of views may exist and always promoting better community cohesion.

2. Key Aims

- 2.1 To provide a space for residents to come together and receive updates on current agendas and influence Council policy and decision-makers.
- 2.2 To provide residents with the opportunity to meet and inform elected-Members about issues of concern.
- 2.3 To ensure consultation and engagement on the Council's policies and provide constructive challenge and give feedback on the Council's performance.
- 2.4 To advise and comment on grant applications submitted to the Forums for their specific consideration before final submission to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee.
- 2.5 To act as a key channel for distributing information, engaging with the community and answering questions.

7.2 Finances

The Policy, Finance and Development Committee will have budgets delegated to it by Full Council to enable local groups, organisations and individuals to apply to their local Forum for funding of projects that seek to improve the quality of life for people who live or work in the Borough.

Residents' Forums may make recommendations to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee about the benefits of such grants: however the final approval for the awarding of the grant(s) is a decision to be taken by the Policy, Finance and Development Committee.

Appendix 2 – Draft Terms of Reference**RESIDENTS' FORUMS****1. PURPOSE**

The Residents' Forums are part of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's ("the Council") governance arrangements that exist to provide assurance that there are robust structures, processes and accountabilities in place for engagement with local people around the decisions and decision-making processes of the Council.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference of the Residents' Forums are as follows:

- 2.1. To enable local residents to oversee, scrutinise and hold the Council to account regarding its decisions and decision-making.
- 2.2. To provide a conduit between the Council and the local community.
- 2.3. To ensure that positive engagement with the wider community is undertaken to gather information and views and inform decisions.
- 2.4. To offer practical advice and support to new projects where community engagement is required.
- 2.5. To highlight areas of concern raised by the wider community and enable potential need for change, where appropriate.
- 2.6. To listen to, discuss and suggest new proposals and changes that are required.
- 2.7. To ensure that any proposals and/or decisions regarding Council services, service change or redevelopment etc. have had appropriate community involvement.
- 2.8. To support the Council's arrangements for compliance with equality and diversity requirements in all engagement activities.

3. MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

- 3.1. Membership of the Forums is open to all residents and people who work within the Borough.
- 3.2. The Forum will be an open and accessible platform for community participation and the opportunity for all Forum members to present and share their views.
- 3.3. To achieve the broadest possible levels of participation, the Council will make best use of its various communication channels to promote the Forum meetings.

4. THE CHAIR, MEETING FORMAT & VOTING

- 4.1. The Residents' Forums will be chaired by an elected-Member appointed by the Council at its Annual General Meeting for each ensuing municipal year.

- 4.2. The Forum meetings will take the format of an informal discussion led by and through the Chair.
- 4.3. Where an item requires approval by way of a vote, that vote will be by a show of hands.
- 4.4. Any vote will be determined by a simple majority of those Forum members present and entitled to vote.
- 4.5. Decisions of the Forums will be advisory only and not binding on the Council.

5. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 5.1. Where any member of the Forum believes that he or she has a conflict of interest in relation to one or more agenda items, he or she must declare this at the meeting and in advance of the agenda item being discussed.
- 5.2. It will be responsibility of the Chair to decide in his or her ultimate discretion how to manage the conflict and decide upon an appropriate course of action.

6. FREQUENCY, DURATION & VENUE OF MEETINGS

- 6.1. The Residents' Forums will meet quarterly.
- 6.3. Forum meetings will last for no longer than two hours each.
- 6.2. The dates, times and venues for Forum meetings will be planned for the municipal year ahead and will endeavour to be as accommodating as reasonably possible to maximise the opportunity for participation for all.

7. AGENDA-SETTING, MINUTES & REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1. The Community Engagement Officer will provide administrative support to the Forums and be responsible for the preparation and circulation of meeting agendas, minutes and any other resources as necessary.
- 7.2. The items of the agenda will be determined by the Chair having due regard to any specific requests made by members of the Forum raised at or before meetings.
- 7.3. The minutes will contain a brief summary of the discussions held at Forum meetings and a record of any action points raised and the outcome of any vote taken.
- 7.4. The consideration of the minutes of previous Forum meetings will be limited to points of any factual or typographical inaccuracies within the text as written only.
- 7.5. The minutes of the Residents' Forums will be reported to the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee for information.