

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OADBY RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT CIVIC SUITE,
BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON
THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT

D A Gamble Chair



Meeting ID: 2700

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
M L Darr
F S Ghattoraya
S Z Haq
P Joshi
R V Joshi
J Kaufman

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Smith Community Safety & Youth Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

PCSO H Sangera Leicestershire Police

27. POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Harks introduced himself to residents.

Burglary Dwelling - 1 May, 1 April, 4 attempts in June. 2 properties were targeted with vehicles taken. Additional patrols are now taking place in these areas.

Burglary Other than Dwelling – 3 April, 1 May, 1 June – The Parade is the main area for these with additional at Brocks Hill.

Theft from Motor Vehicles – 3 April, 4 May, 5 June – Vehicles either keyless entry or insecure.

ASB – 4 April, 10 May, 6 June – Main locations are supermarket car parks with drug use and dealing. Youths also an issue on The Parade.

A cannabis factory was located on Brocks Hill Drive with an arrest made.

A stop-check on Home Drive found an individual with a knife.

Crime prevention events and beat surgeries are ongoing; there are reports of school parking coming in and the Beat Team is working with parking enforcement officers to address the issue. When officers are present the issues reduce but pick up again when they're not present.

Residents raised issues with vehicles parked double-width wholly on the path. Police have

previously asked vehicles to move and will also, on occasion, have vehicles towed if they are causing an obstruction. Residents proposed bollards are installed in these areas to prevent vehicles parking on the pavement. A second resident raised that this is also an issue on the Parade and that having spoken to the County Council there are mixed messages being sent around who is empowered to address the issue. Residents feel that this is laziness related to drivers not wanting to pay for parking.

Since 21 June there has been a burnt-out vehicle outside of a property on London Road, Oadby. It belongs to a company which apparently dissolved in 2022 and shows as SORN on the DVLA website. When the resident has contacted the Council to raise the vehicle he has been advised that the owner will be moving it but nothing has happened for 3 weeks. PCSO Harks noted that they are aware of the vehicle and are working with OWBC Env Health to remove it.

A resident has requested a mirror to help traffic is added on to Fairfield Road to aid merging onto Uplands Road. This was raised at the previous Forum. Cllr. Gamble will contact LCC Highways regarding this.

Safer Streets – Some residents have applied for target hardening items but have not received any response. M Smith explained that this is being lead by the OPCC and he will raise it with the relevant officer.

Serious Violent Incident in Oadby – 3 arrests were made and 1 individual has been charged in relation to this.

28. CHAIR'S UPDATES

None raised.

29. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

- School Parking at The Yews / Harvard Close
 - This is a permanent problem with double parking and obstructive parking. Residents state that they have received verbal abuse from drivers when they have asked them to move their vehicles. Cars are arriving from 1:45 onwards, with some drivers working on laptops in their cars, waiting for their children to leave school. Cllr. Gamble has contacted LCC to request a 1 hour parking restriction at the start and end of the school day; LCC have declined this request as they do not have the resources to staff the restrictions that would need to be put in place, and would likely move the parking issue elsewhere. Cllr. Gamble will email LCC Highways regarding the installation of bollards.
- On-Street Parking at London Road, The Morwoods, Rosemead Drive, Sports Lounge Area
 - No resident present to raise the issue.
- Grass Cutting / Overgrown Foliage
 - The Council have been cutting grass on land which is in fact not owned by them. If there were any accidents as a result of this, the Council would not be covered by insurance. The Council continue to survey land in which grass is cut to establish owners. The Council have contacted land owners and advised that they will now need to arrange plans to cut the grass or to pay the Council to do this on their behalf. Residents expressed confusion

over why the Council has previously maintained some land that it doesn't own but has now stopped. Cllr. Haq noted that a lot of the land is still owned by property developers; most areas the developers have paid the Council now to maintain the land. Some areas where the developer has not agreed will see them issued with an 'untidy notice' – this has a period of 4-6 weeks for action after which the Council could take action and place charges on the land for the developers to cover. Land adjacent to the highways is maintained by LCC who have missed large areas of the Borough in their maintenance cycle; Councillors have complained to LCC regarding this and some actions have now been taken to rectify overgrown areas. Residents also noted that some of the tree trimming undertaken at the roadside leaves trees looking lopsided and at risk of toppling.

- Former Oadby Swimming Pool Site
 - Following a period of marketing, the site of the former Oadby Swimming Pool is now under offer. In the coming months, the Council will be consulting local residents and the Oadby Bowling Club on how the proceeds of the sale will be invested in Ellis Park to create a brand new Community Hub in order to maximise the benefits to the local community. Residents enquired as to whether any houses built on the site have a clause added to them that they can only be owned / lived in by people with a connection to Oadby itself.

Cllr. Kaufman noted that the money brought in from the sale of the site is being reinvested directly into Oadby, with residents to be consulted over the building of a community centre in Oadby. The land was given in good faith to the people of Oadby but there is no charitable trust in charge of the land.

The timescale for works will depend on the planning process being followed. Residents raised concerns about the lack of youth facilities in the area and hopes that the community centre will allow for this.

M Smith gave an overview of how the government is investing in youth work nationally and how this will hopefully impact provision in the Borough.

Residents also queried the capacity of schools for new housing developments; it was noted that one of the Oadby schools is submitting a planning application for a large expansion which will increase their capacity. Cllr. Alam proposed that this application is brought to the Forum for discussion with planning officers, and the Ellis Park development. The Chair noted that every single penny from the sale of the land at Ellis Park will be spent within Oadby for the benefit of the community. Cllr. Haq noted that bringing the Ellis Park application to the Forum would be unnecessary as the planning committee meetings themselves are public.

There are concerns that the development at Ellis Park will displace parked vehicles from the site as there is no provision in the application for parking.

Before the application goes to the planning committee the public will be consulted for comment on the application. There is no legal provision for developers to provide a parking space for every flat within the development. A resident stated that it was guaranteed to this Forum that the parking spaces at the swimming pool will be retained, and that this

should be captured within previous minutes of the Forum.

- Former Council offices Site
 - The Council Offices remain under offer. In the interim the Fire Service will be using the exterior of the building for ladder training and, in the near future, some training inside the building itself.
- 5G Football Pitch Application
 - No update from the Planning Inspectorate as yet.
- Speeding Vehicles and Footpath Condition – Shady Lane
 - Shady Lane is outside of the Borough boundary – issues raised have been passed to Leicester City Council for attention as the relevant authority.
- Walter Charles Centre
 - The building is now sold subject to contract but there are no further details as to what the development of the site will be. The proceeds of sale will also be used in Oadby.
- Gorse Lane Planning Application
 - There were 40 objections received for this application for a Children’s Home and it was rejected by the Council. This has now gone to appeal under the planning inspectorate in Bristol; residents have received letters regarding this stating that they should be in contact by 5 August. Residents have tried to access documents online that should be publicly accessible, but they are not, and it has not been possible to directly contact the planning team to highlight this issue. There is a concern that given the early August deadline the lack of access could stop residents from engaging effectively with the planning inspectorate.
- Cycle Routes in Oadby
 - A resident has raised the public footpath that goes from Mere Lane to Newton Harcourt as the only safe route to the canal and onwards to town that doesn’t involve cycling on a main road. Some of the gates on this route are difficult for cyclists to navigate. The County Council would be the relevant authority for this and Cllr. Gamble will seek out the relevant officer to raise this with.

30. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None raised.

31. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this Forum was originally scheduled for Thursday, 24 October 2024. Residents noted that the Forum always being held on a Thursday is prohibitive to some individuals attending the meetings. Due to this the Chair requested an alternative date be sought; this was later agreed to be **Wednesday, 16 October 2024, 18:30 at the Brocks Hill Council Offices.**

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.30 pm