

**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, 10 JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT

D A Gamble Chair

COUNCILLORS

J Kaufman



Meeting ID: 2897

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Smith Community Safety & Youth Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

53. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were declared True and Accurate.

54. POLICE UPDATE

No update available due to no representation.

55. FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

No update available due to no representation.

56. CHAIR'S UPDATES

• **Devolution "Have Your Say" Survey**

Hard copies of the survey booklet were made available to residents present at the meeting. The survey closes on 20 July and can also be completed online. Cllr. Gamble noted that at last week's County Council meeting the Lib Dems put forward a motion to remove support for the County's 'donut council' plan, and to not allow Leicester City to take any County land into the City. This motion was voted down. Next week is OWBC's Full Council meeting where a motion has been tabled to ask the Chief Executive to write to Central Government asking to remove the 'super council' mandate. The Conservative group at County Hall now appear to not support the growth of the City in to the Council, so a second motion is likely to be tabled against the larger Leicester. Sir Peter Soulsby's statement regarding support from the County over a larger Leicester has been refuted by the Chair, highlighting comments made by neighbouring Council leaders on the subject.

• **Botanical Gardens License Variation**

M Smith provided an update from Gavin Brown at Leicester University regarding plans to submit an application to vary the license for this venue. Due to feedback received to date proceedings have been paused on this work whilst further guidance is sought by the university.

57. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

• Parking Issues in Oadby

County Council Civil Enforcement – no response to requests to attend meeting. Likely linked to the current position of the County Council's new administration. The Chair also noted that the current administration want to remove working from home for their officers. Residents queried if OWBC can "shame" Civil Enforcement via some Comms in relation to parking concerns and the lack of contact. M Smith to provide residents with an email address where reports of parking issues can be submitted to the Police. Concerns were also raised about the tables placed outside of Bru and asked if the Council can review their licence in light of this. Residents would also like a direct contact number for the Civil Enforcement Officers to request their presence in areas with significant issues when they occur. Residents are ultimately concerned about emergency vehicle access for a large number of local roads. M Smith to request County Council attendance at the October meeting. Cllr. Kaufman believes that the private section of East Street Car Park has been, or shortly will be, repaired. Residents also raised concerns with the amount of litter present at the back of Boots on the car park. The Council car park's repairs are believed to still be out to tender.

• Flooding and Grants

M Smith highlighted the Forum grant process and spoke about how the Council uses UKSPF Grants in the Borough. Cllr. Kaufman proposed that the Forum Grant Funding (budget remaining etc.) can be included on the Agenda as a standing item. The Chair proposed approaching the Oadby Traders group re. match funding through the Forum for planters, to prevent parking issues on the Parade, as a proposal at October's meeting. Resident's proposed similar installations outside the gym on the corner of New Street where vehicles are parking and obscuring the view of the junction. The lack of specific flood grants is disappointing. It is believed that some residents in Wigston Road are now in the position where their home is uninsurable due to repeated flood damage. The flood action group has offered to provide some information around the affected homes to the Council. Residents noted that a number of issues around Fludes Lane were reported to the Council and were all resolved within days; thanks to be passed through to the Clean and Green Teams in the Borough.

• Graffiti Around Oadby ("FORM" Tag)

M Smith noted that the Police hold some CCTV footage of an 'individual of interest' linked to the "FORM" tag that appears in several locations around Oadby.

• Condition of Pavements

Residents noted uneven and damaged surfaces on various pavements around Oadby. This was confirmed as a matter for LCC Highways, with the information to be passed over to them.

• Peter Soulsby's Claim of Council Leaders Supporting a Larger Leicester
Covered in Chair's Updates.

• Former Oadby Pool

No update available; requested for next forum. Badgers on site are thought to have affected progress here.

• Bushloe House

Planning permission has been granted to the buyers of Bushloe House to convert the

building and grounds into a care home. Historic England are satisfied with the proposed plans for the listed building.

- **Brabazon Road Allotments**

Concerns were raised about the condition of some of the plots at this site. There are 3 allotments not being used at all, and it is thought that there are 160 people on the waiting list for an allotment at this location. An update was requested on progress by the Council with the letting of the allotments.

- **Banking Hub for Oadby**

In September the Natwest branch in Oadby is to be closed. A resident has written to Neil O'Brien to request a banking hub for Oadby is required – he is noted to have replied stating that he is pressing banks to avoid closures in this area, and that a banking hub should be developed where possible. Updates from Neil O'Brien were promised to the resident whenever available. A banking hub is only possible once there are no banks open in the area it has been requested. It was noted that cash can be withdrawn from the Post Office free of charge. A request was made for an update on what OWBC can do to support a banking hub in Oadby.

- **Brocks Hill Benches**

Bench near to the windmill at the top of the farm track has been removed – will this be reinstated? Residents believe that the bench was broken and may have been taken away for repair.

- **5G Football Pitches**

Planning permission was refused and the landowner has been instructed to return the land to its previous state, with all building rubble removed. The Council is exploring its legal options around enforcement for this as the clearance is yet to take place. If the Council has to undertake the clearance then the landowner will be recharged for any related costs. Residents also believe that the landowner poisoned a lot of the wildlife that resided on the land prior to clearance.

- **Mowing of the Council Owned Land**

A resident noted that he believes Chicken Alley is being mowed too often, with a mow to take place in April and again at the end of September – wildflowers have not been able to establish in this area as it has been mowed twice to date, and the top soil has been removed due to this. Nesting birds have been affected by this due to the lack of insects within the cow parsley that usually grows here. An update on this, specifically timing of mowing, was requested for October's meeting.

58. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None raised.

59. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 16 October 2025 – Brocks Hill Council Offices – 6:30pm

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.24 pm