

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM  
HELD AT SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE COLLEGE, BLABY ROAD, SOUTH  
WIGSTON ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2013 COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor J Boyce – Chair  
Councillors R Morris

Officers in Attendance: Roy Roberts (Communities), Juan Pardo (Community and Places Officer – Leicestershire County Council), Sandra Parker (Community Safety and Tenancy Manager), Mark Smith (Young Persons Co-ordinator), Chris Symmonds and Stephen Bunn (Leicestershire Constabulary)

Residents in Attendance: L Hartshorn, K Simpson, B Ellans, H Watson, J Watson, A Headley, A Enrington, Mr & Mrs Adams, Mr & Mrs O'Connor, D Burgess, R Barber, C Barber, A. Wileman, M B Wileman, L Wright, J.K., J Walton, D Bethan, P Bethan, A Dunkley, M Hansley, J Varney, E Pearce, R Pearce, W. Simmons, P English, P L Ward, G J Ward, J Dilkes, R Hefford, A Hopkins, R Hopkins, B Worth, J Allen, L Bartholomew, K Tiday, D Hall, B Morris, A Kenney, V Ward, V R Merrell, M Taylor, D Roberts, J Smith, M Pratt, K Bate, J Bate, M Semaine, M Roberts, E Roberts, H Scott, Mr & Mrs Ramadhar, T Whiles, T Allen, T Allen, M White, Mr & Mrs Mitchell, Mr & Mrs Moore, I Hopkirk, Mrs Brant, Mrs Maccabe, Mr & Mrs Bolton, M Glover, Ms Bradbury, M Bradbury, R Carter, J Sealey, T Sumpter, M Rory (*actual attendance was 97 residents*)

An Apology for Absence was received from Councillor Loydall, S Morris, and Roy Hughes

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
13	<p><b><u>POLICE MATTERS</u></b></p> <p>Inspector Steve Bunn informed the meeting that he is the new inspector for the Oadby and Wigston taking over from Inspector Sian Walls who ran the local policing unit (LPU) for the previous 20 months.</p> <p>PC Symmonds updated the meeting on local crime figures, which are detailed below. He explained that the figures were for the period from November 2013 to the date of the meeting compared to the same period in 2012.</p>	

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Comparison</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	3	6
<b>Burglary (Other than Dwelling)</b>	9	12
<b>Robbery</b>	0	1
<b>Theft of Motor Vehicle</b>	2	5
<b>Theft From Motor Vehicle</b>	8	9

Out of the Burglary Other Than Dwellings for 2013, 5 were from domestic Shed's Garages Ect. 3 were from commercial premises and 1 related to an empty house.

The current beat priority was then explained:-

To tackle general anti-social behavior (ASB) caused by young people during the evenings and weekends over the summer months around the following areas in South Wigston: Tesco Store, Blaby Road park, Pochins Bridge and Crowmills.

The residents then agreed for this to be changed as the winter months are here to the new beat priority:-

To reduce serious acquisitive crime. By working to prevent Burglary offences and Vehicle theft offences in South Wigston between December 2013 and February 2014.

Pc 2086 Symmonds then gave details of the amount of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) which have been reported to police on Gloucester Cr, Dorset Av and Saffron Rd since 01/01/2013 as residents had asked for this to be looked into at the last forum.

Gloucester Cr – 8 RTC'S reported  
Dorset Av – 3 RTC'S reported  
Saffron Rd – 8 RTC'S reported

Pc 2086 Symmonds also informed the residents that PCSO 6640 Preston had been conducting speed checks with the hand held speed gun along all three roads for the past week and that these would continue for the next 3 weeks.

The South Wigston Police Twitter account was promoted- @LPSOUTHWIGSTON

Lastly residents were warned of the dangers of leaving there vehicles running and unattended in order to De-frost them.

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**OADBY & WIGSTON COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Sandra Parker, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Community Safety and Tenancy Manager outlined the objective of the partnership and its vision that by working together with those that live, work and visit the Borough to tackle crime and the fear of crime, they will make the Borough a safe place to work, live and visit.

The partnership is made up of a range of agencies that include Leicestershire Police, Fire Authority, Leicestershire Probation Trust, Leicestershire County Council, Youth Services, Health Services, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, and number of public, private and voluntary and community sector organisations.

After consultation with residents and partners the partnership agreed the following local priorities and objectives:

Priority 1 – Reducing the Levels of Crime in the Borough

Priority 2 – Tackling Anti Social Behaviour

Priority 3 – Supporting People At Risk In Our Community

The meeting was informed that current Policing priority for the local neighborhood (South Wigston) was to tackle general anti-social behavior (ASB) caused by young people during the evenings and weekends around the following areas: Tesco's Store, Blaby Road park, Pochins Bridge and Crowmills.

Some notable achievements for the partnership:

- Joint Community Based Surveys: out of the seven Leicestershire districts Oadby & Wigston Borough came top for the percentage of residents that felt people using or dealing drugs, or being harassed or intimidated, was not a problem,
- Out of the seven Leicestershire districts Oadby & Wigston Borough was second with 84% of people agreeing that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with ASB and Crime,
- Domestic burglary down 15%, while Other Than Dwelling burglary down 13.9%,
- ASB down 52.3% over the past 5 years (2415 incidents in 2008/9 compared to 1152 in 2012/13),
- Improved awareness and reporting of hate incidents/crime, numbers increased from 5 to 12 over the year, and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83.6% on Joint Community Based Survey feel police and other local services are successfully dealing with ASB and crime.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting was informed that the partnership was part funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Sir Clive Loader, and that is future Challenges /Opportunities involved continuing to work with Police and Crime Commissioner, along with closer working with Leicestershire supporting Families project (<i>Troubled families agenda</i>) and the Clinical Commissioning Group, and sustaining performance in light of impact of Welfare Reforms and potential reduction in funding.</p>	
<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b><u>LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES</u></b></p> <p>Juan Pardo (Community and Places Officer – Leicestershire County Council) had no pressing issues to raise with the forum. A paper outlining how residents can raise issue regarding highways and a form for raising such quires was provided to all who attended the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b><u>DORSET AVENUE</u></b></p> <p>A large number of residents attended the meeting to ask that the meeting discuss their concerns regarding the planning application submitted to Leicester City Council at the Aylestone Park Football Club accessed off Dorset Avenue, South Wigston. The Planning Application is for the change of use of the former football clubhouse (Use Class D2) to a place of worship (Use Class D1). The Applicant is the Life and Light Mission.</p> <p>Residents were particular concerned that the proposal failed to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the proposed place of worship is located in the most suitable location, particularly in relation to possible inefficient transport arrangements, increase in car trips and the location of so many other places of worship in the vicinity.</p> <p>Councillor J Boyce set out to the meeting that there had been on-going problems with the site when it was used by the football club, that the focus of the discussion should be on the what and not the whom, that Leicester City Council was responsible for making a determination on the change of use of the former football clubhouse and Oadby &amp; Wigston Borough Council to determine the change of use regarding the entrance to the site. That sending in a high volume of individual letters that were all different would have more impact than a petition. Furthermore, that an officer report will be made available 10</p>	

	<p>days for the councils planning meeting (18<sup>th</sup> December 2013), which would outline the officers guidance to Councillors regarding planning application, and that he would be attending the city councils planning meeting to press the concerns of residents.</p> <p>Some the key concerns raised by residents included:</p> <p>That the planning city councils application sited that the proposed church was for the local community, but there was already 10 churches within walking distance of the Dorset Avenue.</p> <p>That while 45 parking spaces had been sited as being required the site was expected to service 80 people, if not from the local community public transport would have to be used and this is not very accessible on a Sunday.</p> <p>Concerns that emergency vehicle response times may be affected by the increase in traffic and parking issues, and that the site was encroaching on the green belt that needed to be considered along with a full environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>There was some uncertainty regarding who owned the land, though it was considered that a long lease was afforded the city council who then leased it to the Football club at a peppercorn rate.</p> <p>Two residents informed the meeting that they had sent emails to the city council raising their concerns, one to the Peter Soulsby, and that they had not had a reply.</p> <p>Questioned were raised regarding the number of parking issues that have been reported around Dorset Avenue. The police agreed to provide data on reports.</p> <p>Lastly, Councillor Boyce agreed to keep the residents of Dorset Avenue informed, and that as and when there was something to inform residents about that letters would be posted through doors. A resident suggested that information was also posted at the local shops.</p>	
17	<p><b><u>SOUTH WIGSTON BUSINESS CHAMBERS</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was informed that the Christmas light switch on will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the local Christmas Cappers.</p>	

**18** **YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH WIGSTON**

Mark Smith, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Young Persons Co-ordinator, outlined his role. The management of the PAYP (Positive Activities for Young People) & the 515 Budgets for the purpose of providing diversionary activities for young people and arranging community and holiday activities, a total of £62,699 (PAYP = £25,899.00 & 515 = £36,800.00), and developing partnership working and Youth Council liaison.

The PAYP budget is committed to 18 projects to date, 7 that are completed and 11 that either running or upcoming:

- 11 x Wigston projects
- 3 x South Wigston projects
- 2 x Oadby projects
- 2 x Borough Wide projects

Going forward the ongoing application process for PAYP funding is being managed.

**South Wigston Projects:**

Re:Active

Friday evening drop-in youth group for young people aged 10 – 16 based at the Bobbin Factory aimed at increasing self esteem and reducing anti-social behaviour.

Style Me Now

Fashion project engaging young people aged 11 – 17 which promotes confidence, emotional wellbeing, a reduction in anti-social behaviour and a reduction in risky behaviour.  
Wednesday evenings at the Bobbin Factory.

Supersonic Boom

Live music and performance event held in August 2013 on Blaby Road Park. Supported by youth agencies and local stakeholders designed to enhance community cohesion and promote local talent, activities and opportunities.

**Borough Wide Projects**

Fun & Families

Support sessions for young people aged 11 - 16 that were experiencing conflict with adults in their lives, whether that was at home, school and/or in their local community. Young people involved gained improved social and communication skills, a greater degree of self belief and “a positive attitude towards life

	<p>in general”.</p> <p><u>Summer Holiday Football Camps</u></p> <p>4 x Three day camps run over the July and August half term with Aim Higher Coaching. Camps moved across the borough to allow participants aged 13 – 19 from each area of the district to mix with young people from each camp location. Each camp helped develop community cohesion and discourage anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The meeting asked about work being undertaken to bridge the gap between young people in Eyres Monsell and South Wigston and raised the need for activities for under 11s in the area. Mark informed the meeting that activities taking place in the local schools picks ups young people from both these areas and that consideration is given building bridges across Eyres Monsell and South Wigston, however, the focus funding was on the borough. With regard to activities for under 11s this was the responsibility of the LPG (Locality Partnership Group). The Officer agreed to raise the groups concerns with the partnership.</p>	
19	<p><b><u>CHAIRMAN’S UPDATES</u></b></p> <p>The meeting considered information contained within the Chairman’s Updates document.</p> <p><b>FAIRFIELD SCHOOL</b></p> <p>Rascals Mother and Toddler Group informed the meeting that they would like to purchase a plastic storage shed for the groups’ equipment. They currently store their equipment in a large metal storage container that the school wants to remove.</p> <p>Residents approved the funding request of £590 (£530 for the storage shed and £60 for the trolley to move the equipment around) for the mother and toddle group to store their equipment.</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE</b></p> <p>Copies of the questionnaire were placed on seats at the meeting that set out a number of questions the council would like residents to provide a views on as part of its review its Residents’ Forums. Prepaid envelopes were provided for residents to return by 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The results to be presented to the next meeting.</p>	

<b>20</b>	<p><b><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>A resident asked if Oadby &amp; Wigston Borough Council had any plans to introduce electric charging points in the borough like some major cities have done. Councillor J Boyce informed the meeting that no discussions had taken place on the subject.</p> <p>Blaby Park, a resident enquired as to whether the lights on the Matlock side of the park could be switched on at 6am at a time when some people were walking their dogs.</p>	
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**The Meeting Closed at 9.10 p.m.**