

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD
AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON ON THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2014,
COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor B Boulter – Chairman

Councillors L Bentley, R Eaton, L Eaton, K Loydall, M Charlesworth, J Gore

Officers in Attendance: M Smith (OWBC)

PC D Nutbrown (Leicestershire Police)

K Blanks (Leicestershire Healthwatch)

Residents in Attendance: D Foreman, S Lonslow, R Hailes, J Lobb, S Lobb, H Needles, D Needles, M Drage, M Butler, J Butler, M Yowse, P Reeves, G York, D Moden, I Maes, J Gray, P Payton, R Burnham, J Buck, Y Buck, D Barker, T Woodward, S Green, M Daetwyler, K Ochyra, J Granger, L Pires

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
22.	<p><u>Local Policing Issues</u></p> <p>An update was given to the forum by PC Nutbrown on crime figures within the borough between December 2013 and February 2014. The update covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 burglaries across the borough, especially around the university areas in Oadby. Police are working with students to get a safety message across. Plain clothes patrols are still taking place in the area as part of Op Tiger. • 12 burglaries from non-commercial properties which is a reduction of a third from the previous period. • 6 thefts of a motor vehicle, down 1 from previous period. • 16 thefts from a motor vehicle due to cars left to defrost unattended on cold mornings and a spate of number plate thefts. Number plates are being stolen in order to affix to another vehicle used to steal fuel; tamper proof number plate screws are available from Wigston Police Station. • 5 robberies up from 0 in the last period. 2 arrests have been made in relation to these. Those targeted are young people carrying mobile phones and iPods. 	

	<p>The forum asked how the police are finding the recent blackouts in place across the borough at midnight. There are no discernable changes in crime rates at the moment.</p>	
<p>23.</p>	<p><u>Leicestershire County Council – Community Forums</u></p> <p>In reference to the Chairman’s Update document circulated to all present at the start of the forum it was announced that Leicestershire County Council is withdrawing from all Community Forums within Leicestershire. This decision is directly related to the budget cuts taking place at County level. This only affects the Borough’s Resident’s Forums insofar that a member of Leicestershire County Council staff will no longer be attending them. Any points raised through the forums that are the responsibility of the County Council will be recorded and passed on to the relevant Councillor to pick up.</p> <p>Items raised by residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McDonalds Roundabout: Verges are in poor condition following highways work; need a tidy and some repair. • McDonalds Roundabout: New traffic lights on the roundabout are causing congestion with a solid queue of traffic on Oadby Road from 4pm on most days. • McDonalds Roundabout: Why can’t the timing be changed during ‘off peak’ hours so cars aren’t having to wait a long length of time when there is very little traffic? • Street Cleaning: Following the recent bad weather the general condition of several streets within the borough is poor including guttering blocked with twigs etc. • Street Lighting: Residents feel that more lights should be switched off on main roads and less on the side streets. Perhaps 1 in every 3 lights could be shut off? • Launceston Road: Parked cars are becoming an issue as they are forcing cars to have to reverse when a bus is coming in the opposite direction. • Seaton Road: Cars are parking over driveways and causing obstructions at the start and end of the school day at Little Hill Primary. • Wigston Cemetery: The guttering and downright 	

	<p>on the Chapel of Rest are loose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unitary Council: “The idea is ludicrous”, it’s already hard enough to effect change at a borough level. The withdrawal from resident’s forums already shows the lack of commitment to residents by Leicestershire County Council. <p>The Chairman took this opportunity to inform residents that Station Road will be closed all day on 6th April due to roadworks. Residents were also informed that from 14th April Blaby Road will be closed for four weeks in order to install a new water main.</p>	
<p>24.</p>	<p><u>Wigston Traders Update</u></p> <p>The forum received a presentation from the Wigston Traders revolving around an Easter event they are wanting to put on to build on the success of last year’s Christmas event. This event is planned for 19th April and would include a balloon artist, a magician, face painting, an Easter egg hunt and ice cream and candyfloss stalls. Boots will be offering free makeovers on the day and there may also be Morris dancers and a bouncy castle. It is hoped to run the event over a wider area than just Bell Street.</p> <p>The Wigston Traders then presented a pitch for funding for additional Christmas lights for the area. Last year the Traders were awarded £10,000 for the lights that were used at the successful Christmas event. This year the Traders are hoping for a bigger turnout and want to have a bigger impact around the Leicester Road area; to do this they are wanting to acquire more ‘cross street’ motifs and include more lights on shop canopies. It is also hoped to put additional lights around the Arcade area and in the trees along Wakes Road and Bull Head Street.</p> <p>Over the last 7 years Oadby & Wigston Borough Council have spent approximately £87,500 on decorative lights within the borough. The additional lights sought by the Traders, being LED lights, are cheaper to run and have a much longer shelf life than the existing lights. To achieve the total planned look for Wigston the Traders are seeking £17,499 in funding from the resident’s forum.</p> <p>Following a vote at the forum it was agreed to fund the amount requested from the remaining Wigston</p>	

	<p>Resident's Forum budget and approved for a vote to be taken at the Policy Development Committee to finalise this.</p> <p>The forum also wished for it's thanks to the Wigston Traders for volunteering to undertake this work to be noted.</p>	
<p>25.</p>	<p><u>Carers Health and Well Being Service Presentation</u></p> <p>Item cancelled due to apologies received from Scott Williams; to be delivered at a later forum.</p>	
<p>26.</p>	<p><u>Healthwatch Presentation</u></p> <p>Following an introduction Kevin Blanks delivered a presentation to the forum on the work of Leicestershire Healthwatch.</p> <p>Leicestershire Healthwatch is the “new consumer champion” for health and social care. This follows the belief that the scrutiny of health and social care is best undertaken by members of the public, in part due to the thousands of deaths that took place during the Mid-Staffordshire Hospital scandal.</p> <p>There are, at present, 1448 members within Leicestershire Healthwatch although they are regularly advertising for new members to join. At County level Leicestershire Healthwatch is thought of so highly that they currently have two seats on the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. Through this they work directly with commissioners to buy in required health services. As Leicestershire Healthwatch are not voting members on the Health and Wellbeing Board they are able to argue against approved votes.</p> <p>Kevin went on to state that Leicestershire Healthwatch can only raise the views of Oadby and Wigston residents at their meetings if Oadby and Wigston residents raise them with Healthwatch. An example of an issue looked at by the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board is the Winterbourne View Care Home scandal.</p> <p>Healthwatch is currently reviewing complaints made against the NHS and is also able to signpost individuals on to health services such as dentists etc.</p> <p>Between April 2013 and April 2014 Healthwatch held</p>	

	<p>24 engagement events with 1009 attendees. From this Healthwatch gained 210 new members. Each borough within Leicestershire had a consultation event with Wigston's taking place in November 2013. Healthwatch hope to develop good links with borough and district councils as well as voluntary groups.</p> <p>Healthwatch are also seeking to establish 'Healthwatch Ambassadors' in each district. These ambassadors would be intermediaries between people within the borough and Healthwatch itself. 'Healthwatch Champions' would sit below ambassadors to represent areas within one borough, such as Little Hill, to capture issues within those areas and feed them upwards.</p> <p>Kevin closed by covering his contact details and encouraging people interested in Healthwatch to contact him.</p>	
<p>27.</p>	<p><u>Children and Young People Presentation</u></p> <p>Mark Smith, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Young Persons Co-ordinator, gave a presentation on the Early Help budget and its use within the borough. The forum heard how the Early Help budget is intended to secure high quality youth work provision designed to lead to a reduction in demand for more specialist services. The total combined Early Help budget is approximately £43,330.</p> <p>Mark went on to talk on the outcomes of the current round of Early Help commissioning which saw 27 applications for funding received. Of these 5 applications were approved and 6 were asked to resubmit with minor alterations or further information. In total £12,761 of the budget has been allocated to date.</p> <p>The presentation then highlighted the outcomes of Early Help's predecessor, the 'Positive Activities for Young People' (PAYP) budget, during the 2013/14 financial year. This covered the 22 projects that received funding during this period.</p> <p>A breakdown of where the funding was allocated within the borough (Oadby, Wigston, South Wigston and Borough Wide) was presented to the forum and an explanation given as to perhaps why South Wigston and Wigston were allocated higher amounts</p>	

	<p>of funding. One reason for the funding received by Wigston is the high concentration of secondary schools and colleges within the area.</p> <p>Mark also covered how many young people were directly engaged with through the application of the PAYP budget (2075 up to January 2014) and how these are targets hoped to be replicated with the application of the Early Help budget.</p> <p>Mark closed by stating that the council is wanting to provide the best possible opportunities for young people we can offer within the criteria of the funding and that this will remain the goal for the future.</p>	
<p>28.</p>	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>a) Capital Projects Update</p> <p>The Chairman spoke of the swimming pool upgrades, through the new leisure contract, to competition standard pools. At present this is likely to generate one year's disruption although the leisure cards will continue to operate, as will the current GP referral scheme.</p> <p>The Chairman also spoke of the upcoming public consultation for the GP centre in Oadby; these will take place on 20th March at Beauchamp College, Oadby, at 6.30pm in the style of a debate and on 3rd April at the Bassett Centre, South Wigston.</p> <p>b) Requests for Spending and Update on Forum Budget</p> <p>The forum received a circulated copy of the Chairman's Update that contained a breakdown of the current spending, and remaining budget, in place with the forum. This document states that the remaining funds for the forum total £67,269.00.</p> <p>The forum approved a further £600 for the installation of grit bins at 1) Mere Road corner with Eastmere Road 2) Highfields drive/Highfields Crescent 3) Top of Avondale Road</p>	
<p>29.</p>	<p><u>Items raised by Residents and Suggestions for Future Items</u></p> <p>Meadow Way: The lid of the dog fouling bin at the bus stop doesn't close and requires repair.</p>	

Dog Fouling: The forum asked why dog fouling signs have been painted onto the footpaths around the borough. These give a bad impression of the borough. The Chairman replied that too often the argument presented by those who let their dogs foul in public areas is a lack of signs stating it is a fineable offence. The painted signs are noticeable and prevent this argument.

Bell Street: The forum heard of the Civic Society's plans for a plaque to be placed on a granite stone on Bell Street commemorating the Queen's jubilee. The Civic Society are also looking at commissioning a piece of public art to be displayed outside of Subway. This is likely to be 6ft high by 1m wide. A human sized chess board is also planned for Bell Street by the Wigston Traders; this is still included in the existing considerations. The forum also asked about graffiti around Bell Street and was informed that the Police are aware of it and currently investigating.

Bell Jitty: The forum was pleased to hear that following the resurfacing work that took place in the jitty next to Sainsbury's in Bell Street that the cobblestones along the edge have been maintained.

Newton Lane: The forum asked about the planning application for new housing along Newton Lane. The Chairman replied that the application was due to be looked at on 27th March but this is currently delayed due to a lack of information.

Moat Street Wasteland: The forum asked if the plans submitted by Sainsbury's for the wasteland on Moat Street had changed. They were informed that at present there are no changes proposed.

New GP Centre: The forum heard that the transport links to the new health centre were being looked at.

Paddock Street: The forum asked if the east end of Paddock Street was likely to be made two way anytime soon as the change was approved 3 years ago. The forum heard that the change has not yet been implemented as it is yet to be approved by Leicestershire County Council.

The Meeting Closed at 20:45.