

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENT'S FORUM HELD AT FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTH WIGSTON ON MONDAY 31 MARCH 2014, COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Sharon Morris – Chairman

Councillors J Boyce R Morris, B Boulter, J Gore

Officers in Attendance: M Smith (OWBC)
K Blanks (Leicestershire Healthwatch)
C Hiddleston (The Carers Centre)
C Wright (South Wigston Traders)

Residents in Attendance: G Ward, P Ward, J Button, B Wileman, P Draycott, A Denkler, J Varney, M Hanney, R Pearce, E Pearce, J Guesford, J Walton, B Smith, P Belton, D Belton, J Knight, M Glover, M Ray, D Hall, A Waters, B Waters, B Harris, R Barber, D Ironman, A Ironman, K Wright, L Wright, B Hall, M Chaplin, J Watkiss, V Ward, A Kenny, R Hughes (Actual 47)

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
1.	<p><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></p> <p>Item not tabled due to Leicestershire Police being unable to attend the forum.</p>	
2.	<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>	
3.	<p><u>HEALTHWATCH PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>Following an introduction Kevin Blanks delivered a presentation to the forum on the work of Leicestershire</p>	

Healthwatch.

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.

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.

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.

Healthwatch is currently reviewing complaints made against the NHS and is also able to signpost individuals on to health services such as dentists etc.

Between April 2013 and April 2014 Healthwatch held 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.

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 a primary school community group, to capture issues within those areas and feed them upwards.

Kevin closed by covering his contact details and encouraging people interested in Healthwatch to contact

	<p>him before opening for questions.</p> <p>The forum asked if Healthwatch is likely to be affected by central government cuts to the Children and Youth Services. Kevin confirmed that the grant from the Department of Health received by Healthwatch will be reduced in the next financial year.</p>	
4.	<p><u>CARERS HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICE PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>Following an introduction Charles Hiddleston gave a presentation on the Carers Health and Wellbeing Service.</p> <p>The service is supported by LCC and East Leicestershire CCG and started in January 2013 as a pilot scheme. Funding was extended through to January 2015 and covers Oadby, Wigston, South Wigston and North West Leicestershire.</p> <p>Carers can be anyone who is an unpaid care provider. This can include neighbours, family etc. who don't, in many cases, initially realise they are a carer. Carers can provide care for anyone ranging from disabled, sick and elderly individuals or those who suffer with dementia or autism.</p> <p>The Carers Centre is funded by money from Leicestershire County Council and the East Leicestershire CCG. Whilst it doesn't cover the city area at present Leicester City Council will be funding their own centre next year.</p> <p>The Carers Centre currently covers Oadby, Wigston, South Wigston and Northwest Leicestershire. Within the borough of Oadby and Wigston the Carers Centre employs 3 carers; 1 full time and 2 part time.</p> <p>In its operation to date the Carers Centre has engaged with 206 carers. It's ongoing role is to identify and support unknown carers in order to reduce their contact with GPs through the provision of information, advice and support. GPs and other surgery staff are being trained to spot carers amongst their patients. In Oadby and Wigston there are approximately 6,500 carers although only approximately 650 of them are known to Social Services.</p> <p>A big push is being made in this area for home provided support. Once a referral is made to the service information and advice is given. Referrals may then be made to additional services, such as MacMillian nurses or</p>	

	<p>respite care, with the Carers Centre currently referring on to over 30 different support agencies. In house advocacy workers assist with any complaints received.</p> <p>Each case and referral is individually assessed. Cases are always followed up once referred on and a case is only closed once a carer feels they have control of the situation.</p> <p>At present 44% of the 206 carers identified have reduced their contact with GPs. 6% state that they are attending their GP more often but this is to be expect at the early stages of contact due to seeking additional advice.</p> <p>Posters for the service can be found in all GP surgeries. It is important that your GP is aware you are a carer but GP involvement in work with services provided through the carers service is not required.</p>	
5.	<p><u>SOUTH WIGSTON TRADERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>Following an introduction Chris Wright gave a presentation on the South Wigston Traders Association.</p> <p>The South Wigston Traders Association reformed 2 or 3 years ago and is currently comprised of 17 traders who meet 4 times per year. Their current mission is to improve South Wigston's image; this is something that has been affected already by South Leicestershire College and Tesco moving into the area.</p> <p>The Traders also run the Christmas Capers event which was hailed as a major success last year. This was a sentiment echoed by those present at the forum.</p> <p>More recently the Traders have worked with Tesco to access a promotional board outside of the store which is being used to advertise the area. Resident's can access this board to advertise within an A4 sized space. The Traders have also sponsored sports kit and a trophy for a local school; this kit will now bear the web address 'www.southwigstonshopping.com'.</p> <p>A resident enquired as to why some shops on Blaby Road look scruffy and if they could be cleaned up. The Traders responded that many of the shops are rented and whilst the occupiers would like to spruce up the front of the shops this is costly to do. Support is available to help with the costs in the way of a 'shop front grant' but this is provided on the grounds of match funding from the</p>	

	<p>landlord which many are not willing to provide.</p> <p>Another resident asked how many shops are vacant in the South Wigston area. The Traders believe this figure to be 4 premises down from 12 last year. A new government scheme is becoming available to help start up new businesses.</p> <p>The forum also queried the level of involvement OWBC's Town Centre Manager has with the Traders group. It was stated that Councillors are looking at improving this working relationship.</p> <p>The Traders then fed back on the spending of the £4,000 awarded to them for Christmas lights in 2013. The Traders spent just over £3,000 on the lights with the underspend returned to OWBC. A further £4,000 was asked for by the Traders for 2014's Christmas Capers event; this funded was agreed by the forum via majority vote.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>DORSET AVENUE</u></p> <p>John Boyce gave an update to the forum on the proposed plans for the Light of Life Church off of Dorset Avenue.</p> <p>Leicester City Council has submitted its own planning application to extend the cemetery into the vacant playing fields. This application cuts into the land covered by the church's application so it is likely only one of the applications will be finalised. Access to the extended cemetery seems to not be from Dorset Avenue but the application does extend into the borough of Oadby and Wigston. As the land is on leasehold it is likely the City Council will offer to buy out the leaseholder in order to extend the cemetery if approved.</p> <p>As part of the 100 year cemetery review this extension would allow the cemetery an additional 15 years worth of funeral land.</p> <p>As the Church already has planning permission, but with several restrictions including parking, there is no information as yet as to whether the Church will go ahead with its development or not. Residents are still concerned that the parking restrictions will lead to visitors to the Church parking along Dorset Avenue.</p> <p>Residents enquired about the proposed crematoriums for the South Leicestershire area. One has been approved</p>	

	opposite Glebe Garden Centre, 1 is proposed for near the new houses in Countesthorpe and another near Great Glen. No decision has been made on these as yet.	
7.	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS</u></p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow signs were supposed to have been painted on the road at Crow Mills, this still has not taken place. • Slow signs painted on the road on Lansdowne Grove would deter vehicles from speeding between the bumps. • The manhole over on Lansdowne Grove near Field Court is damaged and requires replacement. • Would it be possible to prevent construction traffic from accessing Lansdowne Grove at the Blaby Road end? • The roundabout at the junction of Blaby Road and Canal Street has yet to be repositioned to the correct location in the carriageway. <p>OWBC Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant amount of mud in the highway on Lansdowne Grove that requires clearing. • There are potholes in the carriageway leading up to the South Wigston Health Centre that are in need of immediate attention. • Vehicles are consistently speeding along Dorset Avenue and Lansdowne Grove. • At Glenbourne Road the traffic is a major issue due to the Shakerdale Road turning. Due to their being no accidents or injuries LCC will take no action. Having a yellow box installed on that junction would prevent traffic build up. It would also be safer to place a pedestrian crossing on West Avenue. • A notice board for the South Wigston Action Group should be made available as the usual notice boards are too small. Resident advised to contact Oadby Depot to have items put on the borough's notice boards and to ensure old items are removed from them. • Will there be additional traffic caused by the upcoming work at Wigston Swimming Baths? The work is contained within the site and shouldn't 	

	<p>impact traffic. The pool closes on 31/03/14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On Gloucester Crescent a Leicester City Council van is regularly parked in the bus stop. This is causing a danger to pedestrians as they are having to step out into the highway to catch the bus.• Is there going to be a café in the new swimming pool? This will be checked for the next forum.• Is there any update on the railway wheels for Blaby Road Park? They have been agreed but timings etc. will be double checked for the next forum.• What is happening with the flag pole for Blaby Road Park? This will be chased up for the next forum.	
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The Meeting Closed at 20:50.