



<b>Policy, Finance and Development Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday, 06 February 2024</b>	<b>Matter for Information and Decision</b>
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**Report Title: Residents Forum Funding Requests**

**Report Author(s): Mark Smith (Community Safety & Youth Officer)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To inform Members of the funding requests that have received approval via the Borough's three Residents' Forums to enable a final decision regarding payment to the requesting parties.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	Residents, via the Oadby, Wigston, and South Wigston Residents' Forums, have agreed five funding requests at meetings in July and October 2023 to be paid via their respective forum budgets totalling <b>£1,860.00</b> . A breakdown of these is provided in the main body of this report. Members consent is required before the requests are finalised and payment made to the requesting parties.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>That the content of the report is noted by Members and approval given for the funds to be released to the requesting parties.</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	<p>Dave Gill (Head of Law and Democracy) (0116) 257 2626 <a href="mailto:David.Gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">David.Gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tom Maccabe (Community Safety &amp; Wellbeing Manager) (0116) 257 2611 <a href="mailto:Thomas.Maccabe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">Thomas.Maccabe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Mark Smith (Community Safety &amp; Youth Officer) (0116) 257 2675 <a href="mailto:Mark.Smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">Mark.Smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	Our Communities (SO2) Our Environment (SO4) Our Partners (SO5)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	Customer & Community Focused (V1) Proud of Everything We Do (V2) Collaborative & Creative (V3)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Reputation Damage (CR4)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable

Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	Residents present at the Oadby, Wigston, and South Wigston Resident Forum meetings in July and October 2023.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None.
<b>Appendices:</b>	None.

## 1. Forum Budgets and Delays

- 1.1 The funding requests highlighted below from July 2023 have been delayed due to an internal review of the budget available to each Residents' Forum in September 2023, with guidance provided to Officers in October 2023. These, and requests from October 2023, were unable to be presented to December's PFD Committee due to Officer commitments at this time. Residents, and those applying for funding via the Forums, have been kept apprised of this where appropriate including being notified that their requests will be reviewed by the Council's PFD Committee on 6 February 2024.
- 1.2 Each Forum has now been allocated a budget through to the end of March 2024 from which these requests will be funded in full. A review of the Forum's budgets, and the process through which funding requests receive final approval from Members, is to be conducted in the new financial year.
- 1.3 Given the delays experienced, and the funding requests all receiving majority support via their associated Residents' Forums, it is recommended that Members approve the funding requests detailed below so that the funds can be released to the relevant parties.
- 1.4 All funding requests received through the Residents' Forums align with the Council's Community, Environment, and Partner Engagement Strategic Objectives due to the open, public route the requests are made through, and by merit of residents themselves providing the first approval of requests during the Forum meetings.
- 1.5 The requests contained within this report align with the Council's Visions and Values concerning works being Customer and Community Focussed, by being requested by and approved by residents, being Collaborative and Creative in how the requests provide further community value in their application by engaging with varied groups with social investment in the Borough, and fulfil the criteria of being 'Proud of Everything We Do' through the open and public route, and further promotion, funding requests received via the Forums experience.

## 2. Oadby Residents' Forum

- 2.1 During the meeting of the Oadby Residents' Forum on 12 July 2023 a request was made for funding of **£310.00** to replace the battery on the existing defibrillator at St Peters' Church and renew the defibrillator pads that are nearing the end of their operable life. This request

received majority approval from residents present at the Forum meeting and was seconded by the Chair.

### **3. Wigston Residents' Forum**

- 3.1 During the meeting of the Wigston Residents' Forum on 19 July 2023 a request was made for funding of **£400.00** to purchase a new storage shed for the Guide Rooms on Welford Road, Wigston. Oadby & Wigston Girl Guiding are providing match-funding toward groundworks required to site the shed accordingly. The shed would enable gardening equipment to be stored separately to the toys and other equipment utilised by groups that use the Guide Rooms. This request received majority approval from residents present at the Forum meeting and was seconded by the Chair.
- 3.2 During the meeting of the Wigston Residents' Forum on 25 October 2023 a request was made for funding of **£350.00** to enact rectification works to the rear entrance, via Horsewell Lane / Exmoor Close, to Wigston Cemetery. The current entrance obstructs wheelchair and mobility scooter access. Works have been costed by the Council who will be carrying out the works but has no allocated budget to do so. Residents stated they are happy for the Forum budget to be utilised by the Council to carry out these works. The request received majority approval from residents present at the Forum meeting and was seconded by the Chair.

### **4. South Wigston Residents' Forum**

- 4.1 During the meeting of the South Wigston Residents' Forum on 25 July 2023 a request was made for funding of **£400.00** to purchase new planters and flowers to be placed on pedestrian railings along Blaby Road from the Tesco roundabout. These monies are to be utilised by the Council to fulfil the Forum's wishes. The request received majority approval from residents present at the Forum meeting and was seconded by the Chair.
- 4.2 During the meeting of the South Wigston Residents' Forum on 25 July 2023 a request was made for funding of **£400.00** to support the Oadby & Wigston Swimming Club. Representatives of the Swimming Club informed residents present that the Club is facing increased costs following Covid-19 and the increased cost of energy for heating the swimming pool. The request received majority approval from residents present at the Forum meeting and was seconded by the Chair.