

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS FORUM HELD AT THE
FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHESHIRE DRIVE, SOUTH WIGSTON
ON 9 JUNE 2010**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Mrs S B Morris – Chairman
Councillors G A Boulter, J A Boyce, P A Hings and R E R Morris

Officers in Attendance: J Cocker, S Lucas and A Wood (O&WBC) and Miss S Malik and C Howe (Leicestershire C.C.)

G Drummond, P C Simmonds and Mrs L Spencer also attended from the Wigston Local Policing Unit (LPU)

Residents in Attendance: R J Carter, D Davey, B Everington, M Groves, R Kinsberger, M Hanney, S Marshall, B Mullahy, F Mullahy, Mr and Mrs Needles, R Pearce, T Sumpter and J Varney.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J W Boyce and R E R Morris, and Mrs M Ray and Mrs J Sealey.

Minute Ref.	Narrative	Officer Responsible
1	<p><u>LOCAL POLICING ISSUES</u></p> <p>PC Simmonds addressed the meeting on the matter of their three main priority areas in South Wigston. These included criminal damage in Station Street and Kirkdale Road and the reduction and prevention of burglary, especially from outbuildings, on the Fairfield Estate.</p> <p>The meeting noted the present crime figures levels in the area which included reductions in the instances of burglary from a dwelling, and outbuildings, theft of and from a vehicle and robbery. Anti Social Behaviour was now recorded differently with the targeting of leaders a successful priority.</p> <p>Mrs Spencer referred to the football project, now in its second year with four attendees up to Level 1 coaching standard, the Joint Neighbourhood Action week, with an event being held at the Fairfield Inn on 22 July and the new LPU Commander, Jed Keane, who had replaced Lindsay Taylor.</p> <p>Amongst the topics generally discussed, were motor cycles on Blaby Road Park, speeding on Saffron Road, in Crow Mills and on Station Street. Residents were asked to be vigilant and report incidents as they occur.</p>	

<p>2.</p>	<p><u>HIGHWAYS MATTERS</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced Mr Clive Howe of Leicestershire County Council, who referred to a highways update report which was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Howe referred to the planned road works to be undertaken in South Wigston, all of which were due to commence on 14 June. The meeting noted that it was intended works at the Saffron Road railway bridge, at the junction of Blaby Road and Canal Street and Hassells bridge from Kirkdale Road, were all due to be completed by the end of November. During this period, Kirkdale Road would be opened up to one way traffic at the Saffron Road end, there would be some night and weekend closures and the work to the railway bridge on Saffron Road would have the road resurfaced, as well as provide footways either side of the road.</p> <p>Mr Howe also reported that the rest of Saffron Road was scheduled for resurfacing in 2011. However, residents called for adequate signage of these works to be erected, including at Leicester railway station.</p> <p>The meeting noted problems at the new traffic light junction of St Thomas Road and Saffron Road which allows vehicles to join the highway from the garage, after the traffic lights. He also agreed to look into the taxi rank situation in Dunton Street and reminded residents to use the Customer Helpline telephone number 0116 3050001 to report these matters.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Howe for his attendance and he confirmed that he would attend all Forums in the future.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>BOROUGH IN BLOOM</u></p> <p>Mr Lucas, in his capacity as Chair of the Borough in Bloom gave a short presentation, with the assistance of a Power Point facility, regarding this year's competition, including some suggestions for displays and the different categories for entries.</p> <p>Forms were available at the meeting and from the Bassett Centre as well as the Council Offices. and all residents were encouraged to take part, even if just by nominating someone else. The closing date is 25 June.</p> <p>Judging for the borough entry into East Midlands in Bloom would be held on 13 July</p> <p>Moving on to suggestions, Mr Lucas ran through proposals to add a floral tower unit outside the Blaby Road shops between Glengate and Albion street, large tree planters along Blaby Road near the Ritz, redesign the corner at the Saffron Road/Kirkdale Road junction and called for more suggestions from residents. He confirmed that the trees would require Highways consent and suggested this be obtained and that discussions be</p>	

	<p>held with traders and accurate costings (he estimated the cost at £900 per tree) obtained before this be considered by residents at the next meeting. However, when asked to show their agreement to the refurbishment of the Kirkdale Road corner site, the majority of those present indicated their wish to see this area improved. Four residents volunteered their services to help with this work. It was also agreed to relocate the floral tower from Kirkdale rd/Saffron Rd to the position indicated above at nil additional cost.</p>	
4.	<p><u>PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION FEEDBACK</u></p> <p>The chairman referred to the questionnaire which had been circulated regarding the recently held elections for which, the Council was seeking feedback from residents on the conduct of the election locally. They were asked to complete the form and return it to the Clerk.</p>	
5.	<p><u>PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT</u></p> <p>Consideration of this matter was deferred as there was no one in attendance from the PCT to present it.</p>	
6.	<p><u>PRESENTATION ON REGENERATION OF SOUTH WIGSTON</u></p> <p>The chairman introduced Mr Cocker from the Council's Planning department who addressed the meeting regarding Blaby Road Park, confirming that the necessary procurement procedures had been followed to secure the services of a landscape artist and contractors should start work on 14 June. Residents and park users would be consulted on the schemes proposed and it is hoped that the first planting would occur in November.</p>	
7.	<p><u>SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS</u></p> <p>The chairman referred residents to the briefing note which had been circulated.</p>	
8.	<p><u>LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS</u></p> <p>Ms Malik informed the meeting that, following the participatory budget workshops, the successful projects would be confirmed at the next meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership and payment is envisaged in July.</p>	
9.	<p><u>CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2010</u></p>	

	<p>The chairman referred residents to the photographs which had been circulated and explained the decision to lease the decorations rather than purchase them.</p>	
10.	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES</u></p> <p>The meeting considered the Chair's Briefing notes covering the following matters, copies of which were circulated at the meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Projects Update • Summer Holidays Sports Activities Programme • Community Facilities available in the Borough • Update on Forum Spending and Requests for Spending 	
11.	<p><u>ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Leicestershire College – it was confirmed that the old campus buildings would be demolished, despite the recent redecorations carried out by students of the college. • Future use of empty retail outlets – no developments reported. • There is a Shop Frontage Improvement Scheme run by the County Council • A presentation regarding “Personalization” – the new way of operating adult social care - will be held at Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby on 21 July, as per the leaflet which had been circulated. • By January 2010, the Council would be required to publish details of every item of expenditure above £500. 	

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.