



Letterbox

Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL



oadby-wigston.gov.uk



OadbyWigstonBC



@Oadby_Wigston

Dear Resident

In the summer edition of Letterbox I explained to you about the proposal of Leicestershire County Council to abolish the existing county council and seven district councils, to create a single 'new model council' and that Oadby & Wigston Borough Council would consult with its residents on the best way of delivering local services when details of the proposals were made public.

The County Council's outline proposals were published in a report on October 5, 2018 which put forward their preferred case for a single unitary council but also assesses the dividing up of Leicestershire into two unitary councils. The full report can be viewed at: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/unitary-report-sets-out-case-for-change.

The leaders of all seven district councils have issued a number of statements over the last few months in response to the County's Council's announcement, these can be viewed at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/responses which, in summary, set out that the district councils are continuing to work together to look at future service delivery in Leicestershire to ensure it is lean, effective and in touch with residents. But above all else, the needs of our residents will be put first.

In late October, the county and district leaders were informed that there is unanimous agreement, between the seven MPs within Leicestershire, that now is not the time to launch a review of local authority structures in the county due to more regional and national policy matters, which will be the focus of resources over the next few months and years. Consequently, it is not necessary or appropriate to commission a review of existing local authority structures in Leicestershire, which would be a distraction and would use public sector resources. This conclusion of the MPs is supported by the Secretary of State.

The district councils understand and respect the MPs' concerns and, therefore, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and the other district councils will not be pursuing any proposals for structural change. The districts have always worked together and we will continue to collaborate with all partners in order to deliver the best possible services to residents.

Despite this seeming to be a step in the direction of the future of the county's unitary proposals, the initial response from the county is they still want to consider the opinion of taxpayers.

To understand the views of the residents of Oadby and Wigston I would like to ask a few questions about your initial thoughts of creating a unitary authority. The short survey can be found within this edition of Letterbox.

Cllr John Boyce
Leader of the Council

More information about the proposed 'new model council', as well as a short resident survey, can be found on pages 3 and 4.



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Planning Policy Update

Over the past year, the Planning Policy team has been working tirelessly to produce a number of important Council planning documents.

In addition to the new Local Plan that was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Public Examination in January and is due for adoption in December, the team has produced a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and other planning related documents.

On November 19, the Council completed its six-week public consultation period for the Developer Contributions SPD, the Residential Development SPD, the Conservation Areas SPD, and the Statement of Community Involvement. Over the next few months the team will be taking account of all the comments received and amending the documents as necessary, ready for adoption by the Council.

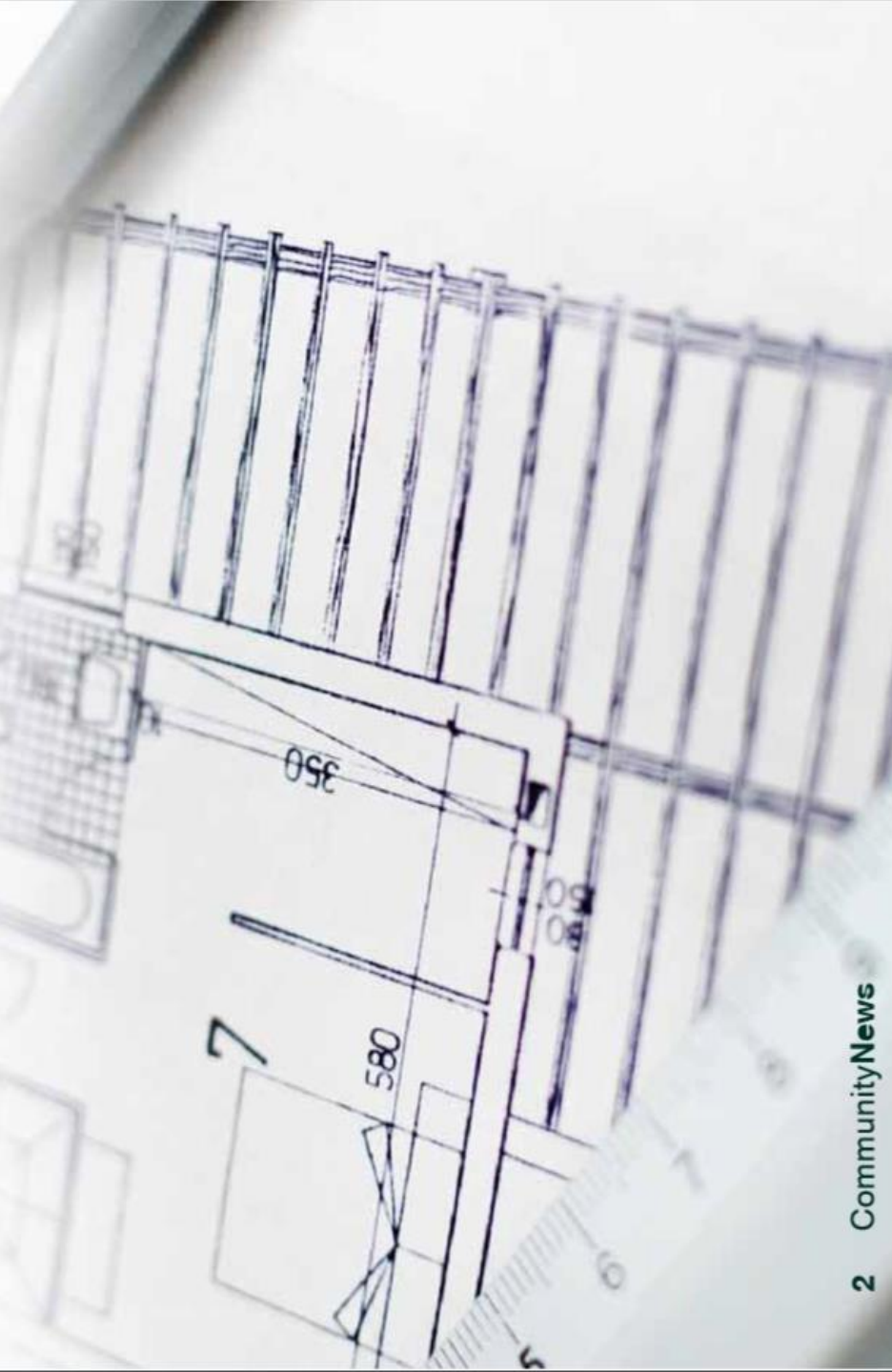
SPD's are documents that build upon and provide more detailed guidance about specific planning policies set out in the Council's Local Plan. They help applicants develop plans and schemes, as well as aid the Council in the decision-making process.

The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's approach to involving and consulting local people and stakeholders in the planning process, more specifically the preparation of the various components of the Local Plan and in making development management decisions on planning applications.

Upon adoption of the three SPD's and the Statement of Community Involvement, the team will be concentrating on the production of a number of other planning related evidence base documents, such as, the Playing Pitch Strategy, the Public Realm Guidance and the Town and District Centre Guidance. All such documents will supplement the Council's new Local Plan and provide robust and up to date information and guidance for decision making.

For further information relating to the documents that the Planning Policy team are producing and / or further information on upcoming planning policy public consultations, please visit www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/planning.

If you would like the Planning Policy team to contact you directly when a consultation is about to commence, please contact us on 01116 288 8961 or email planningpolicy@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.



WE WANT YOUR THOUGHTS

Creating a unitary authority across Leicestershire

A proposal has been made by Leicestershire County Council to abolish the existing county council and seven district councils, to create a single 'new model'.

The survey closes
on January 31 2019

- The seven district councils which are proposed to be merged are:
- Harborough District Council
- Melton Borough Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
- Blaby District Council
- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

The plan, proposed by Leicestershire County Council Leader, Nick Rushton, would see all seven districts axed and instead operating under one 'Leicestershire Council'. Also proposed was a second option of dividing the County Council and seven district councils of Leicestershire into two unitary councils.

We want to know what the residents of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council think about the possibility of their council being abolished and merged into a 'new model'. Please use the form overleaf (page 4) to share your thoughts on this proposal, or visit the Council website to fill in this form online.

www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/unitary_authority_survey



GoLearn!
Leicestershire Adult Learning Service



ISR
LEICESTERSHIRE
Shared Reading

Volunteering opportunity

DEAF AWARENESS AND BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

A number of Deaf Awareness and British Sign Language courses are held across the County at a range of locations.

Deaf Awareness: Understanding and communicating, where you learn about the different types of deafness and how to better communicate with someone who has a hearing loss.

British Sign Language: Covers a variety of topics, enabling you to converse in sign language.

For more information or to book onto a course please check the website, or ring Leicester (0116) 305 0820

Leicestershire Shared Reading and Leicestershire Libraries are looking for volunteers to help run our successful **'Make Friends, with a Book'** shared reading groups in libraries around the county. If selected to join our team, you will receive Read to Lead training from The Reader, and will then be partnered with an existing volunteer to help run the weekly group. Get in touch to find out where we currently have vacancies.

If you enjoy reading for pleasure, if you think you would be confident reading out loud to a group, and if you are interested in people and their stories, please get in touch with Nicky or Ruth to find out more:

- Ruth Pointer tel. 07940 817214
- Nicky Bennison tel. 07415 125409

An e-mail to leicssharedreading@gmail.com will reach both of us.



WE WANT YOUR THOUGHTS

Creating a unitary authority across Leicestershire

Resident Survey

We want to know what the residents of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council think about the possibility of their council being abolished and merged into a 'new model council'. Please use the form below to share your thoughts on this proposal, or visit the Council website to fill in this form online.

www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/unitary_authority_survey

The survey closes on January 31, 2019.

Do you think the proposal of creating a single unitary authority (a 'new model council') to replace the current county council and seven district councils is a good idea and would benefit Oadby & Wigston?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Do you think the proposal of creating a two-council option, as outlined in the County Council's report, to replace the county council and the seven district councils is a good idea and would benefit Oadby & Wigston?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Where do you live?

- ☐ Oadby
☐ Wigston
☐ South Wigston

Do you have any further comments on the County Council's overall proposal or process? Write your comments in the box below:

Where to send your form:

Please post or hand deliver your completed form to either:

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Bushloe House
Station Road
LE18 2DR

Customer Service Centre
40 Bell Street
Wigston
LE18 1AD

Be the voice of your community

Would you like to make a positive difference to your local area and improve the lives of Oadby & Wigston residents? If so, why not consider becoming a Borough Councillor?

Local elections for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council are being held on Thursday May 02, 2019. The Borough is currently represented by 26 Councillors serving across 10 Wards, all of which are due to be contested.

Perhaps you are already involved in a local community project or organisation and want to take the next step, or you may be looking for a worthwhile and rewarding way to help your community.

If elected, you would be in a position to make a genuine difference to the quality of life and prospects of people living in the Borough. Although being a Councillor requires a great deal of hard work and commitment, it is also a highly rewarding form of public service.

To find out more about what being a Councillor involves and the process of standing for election, please contact democratic.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.



Introducing a more convenient way to pay

The Council is introducing an alternate and more convenient way of paying by cash. Before, there was only one option available for residents looking to make payments to the council via cash – by visiting our Customer Service Centre, Bell Street – but this was restricted to Centre opening hours.

From January 2019, cash payments to the council can be made using any Pay Point or Post Office nationwide, including 74 outlets located across the LE18 and LE2 areas, the majority of which are open evenings and weekends.

How will it work?

From January next year the Council will be placing a barcode on account statements, such as Council Tax Demand Notice, Rent Statement, Invoices, etc. This barcode can be taken to any Pay Point or Post Office, where the payment can be made by cash (or card).

Why is it changing?

The Council are always looking to make things simpler and easier for its residents and it is hoped that introducing this new payment method will make paying by cash and/or card a lot more convenient for all.

Please note: As residents wishing to make cash payments are no longer restricted to paying at the Customer Service Centre, the Council will be looking to remove this option over the course of the next year. Details relating to this will follow.

Places where a payment can be made will have this symbol visible:



A full list of outlets can be found at: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/ways_to_pay

Recycling collections over the Christmas period

Over the Christmas period the Council are only able to collect recycling from your brown-lidded wheeled bin, along with flattened cardboard left neatly by the side of your recycling bin. No additional recycling will be collected if left outside.

However, the Council realise that Christmas is a time when we often produce more of everything and also have some unusual items to dispose of and so they've put together some information to help guide you in how to manage some of the traditional Christmas items.



Yes - you can recycle it in your brown-lidded wheelie bin

- **Christmas cards and envelopes:** plain cards only please (no glitter, fabric or embellishments).
- **Plain wrapping paper:** without glitter or embellishments – No shiny metallic paper. Ideally, all string, ribbon, bows, tape and tags should be removed (these will need to go in your general waste).
- **All your usual recycling:** can go in the recycle bin, but do remember that items need to be rinsed and empty as food and drink residue can contaminate other items and affect the quality of the recycling. Greasy paper and card is unable to be recycled. Lids can be left on but if you're short of space over Christmas it's okay to squash the items first so that they take up less space in the bin.



Can be recycled at your local Recycling and Household Waste Site (RHWS)

- **Christmas tree lights and fairy lights:** these can be recycled at your local RHWS by placing them in the electrical section. If still in good working order some charity shops will accept electrical items. Alternatively, please put in your general waste.
- **Real Christmas trees:** these can go in your garden waste bin (if they fit) or can be collected. Alternatively, they can be taken to your local RHWS to be recycled. All decorations will need to be removed beforehand.
- **Batteries:** can be taken to your local RHWS to be recycled. Alternatively, you can take them to local libraries, local shops and the Customer Service Centre in Wigston.



No - these items need to go in your general waste bin

- **Artificial Christmas trees:** the Council are unable to recycle hard plastics and so these will need to go in your general waste. If the tree is in good condition, then you could take it to your local charity shop.
- **Christmas tree baubles and tinsel:** neither plastic or glass baubles, nor tinsel can be recycled and will need to go in your general waste. If in good condition you could pass them on to someone else or take to your local charity shop.
- **Children's toys:** If you've been having a bit of a clear out to make space for new items and the toys are in good condition, these can be taken to your local charity shop for someone else to enjoy.
- **Food and drink:** Christmas is often a time of excess when we're tempted to buy more than we need. Check out Lovefoodhatewaste.com for some great tips on managing Christmas food and drink. Food waste will need to go into your general waste.



Points to remember:

- Those signed up for garden waste collection will now have their garden waste collected fortnightly throughout the winter months.
- Your local Recycling and Household Waste Site on Wigston Road, Oadby, will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day and will reopen on Saturday December 29. It will also be closed on New Year's Day.
- The Council can provide a bulky collection or a collection for waste electronic and electrical items. Please contact Customer Services on **0116 288 8961** to arrange. There is a fee of £21 for the first item and £4 for each additional item.

Please contact
Customer Services
on **0116 2888 8961**
before February 5
2019 to arrange a
real Christmas tree
collection.

Refuse and recycling Christmas and New Year collection 2018/19

Recycling will be collected from the brown-lidded wheeled bin, along with any flattened cardboard left by the side of the recycling bin. No side waste will be collected.

Refuse and recycling collection

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 24 December	Monday 31 December*
Tuesday 25 December	Monday 31 December*
Wednesday 26 December	Wednesday 2 January*
Thursday 27 December	Thursday 27 December
Friday 28 December	Friday 28 December
Monday 31 December	Monday 31 December
Tuesday 1 January	Tuesday 8 January*
Wednesday 2 January	Wednesday 2 January
Thursday 3 January	Thursday 3 January
Friday 4 January	Friday 4 January

* up to 6 black refuse bags

Garden waste collection

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 24 December	Between Thursday 27 and Friday 28 December
Tuesday 25 December	Between Thursday 27 and Friday 28 December
Wednesday 26 December	Between Thursday 27 and Friday 28 December
Thursday 27 December	Thursday 27 December
Friday 28 December	Friday 28 December
Monday 31 December	Between Monday 31 and Friday 4 January
Tuesday 1 January	Between Wednesday 2 and Friday 4 January
Wednesday 2 January	Wednesday 2 January
Thursday 3 January	Thursday 3 January
Friday 4 January	Friday 4 January



Forum organisers call for new members

The Borough of Oadby and Wigston has three long-established Residents' Forums that meet quarterly - one for each of the towns of Oadby, South Wigston and Wigston.

Not only are these great opportunities to have your say on local matters affecting you and your household, but they are a valuable information exchange on policing, development matters and updates on services that the council delivers. There are also small grants available, not to mention it is good place to socialise with fellow residents.

Meeting times for the three forums vary with sessions lasting no longer than two hours. These Forums also provide an opportunity to talk in confidence with Police and ward Councillors half an hour before each meeting begins.

The forums are open to all ages and organisers are keen for as many people to get involved as possible. For further information on how to get involved with your local Residents' Forum please contact veronika.quintyne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

The Mayor's Charity - Alzheimer's Society

The Mayor, Cllr David Carter and Mayoress Mrs Janet Carter have been working with the local business community to raise awareness of Dementia and to become a Dementia Friendly Borough.



The Alzheimer's Society has a "Dementia Friends" campaign, where individuals learn a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turn that understanding into action. Even small actions can really make a difference to people in our community who are living with dementia.

Members of the Oadby and Wigston Dementia Forum are encouraging our borough's businesses and organisations to become "Dementia Friendly". Dementia Champions, who are volunteers trained by the Alzheimer's Society, have been running free Dementia Friends sessions. The sessions give five key messages about dementia and helping to dispel fear and stigma. They take about forty-five minutes and help staff to be more at ease and welcoming when dealing with customers who are living with dementia.

There are now over one hundred and twenty local Dementia Friends, and more than twenty local businesses on board, from cafés to card shops. Dementia Champions Lesley Green, Mary Flynn and Sue Renton are ready to help your business or organisation become "Dementia Friendly".

More sessions are planned for the coming months. Please check www.dementiafriends.org.uk for venues and times and to book onto a free session. Help those living with dementia and their families feel welcome in our Borough. Don't let your business or organisation be left behind!

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council now have 35 Dementia Friends amongst their staff and some of those will be going on to become Dementia Champions.

The Mayor took part in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk in Abbey Park on 30 September and along with his team are on the way to raising over £3,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.

The Mayor's team had walkers from the Muslim Association, Zeph's Café, Oadby & Wigston Lions, Councillors and Council Officers, making a team of 21 walking in support of the Mayor's Charity.



2019 DIARY DATE
Leicester Grammar School Big Band
Annual Charity Concert Music Extravaganza
Wednesday April 10 – 7:30pm
For more information & booking visit:
www.lgs-senior.org.uk/noted

Senior Citizen's Action Group

The Senior Citizen's Action Group is open to all Borough residents who are aged 55 years plus and aims to help reduce social exclusion and build up social cohesion within the community.

The group meets up several times a year at various locations around the Borough and the meetings are always very well attended with crowds in excess of 70 attendees.

The meetings not only provide a great chance to socialise and discuss various issues affecting senior citizens, there are also a variety of presentations delivered and opportunities for members to receive a wide range of information regarding improving health, wellbeing and quality of life, as well as popular Spring and Christmas Concerts.

Chair of the group Cllr Helen Loydall, said "The Senior Citizen's Action Group is an invaluable asset, not only to residents but also to the Council itself as it enables us to promote the physical, social and mental wellbeing of our senior residents. The group provides valuable two-way communication and connection between residents, the Council and many other public services in general."

Membership and registration are free and provides access to all forum information they send out. If you wish to know more, please email Cllr Helen Loydall at helen.loydall@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or call **0116 367 6055**.

Ministry of Nordic Walks



Ministry of Nordic Walks began as a South Wigston community project, funded by TCV. Its aim was to provide a new health and fitness initiative to those who might be either reluctant to join a gym or who were finding lower joint problems were preventing them from continuing their normal exercise regime.

During the year-long project, Instructor Penny Fielden offered taster sessions to a number of local groups, her enthusiasm for the exercise and gentle coaching style helping to spread the message, and now the Ministry has in excess of 135 walkers (both male and female) with walkers joining weekly and new routes being sourced each month.

Benefits of Nordic Walking include better sleep patterns, improved mental health and increased stamina. It is a fun, healthy and very social activity that is easy on the joints but provides a workout appropriate for all ages and fitness levels. Last year, free taster sessions in Oadby at the Botanic Garden and Brocks Hill were also offered to those with Parkinson's disease as Nordic walking was seen to be helping with posture and mobility problems associated with the disease.

Get involved

One of the aims of the Ministry of Nordic Walks Community Group is to ensure that everyone feels welcomed at whatever stage they are at and no-one gets left behind. Newcomers are encouraged to join a four week "learn to" course in order to get the most from their Nordic walking.

Then they can choose to join in with walks that are now spread all over Leicestershire. The only recommendation is that the walker wear suitable shoes (trainers are ideal) as Nordic walking poles are provided.

For more details of how you can join in and learn about Nordic walking please call Penny on **07502 576764** or email her at ministryofnordicwalks@gmail.com.



Sports, activities and groups

Leisure Centre Christmas opening hours

The Leisure Centres in Oadby and Wigston will be open throughout the Christmas holidays with the following amendments. More information can be found at www.everyoneactive.com.

	Parklands	Wigston
Monday	7a.m. - 1p.m.	7a.m. - 1p.m.
Tuesday	Closed	Closed
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	6.30a.m. - 7p.m.	7a.m. - 7p.m.
Friday	6.30a.m. - 7p.m.	7a.m. - 7p.m.
Saturday	6.30a.m. - 7p.m.	7a.m. - 7p.m.
Sunday	6.30a.m. - 7p.m.	7a.m. - 7p.m.
Monday	6.30a.m. - 1p.m.	7a.m. - 1p.m.
Tuesday	Closed	Closed
Wednesday	Normal	Normal
Thursday	Normal	Normal



New Children's parties at Parklands Leisure Centre

Parklands Leisure Centre has a wide range of children's party packages, suitable for all ages and abilities.

Soft Play Parties: Entertain your children whilst wearing them out. The new soft play centre with large roller coaster slide is proving very popular with parents and children alike.

Climbing parties: A party host is on hand to help manage the children and get them onto the 10m high climbing walls.

Swimming Pool Parties: The popular juggernaut inflatable gives children the chance to race each other down the big slide before splash-landing into the pool.

"Party packages are a fabulous, fun way for children to enjoy their special occasion and for the parents too as our team will take the effort out of organising the event" – Eddie Benskin, Activities Manager.



For further details and session times, please call **0116 272 0789**.



These sessions are free of charge.

Inclusive swimming sessions

What better way to get healthy than at the local swimming pool, and where better to improve mobility, reduce pain and meet like-minded people than swimming at your local Everyone Active venue?

Everyone Active at Parklands Leisure and Wigston Pool and Fitness Centre offer inclusive swimming sessions every week for anyone that is in receipt of a disability means tested allowance.

You don't have to be Adam Peaty or Rebecca Adlington - you just have to want to improve your health and wellbeing with a great activity.

Call Parklands on **0116 272 0789** or Wigston on **0116 288 5346** for further information.

Refuse lorry surprises competition winner

You may recall from the last edition of The Letterbox that Borough-based school children were asked to get creative to design the side of a brand-new refuse collection vehicle, to help raise awareness around the importance of recycling and to get children involved in the subject at a young age.

Pupils at Wigston's Water Leys Primary School had a surprise visit in October when the new refuse lorry pulled up and parked right in the middle of the school playground, with its one-of-a-kind recycling design on the lorry's side.

This was the day competition winner Jai, came face-to-face with his personal design and the lorry, which is also named after him, in front of fellow pupils and the Mayor of Oadby and Wigston, Cllr David Carter. The Mayor presented Jai with a certificate for his efforts and runner-up Freya, also from Water Leys, was congratulated for her excellent design too.

Jai and Freya's teacher Ms. Lindsay Campbell, who encouraged her pupils to get involved with the competition, said "It has been very exciting for the school and the competition winners to have a visit from the new refuse lorry today. The whole experience will definitely help put the subject of recycling into the forefront of their minds."

The Mayor, Cllr David Carter, congratulated Jai and the school for getting involved, saying "This design revealing has been a wonderful occasion. It is rewarding to be part of an initiative that engages the community so much, especially when it involves such an important subject."

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council would like to congratulate Jai, the runner-up winners, everybody at Water Leys Primary School and all that took time to enter the competition and get involved.



Youth groups and the community

Elliott Hall is available for hire for groups, clubs, training and team building days, childrens parties and private functions.

For more information email rcelliott1@hotmail.com, or call **07703 441894**.

Youth Group



Tuesdays and Fridays 6p.m.-7.30p.m.
Elliott Hall, Albion Street, LE18 4SA

Children aged 8 till 16 years

Wide range of indoors and outdoors activities
arts and crafts, computer zone, tuck shop, trips,
safety talks, and lots of fun.

Run in a safe environment with trained staff.

For more information please visit
www.stepoutyouthgroup.com

Guys Over 50's Group

**Every Wednesday
1pm till 4pm**

Refreshments included.

Lots to do

Cards, darts, dominoes,
pool, table skittles, board
games, indoor bowls,
gardening and lots more!

**Just turn up,
bring a friend or
make new
friends**

Drop in anytime between
1pm and 4pm for a get
together with friends, for
a chit chat over a cup of
tea or to play a range of
games.

Everyone welcome, bring
a friend.

**Elliott Hall, Albion Street,
South Wigston, LE18 4SA**

More information please call
07703 441894 or email
rcelliott1@hotmail.com



SWAMM

South Wigston All Minds Matter

We are a drop in group who welcomes everybody who has a mental health challenge.

Here at SWAMM we offer a safe space where you can talk to others who understand.

We have different activities each week looking at coping strategies and building self confidence.

There will also be quizzes, games and crafts that you can join in if you want.

Or just come and join us for a cuppa!

Day: Wednesday
Time: 10.30am-12.30pm
Venue: Elliott Hall, Albion Street, South Wigston

For more information please contact
South Wigston Local Area Co-ordinator
Mary Thomas
mary.thomas@swamms.org.uk
07931477725

NERF

Parties @ Elliott Hall

PARTY ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE

Complete Nerf party set up for up to **30 CHILDREN**

£125 for 2 hours

Including balloons, confetti, Nerf guns, prizes, and a host.

Email rcelliott@btinternet.com or call 07703441894

www.nerf.co.uk elliott-hall.co.uk

KEEP FIT

WANT TO GET FIT AND HAVE FUN ?

Why not come along to my **'FIT 4 LIFE'** exercise classes

Mondays-At Elliott Hall, Albion Street, South Wigston

6-30 pm till 7.30 pm

We are a small but friendly group, we do three different classes alternating over a 4 week period.

Week 1 Aerobic & Balance: This class will improve the Cardio Vascular as well as learn Tai.

Week 2 Barre, Legs & Tones: This class concentrates on strengthening particular muscle groups.

Week 3 Aerobics & Balance:

Week 4 Deep muscle toning using a gym ball. This class strengthens the whole body.

All Ages And Abilities Welcome

You need: loose fitting clothing, well fitting and supportive aerobic trainers, a mat, gym ball, small weights (optional) and a wall if you can.

For further details or to reserve your place call
See on 0775558984

ELLIOTT HALL

IT'S ABOUT DANCE

Thursdays Afternoons 3 pm to 5 pm

Refreshments Supplied

£4.00 Per Person Per Session

For Further Information Contact Rob : 07703 441894

Elliott Hall, 14 Albion Street, South Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4SA

Litter in our green spaces

This year's summer will be remembered for its warm and sunny days, but with the nice weather came litter - litter thrown by adults and children on the grass, in bushes, ditches and ponds.

Aside from looking unsightly, litter can be dangerous to wildlife, people and pets.

Despite the best efforts of grounds staff and volunteers, and the six litter bins and ten dog poo bins provided and regularly emptied at Brocks Hill, litter continued to appear throughout the summer. In fact, as much as one bin bag of rubbish was being litter-picked every day at Brocks Hill in the summer holidays.

Brocks Hill is a very popular place for families, schools and dog walkers to visit and it is a shame that a minority of people could spoil the park for other people.

To address the issue of littering, Year 1 and 2 students from All Saints CofE Primary School came to Brocks Hill Country Park in September to carry out a litter pick. The children were extremely helpful picking up lots of rubbish throughout the park and many commented on how much of a problem litter is.

Educating the next generation is key to how waste is managed effectively in the future. The children learnt about the importance of correctly disposing of waste as well as ways to create less rubbish, such as making use of reusable shopping bags and drinks containers.

Everyone can do their part to respect and look after the green spaces we are so lucky to have. Please use a bin where provided or take your litter home.

Brocks Hill Christmas opening hours

The Brocks Hill Centre will have the following changes to their opening hours over the Christmas Period.



Sunday December 23:	Closed
Monday December 24:	Closed
Tuesday December 25:	Closed
Wednesday December 26:	Closed
Thursday December 27:	10a.m. - 3p.m.
Friday December 28:	10a.m. - 3p.m.
Saturday December 29:	10a.m. - 3p.m.
Sunday December 30:	10a.m. - 3p.m.
Monday December 31:	Closed
Tuesday January 1:	Closed

All other dates will be open as normal.

If you or a passenger are caught littering you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 or face a fine of up to £2,500 if prosecuted.

Don't get caught out

If you or one of your passengers throws anything out of the window of a vehicle, the keeper of that vehicle is now liable for the waste, due to recent changes to legislation placing a duty on the vehicle owner.

The Council are joining a County Awareness and Action Campaign to highlight the issue of littering across Leicestershire. This will involve officers of the Council raising awareness and prosecuting offenders.

Get involved

There will be educational information available to publicise this issue and residents are urged to get involved and report incidents of littering.

If you can provide evidence of littering from your dash cam and are willing to provide a statement to the Council, the Council will follow up your complaints. So, help to improve the Borough and to keep it clean.



WANTED

ADULT BIKES FOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT

We urgently need adult bikes (26" wheels minimum) in reasonably road worthy condition for a community project.

We can undertake small repairs and minor adjustments eg. new inner tubes, brake cables etc. But no bent wheels or damaged gears please.

If you are able to donate a bike please contact

Jan Bryars - janbryars@gmail.com

07512 237 344

or

Jo Knight - jo.knight1@virginmedia.com

07547 677 934



Introducing your Environmental Health Team

The Environmental Health Team looks after the local environment by enforcing over 100 pieces of legislation. Their small team of Environmental Health Officers and Technical Staff respond to complaints and requests for services as well as carrying out proactive inspections.

The team contribute to a thriving local economy by supporting existing and new businesses so they are better able to operate safely. They are at the heart of public health and their Head of Service is the Lead Officer for Oadby and Wigston on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Below is a list of some of the most common services delivered by the Environmental Health Team.

Nuisance

Under Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, certain matters are declared to be 'statutory nuisances'. They include the following:

- Any premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Smoke emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Fumes or gases emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Any dust, steam, smell or other effluvia arising on industrial, trade or business premises and being prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Any accumulation or deposit which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Any animal kept in such a place or manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Any insects emanating from relevant industrial, trade or business premises and being prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Artificial light emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Noise emitted from premises, or emitted from or caused by a vehicle, machinery or equipment in a street, so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

Private Sector Housing

Ensure and enable all private sector residents of the borough to live in homes that are healthy, safe and comfortable.

- Taking action or provide advice where a home falls below the standards set by law
- Responding to requests for advice and assistance from householders (both owner occupiers and landlords)
- Helping to ensure that no home in the borough stays unoccupied for longer than is necessary
- Ensuring that houses in multiple occupation are maintained to the required legal standards and that they are licensed where appropriate.
- Taking action to prevent illegal evictions

Food Hygiene

From home: Most food poisoning happens in the home and can easily be avoided by paying attention to how you store and prepare your food. Wash food while cooking with your children and include food safety as part of the activity.

For business: Ensuring all food exposed for sale in the borough is safe to eat. They do this through reacting to concerns from residents and proactive inspections. They support the local economy by assisting food businesses to maintain high food hygiene standards and conform to the principles of better regulation, proportionate in whatever action they take.

Health and safety

Ensuring that business activities are carried out in the best interests of employee health and safety, investigating accidents at work and providing advice and information.



Introducing your Environmental Health Team

Environmental crime

- **Fly posting:** is unsightly and can be dangerous if it obscures vision at traffic islands or busy junctions. It is also illegal to advertise in this way.
- **Graffiti:** spoils the local environment. If the Team receive a complaint related to graffiti on private property they will request that it is removed. If it is not removed in a reasonable timescale they can serve a Defacement Removal Notice which requires clearance within 28 days. If the property owner fails to remove it, they can do the work themselves and recover the costs.
- **Fly-tipping:** is 'the illegal deposit of any waste onto land, or any waste dumped or tipped on a site, the Environmental Health Team carry out surveillance on fly-tipping and prosecutions can be made if evidence is found tipped on a site.
- **Littering:** Anybody seen dropping litter, even if it is thrown from a vehicle, can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Public health

- **Welfare funerals:** The Council provides a welfare funeral for anyone who dies or is found dead in its area and for whom it appears there are no suitable funeral arrangements being made. Councils are given this duty under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984.
- **Filthy and verminous premises:** The Team become involved if there is a risk to the health of the occupiers, or to neighbours, carers or visitors. They try to address the issue as sensitively and informally as possible but sometimes have to use legal powers to remove any public health risk.
- **Reducing ill Health:** They promote healthy lifestyles and ensure issues relating to residents are considered wherever they have a voice, and where they have the biggest impact on reducing ill health.

Animal welfare

The Council's role in animal welfare is to provide a service to ensure there are no stray dogs roaming the Borough and to ensure that dogs are collected and taken to kennels. We also inspect premises and authorise issuing of licences in pet shops, boarding establishments and riding establishments.

Pest control

The Team offer a high quality, effective and comprehensive treatment for pests, which regularly receives over 90% of customers reporting that the service is good or excellent for reliability and overall satisfaction, and most people reported the service was better than they expected.



Air quality

They assess the present and future air quality of the area in relation to the requirements of the National Air Quality Strategy - identifying the main sources of the pollutants affecting air quality.

They have a series of Passive Diffusion tubes located across the borough to identify local air quality levels of Nitrogen oxides NOx, the most common pollutant from vehicle emissions

Contaminated land:

It is the duty of Local Authorities and Building Control providers to ensure that owners and developers carry out the necessary investigations and formulate proposals for dealing with any contamination in a responsible and effective manner.

Rotary Club of Oadby Launde

Mixing business with pleasure

It is between September and Christmas that the Rotary Club of Oadby Launde raise the most funds for their chosen charities, making autumn a busy time for the Club. This year they started with a book sale in The Parade at Oadby, followed by their annual quiz night, tin rattling and finally, bag packing at Marks and Spencer.

The Rotary Club is expected to raise over £3,000 for chosen charities; Headway, EMICS and Mercy Ships. They have also had a successful year themselves, recruiting five new Club members in 2018.

To find out more about the Rotary Club of Oadby Launde, email rogercorlett@yahoo.co.uk.

Letting their hair down

Every autumn Rotary Clubs across the East Midlands compete in the 'District 1070 Minor Sports Competition'. Oadby Launde were drawn against the Rotary Club of Leicester Novus in the first round and, being the home team, it was up to them to arrange the match.

Event organiser, Channi Riyait arranged for the teams to play skittles at the Rose and Crown in Thurnby where two dozen representatives from both clubs tucked into delicious 'pub grub'. By the end of the evening there could be no denying that Oadby Launde were victorious by just three points, and though the quality of the skittles may have been lacking, the banter and development of inter-club friendships was first class.

Pictured is Channi Riyait with Leicester Novus President Jason Chauhan and Oadby Launde President Wendy Dzienanowska in front of the scoreboard.



Free public WiFi in Wigston

Wigston has hit the digital age with free public WiFi going live at the start of September. The new public WiFi is completely free and can be accessed on phones and tablets whilst within the Wigston town centre.

Wi-Fi has been installed as a joint venture between Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council, with part funding from Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership. To access the WiFi on your smartphone or tablet you will need to connect to "Wigston Free Wi-Fi" and log-in via Facebook or an online form.

This digital upgrade to the town centre is hoped to bring in more people and allow them to spend more time within Wigston, as they will be able to access the internet while shopping, visiting or at work.

Wigston is the first town in the Borough and one of only a handful within Leicestershire to have Free public WiFi. This brings Wigston to the forefront of digital technology and a step ahead of other town centres. The WiFi has been installed by Hinckley specialist, ElephantWi-Fi, who will be hosting and maintaining the services.





New local genealogy website now online

The new local genealogy website for Oadby & Wigston is now online. The site has been developed by a team of dedicated and experienced genealogists to bring you previously unpublished research data not seen on any genealogy resource website, and to help you with your research.

The site has facilities to help you get started on your family history research, or to help you if you are stuck.
www.lrfhs.com

These genealogists, based in Wigston, have access to a large amount of Wigston family history data to help in your research.

South Wigston's open-air baths

Did you know that there was once an open-air swimming pool in South Wigston? The open-air baths were built in the 1920's by Dunmore's Biscuit Factory, to commemorate the workers they lost in the Great War.

The swimming baths entrance was on Water Street (now Park Road), across from the recreation park, and the baths were situated adjacent to the Grand Union Canal from where the water was sourced.

Unfortunately, the swimming pool was little used and eventually emptied, which is how it remained until June 1949 when it was filled in.

New Oadby and Wigston information website

The new up-to-date information site for Oadby and Wigston is now online. This website has been developed to replace the previously printed versions of a guide book, with the goal of providing a 'one-stop shop' for residents and visitors to the Borough seeking information of all types, including:

- Council services
- Local businesses
- Bus timetables
- Schools and colleges
- Churches and libraries
- Leisure and Recreation
- History and heritage groups
- and much more.

www.oadbyandwigston.info

History and heritage groups, activity groups, societies etc. can advertise on the site for free. Local businesses can advertise at a very nominal rate. More information is available on the website.

Advance notice

History and Heritage Day 2019

After the success of the 2018 History and Heritage event the Greater Wigston Historical Society will be hosting another, on Saturday March 9, 2019.

AgeUK, Paddock Street, LE18 2AN

Admission only £1 per person

9.30a.m. till 4.30p.m.

For full details go to:

www.lrfhs.com/History_Show_2019.html



GWHS Monthly meetings: January to March

Meetings start at 7.30p.m. and are held at:

AgeUK, Paddock Street, Wigston, LE18 2AN

January 16 2019

"200 years of methodism in Wigston Magna"

By Liz Ward and Bill Boulter
(PowerPoint and pictures)

February 20 2019

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Followed by **"Tommy's Mail", the postal service in the Great War**

By Peter Cousins (PowerPoint and pictures)

March 20 2019

"The little theatre, past and present"

By Mike Bull (PowerPoint and pictures)

Oadby & Wigston Lions Club



The Big Lunch

Due to bad weather on the original date set for this year's Big Lunch event, it was rescheduled for a month later. On the day the sun shone, and most of the original events were able to take place, giving those who attended a great day out.

There was plenty of local talent performing in 'open mic' sessions on the main sound stage and Oadby & Wigston Lions Club were there to help things run smoothly.

Keep an eye out for more information on next year's event, which will be held in Bell Street, on June 23.



Pride in our Borough

The Lions Club members were pleased to be able to take part in the 'Pride of the Borough' events held throughout the year, helping to make the area a more pleasant place for residents and visitors.

Pictured are Club Vice President Richard Darlston, Club President Jenny Fyfe, Mayor of Oadby & Wigston Cllr. David Carter, Mayoress Mrs. J. Carter, and Simon Lucas from the Pride of the Borough group.



Engraved in stone

Following donations made to Brocks Hill Country Park by the Oadby & Wigston Lions Club, including the Readers Chair, picnic tables for wheelchair users and 100 trees planted to form the 'Lions Copse', the Club have since had an engraved stone erected in the area.

The stone was engraved and installed by W.W. Busby & Sons Ltd, Stonemasons from Enderby and the safe installation was attended by members of the Club, both past and present.



A pride of lions

Lions Club members joined in with the fun at the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race and Loros Fete. Club President, Jenny Fyfe, who became Club mascot 'Leo the Lion' for the day, was surprised to be met by the Loros lion mascot, Lionel.



Our lucky 'Lion' was a passenger for the wheelbarrow race, with a small team of members pushing - we came 4th (actually, there was only four in the race)!

You're never too young

At this year's Lions Sponsored Swim, the youngest participant was three year-old Evelyn who has helped to raise funds for Kilby School.

Evelyn is seen here with her mum calling out her swim number to Club President Jenny Fyfe.

The Lions Club would like to offer thanks to event sponsors and to 'Everyone Active' for the use of the Wigston pool, along with the staff who performed life guard duties - which thankfully were not required.



Wigston Civic Society



'Peacock Place' totem and plaque

Wigston Civic Society has been working with local housebuilder Jelsons, to develop a sense of place and history for the new housing scheme at Peacock Place on Moat Street, Wigston.

The houses are in the form of an open rectangle around a central courtyard containing an eye catching 'totem', designed to reflect the previous use of the site as an electrical engineering factory. The Society has also arranged for a plaque rescued from the 'London Cottages', previously located on the site, to be incorporated into the paving in the square and for an information board to be erected.

The Greater Wigston Historical Society have contributed archived photos and information to the project, which describe the previous uses of the site and the origins of its name. The board also acknowledges the artist who designed the totem along with its creator.

Jelsons has contributed towards the cost of the information board along with the Council's Wigston Residents' Forum and the two Societies.

The Civic Society has awarded Jelsons its Certificate of Commendation in acknowledgement of their work on the development which helps to make Wigston a better place in which to live, work and shop by enhancing the immediate vicinity and improving the environment.

Pictured is Mike Spencer (left), designer at Jelsons, with Chairman of Wigston Civic Society, Peter Cousins (right).

You can control pests!

The Council Pest Control Service is advising all households of issues with fallen fruit and feeding birds by scattering feed on the ground.

This activity encourages rats and mice into your garden where they can feed in comfort.

Please lift fallen fruit and use bird feeders to prevent enticing vermin into your garden.

If the rats or mice find somewhere to nest in your garden: under decking or sheds, wood piles or compost heaps, for example, the vermin will stay where there is a ready food source.



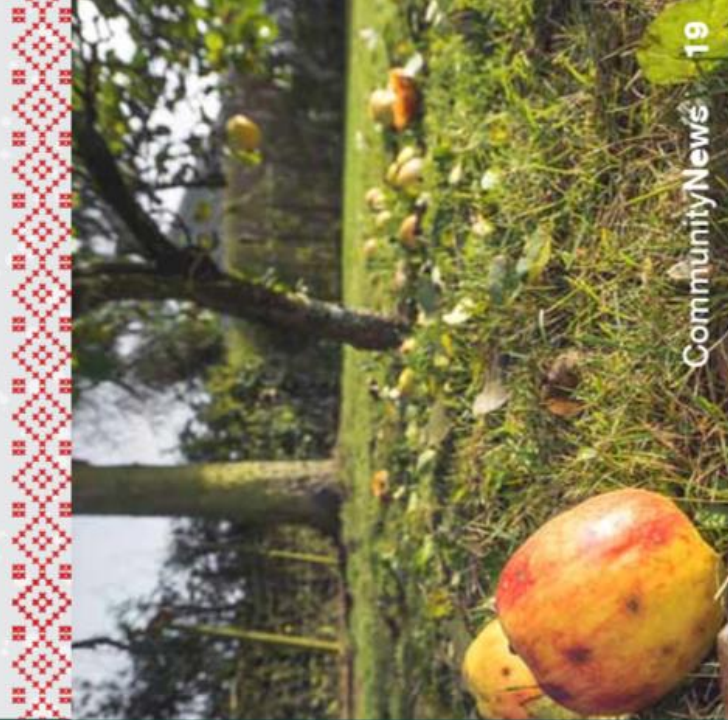
The Council continues to offer excellent pest control services to our residents. However, by taking this simple step you should not need our help.

If you do find that you need our assistance, bookings for our Stronger Together Pest Control Services can be made through our Customer Service Centre on **0116 288 8961** where time slots can be allocated to suit you. Services are punctual and deliver effective results.

If you are a new business customer and are interested in using the service please contact our Customer Contact Centre on **0116 288 8961** to book your free quote from our Pest Control Team, or email: environmental.health@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Stronger Together Pest Control Services



Oadby & Wigston Youth Council

Join the Youth Council

Are you aged between 11 and 19? Do you have something to share about your experiences in the Borough? Would you like to make a change within your community? If so then read on!

The Oadby & Wigston Youth Council is actively working to make a difference for young people within the Borough. From working to see a 'Curriculum for Life' taught at secondary schools and colleges, to ensuring that the youth provision within the area meets the needs of young people; if you want your voice heard on issues that affect you then the Youth Council is an opportunity too good to miss.

Open to any young person that lives, studies or works within the Borough, or regularly visits it, the Youth Council strive to ensure that your voice doesn't go unheard in the development of your community. Have a say on issues such as;

- Current and new facilities
- Transport options and prices
- How the Council allocates its youth budgets
- Opportunities available to young people

The Oadby & Wigston Youth Council meets on the third Monday of every month, at 7pm in the **Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston**. Why not go along to the next meeting and see what they're about?

Details of when meetings take place can be found on the Council's website via www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/oadby_and_wigston_youth_council, or on twitter at [@OWYC](https://twitter.com/OWYC).

For Duke of Edinburgh Award participants, attending the Youth Council can count toward the Service component of the award.



Introducing Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a new benefit administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). For working age claimant's it will replace: Tax Credits, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Income Support, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) and Housing Benefit. This means you will claim Universal Credit instead.



If you already receive any of the benefits listed above these benefits will continue. However, if you have a change of circumstances you will be advised if you will need to claim Universal Credit.

I'm a pensioner, will it affect me?

Universal Credit does not apply to single claimants or couples of pension age. In these cases, you will continue to claim Pension Credit and/or Housing Benefit.

However, where you are a member of a couple where only one of you is pension age you will have the option of switching to Universal Credit.

How do I claim Universal Credit?

You will need to make a claim online. Support is available from the Council or job centre if you do not have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone, or if you need help in completing the claim.

Can I claim if I am working?

Yes. Whether you qualify will depend on your income and not the hours you work, so if you receive Universal Credit and move into, or out of work, your payments will be adjusted and you won't need to make a new claim, as long as you still qualify.

When will I get paid Universal Credit?

Universal Credit is paid a month in arrears and you should receive your first payment five weeks after you claim. Payments will be made direct to your bank account. If you can't wait five weeks for your first payment, you can ask for an advanced payment loan, but be aware that this will need to be paid back each month over a maximum of twelve months.

Additional support

If you need help managing your money, please contact the Council or the work coach at your job centre.

Will Council Tax Support be included in my Universal Credit?

No, you will need to claim Council Tax Support separately. You can do this online, by visiting the Customer Service Centre or by calling the Council. Any Council Tax Support award will be credited to your Council Tax bill. You will be responsible for paying your Council Tax.

Will free school meals be included in my Universal Credit?

No, these will need to be claimed separately via Leicestershire County Council or at your child's school.

Discretionary payments

If you claim Universal Credit and you pay rent and/or Council Tax you can still claim for Discretionary Housing Payments or Discretionary Council Tax Support from the Council.

If you have any queries relating to this article please contact Mick Bullock, Benefits Team Leader for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, on **0116 257 2713** or email **mick.bullock@oadby-wigston.gov.uk**

Renting your home

This section applies to Council tenants, Housing Association tenants and tenants of Private Landlords. Rent is known as 'housing costs' under the new Universal Credit scheme and any money paid towards your housing costs will be included in your monthly lump sum payment. You are responsible for paying your rent.

How do I pay my rent?

You should speak to your landlord immediately about paying your rent (ideally by setting up a direct debit) or if you get into difficulty with your rent payments.

Can my rent be paid direct to my landlord?

Yes, but only in limited circumstances. Please speak to your landlord or the DWP for more information.

More information at: **www.gov.uk/universal-credit** or at: **www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/universal_credit**.

Pride of the Borough

East Midlands in Bloom

Back in July, East Midlands in Bloom judges were guided on an extensive tour of the Borough by the Mayor of Oadby and Wigston, Cllr David Carter, and Pride of the Borough Chairman, Simon Lucas. The tour commenced in the grounds of Wigston's Peace Memorial Park and concluded in the beautiful surrounds of the Leicester Botanic Gardens.

This year's awards event, attended by competition entrants from across the East Midlands, took place at the County Ground, Newark on September 19. Pride of the Borough are pleased to announce that once again the Borough of Oadby and Wigston has had a successful year in the East Midlands section of the Britain in Bloom 2018 competition, winning a GOLD award.

Awards as follows:

- Small City Category, Gold Award: Oadby & Wigston
- Best Retail/Commercial Premise Category: Leicester Racecourse

Judges also awarded Oadby & Wigston 'Muddy Boots Preschool Playgroup, Aylestone Lane Allotments' for their commitment to providing fun and educational outdoor learning for families with young children.

Competition this year was strong as always and it was plain to see that all entrants had put in a tremendous amount of work.

Mike Connelly, Pride of the Borough Secretary, said, "We would like to offer our thanks to all Council participants, Pride of the Borough members and the volunteers who gave up their own time to support this year's entry, it is much appreciated. The effort required to attain this Gold standard should not be underestimated".

Pride of the Borough Floral Awards 2018

On October 4th, 2018, the Pride of the Borough Awards Celebration was held at Brooks Hill Country Park, where approximately 70 people gathered to celebrate the Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston 2018 Floral Competition Awards.

The presentation for the evening was delivered by Pride of the Borough Chairman, Simon Lucas, with the individual awards being presented by Mayor David Carter.



Pride of the Borough (Oadby & Wigston)

Lovita Electricity

Nearly 1,200 people purchased the 2018 card and have benefited from large savings on shopping and eating in Oadby and Wigston, with many buying the card as a gift for friends and family.

The 2019 card will be available from Saturday 1st December and can be used immediately.

Cheikhos give 2 for 1 on mains on weekdays and **Swatlands** give 15% off their a la carte menu from Sunday to Thursday.

When dining in Wigston, **Cuisine of India** give 2 for 1 on mains from Monday to Thursday and **Two Steeples** give 20% off the total bill, Monday to Friday. **El Café** gives 10% off the total bill all week.

Popular with our members are **H**
Wistow who gives 10% off all go
Oadby DIY shops. Wigston DIY

Motorists can get discounts at **K.Tee Motor Centre** in South Wigston and at **Epico Accessories** in Oadby.

Oadby: Avon Cosmetics, Brooks Hill Cafe, Chestnuts Coffee Shop, Leics. Chauffeurs, Mobility, Newton Fallowell, Osbornes Stationers, Parklands Cafe, Hairlines, Mustard Gift Shop, The Cafe, Zeph's and Oadby Building Products.

Wigston: Floors by Design, Mercury News, Mr. Beanbags, Navigation Inn, Neville Chadwick Photography, Pennywise, AgeUK, Framework Knitters, Health Store.

South Wigston: Hunter's Estate agents, Lord's Electrical, Treehouse Café, Venture into Vintage.

Restrictions may apply to all offers.

[illegible]

We do not pass on or sell any of your personal information to any third party. We do, however, require your consent to communicate with you regarding your membership.

I give / do not give* my consent for communication regarding my Pride of the Borough Membership *please delete as appropriate

Please contact us if you require a copy of our data protection policy.

I enclose £5 membership for 2019 Signed

When applying by post please make cheques payable to :- Pride of the Borough
(Oadby & Wigston)

Please send form with payment to:- PotB Membership, Brocks Hill Country Park & Centre,
Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ

Borough Community Week 2019

Following successful 'Big Lunch' events in 2017 and 2018, June 17-23, 2019, will see the launch of the inaugural 'Borough Community Week', held throughout Oadby, Wigston, and South Wigston.

Borough Community Week is a weeklong celebration of the Borough's varied and numerous community groups and organisations, culminating in a cultural showcase during the annual 'Big Lunch' event taking place on Bell Street, Wigston on Sunday, June 23.

Coordinated by a working group representing the Council, Leicestershire Police, Sainsbury's Wigston, the Oadby & Wigston Lions Club and the Neighbour Hub, community groups and organisations will be encouraged to open their doors to host pocket events, bringing together residents of all walks of life and highlighting the services and opportunities available to them in their neighbourhood.

Get involved

Community groups wishing to host a pocket event during Borough Community Week, and individuals interested in entertaining the 'Big Lunch' crowd as part of the cultural showcase, are encouraged to contact Mark Smith, the Council's Community Safety and Youth Officer, for an informal conversation about the event via [0116 257 2675](mailto:mark.smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk) or mark.smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

More information about Borough Community Week will be included in the Spring edition of The Letterbox.

'Celebrate Safely'

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, in partnership with Leicestershire Police, and the City, County, District, and Borough Council's across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, have now launched their 'Celebrate Safely' campaign for 2018.

The Celebrate Safely campaign runs from the beginning of September through to the New Year and has all the top tips and advice you'll need to ensure the safety of you, your family and friends as well as your home and belongings.

The campaign includes; social media, a programme of school visits, information stands in local shopping centres and the presence of the services at celebratory events, where they will be on hand to share key safety messages and advice of the campaign to ensure a safe festive period for all.

For more information, including advice about celebrating safely, please visit www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk/celebrate-safely/ or follow the hashtag '#CelebrateSafely' across social media.



Community Trigger Process

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council is committed to ensuring that all reported anti-social behaviour or hate incidents are adequately dealt with and resolved in a manner acceptable to all parties. As part of this commitment, and as a statutory member of the Oadby & Wigston Community Safety Partnership, the Council operates a 'Community Trigger' process allowing victims or communities the right to request a review of how an ongoing anti-social behaviour or hate incident is being addressed.

A Community Trigger is designed to ensure that the Police, the Council and other relevant organisations work together to try and resolve any complaints about anti-social behaviour by talking about the problem, sharing information, and using resources to try to reach an agreeable outcome.

A request to activate a Community Trigger can be made if, within the last six months,

- You (as an individual) have complained to the Council, Police or a Registered Housing Provider (social landlord) about three separate incidents of anti-social behaviour within your area,
- Three individuals in your local community have complained separately to the Council, Police or Registered Housing Provider (social landlord) about the same incident of anti-social behaviour, or
- You have been a victim of a hate incident.

It should also be noted that in order for a Community Trigger to be considered, you must have made your initial complaint of anti-social behaviour within one calendar month of the incident occurring.

The Community Trigger is not a first port of call. If you are reporting the incident for the first time then please visit the Council's anti-social behaviour page www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/anti_social_behaviour for more information on how to do so, or contact the Police via 101, or 999 in an emergency.

For further details on the Community Trigger process, or to activate a Community Trigger, please visit www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/community_trigger_process.

Please note that a Community Trigger does not replace the existing complaint procedure. You still have the right to complain to the Ombudsman or Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) if you are unhappy about the service you have received.



Community groups can use the screens for free if advertising events or free services.

Advertising opportunities

Businesses and community groups have the opportunity to advertise their products, services and events on the digital display screens that have been installed in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston town centres.

The digital display screens are available to advertise on commercially as well as for community groups. Commercial advertisers can display an ad for as little as £1.78 + VAT per day, with incentives for new advertisers and long-term advertising, making it affordable for any business.

The screen in Oadby is located in the Oadby Centre along The Parade, the screen in South Wigston is located outside of South Leicestershire College and the Wigston screen is located on the corner of Bell Street and Leicester Road.

The screens are very popular and can get busy during the winter months, so don't miss out. If you are interested in advertising, please contact the following:

towncentremanager@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or telephone **0116 257 2706**.

Community Safety Partnership Annual Survey

The survey will remain open to anyone who lives, works, or studies in the Borough, as well as anyone who routinely visits the Borough, until midnight on Thursday, 31 January 2019.



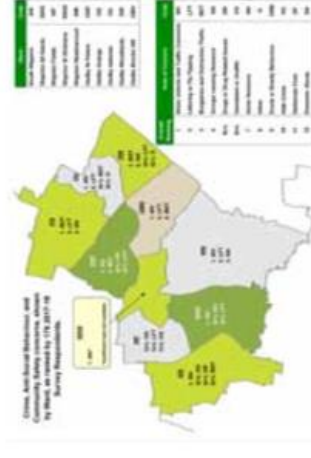
The Oadby & Wigston Community Safety Partnership is comprised of a range of organisations who work together to make the Borough a safer place to live, work, and visit.

These organisations, including Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire Police, and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, recognise that by combining resources, experience, and knowledge, the Partnership can offer an enhanced approach to tackling issues and concerns in the Borough, and offer a greater level of value for money with the work it undertakes or commissions.

The Partnership is committed to listening to your views so they can improve their services, and tackle the concerns that are most important to the community. To do this the Partnership undertakes a survey each year designed to provide guidance on where its resources, and focus, would be best placed for the following year, as well as allowing its component organisations an opportunity to understand and assess the impact their current work has had on crime, anti-social behaviour and safety within Oadby, Wigston, and South Wigston.

Results from 2018-19

Last year's survey showed that your most important concerns were 'motor vehicle and traffic concerns', 'littering or fly-tipping', and 'burglaries and distraction thefts', each of which were incorporated as priorities into the Partnership's delivery plans for 2018-19 or adopted as a work stream for 2018-19 by partner agencies. Concerns ranked by Ward are shown on the map below.



The survey also found that the majority of respondents (53%) felt 'very safe' or 'safe' in the Borough, while 21% of respondents felt 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe'. Where details of why respondents felt 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe' were provided the Partnership has strived to ensure that the issues raised were addressed throughout 2018-19.



Share your views

If you wish to take part in this year's survey you will find a copy of its questions overleaf, including details on how to ensure your feedback reaches the Partnership.

Alternatively, you may wish to complete the online version of the survey that can be found, with more information on the Partnership, on the Council website: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/community_safety_partnership.

Please note that the Partnership's survey is anonymous, and is not intended to collect personal information or act as a reporting mechanism for incidents of crime, disorder, or anti-social behaviour. Details on how to report such issues can be found via www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/anti_social_behaviour.

Community Safety Partnership Survey 2018/19

1. Please tell us which Council Ward you identify with the most.

Oadby Brooks Hill	☐	South Wigston	☐
Oadby Grange	☐	Wigston All Saints	☐
Oadby St Peters	☐	Wigston Fields	☐
Oadby Uplands	☐	Wigston Meadowcourt	☐
Oadby Woodlands	☐	Wigston St Wolstans	☐

2. In your opinion, how strong is the sense of community in your Council Ward generally?

Very Strong	☐	Weak	☐
Strong	☐	Very Weak	☐
Unsure	☐	If you answered 'Weak' or 'Very Weak', please tell us why in the space below.	

(Continue on a separate sheet if required)

3. Do you have any current concerns about Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour or Community Safety in your Council Ward?

Yes	☐	No	☐
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4. If you ticked 'Yes' for Question 3, please tell us the nature of your concerns. (Please select all that apply.)

Groups causing Nuisance	☐	Hate Crime (i.e. prejudice or discrimination)	☐
Drugs or Drug Related Issues	☐	Drunk or Rowdy Behaviour	☐
Noise Nuisance	☐	Vandalism or Graffiti	☐
Domestic Abuse	☐	Deliberate Fires	☐
Burglaries and Distraction Thefts	☐	Motor Vehicle and Traffic Concerns	☐
Littering or Fly-Tipping	☐	Other (Please specify below)	☐

Please use this space to provide any additional details you feel are relevant to your concerns above. (Continue on a separate sheet if required)

5. In your opinion, how has the level of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in your Council Ward changed over the last 12 months?

Increased	☐	Decreased	☐
Stayed the Same	☐	Not sure	☐

(Continue on a separate sheet if required)

Continued overleaf.

Community Safety Partnership Survey 2018/19

6. Generally, how safe do you feel in your Council Ward?

Very Safe
Safe

☐
☐
☐

Unsafe
Very Unsafe

☐
☐

Neither Safe or Unsafe
If you feel 'Unsafe' or 'Very Unsafe' please tell us why in the space below.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required)

7. How satisfied are you with the way local public services, including Leicestershire Police and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council have dealt with Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, and Community Safety issues in your Council Ward over the last 12 months?

Very Satisfied
Satisfied

☐
☐
☐

Dissatisfied
Very Dissatisfied

☐
☐

Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied
If you feel 'Dissatisfied' or 'Very Dissatisfied' please tell us why in the space below.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required)

8. Have you been a victim of Crime or Anti-Social Behaviour in the Borough?

Yes

☐

No

☐

9. Please make any further comments you may have on Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, or Community Safety issues below, including any suggestions you may have to address them.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required)

Completed copies of this survey can be returned through the following routes:

By Post:

Mark Smith
Community Safety & Youth Coordinator
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston,
Leicestershire LE18 2DR

Via Email:

Mark.Smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

By Hand:

Customer Service Centre
40 Bell Street, Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 1AD