



# Letterbox

## Our Way to Better Customer Care

### British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)

The Borough Council works in partnership with a local charity to undertake practical conservation tasks on land that it owns.

Not only do volunteers benefit from working on different locations around Leicestershire and learning skills in practical habitat management, the charity also runs work-based NVQ and Diploma training courses. In April students were given the opportunity to work in the woodland and erect post and rail fencing, put in a bridge crossing and learn about safe working practices in the countryside. Training is also given to help understand the process of making management decisions, where access and habitat conservation can sometimes come into conflict. Prior to the students work, the site had derelict post and barbed wire fencing and overhanging vegetation causing residents to walk too close to a hedgerow. Now the hedgerow can grow to its full capacity, residents can walk without being attacked by hawthorn and can safely cross the ditch!



For more information on BTCV training courses call (0116) 255 3515



## Fludes Lane Woodland

Fludes Lane, which acts as a link between the A6 in Oadby (by the hand car wash garage) to the wider countryside, offers local residents a breather and a chance to experience an urban woodland.

Whilst the summer migrants such as willow warbler, chiffchaff and blackcap have returned to Africa, the resident birds such as blackbird, song thrush, nuthatch, wren and robin are busy hunting for food amongst the vegetation. A flash of blue whizzing along the Washbrook can only be a kingfisher which is seen quite regularly. The woodland also provides habitat for creatures you don't see, such as bank vole and wood mice, which hide from predators in the wood piles and along the hedgerows. The leaves on trees and shrubs change from various

greens to oranges, reds and yellows before falling to the ground and adding to the rich woodland soil. Look out for the winged seeds of field maple and ash and the acorns of the mighty oak trees. Look out for fungi too which like the damp conditions that Autumn brings and are important to trees. The fungi supplies the tree with nutrients from the soil and the tree gives the fungi some sugar.

If any resident would like to contribute to animal and plant records, then the Borough Council would like to hear from you. These records contribute to the management of the woodland and will also assist in planning the future interpretation of the woodland. Contact Helen Gregory, the Countryside and Biodiversity Officer on (0116) 257 2651 or email [helen.gregory@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:helen.gregory@oadby-wigston.gov.uk).

**STOP PRESS**  
East Midlands  
in Bloom 2010

Pride of the Borough group achieved **GOLD!**

The Busy B's greenhouse project received a **Judges Award**  
"In recognition of their hard work to plant, water and maintain floral features to a high standard"

Brocks Hill Primary School represented the borough in the East Midlands Regional School Gardens Category  
They achieved **GOLD!**

And in the category of Small City we were **WINNERS!!**

These awards reflect a huge amount of work by volunteers supported by our staff and our sponsors to whom we say a big thank you.

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# Review of Polling Arrangements in Oadby and Wigston

The Council is looking at its arrangements for voters on polling day by reviewing polling districts and polling places and welcomes the views of the public on this matter.

For future polling arrangements in Oadby and Wigston, voters are invited to view the recommendations of the Returning Officer, on the Council's website at [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk) or by visiting the Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston during normal office hours.

Members of the public have until 4 November 2010 to submit observations on the proposals for them to be taken into consideration by the Council.

For more information please contact Electoral Services at the Council, by telephoning (0116) 2672 604, or by email: [electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

## Police Neighbourhood Consultation Event

**Tue 26 October, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chamber, Council Offices, Wigston**

If you live in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston come and meet your Local Neighbourhood Officer and discuss any issues that you may have in your area.



## Oscar Owls Autumn Competition



Oscar has been hiding autumn leaves in this edition of letterbox, can you find how many golden leaves he has hidden within the pages.

The winner will receive a swimming pass for 4 persons for 4 sessions. The Competition is open to children aged 16 and under.

Put your age, contact details and how many golden leaves you have found onto a letter or postcard addressed to Customer Services.

The closing date for entries is 12 November and the winner will be announced in the next letterbox edition

## Brocks Hill's Christmas Craft Fayre

**Saturday 20 November and Sunday 21 November, 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Local crafters • Local charities • Children's activities  
 Outdoor trail • Santas Grotto

Please see our newsletter, ask at reception or ring Leicester (0116) 257 2888 for further information.

**Brocks Hill Country Park & Visitor Centre**  
**Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5JJ**



## Our Customer Service Centre opening times within the libraries

To make our services more accessible our opening hours include a Monday late night and a Saturday opening at Oadby library.

Oadby Library	
Monday	9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Thursday	1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday	1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon.
Wigston Library	
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Thursday	9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
South Wigston Library	
Friday	9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

All of our services are still available Monday to Friday at the Main Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston  
 Tel: (0116) 288 8961

**This publication can be made available in your language and in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, electronic and audio tape. Tel: (0116) 257 2712 or Email: [pr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:pr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)**



# Having Problems Paying Your Rent? We Want to Help

Contact our rent section as soon as you start experiencing problems.

## We will

- See if you can claim Housing Benefit, and help you fill out the forms.
- Help you sort out your weekly budget
- Come to a reasonable agreement for you to pay the money you owe

- Refer you for debt counselling or money advice if needed

Whatever your situation we want to help and avoid legal action, so contact us as soon as possible by calling (0116) 2572 649, or by visiting any of our Customer Service Centres located at:

**Council Offices**, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2DR

**Oadby Library**, 10 The Parade, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 5BF

**Wigston Library**, Bull Head Street, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 1PA

For free, independent, confidential money advice/ assistance with your debts you can contact

**Money Advice** – Citizens Advice Bureau. Tel:01664 484084

**Helping Hands** – Blaby Road, South Wigston Tel: (0116) 2782001

## How to pay your rent

Please make sure you quote your rent reference number when making payments. This helps to ensure your payment is allocated to the correct account.

### Direct Debit –

#### The Convenient Way to Pay

Why not set up a direct debit instruction to make sure that your rent is always paid by the due dates. You will no longer have to remember your payment date, write a cheque or travel to the Council Offices to make a payment. In addition to these benefits, this is also the only payment method that offers you a choice of monthly payment dates on either the 1st or 15th of the month.

The direct debit guarantee makes sure that you always have 14 days notice of the first payment to be deducted from your bank account, or of any change to the monthly amount, so you stay in control of your payments.

Please contact us on (0116) 2572 649 to request a direct debit instruction, or collect one from any of our Customer Service Centres

- ✓ Debit and credit card payments can be made 24 hours a day 7 days a week by telephoning (0116) 2572850. Payment by this method can also be made at any Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Customer Service Centre.
- ✓ Pay on line by visiting the Council's website [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk) and clicking on internet payments
- ✓ Use your personal banking internet payment facility and quote the following details: Sort Code 54 -21-50, Account 13754408. You will also need your rent account reference.

- ✓ Cash and card payments can be made at our automated kiosk situated at the Council Offices, Wigston. This facility is available during offices hours which are shown in the back of this leaflet. The kiosk does give change and will issue a receipt.
- ✓ Our cashiering facility, based at the Council Offices, Wigston is open Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:45am – 1:00pm
- ✓ Cheque payments can be sent to us through the post, or by depositing them in the various cheque payment boxes situated at any Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Customer Service Centre. Please make all cheques payable to Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, and please remember to write your rent reference on the back of the cheque

# Are you on the Council's Housing Register?

## If so, read on...



We are planning a number of important changes to the way that we let our properties. These changes could affect how we deal with your housing application in the future.

We are required by the government to introduce Choice Based Lettings by the end of 2010. This will be a new way of dealing with housing applications. We are working with other district councils in Leicestershire to bring in one scheme that will cover the whole of Leicestershire.

At the moment, people that apply to join the Council's Housing Register are awarded 'points' according to their circumstances. Council properties that become available for letting are offered to the housing applicant who has the most points at that time.

### With Choice Based Lettings, there will be two main changes:

- We will use 'bands' instead of 'points' to identify who is in the most need of a property, and
- We will advertise details of empty properties and applicants will 'bid' for those properties, for which they would like to be considered.

Anyone who wants to register for the scheme will have their application assessed and be placed into one of 4 bands of need (ranging from a low level of housing need, through to urgent cases).

Empty properties will be advertised every fortnight. When all the bids have been received for a property, it will be offered to the person or household who is in the highest band, in date order.

When making a bid, the person is simply showing that they want to be considered for the property – they will not be making a bid of money.

As at present, there will be rules as to the size and type of property for which people can be considered (for example, a single person will only be able to bid for a bedsit or a one bedroom flat).

To help give people more chance to move around the County (for example, because of job requirements, or caring for a relative), at least 10% of all empty Council properties will be advertised as open to people who have registered with any council in Leicestershire.

We have drafted a new Allocations Policy, which sets out the changes that we would like to make and how Choice Based Lettings will work. See our website for further details – [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

If you have any views or comments about our proposals, we would like to hear from you. You can do this by contacting us:

By email – [housing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:housing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk),

Telephone – (0116) 2572 619,

By writing to the Housing Section, Oadby and Wigston Council, Station Road, Wigston, LE18 2DR, or by visiting one of our Customer service Centres.



## YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2011

Do you know an outstanding young person, living in the borough who is between 14 to 20 years, at the time of nomination, and has done something for the public good within the borough?

This can be something social, environmental or of family benefit or it can be some aspect of their activities or character which sets a high example to others.

*(please note: the award is not open to any relation of a councillor or senior staff member)*

### For a nomination form please contact

Kate Faulkner  
Community Development Liaison  
Officer at the Council Offices  
Tel: (0116) 2572 674  
Email: [kate.faulkner@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:kate.faulkner@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

or alternatively nominations can be made on line at

<http://www.oadby-wigston.net/ccd/youngcitizen.php>

The closing date for nominations is Friday 3 December 2010





# Housing Service Annual Report to Tenants

## ‘Your views count’

From 1 October 2010 the Tenants’ Services Authority (TSA), the Housing Services Regulatory body, will require all housing providers to issue an Annual Report to their tenants.

This means that we are working towards providing you with an informative, honest and accurate report – a ‘warts and all’ account of cost and the performance of our Housing Department. We will be looking at including and developing our local service standard offers.

We want to make the Annual Report as interesting and comprehensive as possible, without making it lengthy or complicated. More importantly – we want to know what YOU want to see in your Annual Report.

We need your views and ideas. If you have any thoughts on what you think the Annual Report should look like... OR what information you would like to see in the report... OR any other information you would find useful being reported to you annually – we are waiting to hear from you.

We want to produce a report that shows we have included our residents’ feedback and opinions and what they feel is important in the service they receive.

Remember this is your Borough – your future - your views count!

If you would like to know more about being involved in getting the Annual Report ready please contact Resident Involvement Officer Claire Erskine on (0116) 2572619

## ‘We need you’

# Neighbourhood Walkabouts 2010/2011

We regularly visit neighbourhoods to identify problems and issues that tenants may have about the area where they live. We have organised these visits into a programme, which is detailed below:



	Lorraine Findlay	Carole Roley	Claire Erskine
July-Sept 2010	Aylestone Lane, Central Avenue, Holmden Avenue, Northfield Avenue, South Avenue, Whitehead Crescent	Albion Street, Bassett Street, Belper Close, Canal Street, Clifton Drive, Countesthorpe Road, Fairfield Street, Glengate, Hazelwood Road, Kirkdale Road	Burgess Street, Cherry Street, Junction Road, Margaret Crescent, Maromme Square, Pullman Road
Oct-Dec 2010	Chartwell House, Churchill Close, Garden Close, Malham Way, Marriott House, St Peters Path, Wigston Road	Bude Road, Falmouth Drive, Harcourt Road, Horsewell Lane, Littledale, Rectory Close, Welford Road	Elizabeth Court, Queens Drive, Regent Close, Rutland Avenue, West Avenue
Jan-March 2011	Boulter Crescent, Estoril Avenue, Gibson Close, Gladstone Street, Kings Drive, William Peardon Court	Elizabeth Crescent, Dukes Close, Orson Drive, Owston Drive, Rolleston Road, Warwick Road, Wiltshire Road, Manor Street, Orchards Drive, Coronation Avenue, Clarkes Road	Cedar Avenue, Davenport Road, Blunts Lane, Long Street, Newton Lane, Exmoor Close

We will write to you nearer the time with the exact dates and times of your Estate Inspection.

We welcome you to join your Housing Officer on a walkabout of the Estates, your feedback and opinions will help us to improve the area that you live in.

The results of your Estate Inspection will be fed back to you at a later date.

## Getting Better!

Our Housing Section has been given a ‘fair’ rating in a recent inspection by a government body called the Audit Commission. This follows a previous ‘poor’ rating in 2008.

### Cllr Bill Boulter said

“we are really pleased with the progress we have made. The team have worked hard to achieve this, but we know there is still plenty to do. Over the coming months, we will be talking to our tenants to find out what they want to see happen in the future – and how we can best make this happen.”





# connexions

## LEICESTER SHIRE

### Supporting young people to make the right choice at the right time, first time

### Exam results – what are my choices?

Whether your results leave you wanting to celebrate or to run away and hide, you still have choices!

Results Day is a worrying time for many people. It is a BIG day, two years of hard work inside an envelope. It is important that you know exactly what the next steps are however things turn out - results are all about options!

### The Connexions Leicester Shire Results Service

Whatever your exam grades are we can talk you through your options and help you decide what's right for you. You will be surprised by all the choices available to you.

Our advisers offer independent advice and information on jobs, education, training and courses: with up-to-date prospectuses and have internet access to clearing.

### Just finished Year 12 or 13?

Advice on what to do after A/AS level, BTEC or other exam results. Includes information on clearing and what to do if you haven't applied for higher education and are now considering this.

### Just finished Year 11?

Advice on what to do after GCSE results. Includes information on what to do if you haven't yet applied for a college or sixth form course, apprenticeship, job or training.

If you want to speak to a Connexions adviser on results day you may be able to see someone at your school or college or you can go to your local Connexions Centre:

50E Blaby Road  
South Wigston  
Leicester LE18 4SD  
T: (0116) 2778090  
E: bow@connexions-leics.org

Check out our job vacancies for young people at [www.connexions-leics.org/jobs](http://www.connexions-leics.org/jobs)

Search for local courses, qualifications and training opportunities for 14-19 year olds at [www.coursefinder-leics.org](http://www.coursefinder-leics.org)

If you're still not sure what you are doing by the end of August and you're aged 16 to 18 years old come along to the **The Big Match** on Wednesday 8th September. It's your chance to find out more about sixth form or college courses, work based learning, apprenticeships, and other training opportunities.

**Get your future sorted!**  
[www.connexions-leics.org](http://www.connexions-leics.org)



the big switch



## 11th - 17th OCTOBER [leics.gov.uk/bigswitchoff](http://leics.gov.uk/bigswitchoff)

In this week people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland will be once again encouraged to make an extra effort to cut CO2 emissions and save money by pulling the plug on energy wasting habits.

# How did the Council spend your money in 2009/10?

The table below shows what each committee of your Council spent on the day to day running costs of the services that they are responsible for providing.

What we spent	£'000s
1 Resident Services Committee (Including Health, Housing Homelessness, Recreation and Leisure, Car Parks, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing)	3,678
2 Resources and Regeneration Committee (Including Housing Benefits, Concessionary Fares, Crime and Disorder, Economic Development and Council Tax Collection)	3,769
3 Development Control Committee (Including Planning Applications, Building Control and Forward Planning)	404
4 Youth Forum and Licensing Committee	36
<b>Total Committee Spending</b>	<b>7,887</b>
Cost of Borrowing (Interest)	190
Added to Held Balances	438
Less: Miscellaneous Grants Received	-42
<b>Cost of Local Services Met by Local and National Taxes</b>	<b>8,473</b>

We spent £8.473m on services allowing for income. We financed our spending using local and national taxes and redistributed business rates.

As well as the day to day running costs already shown, we had to spend money on buying and improving our land and other property items so we can offer first class public facilities. The money used on these projects is shown below.

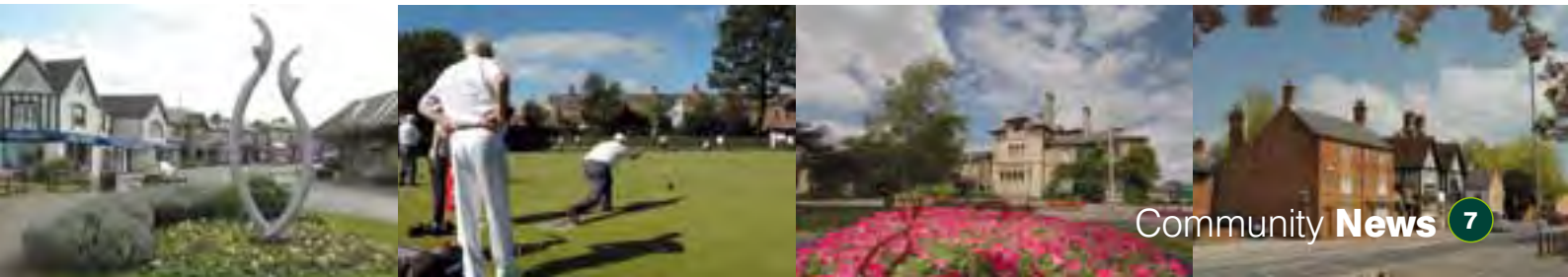
What we spent	£'000s
1 Resident Services Committee	
Housing	1,314
Iliffe Park Play Area	70
Uplands Development	51
Walter Charles Community Centre	26
Street Nameplates	20
CCTV	22
Parks and Pavilions	75
Brocks Hill Park	15
Bus Shelters	10
2 Resources and Regeneration Committee	362
IT Projects	
3 All Committees – Other Schemes	193
<b>Total Capital Spending</b>	<b>2,158</b>
<b>Funded By</b>	<b>£'000s</b>
Grants and Contributions	1,547
Capital Receipts – Proceeds of Sales	343
Revenue Financing	268
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>2,158</b>

At the end of the financial year on 31 March 2010 the Council still held the following balances and other assets and liabilities.

Balances Held	£'000s
Working Balances	1,709
Balances for Specific Purposes	1,964
Capital Receipts from Sale of Assets	388
Housing Repairs Balances	93

Balance Sheet Assets and Liabilities	£m
Value of Land and Property	76.2
Cash in Bank and Investments	3.5
Money Owed to Council	2.8
Money Owed by Council	-26.3
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>56.2</b>

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has a legal responsibility to maintain a sensible level of working balances. We believe that level to be £800,000. As can be seen above we are currently in excess of that figure.



## CAP Money - revolutionary money management course

The CAP Money course is designed to help people gain a better knowledge of what they earn and what they spend, devise a manageable budget, get their accounts in order and learn to save.

CAP Money is a comprehensive yet astonishingly simple course to help you get, and then stay, in control of your finances. It is a three session course lasting between 1 & 2 hours. The next course will start in October 2010 and takes place at The King's Centre, Bull Head Street, Wigston. If you want to enquire about the course or need further information please telephone Meadows Community Church on (0116) 2884321 or go to [www.capmoney.org](http://www.capmoney.org) for further details.



## Prevention and Detection of Fraud

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is required by law to protect the public funds we administer. We may share information provided to us by other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to prevent and detect fraud.

The Audit Commission appoints the auditor to audit the accounts of this authority. It is also responsible for carrying out data matching exercises.

Data matching involves comparing computer records held by one body against other computer records held by the same or another body to see how far they match. This is usually personal information. Computerised data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified. Where a match is found it indicates that there is an inconsistency requiring further investigation. No assumption can be made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

The Audit Commission currently requires us to participate in a data matching

exercise. We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Audit Commission for matching for each exercise, and these are set out in the Audit Commission's guidance, which can be found at

[www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi).

The use of data by the Audit Commission in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under its powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998. It does not require the consent of the individuals concerned under the Data Protection Act 1998. Data matching is subject to a Code of Practice. This may be found at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/pages/codeofdatamatchingpractice.aspx>

For further information on the Audit Commission's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/instructions/fairprocessingnotice/pages/default.aspx>. For further information on data matching at this authority contact Mr D Nowlan, Head of Customer Services.



## Residents give Green Cones the green light

Leicestershire residents have cut down on their bin congestion and reduced their carbon footprint by making use of their leftover food.

More than 1400 Green Cones have been sold in Leicestershire and residents are excited about how using the Green Cone is reducing the amount of rubbish they put out for collection.

**Amanda Halliday, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough said,**

"I'd wanted one for ages, but I couldn't justify the price....once the council subsidised the units then it was affordable. Our main aim was to get rid of the black bin, or just put it out once a year."



**Kathy Platts, Charnwood Borough has noticed that** "by putting leftover food into the caddy you see how much you waste. We've reduced what we buy, so there are long-term savings."

As you can put meat, bones, fish, vegetable scraps, dairy products and leftover plate scrapings into the Green Cone there is virtually no leftover food waste. These are transformed into nutrients and dispersed into the surrounding soil.

**Green Cone**  
**£7.50**  
including professional installation

Buying couldn't be easier, residents can call the freephone order line Tel. **0800 019 2061** or visit the website [www.greatgreensystems.com](http://www.greatgreensystems.com). The price of £7.50 includes professional installation, saves digging that big hole yourself.

If you would like more information on the Food Waste Digesters and composting units that Leicestershire Waste Partnership are offering, please call **0116 305 7005** visit [www.leics.gov.uk/waste](http://www.leics.gov.uk/waste) or take the advice of **Mrs Jones from Blaby** "I believe everyone should have one", and order yours today.



Offer only available to Leicestershire residents - excludes Leicester City residents.

# Guide for Private Sector Tenants Launched

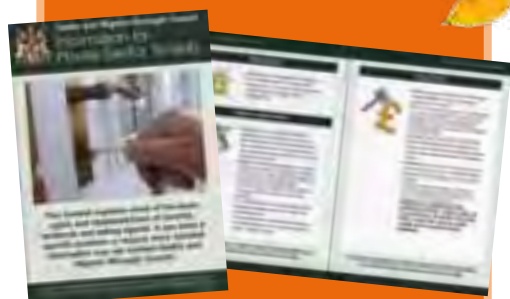
We have launched a guide explaining the basic rights of tenants in private rented homes in an effort to improve standards of property management. The guide will be available in the customer service centres or by requesting a copy. It covers issues such as tenancy agreements, eviction procedures, deposits and repairs.

Environmental health officer, Phil Fasham, who helped to produce the guide said,

“The majority of landlords and letting agents are very good, but unfortunately there are a number who either don't know the law, or choose to ignore it. The Council have dealt with many complaints of tenants being subjected to dangerous housing conditions or unfair tenancy practices which has led to several landlords facing criminal proceedings including one who was prosecuted earlier this year. The purpose of this booklet is to give tenants the knowledge of what standards they can expect of landlords and ensure that they are met.”

Landlords are also welcome to obtain copies but a more comprehensive guide on landlord responsibilities is freely available from [http://www.anuk.org.uk/Information/LandlordHandbook/Landlord\\_trainingmanual\\_web.pdf](http://www.anuk.org.uk/Information/LandlordHandbook/Landlord_trainingmanual_web.pdf)

In addition there is now a Government backed landlord accreditation scheme operating in the East Midlands called EMLAS which landlords can sign up to free of charge. They are given free training on the basics of property management and will be able to use their membership to demonstrate to tenants that they are competent landlords. For further details please contact EMLAS on 01332 258418.



# Two men fined for fly-tipping

We have fined two men for dumping their waste on land off Ladysmith Road in South Wigston.

Neither man was able to give an explanation as to why their waste had been unlawfully deposited at this site therefore both were served with fixed penalty notices of £75 each for the offence of fly tipping. The penalty for fly tipping is usually a fine, but in very serious cases offenders can be prosecuted and sent to prison. People can also be prosecuted if they refuse to pay the fine that is served on them.

If you witness fly tipping occurring, please do not approach the individual but note down details such as a description of the individuals and any vehicles involved, especially registration numbers, and report it to the Council on (0116) 2888961 who will investigate the matter.

# Council Seize Stereo from Noisy Neighbour

Environmental Health Officers from Oadby and Wigston Borough Council have seized a stereo system from a flat in Boulter Crescent, Wigston after complaints were made by other residents about loud music being playing on a regular basis.

The occupants, Mr Daniel Johnson and Miss Charlene Ward had been warned on numerous occasions by council officers from the Housing and Environmental Health Departments to keep the volume down but the complaints continued.

A legal notice was served in 2009 prohibiting the playing of loud music after environmental health officers witnessed the loud music on several occasions. The occupants still did not

stop playing loud music so we obtained a warrant from Leicester Magistrates Court to enter the flat and take any noise making equipment such as stereos, DVD players and surround sound systems.

The legal notice is still in force so if the occupants purchase new equipment and start playing their music loudly again, we can apply for another warrant to seize equipment and seek to prosecute them as breaching a noise abatement notice is a criminal offence.



# Oadby and Wigston Lions Club brighten up Wigston town centre

Oadby and Wigston Lions Club are proud to help brighten up the centre of the Wigston, Bell Street shopping centre by sponsoring the council flower boxes.

L to R - Kelvin Kempster President Oadby and Wigston Lions Club, Councillor Mike Griffiths Mayor of Oadby and Wigston.



## Neil Mason Environmental Award

This is the first year of this award and we are delighted with the quality of the entries received. All deserve more recognition for the work they do, however we can only have one winner, though not as we had originally envisaged!

Our first winner is in fact a husband and wife team Pat and Dave Tebbutt of South Wigston. Both are actively involved in many projects throughout the borough helping to improve the environment for all. The judges decided they would be awarded the trophy as joint winners.

Dave & Pat plus the winners of our Floral Displays competitions were presented with their awards at our Awards and Celebration Evening, which took place at the Brocks Hill Environment Centre in late September. They were joined by members of Pride of the Borough, councillors and council staff who directly support the borough's entry into East Midlands in Bloom plus our sponsors. In all over 100 people enjoyed a social evening, which included a buffet and an opportunity to relax, share stories and reflect on the achievements

### Oadby Launde and Oadby Rotary Clubs

The Borough Council has been approached by the local Rotary Clubs who as part of their community programme, wish to do further work in the woodland.

Following on from British Trust for Conservation Volunteers' (BTCV) work thinning out overhanging vegetation, a lot of dead wood has been created. A fully functioning woodland needs a variety of habitats ranging from the mature canopy tree cover to shrubs and hedgerows from standing dead wood to wood left lying on the floor. As dead wood is important in a woodland to provide habitat for insects that rely on decaying timber, the rotary clubs spent a morning creating dead-hedging and stag beetle stumperies. As well as contributing to the ecology of the site they also provide sculptural interest within the woodland.

Both Oadby and Launde Rotary Club stated *"we all enjoyed the exercise, the fun and the fellowship and of course the sense of achievement in doing something for the environment"*.

## Annual Voter Registration Canvass

Every household within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston will already have received a voter registration form. It is important that you ensure the details shown on the form are correct or have been amended before returning the form to the Electoral Registration Officer at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

Your action could be the difference between having your say on the issues that affect you or losing your voice in the local community and nationally.

### Don't lose your vote!

Every year the Electoral Registration Officer for Oadby and Wigston has to compile a new electoral register by sending out annual canvass forms to every property in the area. By completing and returning this form, you'll make sure you are included on the 2011 Register of Electors when it is published on 1 December 2010 and that you're able to vote in any forthcoming elections or referenda.

### Don't assume that you are already registered.

Just because you were registered last year does not mean that your name will be automatically included in the next published Register of Electors. There are regulations regarding the removal of names from the Register in the event of a non-response to the annual canvass from a household.

### It's the law and your credit worthiness may be affected.

It is a legal requirement to have your name included on the Register of Electors and failure to register as an elector may also affect your ability to apply for credit.

Many organisations use the electoral register to check your identity and not being registered at your current address can affect your credit rating and could prevent you from obtaining or purchasing some services or commodities which may include:-

- opening a bank account
- getting a mobile phone contract
- buying a house
- receiving a student grant, and so on.

### Register by telephone, internet or text.

As an alternative to posting the form back in the pre-paid envelope enclosed with your form, you also have the opportunity to register during the annual canvass period by telephone, internet or text. However, this facility is only available for households that have 'no changes' to make to the pre-printed details of the registered electors included on the canvass form.

**For more information contact the Electoral Services helpline by telephone on Leicester (0116) 257 2722 or email [electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)**



# South and West Leicestershire Citizens Advice Bureau open office in South Wigston

On Monday 2 August 2010 South and West Leicestershire Citizens Advice Bureau opened a new office in South Wigston.

Funding from Oadby and Wigston Borough Council now ensures that residents of this Borough are able to access advice and information on a range of subjects and receive enhanced advice in debt, housing and employment from specialist caseworkers who will work from the new office.

Chief Executive Richard Evans said, *"We are delighted to be able to offer our services in this Borough and the local residents can be reassured of a high quality service"*

Talking about the award of the contract, Michael Charlesworth (Chair of Overview and Scrutiny) said "the Borough Council are really looking forward to working with SaWLCAB. It is an exciting opportunity for both parties but more importantly for residents of the Borough"

The office is to be located in South Wigston with further outreach provision to be developed in the very near future.

SaWLCAB are also pleased to offer specialist advice for local residents affected by cancer, either as a sufferer or family member or carer. Macmillan

Cancer has funded a post for the Borough and the caseworker has already raised a significant amount of money for local residents who find themselves affected by this illness.

This new office also offers exciting volunteering opportunities for local residents to serve their community and acquire new skills that often lead to paid work.

Richard Evans added "It is true that many of our trained volunteers move on to find paid employment often in the advice sector. Our volunteering opportunities offer people the chance to learn new skills and to gain valuable experience. This might be particularly important for anyone who may just have lost their job to consider volunteering to learn new skills or keep current skills relevant"

Volunteers are sought for a number of roles including advice workers, administrators, receptionists and social policy workers. A new adviser training course will commence in early September 2010 specifically for volunteers to staff the new office in South Wigston.

**Anyone who wishes to apply to become volunteers should Telephone: Carolyn Smith on 01455 615 632 or email: [training@swlcab.org.uk](mailto:training@swlcab.org.uk)**

## Rotary in Oadby and Wigston Raised £50,000!

Rotary is flourishing in Oadby and Wigston, with three active Clubs meeting at different times. In the Rotary year to 30 June the clubs raised £50,000 between them for a variety of local and international charities.

The Rotary Club of Oadby meets on Thursday lunch-times; Oadby Launde on Thursday evenings and Wigston on Monday lunch-times. Most meetings include a speaker on a topical or charitable subject. In addition to our full

range of service activities each club runs a number of social events for members and friends. Last year, the two Oadby clubs jointly arranged a Welcome to Oadby sign and floral display on The Parade.

**Oadby Membership** enquiries to Ray Turner on 01509 889719

**Wigston Membership** enquiries to Mark Wood: [m.wood34@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:m.wood34@tiscali.co.uk) or (0116) 288 5191.



## A Day in the Life...

of Jacky York, Priority Neighbourhoods Manager and Locality Integrated Youth Support Services Manager.

Yesterday I was in at 8.30 a.m. to deliver the Supersonic 2010 marshal briefing. Half an hour to go through emails and messages and off to the youth wing of the Bobbin Factory in South Wigston for a 10:00 a.m. site meeting with partners from across the county. At 11:00 a.m. off to Market Harborough for a Strategic Neighbourhood Managers meeting with other district councils to consider new challenges faced owing to the current economic climate. At 2:00 p.m. IYSS team meeting at County Hall to share information gained on a mapping current services and develop an action plan for targeted provision for young people. At 4:00 p.m. Leicestershire Voluntary Clubs for Young People strategic Planning Group. At 6:30 p.m. attend Weakest Link event at Wigston Young Peoples Centre to do my Anne Robinson impersonation.

This is a good opportunity for young people, parents and councillors to engage informally. Home at 9:00 p.m. after a quick catch up meeting with youth workers.

*Pictured above from left to right – Tayler Matchett, Joshua Higginbottom, Councillor Jeffrey Kaufman, Councillor Richard Morris, Councillor Mrs Sharon Morris and Jacky York.*



# Summer Football Project 2010



The football project ran from Monday 19 August to Friday 13 August, from 3pm to 5pm. This project was attended by 122 young people from the Borough, and took place on the all weather pitch at Guthlaxton College. The project was run in partnership with the Local Police Beat Teams and the Youth Offending Service.

Through the success of this football project, we are hoping to secure funding for a further project over Halloween. This will be available for all young people of the Borough to attend aged from 14 to 17 years old. The free sessions will take place on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 October from 7pm to 9pm, on the all weather pitch at Guthlaxton College in Wigston.

For a consent form to take part in this project and further information, please contact Ian Chase, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator on Leicester (0116) 2572 667.

## Summer sports programme

Over 214 local children took part in the summer sport, dance and trampolining activity programmes held during July and August, organised by Avril Lennox. Record attendances were recorded, with over 1000 user visits taken up during the four week programme.

Working in partnership with Beauchamp College a new trampolining programme took place in the college's main sports hall for young people aged 8 to 18 years. This is the first time this particular programme has been organised, delivered by our specialist sports coach. It is hoped that a sustainable trampolining club can be set up as a result of the positive feedback from parents and children. Sincere thanks go to Beauchamp College for their valuable partnership working. The dance programme for youngsters aged 5 to 14 was also a success. Held in Wigston, these classes included fun dance activities, street dance and modern performed to the latest music.

Working in partnership with the Local Sport Alliance the Multi-sport programme was organised for children aged 8 to 14 years at 5 parks across the Borough: Uplands Park and Coombe Park in Oadby, Willow Park and Horsewell Lane Park in Wigston, and Blaby Road Park in South Wigston. Sports activities included athletics, basketball, cricket, football, rugby, rounders, Tennis and fun team relay games. All participants received information and contact details about sports clubs in the borough in order to encourage continued participation in their chosen sport.

The Oadby & Wigston Mayor, Councillor Michael Griffiths and Deputy Mayor Linda Broadley attended the end of programme tournaments and presented medals and prizes to the winning teams, and certificates to all participants.

## October half-term Sports programme

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has organised a sports activity programmes to coincide with the 2010 October half-term school holiday.

Working in partnership with Beauchamp College in Oadby, two activity programmes will run simultaneously for young people aged 8 to 18 years in the main sports hall at the College (a trampolining programme and a multi-sports programme).

### Monday 18 October to Friday 22 October

#### Trampolining (two groups)

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

#### Multi-sports activity (one group)

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Council's Leisure Development Officer, Avril Lennox, has recruited a team of qualified coaches, all of whom hold current CRB certificates, to deliver the sessions each day. The multi-sports activities will include cricket, rounders, football, basketball, badminton and fun team games.

Booking forms are available from local libraries, schools and leisure facilities. Numbers are limited so pre-booking is essential to avoid disappointment. For further information please contact Avril on Leicester (0116) 2572 673.

Sincere thanks go to Beauchamp College for their valuable partnership working to enable this local opportunity to take place.

