



# Letterbox

## O ur W ay to B etter C ustomer Care



**Peter Clowes  
is our 'Citizen  
of the year'**

**Peter has been awarded for his long and dedicated commitment to the Framework Knitters Museum since it opened in 1989. The museum was awarded as the Best Exhibition Winner in 2007.**

Peter Clowes has served the Framework Knitters Museum as the Honorary Curator for over 20 years, there are not many tasks at the museum that Peter has not tackled at some point, whilst it has been in his care. He ran a family solid fuel business during his working life and spent most of his retired life learning knitting processes. Through his sheer hard work and patience he mastered the art of both the hand turned Griswold knitting machines and the hand frame. He is one of only a handful at of people in Leicester who can knit on a hand frame.

Peter has knitted every sock that has been presented to each Mayor of the council in the last 20 years at the annual 'Rent Ceremony'.

Peter is naturally pleased to receive this award but he wants to take this opportunity to invite local residents to visit the museum. He says you'll be amazed to see the Master Hosier's House and workshop with items dating as far back as 1830.

## OADBY GOLF COURSE

**The Racecourse,  
Leicester Road, Oadby**

Everyone is welcome from the complete beginner, juniors, ladies, seniors, through to the most seasoned of amateurs. All you need to do is turn up and discover your true Golfing Potential.

**For more information  
call Leicester  
(0116) 270 9052**

## Oadby Golf Course

We have listened to requests from our season ticket holders and you can now pay for your golf season ticket by direct debit and split the cost over 6 months



**For more information please  
contact the Golf Course on  
Leicester (0116) 270 9052**

## OSCAR OWL'S EASTER EGG COMPETITION



**Oscar has been hiding Easter eggs in this edition of Letterbox, can you find them and tell us how many he has hidden.\***

The winner will receive an Easter egg. The Competition is open to children aged 16 and under. Put your age, contact details and how many eggs you have found onto a letter or postcard addressed to Customer Services.

**The closing date for entries is April 30 and the winner will be announced in the next Letterbox edition.**

**\* Please do not include the eggs printed on this page and page 4 Packaging Waste article**



## Your Council Tax

Every year, by February this Council has to produce a budget that is used to calculate the Council Tax that all householders have to pay. This was difficult for 2010/11 because we are faced with reducing income across Council activities, for example in planning applications, and also increasing costs such as planning inspectorate fees. However, following careful consideration of our finances we have managed to reduce our net costs by over £300,000 resulting in a Council Tax increase of just 2%. This increases our share of the Council Tax from £198.63 for the current year, to £202.60 for 2010/11 (based on a band 'D' property).

### Want to know how well your local services are tackling the big local issues? There's now Oneplace for that.

Oneplace – at [www.direct.gov.uk/oneplace](http://www.direct.gov.uk/oneplace) – assesses how well your local services are working together to improve the problems affecting your community.

The website has been set up by the main local services watchdogs, including the Audit Commission, the Care Quality Commission, Ofsted and Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation.

They've assessed the major issues the Council and other local services have agreed, in consultation with local people, are the priorities for the area. For Leicestershire the big local issues include:

- Improved life chances for vulnerable people and places
- Stronger, more cohesive communities
- A safe and attractive place to live and work
- A more effective response to climate change
- A prosperous, innovative and dynamic economy
- A healthier Leicestershire
- More effective and efficient service delivery

Oneplace gives you a summary of how well the watchdogs believe local services are tackling these issues. In some areas they've used green and red flags. Green flags show where something innovative or excellent is taking place. Red flags show where public services need to be doing much more, or something different, if the problem is to be tackled.

In Leicestershire we've got a green flag for: Better value for money in road improvements

Oneplace also shows the judgement of the local government watchdog – the Audit Commission - on your council and fire and rescue authority. It says this council is performing adequately this is a score of 2 out of 4. The fire authority is also performing adequately.

This new assessment of council performance replaces the star ratings that the Audit Commission gave councils in the past. The new approach takes a detailed look at how well the council manages its performance, and whether it makes the best use of your council tax. It's a more stretching examination of performance, as it also incorporates new measures like how well a council looks after its resources, like water, electricity, fuel and buildings. This means the new assessment and old CPA scores can't really be directly compared.



## Changes to our OWBC library service point opening hours

**We want to make sure that we provide services when they are needed by you. That is why we have decided to change our library service point opening hours to better match the times when you want to use our services.**

From Tuesday 6 April we will be changing our opening hours to include a late night opening at Oadby library and for a trial period a Saturday opening at Oadby library. The trial will run from Saturday 10 April 2010 until 29 May 2010 (inclusive).

Our new opening hours at the libraries will be:

Library	Day	Open Time
Oadby	Monday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
	Tuesday	1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
	Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
	Thursday	1:30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
	Friday	1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
	Saturday	9.30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Wigston	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
	Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
South Wigston	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Chair of the Resident's Service Committee, Bill Boulter said, "I am pleased that we are now able to offer our services in the evening and weekends. These changes will allow us to provide services at times that are more suitable for our customers".

All our services are still available Monday to Friday at our main offices in Station Road, Wigston. If you would like to know more about this change then contact Daren Nowlan, Head of Customer Services on Leicester (0116) 288 8961.

## Council Prosecutes Landlord Over Gas Safety

A landlord has been fined £200 and ordered to pay costs of £1,005 plus a £15 victim's surcharge for failing to produce a gas safety certificate on a property she rented in South Wigston. The landlord, Mrs Rita Devgun from Stoneygate pleaded guilty to the offence in Leicester Magistrates' Court on 12 February.

After an inspection by an environmental health officer from OWBC the landlord was ordered to carry out repairs and provide a copy of the gas safety certificate. By law all rented properties which have gas appliances must have a gas safety check carried out every 12 months and the certificate given to the tenants.

The landlord completed most of the repairs but failed to provide a copy of the Gas Safety certificate. In Court Mrs Devgun said that she thought it was the letting agents' responsibility to sort out the gas safety certificate but the Magistrates said that the law clearly states that the landlord is ultimately responsible.

Councillor Bill Boulter said, "Gas Safety certificates are extremely important to protect private tenants and this prosecution demonstrates that the Council is determined to ensure that all landlords in this Borough comply with gas safety law."

# Pride of the Borough

Pride of the Borough work with the council to lead the Borough's entry into the East Midlands in Bloom competition. However the competition and the work we do is far more than just one day when judges visit us, it is about what goes on in the borough throughout the year. So following the successes of last summer members of Pride of the Borough have been busy working to help further improve the borough.

In September we held our Awards and Celebration evening at the Brocks Hill Environment Centre, which was attended by award winners, sponsors, councillors and council staff who supported our work; in all over 100 people enjoyed an evening of reflection and celebration.

Since then work has gone on, replacing bedding plants, shrub and tree planting and generally getting areas ready for the winter; hundreds of bulbs have been planted and their emergence from the cold ground will help mark the Spring and the beginning of another season.

Our Chairman, Simon Lucas, has given several talks not only about our work but also encouraging others to take a pride in our borough. Such is the standard of our achievement in the Bloom competition, Simon has been asked to join the East Midlands in Bloom judging panel for 2010 - we're looking for some insider tips!

Once again we will be organising our floral display competitions, the entry form is available from main council offices, libraries, Brocks Hill or contact us on Leicester (0116) 257 2839 to request one. So let's encourage all those people who make a tremendous effort to brighten our streets and neighbourhoods with their colourful displays by nominating them for our competitions; or even have a go yourself!

New for 2010 we are organising an Environmental Award to recognise individuals who have contributed to improving the environment of Oadby and Wigston for the benefit of all residents. This award is named after Neil Mason, former Public Cleansing Supervisor for the Council who sadly passed away last year, but who was a constant supporter of our work and frequently went beyond the call of duty to care for the environment with little or no recognition. He was not alone in doing such work and it is these individuals we want to recognise in this award.

More information about the Pride of the Borough, the in Bloom competition and our competition entry forms can be found on our web site <http://beehive.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/prideoftheborough>, you can even follow us on Twitter!



## Neil Mason Environment Award

This award is to recognise individuals who have contributed to improving the environment of Oadby and Wigston for the benefit of all residents

## Benefit Cheat pleaded guilty

Jayantilal Solanki a pensioner from Wigston has been ordered to pay £1,500 of benefits as he had more than £80,000 in the bank.

He failed to disclose 33 bank accounts and building society accounts, with assets totalling about £83,000, when he signed on for housing benefit between 2002 and 2008.

Kalv Garcha, prosecuting solicitor for the Council said after the hearing, "If such offences remained undetected over the course of eight years, Mr Solanki might very well be continuing to claim benefits, even now."

"This is about a man who has excess capital, taking him well over the eligibility limits for receiving benefits. This is not about one undisclosed account or three undisclosed accounts, but 33 undisclosed accounts with substantial capital. Clearly, that goes to prove knowledge, intent and dishonesty."

Mr Solanki pleaded guilty to three counts of dishonesty and made a false statement with the view of obtaining benefits. In mitigation, he told the court the benefit forms were completed by someone else and he simply signed them. He said he had not taken much interest in what he had been signing because his time was taken up caring for his elderly and infirm wife.

He was told by the magistrates to repay £1,500 of benefits and pay £1,145 towards the council's legal costs.

# Important Changes to Council Tax Account Numbers



We have recently changed our Council Tax software supplier. You may notice a slight change in the appearance of your future Council Tax bills and in some cases your Council Tax account number has been changed.

What you need to do depends on how you pay your Council Tax. If your Council Tax account number has changed we will write to you and tell you your new number.

Remember to use the new number in future when contacting us or making a payment.

What you need to do when making a payment depends on how you pay your Council Tax. If you pay by:

Direct Debit - we will tell your bank of the new number and your payments will be collected as normal.

Standing Order - you must tell your bank of your new Council Tax account number on the letter we send you.

Other payment methods - if you pay by bank giro, internet banking, the automated payment line Leicester (0116) 257 2850 or by cheque then remember to use the new number on the letter we send you

If you have any queries about your Council Tax then let us know by calling Leicester (0116) 288 8961.

## Parliamentary Election 2010

### Are you registered to vote?



A Parliamentary Election must be held by Thursday 3 June 2010. The Prime Minister, however, can call an election at any time and at short notice.

**Are you registered to vote?** It is important that you check to ensure you are on the Electoral Register as soon as possible. If your name does not appear on the Electoral Register, you will not be able to vote in the Election.

#### Electoral Registration Information

The deadline for registering to vote is 11 working days before the date on which the election is to be held. As the electoral timetable may be very short, it is best to register your right to vote, as soon as possible!

**Methods of casting your vote.** There are different ways you can cast your vote. It may depend on what you find easiest or the most convenient method.

Most people vote in person at a polling station. If you are unable to vote in person, you may apply for an Absent Vote. An Absent Vote enables you to vote by post or by proxy (someone voting on your behalf). There are restrictions about how many days before an election that you can apply for an Absent Vote.

**Vote at the Polling Station.** Voting at a polling station is very straightforward and there is always a member of staff available to help. If you are on the electoral register, you will receive a poll card before the election telling you where and when to vote. The poll card is for your information only, and you do not need to take it to the polling station, where you live, in order to vote.

**Vote by Post.** If you would like to vote by post in the next election please note that the last date for receipt of postal vote applications is 11 working days before the date on which the election is to be held.

**Vote by Proxy.** The deadline for receipt of proxy vote applications is 6 working days before the date on which the election is to be held.

If you think that you may wish to apply for an Absent Vote, Postal Vote or a Proxy Vote you should contact us as soon as possible. Our contact details are given below.

Electoral Services enquires  
**Telephone:** Leicester (0116) 257 2722  
**Email:** electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

**Post:** Electoral Services  
 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council  
 Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston  
 Leicestershire LE18 2DR

## Packaging Waste

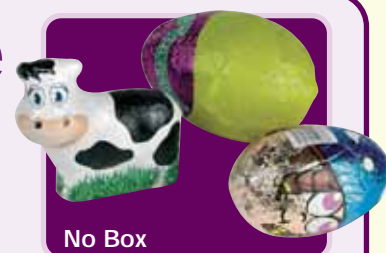
Easter produces an extra 3,000 tonnes of waste in the UK every year, which is mainly due to the excess packaging of chocolate Easter eggs. Last year the average chocolate egg only took up 40% of the volume of the packaging it was sold in, highlighting how choosing an egg with reduced packaging will cut down on Leicestershire's waste this Easter.

To avoid packaging waste this Easter why not:

- Buy foil wrapped Easter eggs rather than a boxed egg or one with reduced packaging.
- Make your own Easter eggs - spread melted chocolate into an egg mould, stick the two halves together with more chocolate and hey presto!
- Hand paint and decorate eggs. Make a small hole in the egg to remove the white and yolk first.
- Make a paper mâché egg for a homemade Easter gift

It is important to remember that reducing packaging is not just for Easter, many everyday household products such as cereals and frozen pizzas can be over packaged, look out for less waste options.

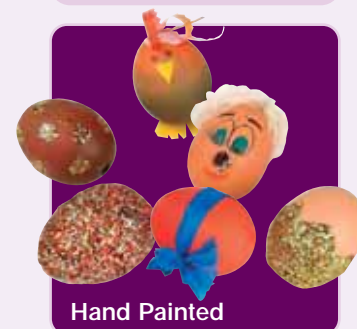
For more suggestions on how to make your own Easter eggs and gifts - a great way to keep the children busy in the Easter holiday, visit [www.lesswaste.org.uk](http://www.lesswaste.org.uk).



No Box



No Plastic



Hand Painted

## The Future of the Borough –

The Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy is undergoing formal examination ahead of its anticipated adoption

**The Core Strategy is a development plan that sets out the vision, spatial objectives and core policies that will guide development in the Borough over the next 15 years. It is the central document in the Local Development Framework (LDF) and as such all future development plans will be based on the policies and objectives outlined in it.**

The Borough Council's Forward Plans team have produced the Core Strategy and, following a series of consultations during which residents and businesses in the Borough were invited to comment. It has now been submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for formal inspection.

The Planning Inspectorate will examine the document to ensure that it is sound and that it conforms to national and regional policy. The appointed inspector is Jill Kingaby BSc(Econ) MSc MRTPI and her report, expected in August 2010, will determine whether or not the Council adopt the Core Strategy. An independent Programme Officer, William Tonkiss, has been appointed to act as liaison between the Inspector and the Council. Residents with queries relating to the Core Strategy should contact the Programme Officer ([programme.officer@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:programme.officer@oadby-wigston.gov.uk) / Leicester (0116) 257 2688).

The examination process will include a series of hearings into the issues raised during the most recent public consultation. The hearings are expected to take place over a period of two weeks beginning 26 April 2010. Details of the content of the hearings, including the dates that the Inspector will sit, will be available closer to the time.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Core Strategy examination, updates and further information can be found in the Forward Plans section of the Council website, or by contacting the Programme Officer.

# Choosing Your Builder



**With so much media attention about 'Rogue Traders' recently, it is easy to become worried about choosing a reputable builder.**

If you are thinking about undertaking any building work or alterations to your property and you require the services of a builder, you should consider your choice carefully. This may be one of the biggest financial investments you make, outside of buying a property or car, so you should thoroughly check the history of any builder or contractor before employing their services. When choosing a builder try to get recommendations from relatives, trusted friends or neighbours who have recently had work carried out, or visit the Government's Trust Mark Scheme at [www.trustmark.org.uk](http://www.trustmark.org.uk), which has been developed to help you select reputable builders and trades people.

For large projects, consider employing an independent qualified professional to advise you, such as an architect, surveyor or a building engineer. Please note that in the interests of promoting a fair competitive market the Council cannot recommend builders, architects, or any other construction professionals. However, we do hold a list of relevant professional organisations, which is available from our Building Control Office, please telephone Leicester (0116) 257 2657 to request a copy or visit our office located at the Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston.

**Here are a few things you should consider before employing any construction professionals:**

- What credentials do they hold and are they a member of a professional organisation that has a member code of conduct?
- What experience do they have in the type of work you are planning to undertake?
- Discuss the extent of the contractual arrangement with your professional adviser and the builder.
- Does the arrangement involve the preparation of plans only for planning permission and building regulations approval, or is site supervision part of the package?
- If you consider your project too small to require a professional, get advice from someone within the construction industry that you know and trust.

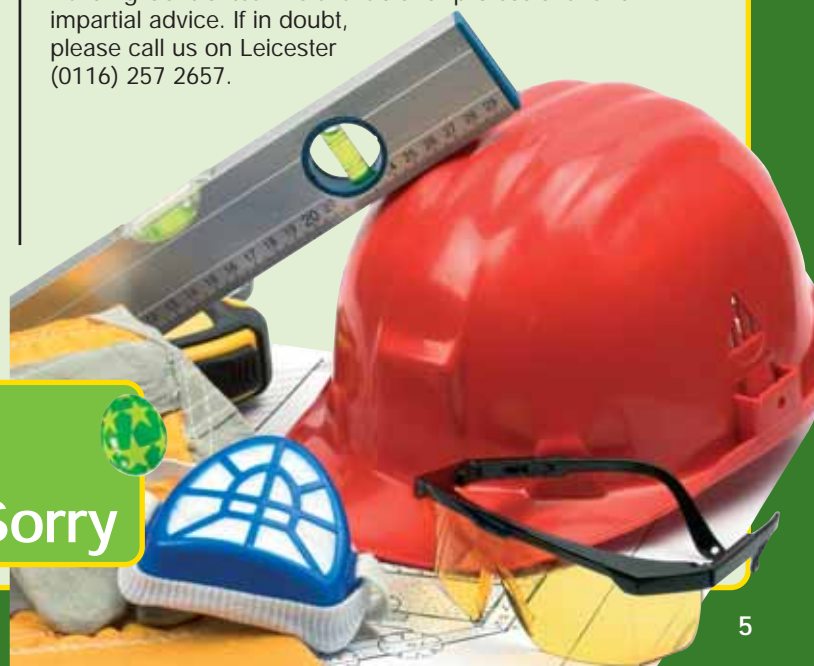
The importance of a good builder cannot be overestimated. Aside from the extra costs and inconvenience that can be caused by poor quality or incompetent workmanship, there is also a chance that it could make the building unsafe, placing you and your family at risk.

Before you employ a builder you should obtain at least three quotations for the work you want done. Remember though that the cheapest quote may not necessarily represent the best value for money. Also consider the length of time the construction process will take, the quality of the materials and finishes that will be used, and the standards of workmanship that you can expect as a part of your decision making about which builder to choose.

Here are some questions you should ask your prospective builder before you or they sign any paper work:

- Where have they worked before? They should be able to give you the details of previous clients so you can visit and inspect the work. (This will help you appreciate the quality of materials and finishes and the standards of workmanship you can expect).
- How do they want to be paid? On completion or at different stages? We recommend that you pay no money up front and that you pay a builder at predetermined stages for the work done rather than by the hour. (If you pay somebody per day or per hour, then it is likely they are going to take longer to do the work).
- What is their expertise in the particular project you intend to carry out? Do you feel comfortable that they are experienced enough to carry out the work and do it well?
- Can they supply you with references from previous customers who have been happy with their work? (You should check these out as anyone can supply a name and telephone number – whether they are genuine or not is another matter).
- Will the builder accept a retention clause? (This would be an amount agreed between you and your builder to be retained for an agreed length of time after the work is complete should you discover any defects in that time).
- Can they give you an estimated date of completion? (You may want to have the work complete by Christmas for instance so you need to be sure that you builder can meet your requirements).
- Will they accept a penalty clause if they fail to complete the work by their estimated date of completion?
- Will they agree to independent arbitration in the event of any disputes?
- Will they enter into a simple building contract with you? (A Plain English Building Contract from the Federation of Master Builders is available through their website at <http://www.fmb.org.uk/find-a-builder/free-contracts/> or by ringing the Federation on London (020) 7242 7583).
- Do they have public liability insurance?

Making a change to your property, such as building an extension, can be a significant cost, so make sure you invest some time to ensure you find the right builder and get the best possible job done that you can. Remember that the Council's Building Control team is available for professional and impartial advice. If in doubt, please call us on Leicester (0116) 257 2657.



**Ask questions now.  
Don't wait until it's too late.  
Be Safe.. Be Sure.. Not Sorry**

# Performance Matters

**Tenants have been telling us what matters to them. Here are some facts and figures about how well we are doing in dealing with these priorities.**



## 'A well maintained home that meets the resident's needs'

We carried out 311 repairs. All but 6 of these repairs were done on time. The chart below gives some more detail:

Timescale	Number of Jobs	Percentage done within timescale	Our Target	
Within 24 hours (Emergency)	17	94%	99%	✗
Within 3 working days (urgent)	29	97%	99%	✗
Within 7 days (priority)	145	99%	99%	✓
Within 28 working days (non priority)	113	99%	98%	✓
Within 12 weeks (routine)	7	100%	97%	✓

We have introduced a new appointments system for repairs, which we hope will make it easier for you when organising work to be done.

## 'A safe place to live'

During January, we dealt with 14 cases of anti-social behaviour. We resolved around a third of these cases within 28 days, which is not as good as the target we aim to achieve. We took 10 working days to respond to a complaint.

We are now bringing in a new procedure for dealing with anti-social behaviour, which will help make sure that we deal with problems in a way that you expect.

## 'Offering Value for Money'

Measure:	Our Target	Performance at the end of January:
Average time taken to re-let a property	13 days	16.9 days
Percentage of rent collected	Greater than 97.7%	98.2%
Total current tenant arrears	5% less than 12 months ago)	28% less

These are only a few of the ways that we check our performance every month. Further information is available on the Housing pages of the Council's website – [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

## Working with Residents – A Code of Practice for Contractors

This has been produced so that our contractors know what standards are expected when working in your home. The document is very comprehensive and covers 9 main headings as follows:-

- Working in and around residents homes'
- Liaison with residents
- Customer relations and care
- Access
- Sheltered schemes
- Residents' possessions and furniture
- Services
- Cleanliness and protection
- Complaints

The code of practice has been agreed with the tenants' panel and is given to all contractors working in your home.

We continually monitor contractors' compliance with the code and have included the following questions on customer satisfaction surveys. The percentage of tenants answering yes to these questions is also shown.

- Did the contractor clean up properly? 97%
- Was the contractor polite and courteous? 97%
- Was the repair completed to your satisfaction? 94%
- Was the repair completed on the first visit? 84%
- Were you happy with the service received from the council when reporting your repair? 97%

**If you would like a full copy of the code of practice for contractors please telephone Leicester (0116) 257 2613.**

## Understanding you better

You may have recently had a form through your door, asking for information about you as a tenant.

It would be really helpful if you could find the time to fill in this form and return it to us. It will only take you a few minutes. The main reasons for asking for this information are to help us to:

- Make sure our customer records are up to date.
- Collect information about the needs of the many different customers that we provide services for – if we know more about your circumstances we can make sure that our services meet your needs.
- Ensure that our services do not treat customers unfairly because of their age, gender, disability or impairment, ethnicity, or religion.
- Carry on improving our services for many years to come. Having an accurate picture of residents now will help us to plan ahead for new improved services.

We appreciate that you may have provided some of the information in the past but it is important that all of our records are brought up to date – people change their contact details more frequently now, and for some tenants we have very few details.

**Fill in and return your form within 2 weeks of receiving it and you'll be entered into our £100 prize draw.**



If you want to know more about the above, please phone Leicester (0116) 257 2692.

# An Inspector Calls...

Back in 2008, we had an inspection of council housing in the Borough by a Government body, called the Audit Commission. They rated our services to do with council housing as 'zero stars'.

Since this inspection, we have been working hard to sort out the issues that they identified. Our achievements to date include collecting more rent, doing more repairs on time and getting more tenants to 'have their say' about the services we provide.

We are due to be re-inspected at the end of March and are expecting a better result this time. Inspectors will be visiting our estates and will be keen to find out what tenants think of our services as a landlord.

If you would like to know more about the forthcoming inspection or even be involved, then please email: [housing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:housing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk) or phone Leicester (0116) 257 2692.



## Improving your Home

We have recently put together a plan that sets out the improvements we are going to make to our properties over the next five years – this is called the Asset Management Strategy. In putting this plan together, we have listened to what tenants have said they want as improvements to their home. From this, we agreed with our Tenants' Panel a range of improvements for the future. We have also agreed how we will divide up the money we have available between the different types of improvements. So, over the next five years, we plan to spend our money in the following ways:

Essential health and safety work, such as servicing gas appliances	5%
Making sure all homes meet the Decent Homes Standard (a key part of this is fitting new kitchens and bathrooms)	50%
Tenant's priorities and ideas for improvements, such as car parking, outside lighting, fencing, landscaping	20%
External painting and other maintenance work that needs to be carried out every few years	5%
Energy efficiency and affordable warmth, which includes fitting more efficient boilers and heating systems	10%
Fittings aids and adaptations to homes, to make them more suitable for the person who lives there.	10%



The next stage is to develop detailed lists of the work that needs to be done – and when it will be done by. We'll publish this information in future editions of Letterbox.

If you have any queries about improvements to your home, you can always contact the Maintenance Team on Leicester (0116) 257 2614.

## You Said – We Did

The feedback that you give is very important to us. We use this to help change what we do and provide you with a better service in the future. Here are some of the things we have done in response to your comments:

**Day to day repairs** – 94% of tenants tell us that they are happy with the way that we sort out day to day repairs. However, some people have said that they would like to be able to have a set date and time for when the work will be done. Having listened to these comments, we are now introducing an appointments system for day to day repairs.

**Anti-social behaviour** – from talking to tenants who have had problems with anti-social behaviour, we know that they want us to sort out the problem quickly and thoroughly. To help make sure we do this, we have introduced a new policy and procedure for dealing with anti-social behaviour. We will let you know in future editions of Letterbox what impact this is having. The Tenants' Panels will also be keeping a 'watching eye' over what is happening, as they are concerned about this issue.

**Gas servicing** – Tenants tell us that they are very happy with our gas servicing arrangements (satisfaction levels stand at 99%). In response to feedback from some tenants, we have now improved the arrangements for making appointments to carry out the service and ensuring that the contractor always calls at the time when they are due to.

**New bathrooms** – around 80% of tenants who have a new bathroom fitted are satisfied. Some tenants have asked for a better choice of colours for the tiles we fit. We are happy to make this change and will be increasing the choice available from April this year. We hope that small changes like this will help to improve levels of satisfaction in the future.

## Tenant Services Authority (TSA)

### Who are they?

The Tenant Services Authority was launched on 1 December 2008, and are the new Regulators for Social Housing – that includes both housing associations and councils. Their goal is to work with landlords and tenants to improve services for existing and new tenants.

### What is their aim?

The TSA have released details of the national standards that social housing providers will have to meet from 1 April this year.

The TSA believe the best place for the quality of services to be discussed, agreed and considered is locally, between providers and their tenants. So their standards require social housing landlords to set out what they offer to tenants and put into place local standards that reflect the local priorities. The standards are:

#### Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard

- Customer service and choice
- Involvement and empowerment
- Responding to emails

#### Tenancy Standard

- Allocations
- Rents
- Tenure

#### Home Standard

- Quality of accommodation
- Repairs and maintenance

#### Neighbourhood and Community Standard

- Neighbourhood management
- Local area co-operation
- Anti-social behaviour

For more information on the TSA and these standards, call them on 0845 230 7000 or visit their website, Alternatively, you can contact our Resident Involvement Officer Claire Erskine on Leicester (0116) 257 2619.



## Resident Involvement Officer

Hi, my name is Claire Erskine and I have recently been appointed as the Resident Involvement Officer for the Council.



I am also a Housing Officer for OWBC part of the week and my aim is to help make a difference to the services that we provide to you as your landlord.

We are looking for people to help us to shape, strengthen and improve our local housing services.

It doesn't matter what your circumstances are as we need as many different people's views as possible. You might be a stay at home parent who is looking for a challenge, you may be working full time or be retired, all are welcome as long as you are 16+ and it doesn't matter how long you have been a Council Tenant or leaseholder.

You can tell us what you think and make a difference to our services by;

- Coming along to our Tenants' Panel meetings
- Join our Tenant's Sounding Board
- Giving us feedback on what we do well and not so well.
- Set up or join a local resident's association
- Ask us to come and speak to you and your neighbours
- Be involved in our Estate Inspections
- Completing questionnaires and surveys

Having your say as a resident can be a powerful voice in your Community, and by working closely with the Council, the Police and other agencies we can all make a difference to improve the quality of you and your children's lives in the area in which you live.

If you are already involved in any other groups I would love to come and join you and discuss how I can help you to become involved in any other housing groups you may want to start up.

Please contact me regardless of what your interest is concerning the above involvement, I can be contacted on Leicester (0116) 257 2619, email – [claire.erskine@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:claire.erskine@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

**Claire Erskine**  
Resident Involvement Officer

**RENT  
FREE  
WEEKS**

# The Prince's Trust

Before...



The Prince's Trust 'Team' is a unique full time 12 week personal development programme which is designed to help young people aged 16 – 25. In Leicestershire the Prince's Trust have Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service as a delivery partner. During weeks five and six of this programme the team carry out a community project which they have chosen.

The week before Christmas saw Team 77 descending on Chartwell House in Oadby where they were going to re-decorate the residents' lounge. With paint brushes, rollers and paint donated by local businesses the team got down to work. The team worked well and maintained a good level of commitment to the task in hand – even down to the tidying up at the end of each day! We even had some new shelves fitted! Once the work was completed the residents were invited to share in a buffet as the room received its official handover from the team back to the residents.

The lounge is now a bright, modern room with co-ordinated colours so that everything fits together. Like all teams from the Prince's Trust Team 77 wanted to leave 'their mark' on the work that they had done and so it was agreed that a wall would be handed over to them for this purpose, the result was great and a wonderful reminder of the young people who worked so hard on the project.

I would like to say a big thank you to the team for all their hard work and to those companies that offered their support in a practical way.



During...



The Team and the buffet!



The Team's Wall...



## Since 1 April 2009 the Housing Maintenance Department have:

• Raised	4504	Repair orders
• Installed	90	Fitted kitchens
• Installed	49	Bathroom suites
• Installed	75	Central heating systems
• Installed	20	Level access showers
• Installed	16	Car hardstandings

**Results of the prize draw for the tenant(s) who kept a clear rent account from October to December 2009:**

**Congratulations!**

to Mr and Mrs Bond of Oadby, who won £50 – Well done!

## Wigston Framework Knitters Museum are looking for Volunteers...



An administrator volunteer and tour guide volunteers are being sought by Wigston Framework Knitters Museum.

If you are enthusiastic and have a passion for local history and heritage, then why not make a difference to the local community by volunteering at our Museum.

We are looking for tour guide operatives to work on Sunday afternoons and one Saturday per month and an administrator for who can provide a few hours per week to provide an administrative support function.

This is an unpaid position, but perks include free entry to the museum and training will be given.

No museum experience is necessary but customer service skills would be an advantage. This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience working with the public in a museum environment

If you are interested please contact Bill Boutler on Leicester (0116) 288 0089.



# Wigston Neighbourhood Action Week 22 to 26 March 2010

**Oadby and Wigston Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) have allocated funds for the provision of a multi agency facility in a priority neighbourhood within the Borough. Following the success of other similar schemes, a location has been secured within Boulter Crescent in Wigston to trial the project for a six month period.**

The premises will be open to residents for advice, support and information. It will be staffed by a range of agencies and organisations including housing, benefits, local police neighbourhood team, voluntary sector, PCT and Connexions.

The facility will provide residents with an opportunity to have specialist agencies on their own doorstep. It aims to increase public confidence and reassurance within the community by dealing directly with issues and concerns. It also allows agencies to work in partnership and build strong community links. The facility will be officially opened in March 2010

To coincide with the launch of the Community Safety Flat, a Neighbourhood Action Week will be held in Wigston Magna to highlight the partnership work of the Council's Neighbourhood Action Team which aims to make Wigston a better place to live.

The Community Safety Flat will be open every day during the Action Week between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The following programme is proposed:

**Monday 22** – Launch day, the Council in attendance providing information on housing, client services, benefits, environmental health and leisure activities.

**Tuesday 23** – Community Safety Day with Police and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service providing information and practical demonstrations on Boulter Crescent.

**Wednesday 24** – Oadby and Wigston Community Action and voluntary sector organisations with outside activities for under 5's.

**Thursday 25** – Information and advice from South Leicestershire College, Leicestershire Libraries and Job Centre Plus.

**Friday 26** – Employment, training and financial advice from Connexions, Helping Hands and the Adult Learning Service.

There will be activities taking place at Meadow Community Primary and Long Street United Reformed Church will be holding a series of events from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday. A graffiti clean up by the Council's Client Services section and a litter pick by All Saints Church of England Primary School will also take place.

Most venues will provide a free raffle and refreshments, so come along and meet the people who can help you and see what is on offer.

**For further information call Ian Chase on Leicester (0116) 257 2667**

## Your Voice, Your Choice - £20,000 for your local area



Do you have an idea for an exciting local project but need a boost? Are you a local resident looking to have your say on how funding is spent on local activities? Are you a representative of a local community group? If the answer to any of these questions is "YES!" this is the event for you!

The 3 Resident Forum areas of (1) South Wigston, (2) Oadby and (3) Wigston each have a budget of £20,000 to spend in their local area.

We are offering residents and representatives of community groups from the Forum areas the opportunity to propose and vote on exciting, innovative local projects worthy of a share of the £20,000. The dates of the evening workshops are as follows: - South Wigston - 13 April, Oadby - 15 April and Wigston - 21 April 2010

Please keep an eye on our website for further details including venues and times for the workshops [www.leicestershireforums.org/oadbyandwigston/](http://www.leicestershireforums.org/oadbyandwigston/) or call us on Leicester (0116) 305 7565

## A Successful Year

January saw the celebration of the first year of operation for the Wigston Magna Sure Start Children's Centre. The event was marked with the cutting of a cake by the Mayor of Oadby and Wigston, Councillor Kevin Loydall. The Centre is a hub for integrated support to children under five and their families across the Borough. Councillors from the Borough Council were joined by pupils from All Saints Primary School and representatives of the fifteen services for children and families who come together in the Sure Start programme for Oadby and Wigston. There were displays from many of the Children's Centre activities.



child safety and home first aid courses received their certificates from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Michael Griffiths.

One of the Children's Centre activities has been a partnership with Leicestershire Adult Learning Service and in December one group of parents who had completed

For more information about the Sure Start programme for under fives contact the Wigston Magna Sure Start Children's Centre on Leicester (0116) 305 5282

### Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to congratulate my grandson Joseph Wills on being offered a place on the BA(Hons) degree course in Dance and Theatre performance programme validated by the University of Greenwich starting in September 2010 at Bird College, Sidcup in Kent.

19 year old Joseph, born and bred in Wigston has attended Glenmere Primary School, Bushloe High School and Guthlaxton College. He has always wanted to dance and for the past year has taught dance /drama at Guthlaxton College part-time.

He has attended DuPont Dance Stage School for the past 4 years and this year was awarded Classical Greek Award at the DeMontfort Hall, Evening of Dance on Sunday 31 January 2010. We, his family are very proud of his achievements and dedication to his career, Well done Joe!

Mrs Shirley Wills  
From all the Wills Family



## Talented Youth Charity Concert

A concert is being held to showcase the artistic talents of young people in our communities at South Wigston High School and Performing Arts College on Thursday 22nd April 2010 starting at 7:00 p.m.

The Talented Youth concert is organised jointly with Blaby District Council and is an opportunity for people to celebrate and enjoy the many and varied talents of the younger members of our community.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and £3 for under 10 year olds. Proceeds from the night will be split between Community Action Blaby District Befrienders Scheme and Oadby and Wigston Lions Club, the Chairman and Mayor's respective charities whilst in office.

Free car parking will be available and soft drinks will be available to purchase for a nominal cost during the interval.

For more information or to buy tickets please contact Lucy Wheeler, Events Officer at Blaby District Council on Leicester (0116) 272 7512, email [ljw@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:ljw@blaby.gov.uk) or Debbie Watson, Civic Officer at OWBC on Leicester (0116) 257 2643, e-mail [deborah.watson@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.watson@oadby-wigston.gov.uk).

## www.morsbags.com

morsbags.com was created in January 2007 by Claire and Joe Morsman. The idea is for people to make re-usable cloth bags out of recycled fabrics (curtains, duvet covers, remnants etc) The bags can be kept for their own use or given away free. This would provide a free alternative to the hideous amount of plastic bags that are used every day. Many of these plastic bags end up in our waterways and oceans and harm our marine wildlife.

There are over 1000 pods (groups) making morsbags all over the world and 60,000 have been made and given away globally. Each morsbag has a



label directing people to the website [www.morsbags.com](http://www.morsbags.com)

There are several pods in Leicestershire including Offcuts based in Oadby. We meet in the community room in Oadby Library from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the last Sunday of the month. Come along to make a free morsbag to take away. Everything will be provided.

**Every morsbag saves using 500 plastic bags**

If you have any unwanted curtains etc please contact Rosie on Leicester (0116) 271 6385 or [offcuts1@yahoo.com](mailto:offcuts1@yahoo.com)

## SENIOR CITIZENS ACTION GROUP - DIARY DATES FOR 2010

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	PROPOSED ITEMS
WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2010	FORUM	THE COMMUNITY CENTRE SANDHURST STREET OADBY	'FIRST CONTACT' Presentation By Leicestershire County Council  THE HISTORY OF FANS
To be confirmed JUNE 2010	TRIP TO THE HOLOCAUST CENTRE	NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	DAY OUT WITH LUNCH
WEDNESDAY 07 JULY 2010	TRIP TO BLETCHLEY PARK	MILTON KEYNES	A CHANCE TO VISIT THE MUSEUMS AND SEE THE ABWEHR ENIGMA MACHINE, LORENZ MACHINE, BOMBE REBUILD, WORLD WAR II AVIATION DISPLAY, HOME FRONT EXHIBITION AND MUCH MORE...
THURSDAY 12 AUGUST 2010	FORUM	VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED	AGENDA ITEMS TO BE CONFIRMED
THURSDAY 26 AUGUST 2010	LAUNCH OF OLDER PERSONS' MONTH	CLARENCE HOUSE HUMBERSTONE GATE LEICESTER	A DAY OF INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER OLDER PERSONS' MONTH
WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2010	YOUNG AT HEART DAY	PARKLANDS LEISURE CENTRE OADBY	AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A DAY OUT TAKING PART IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND CRAFT SESSIONS
EARLY OCTOBER 2010	TRIP TO STAPELEY WATER GARDENS	NANTWICH CHESHIRE	ENJOY A GREAT DAY OUT EXPLORING THE DAZZLING PLANT LIFE, BEAUTIFUL ITALIAN GARDENS, TRANQUIL WATER GARDENS AND EXOTIC WILDLIFE
WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2010	FORUM	PARKLANDS LEISURE CENTRE OADBY	CHRISTMAS SURPRISE



## Event organisers, be warned. Will your local event need a licence?



The Licensing Act 2003, which came into effect at the end of 2005, is designed to give the Police and Councils better control over issues such as public safety, nuisance, crime and disorder, and the protection of children from harm.

The Council wishes to highlight the measures that you may have to take under these new arrangements if you are planning any events during the coming year.

Some activities you may wish to hold may fall foul of the licensing laws. In some cases, it will be necessary to apply for a licence to hold certain types of entertainment, which are regulated entertainment under the licensing Act. You will definitely require a licence if your event includes the sale or supply of alcohol.

Don't get lead down the proverbial garden fete path. Charity, fund-raising and events of a like kind may now be licensable.

### Entertainment

Under the Licensing Act 2003, any event that provides entertainment to the public, such as any one or any combination of the following requires a licence:

Live or recorded music, singing, dancing, plays, showing films or recorded images, boxing or wrestling, and indoor sports, or anything of a similar description.

### Alcohol

Gone are the days when the person supplying or selling the alcohol at the event bar or beer tent could help you by trading on his Magistrate's alcohol licence or apply for an occasional licence.

If you plan to have a beer tent or similar to sell or supply alcohol at your event, by law, you will need to apply for a premises licence or give a temporary event notice. The Local Council issues both these types of licence.

So if your planned event is going to carry on from any sort of premises or any piece of land that is not currently licensed to provide the licensable activity you wish to provide, seek advice.

Contact a member of the Council's Licensing Team by telephone on Leicester (0116) 257 2708 or by email at [licensing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

We will advise you if your event needs permissions and, if needed, help you through the process of giving a Temporary Event Notice, or advise you on the current Premise Licence permissions in force at your chosen venue.

Be warned, a person guilty of offences under this part of the Act is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding £20,000, or to both.

Don't leave it too late. To comply with the law, certain applications must be made within a predetermined time frame before the first day of your event.

# A Day in the Life of... Electoral and Licensing Officer

**My work is split between two job roles, Licensing Services and Electoral Services. My job is varied and challenging; it is not a 9-to-5 job. I get to meet and speak to people from all walks of life.**

The Council are duty bound to act as the local Licensing Authority and so with my Licensing Officer's hat on, my day-to-day duties include dealing with licence applications, complaints relating to all sorts of licensing issues, advising the public and trade about licensing and carrying out licensing enforcement. The issues I deal with vary from entertainment, pubs, clubs, street trading, gambling, lotteries, taxis and private hire and a number of other miscellaneous types of licenses.

Other matters that I deal with include the implementation and updating of the various licensing legislations that the Licensing Authority administer, investigations, proactive and reactive enforcement work (which could mean being out until 2 or 3am in the morning), taking statements, interviewing people, interviewing people under caution (tape-recorded interviews), preparing and presenting licensing hearings, attending meetings like Oadby and Wigston pub watch or meeting with the police or trading standards and so on (meetings which are also mostly held outside normal office hours).

At the office, I work in a small enthusiastic team who work to a high standard to deal with applications and issues under the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005 and other various legislation including licensing and registrations as diverse as house-to-house collections, street collections, scrap metal dealers, tattooists and hairdressers.

The other aspects of my job are those which I carry out under my Electoral Officer's hat. My day-to-day work in Electoral Services is split into two main areas, implementing and maintaining the process of electoral registration, and as and when they come along, preparing for and managing elections.

My work in Electoral Services also includes managing and implementing an annual voter registration canvass of all households within the Borough, maintaining and updating the Register of Electors on a regular basis, providing advice and guidance on all matters in connection with electoral registration and elections to people and bodies which include members of the public, party agents and candidates.

**Here is a snap shot of a typical working day...**

**8 a.m.** – I make myself a cuppa and check emails; make the necessary replies and so on. Make telephone calls (to those who I know will be at work at this time of the morning) concerning issues received and that I could not deal with the day before. I check dates and times in my outlook for any meetings or reminders I may have to consider. I finish off three letters that I started yesterday and put these in the post tray.

**9 a.m.** – The rest of the team arrive in the office. We have a quick informal office meeting to catch up on what happened yesterday and discuss what we all intend to do today.

**9:30 a.m.** – I take a call from one of our pub licensees who has a problem which needs some immediate attention and may need the police to be involved (here we go, plans straight out of the window). I get in my car and travel to the pub to

deal with the issue. Luckily, its fairly straight forward and all goes well. I make my way back to the office. On my way back I note a private hire vehicle is parked on the taxi rank in Bell Street (taxi ranks can only be used by hackney carriages). I pull up behind and confront the driver. I take the driver and vehicle details and we have a few words. I give him a warning and he drives off.

**11 a.m.** – I get back to the office where I log and make file notes about the visit I made to the pub and about the warning I gave the private hire driver.

**12 noon** – I sort out and deal with any queries that have arisen whilst I have been out of the office. Queries could include an enquiry from an elector about applying for a postal vote to liaising with the police or one of our Environmental Health officers about issues at a premises that hold a licence.

**2 p.m.** – Finish a busy period of the day dealing with a number of licensing and electoral issues. I just find the time to grab a quick coffee and a bite of lunch. Yum! Mrs T has made some beef and onion sandwiches this morning, with a nice piece of cake to follow. Thankfully, the cake has taken most of my 'onion breath' away so anyone I meet later today is fairly safe.

**2:30 p.m.** – I usually try to find the time to deal with applicants needing guidance with their applications or any queries at this time. Some of the legislation is far from straightforward and I enjoy helping people to resolve their licensing problems.

**3:30 p.m.** – I start to process new electoral applications. This includes checking the forms are completed correctly and then scan them onto our electoral management system where we store them as records. We can then pull up an electronic copy of the form and make a number of differing cross checks to, for instance, establish validity against other electors details which we have stored, at any time we need. Electoral fraud is always a concern and to have the ability to call up a form and cross check these with other records, is very useful.

**4:30 p.m.** – I revisit emails received throughout the day, some requiring a response. Others have useful information from other agencies or on changes in legislation or procedure changes which I need to file for future reference.

**5 p.m.** – Type letters as required to deal with matters that have manifested during the day and that need a written response.

**6 p.m.** – Begin to wind up the day. Providing everything is in order, I can go home.....unless of course the phone rings!

**Martyn Taylor**  
Electoral and Licensing Officer



East Midlands Airport  
**Leicester-Shire & Rutland**  
**YOUTH GAMES**



## Do you want to represent your district in the 2010 Youth Games?

The Youth Games is an annual sports tournament which involves all nine districts within Leicestershire and Rutland competing against each other. The Youth Games finals will be held at Loughborough University on Sunday 27 June 2010.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, in partnership with Leisure Connection and the School Sports Partnership (SSP), will hold assessment and training sessions in May and June covering a range of sports to select the borough's team. If you're interested in trying out for the Oadby and Wigston team all you need to do is turn up to the first session of your preferred sport and join in – no need to book.

For more information contact the Leisure Development Officer, Avril Lennox on: Leicester (0116) 257 2673 or email: [avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

There is NO CHARGE for the assessment or training sessions, however parents/guardians will be required to

complete and sign an enrolment form prior to the start of the first session (forms available from individual sports venues).

The Oadby and Wigston Youth Games Launch Evening will be held on Tuesday 22 June 2010 at Parklands Leisure Centre at 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to congratulate all the athletes on their selection to represent the borough in the Youth Games finals.

\*Please note the following criteria for the Oadby and Wigston Youth Games assessment and training sessions:

- An enrolment form must be completed prior to the start of the first session, signed by a parent/guardian
- Children must either live or attend a school in Oadby, Wigston or South Wigston or attend a school in the O&W School Sports Partnership
- Those pupils who have represented their School Sports Partnership at the Inter-SSP County final are ineligible to take part, in that particular sport

### YOUTH GAMES SPORTS (Criteria, eligibility and dates)

#### Athletics

School Years 5 and 6 (boys and girls)

**Dates:** Monday 24 May and Monday 7 and 14 June

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Guthlaxton College, Wigston (sports field)  
 Team to consist of 6 boys and 6 girls, competing in this Quadkids competition.

Each athlete will compete in 2 runs/1jump/1 throw and 1 relay event.

**Events:**

**Running:** (75m sprint, 600m middle distance)

**Jump:** (Standing Long Jump)

**Throw:** (Howler Javelin)

**Relays:** (8X 50m mixed shuttle relay)

#### Athletics

School Year 7 and 8 (boys and girls)

**Dates:** Monday 24 May and Monday 7 and 14 June

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Guthlaxton College, Wigston (sports field)  
 Team to consist of 6 boys and 6 girls, competing in this Quadkids competition.

Each athlete will compete in 2 runs/1jump/1 throw and 1 relay event.

**Events:**

**Running:** (100m sprint, 800m middle distance)

**Jump:** (Long jump into pit)

**Throw:** (Howler Javelin)

**Relays:** (4X 100m mixed relay)

#### Badminton (boys and girls)

School years 9 and 10

**Dates:** To be confirmed (TBC)

**Time:** TBC

**Venue:** TBC

Team consisting of 4 boys / 4 girls, plus one reserve per gender. A match consists of 4 games, 2 girls doubles and 2 boys doubles.

Players who have been selected as a county squad member in 2008/09 or 2009/10 are ineligible to compete.

#### Basketball (girls only)

School years 7 and 8

**Dates:** Tuesday 25 May and Tuesday 8 and 15 June

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Bushloe High School, Wigston (sports hall)

A squad of 10 girls with 5 playing at any one time.

National League player are ineligible to compete.

#### Cricket

School years 5 and 6 (girls and boys)

**Dates:** Monday 10, 17 and 24 May

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Wigston Town Cricket Club,

Meadows Sports Ground,

Leicester Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5QW

Team to consist of 8 players either all boys, all girls or mixed, with a maximum of 10 players in the squad.

#### Hockey (Quicksticks)

School years 4 and 5 (girls and boys)

**Dates:** Wednesday 19 and 26 May and

Wednesday 9 and 16 June

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Guthlaxton College, Wigston (all weather pitch)

Team on the day to consist of 6 players, with 4 playing at one time, (minimum of 3 girls). Players who have played regular club hockey at any age group in the season 2009- 2010 in a County or Regional competition or leagues are ineligible to compete.

#### Hockey (boys only)

School years 7 and 8

**Dates:** Wednesday 19 and 26 May and

Wednesday 9 and 16 June

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Guthlaxton College, Wigston (all weather pitch)

Team on the day to consist of 10 players, with 7 playing at any one time.

Players who have represented their Junior Development Squad or Junior Academy Centre at any age group in the season 2009 – 2010 in a County or Regional competition, or been involved in Junior Regional Performance Centres or National programmes are ineligible to take part.

**Netball High 5's** (boys and girls)

School years 5 and 6

**Dates:** Sunday 16 and 23 May and Sunday 13 June**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon**Venue:** Guthlaxton College, Wigston (netball courts)

Up to 9 players in the team, 5 on court at any one time. Any ratio of boys/girls is allowed, with a maximum of 2 boys on court at any one time.

**Netball** (girls only)

School years 7 and 8

**Dates:** Sunday 16 and 23 May and Sunday 13 June**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**Venue:** Guthlaxton College, Wigston (netball courts)

Up to 10 players in squad with 7 on court at any one time

Players who have played at England U14 or County Academy Regional or National level prior to the 31 March 2009, or have been selected as an England High Performance player prior to this date are ineligible to participate.

**Rugby** (girls and boys mixed Tag Rugby)

School years 5 and 6

Detail:

- Thursday 20 May at South Leicester RFU, Welford Road, Wigston (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Thursday 27 May at Oadby Wyggestonian RFU, Oval Park, Wigston (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Thursday 10 June (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) venue to be confirmed

Up to 10 players in squad with 7 on court at any one time. Minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls per team.

**Rugby** (girls only – Tag Rugby)

School years 8, 9 and 10

Details:

- Thursday 20 May at South Leicester RFU, Welford Road, Wigston (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Thursday 27 May at Oadby Wyggestonian RFU, Oval Park, Wigston (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Thursday 10 June (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) venue to be confirmed

Up to 12 players in squad with 7 on court at any one time.

**Swimming**

School years 4, 5 and 6 (girls and boys)

**Dates:** Sunday 9, 16 and 23 May, and Sunday 13 June

Please note that only those selected for the team will be required on 13 June

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**Venue:** Oadby Swimming Pool

The team may consist of 20 swimmers. Competition format: 25m and 50m distances in the four competitive strokes, plus relay events. Swimmers may be a member of a swimming club. However, swimmers who have competed at the County Championships / Leicestershire Bagcats in 2009/10 or have represented the county, or competed at regional or nation championships are not eligible to compete.

**Table Tennis**

School years 7 and 8 (girls and boys)

**Dates:** Monday 24 May and Monday 7 and 14 June**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**Venue:** South Wigston High School Sports Academy

Players who have been selected as a County squad member in 2008/09 or 2009/10 are ineligible to complete.

# Easter Dance Project

Are you wondering how to entertain your children during the Easter holidays?

If they are aged 5 to 14 years and enjoy Dance why not join our new Easter Dance project?

**Dates:** Monday 29 March to Thursday 1 April 2010**Venue:** Guthlaxton College, Wigston (Dance Studio)**Cost:** £4:00 per child for the four day project**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for children aged 5 to 8 years  
11:00 a.m. to 12 noon for children aged 9 to 14 years

A variety of fun classes and dance styles will be delivered during the week by our qualified dance teacher Fiona Walpole, as follows:

- Aged 5 to 8 years: (Jazz/ Modern) High School Musical dances, Camp Rock and Hannah Montana
- Aged 9 to 14 years: (Street dance/Contemporary) choreographed routines with input from participants; the latest music out for example Beyonce, JLS, Girls Aloud.

Booking forms are available from Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Offices, schools, local libraries, the swimming pools, Brocks Hill Visitor Centre and Parklands Leisure Centre.

Alternatively contact the Leisure Development Officer, Avril Lennox, on Leicester (0116) 257 2673.

**Numbers are limited, so pre-booking is essential to avoid disappointment.**



## Lead Sports Coaches Ref: LM673

## Assistant Sports Coaches Ref: LM686

## Active Lifestyle Referral Trainers Ref: LM681

These opportunities are offered on a casual/commissioned basis and successful candidates will be required to work on projects as and when required. Duties will include the planning, preparation and delivery of safe and purposeful sessions in order to provide enjoyable and stimulating sessions for all participants.

For an informal discussion please contact Avril Lennox on 0116 257 2673.

To obtain further details and apply, please visit [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

Alternatively call 0116 257 2719, quoting the appropriate reference number. **CVs will not be accepted.**

Closing date: noon 19/04/10. Interview dates: 05 & 06/05/10.



Equality | Diversity | Opportunity



The Borough of  
Oadby & Wigston

# Oadby and Wigston Physical Activity Team

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council are pleased to announce two new members of the Physical Activity team; Physical Activity Development Officer Nimesh Patel and Administration Assistant Laura Downer join Leanne Plummer who has been in post since June 2009.

The team, managed by Avril Lennox the Oadby and Wigston Leisure Development Officer, is tasked with increasing physical activity levels of local residents. A variety of activities are currently taking place across the borough to encourage people aged 16+ to get active. See the local 'What's on Guide' enclosed in your copy of the 'Letterbox' newsletter for more information.

In March the team will be joined by work experience student Natasha Adams, a former Beauchamp College student, who is now at Sheffield Hallam University studying Physical Activity, Health and Exercise Science.

## Nimesh Patel

My name is Nimesh Patel and I am one of the Physical Activity Development Officers. My role is to promote physical activity for people aged 16+ in the Oadby and Wigston area.

I have grown up with a passion for sport and physical activity, competing regionally for Leicestershire in swimming. I have also coached football at grass roots level with young children, refugee and asylum seekers, young adults with learning and behavioural difficulties and also with Nottingham Forest Football Club. I have played 5-a-side football for a few years and have competed at national tournaments in London, Birmingham and Manchester. Before starting at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, I worked as a gym instructor at Evington Leisure Centre ensuring safe and effective use of cardiovascular and resistance equipment.

I have recently completed a degree in Sports Science and Management at Nottingham Trent University which included modules in Sport Psychology, Injury and Rehabilitation, Sports Nutrition, Sport Management and Strategic Analysis.



From left to right, Nimesh Patel, Leanne Plummer and Laura Downer

## Laura Downer

As Administrative Assistant I will be providing administrative support to the Physical Activity Development Officers and helping to promote the Active Together project.

I moved to Leicester six years ago to study English at the University of Leicester, and have lived in the Leicester area ever since. After graduating I worked in various organisations, including Leicester City Council and local charity Leicestershire Cares, where I worked with businesses on community volunteering projects. I'm looking forward to working with Oadby and Wigston residents to promote physical activity and encourage the community to become more active. Over the past year I have renewed my interest in physical activity, taking up swimming, cycling and walking on a regular basis, despite not having done any sport since school. I also volunteered at last year's Special Olympics National Summer Games in Leicester. Outside of this role I also work part time at the University of Leicester.



We are running free **Football sessions** at **Guthlaxton College** over **Easter Half Term Break (29 March to 9 April)** from **3 p.m. - 5 p.m.** These will be held on the all weather pitch and will be free for all 14-19 year old young people to attend. All participants will need to fill in a consent/enrolment form and will need to wear shin pads before they can take part in the sessions.



This publication can be made available in your language and in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, electronic and audio tape.

**Oadby and Wigston Borough Council**

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