



Letterbox

Our Way to Better Customer Care

Oadby and Wigston Charity Show

We are bigger than ever! Come along and help us support Menphys, the Meningitis Trust and Help the Heroes by taking part in our Charity Show.

This fun filled family event will take place at Parklands Leisure Centre from **10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on 29 August 2011.**

The day will be bursting with things to do including entertainment, stalls and a dog show (from the Wigston Magna dog training club). Also at the event will be Oadby and Wigston's local radio station Sunflower FM.

The event will feature a raffle with a £1,000 cash prize and there will be refreshments including chips, burgers and cream teas.

There is a small entry fee of £3 per family (up to four persons, with a 50p charge for each extra person) and there is a charge for stall holders. For more information, contact Linda Boulter on 0116 288 0089.

All proceeds going to



IN SUPPORT OF
HELP for HEROES



Kindly supported by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Oadby and Wigston Council Elections

Dear Resident

As you will all hopefully be aware, the Liberal Democrats were returned by you in May's elections. The party increased its majority by two and now hold 23 out of the 26 seats on the Council. On behalf of the party, may I thank all of you, the voters, for turning out. What is especially pleasing was that the average turnout increased from about 37% to nearly 45%. Election results with details of your newly elected Councillors are on pages two and three.

The next four years will be difficult. We will see real cuts to our income. Unfortunately, there is only so much we can reorganise to save money but we will do this wherever we can by making difficult decisions and continuing to find new and innovative ways to save money each year. Therefore, to ensure we protect those services, such as refuse and recycling, that you, our residents, have told us you hold dear, we will have to work even harder and smarter as a council to find the money to continue to do this. Over the last two years we have turned our re-cycling operation from simply a cost to the Council to an income. We need to continue this trend. If you wish to protect our front line services please recycle. The more you recycle the less chance there is of losing services.

We also want to be positive over the next four years. We won East Midlands in Bloom last year and, as the winners, are now competing in the national Britain in Bloom competition. This is more than just a few flowers; it's about how we look after our green environment properly. Over the next four years we want to enhance and grow

our green environment. We want to make changes that, when we look back in four years, will show we have made progress greening the Borough.

We also need to ensure the viability and vitality of our three town centres. This will inevitably be difficult as much of this is outside our control. We will do what we can; for instance we will continue with free shoppers' parking. We will also bring forward plans to redevelop our towns. The development will depend on economic circumstances; however, we will do our part in enabling this process.

We will also continue to work with the police to make sure we have a safe and secure Borough where people can feel comfortable and at ease.

Finally, we will enhance and delegate more issues to our three town forums. This is because we are committed to listen to you, our residents, and act on your wishes where we can.

Once again, thank you for your confidence.

John Boyce
Leader Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

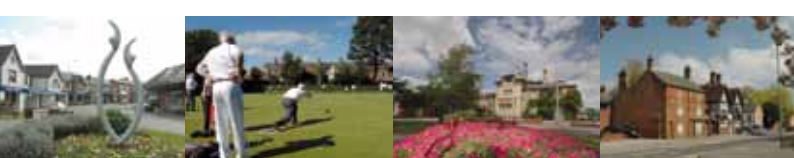


Be part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games celebrations

'One year to go' make a pledge for 2012

Friday 22 July to Sunday 24 July 2011. **FREE** taster sessions in sport, physical activity and culture. All age groups welcome. Come along and join in with a range of free activities during 'Open Weekend' and make your Pledge 'to be the best you can'! You'll be joining thousands of people across the UK celebrating 'one year to go' to the London 2012 Games.

See back page for details



Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

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T: 0116 288 8961 F: 0116 288 7828 www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Your Borough Councillors

On 5 May 2011 we held elections for all 26 seats on the Council. In total, 47 candidates contested the elections with the final result of 23 Liberal Democrats and 3 Conservatives being elected. The overall turnout for the Borough Council elections was 43.5%. The full elections results are available on the Council's website and a summary of the elected Councillors by Ward, with their contact details are given below:

Oadby Grange Ward



Sarah Dickinson
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 221 4877
✉ sarah.dickinson@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Peter Swift
(Conservatives)
☎ 0116 271 2500,
✉ peter.swift@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Rav Thakor
(Conservatives)
☎ 0116 271 1364 or
0781 470 9648
✉ ravendra.thakor@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Oadby Uplands Ward



Dean Gamble
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 210 4095
✉ dean.gamble@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Samia Haq
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 274 5002 or
0773 614 7923
✉ samia.haq@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Oadby Woodlands Ward



Malcolm Brown
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 271 0606
✉ malcolm.brown@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Rupa Kanabar
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 271 1111
✉ rupa.kanabar@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Oadby Brocks Hill Ward



Latif Darr
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 298 5658 or
0788 639 3796
✉ latif.darr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Jeffrey Kaufman
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 271 5584 or
0797 636 4282
✉ jeffrey.kaufman@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Oadby St Peters Ward



David Carter
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 271 7787
✉ david.carter@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Lily Kaufman
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 271 5584
✉ lily.kaufman@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Wigston St Wolstans Ward



Frank Broadley
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 288 2743 or
0783 311 3685
✉ frank.broadley@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Linda Broadley
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 288 2743
✉ linda.broadley@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Lynda Eaton
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 257 1808 or
0778 637 4621
✉ lynda.eaton@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Wigston Meadowcourt Ward



Marie Chamberlain
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0789 008 0196
✉ marie.chamberlain@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Robert Eaton
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 257 1808 or
0778 637 4623
✉ robert.eaton@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Jill Gore
(Conservatives)
☎ 0116 288 0480
✉ jill.gore@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Wigston All Saints Ward



Lee Bentley
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0790 494 9380
✉ lee.bentley@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Michael Charlesworth
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 281 1245
✉ michael.charlesworth@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Liz Connell
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 220 8138
✉ liz.connell@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Wigston Fields Ward



Bill Boulter
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 288 0089
✉ bill.boulter@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Helen Loydall
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 221 5623
✉ helen.loydall@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Kevin Loydall
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 221 5623
✉ kevin.loydall@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

South Wigston Ward



John Boyce
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0776 692 3613 or
0777 157 3533
✉ john.boyce@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Richard Morris
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 277 3866
✉ richard.morris@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Sharon Morris
(Liberal Democrats)
☎ 0116 281 1532 or
0754 068 5877
✉ sharon.morris@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Council Launches New Web Site

We are pleased to tell you that we have launched a new and improved Council web site for the Borough. The old web site had been in use for some time and customer feedback told us that you wanted better information and improved accessibility from our web site with the ability to do more on-line.

To ensure we delivered a good web site at a low cost we worked in partnership with two local Councils, (Charnwood and North West Leicestershire) and a Leicestershire based company called Cuttlefish Limited. The new web site is up and running and we will continue to develop it over the coming months to improve round the clock access to services and information.



The new web site is at the same web address (called a URL). So you can simply log on as always to:

www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk

August Bank Holiday 2011 Collection Arrangements

There will not be a collection for refuse, recycling or garden waste on Monday, 29 August 2011.

Service	Normal collection day	Will be collected on
Refuse collection	Mon 29, August	Mon 5, September
Recycling collection	Mon 29, August	Mon 5, September
Garden waste collection	Mon 29, August	Within the next 5 working days. Please leave your bags out for collection.

There will be a double collection for all of the services above, which is 6 black refuse bags, maximum weight 10kg (22lbs) per bag. Unlimited recycling bags and reusable garden waste bags, maximum weight 7kg (15lbs) per bag.

Unfortunately waste or recycling placed in charity collection bags cannot be collected.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, services may be suspended until the weather improves.

Please rinse all of the containers and bottles before placing them in the green bags. This will prevent the rest of the materials from being contaminated. Please also remove the lids from plastic bottles.

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

Best at processing claims in the East Midlands



The Government recently released statistics* about benefit processing times for all UK Councils for the period from 1 October 2010 to 31 December 2010. These official figures show that Oadby and Wigston Borough Council on average process new claims for Housing and Council Tax benefit in just 10 days. That makes us the fastest at processing claims in the whole of the East Midlands and the eighth fastest in the country! (The UK average for processing claims is 22 days).

Local Councillor, Bill Boulter said, "I am pleased with how we are performing. Getting Housing Benefit paid quickly and accurately helps to prevent homelessness and the problems that it can cause. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is committed to making sure that it supports local people through difficult financial times."

If you would like to know more about Housing or Council Benefits or think you or someone you know could qualify for help then call us on Leicester (0116) 288 8961 or find us on-line at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

* The official Government statistics can be downloaded from http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/rfi/rti_apr2011.xls

Oadby and Wigston votes 'No' to the AV referendum

On 5 May 2011 together with the Borough Council elections, electors in the Borough also voted on the national referendum on the Alternative Vote (AV) question.

The referendum asked the question:

"At present, the UK uses the 'first past the post' system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the 'alternative vote' system be used instead?"

The local result of the AV referendum was 13,523 votes saying 'No' and 5,600 votes saying 'Yes'. The percentage saying 'No' to AV was therefore 70.72%. Nationally, 67.90% said 'No' in the AV referendum, meaning we will continue with the 'first past the post' system to elect MPs at future UK parliamentary elections.



The former Mayor awarded Syed Rahman of the Cuisine of India a certificate for his work in raising £1500 for the Mayor's Charities.



Senior Citizens Action Group increased their membership to 768, attracting 46 new members this year.

The Group organises forums four times throughout the year covering topics like information about postal voting in General Elections, work of the Samaritans, Will Writing and Christmas celebrations.

A number of day trips to theatres and visits to local tourist attractions are also planned. In January the group visited the Curve theatre and thoroughly enjoyed the musical production of 'The King and I'. The group has an annual event called the 'Young at Heart Day' where a number of activities are arranged for them to enjoy and to make new friends.

Membership to the group is open to all residents over the age of 55 living in the Borough.

For more information please contact Kate Faulkner on Leicester (0116) 257 2674.

Altogether

Community cohesive event in Wigston

Over 400 people flowed through the event during the day. Central Avenue Christian Church, Central Avenue, Wigston, hosted a community event on 26 March 2011 which was organised by the Council's Multicultural Group where children and adults of all ages and backgrounds gathered to enjoy a day of food, fun and friendship. The aim was to bring various members of the community together.

Although the weather was on the dull side, Sunflower FM, provided a sunny soundtrack, and the flowers for sale by the Busy Bees Garden Project provided a cheery welcome to everyone attending.

The Altogether event was opened by Councillor Mike Griffiths, former Mayor of Oadby and Wigston, followed by a warm up exercise session which was the first in a series of activities including laughter yoga, seated exercise, walks around historic Wigston, Indian dancing and a Zumba dance session.

Children had their faces painted and henna all done by Mehndi Magic. A group of children performed Bhangra dance for the visitors.

Everyone enjoyed dipping marshmallows into a chocolate fountain, to raise money for the Japan tsunami appeal. Goodie bags were handed out courtesy of Oadby and Wigston Community Safety Partnership and there were a lot of information stands and leaflets handed out during the day.

Oadby and Wigston Muslim Association served curried beans, TEAMS business enterprise had free samosas on their stall and the Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society had a stall where visitors made their own stuffed chapattis.

One section of the Church hall was taken up by workshops from knitting squares for the Patchwork Pledge to Morsbags, Chapatti making, Flower arranging and arts and crafts activities provided by the Good Values Club.

Stripes Events Management also played a major role within the steering group in organising the event.

All of the above would not have been possible without the Community Cohesion Grant awarded to the Multicultural Group by Leicestershire County Council.

Active lifestyle referral - new sessions

Heart Smart

A new session began at Central Avenue Christian Church, Central Avenue, Wigston Magna, on Tuesday 3 May 2011 and will continue every Tuesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Referral Sessions Parklands Leisure Centre

Monday and Tuesday every week (except Bank Holiday Mondays) from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

A new referral session began on 13 May 2011 and will take place every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

For more information please contact Referral Co-ordinator on Leicester (0116) 257 2674

September is Older Persons' Month

This year, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is hosting the launch of Older Persons' Month.

The event will take place at The Bassett Centre, Bassett Street, South Wigston on 31 August 2011 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

No tickets are required to attend just pop along at a time that suits you.

Due to limited parking on the site, anyone wanting to attend should use Countesthorpe Road Car Park, which is a few hundred yards away from the Centre.

Further information and a booklet will be available nearer the date.

For more information please contact Community Development Liaison Officer on Leicester (0116) 257 2674





Citizen of the Year

Eileen Holly has been named as Citizen of the Year by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. She was a vice-principal at Countesthorpe College and was nominated by a friend for the work she does with a number of charities. Eileen has been a volunteer and trustee at Age Concern Oadby and Wigston for 15 years. She also helps with a local charity named Helping Hands, which offers advice and help to local residents on various issues.

Eileen takes a keen interest in local issues. She chairs the Oadby and Wigston University of the Third Age, which encourages older people to gain skills and qualifications.

She was presented with a plaque by the leaving Mayor Councillor Michael Griffiths at the Council's Annual General Meeting held on 17 May 2011.

Holocaust survivor visited Abington High

Mr Rudi Oppenheimer, a holocaust survivor visited Abington High school in March this year. He spoke to Year nine students about his experiences as a survivor of Bergen- Belsen concentration camp.

Mr. Oppenheimer was born in 1931 in Berlin and lived there with his parents and his older brother Paul before moving to Heemstede in Holland in 1936.

In May 1940 German troops invaded Holland, and by October 1942 Jews in Amsterdam were being rounded up and deported from the city. Rudi and his family, who had lived in Amsterdam since May 1942, managed to avoid deportation for the time being because his father was working for the Jewish Council. This gave them temporary exemption from deportation.

In June 1943 Rudi and his family were rounded up and sent to the transit camp Westerbork, situated in the north-east of Holland not far from the German border. As his sister Eve was born in Britain the family were classed as exchange Jews, which meant that they avoided the horrors of those less fortunate. In February 1944 the family was moved to Bergen-Belsen.



On 10 April 1945 Rudi and Paul left on the last train to leave Bergen-Belsen. After travelling for 14 days they awoke on the train to find that the SS guards had gone. Rudi, Paul and Eve recognised soldiers from the Red Army and realised that they had been liberated.

Following on from the visit, a number of pupils have made contact with Rudi to express their gratitude for taking the time to talk to them. The visit was a once in a lifetime opportunity that the pupils and staff will never forget. The school thanked Mr. Oppenheimer for taking the time to open the school's Holocaust Memorial, the only one of its kind in the country.

Pictured: Mr Rudi Oppenheimer with Kimberley Davis, James Cutting, Megan Vardy and Sam Sandham.

Green Cone “food fighters” in need of new homes

Clever green “food fighters” are available to Leicestershire residents* who would like to recycle their leftover food including fruit, vegetable and meat scraps.

The nifty Green Cone food waste digesters cleverly turn the leftovers into water, carbon dioxide and nutrients to feed your soil – helping you to grow flowers, plants and tasty fruit and vegetables.

All sorts of food waste can be put into the special bin from fish and chips to curries and fruit to cooked meat and

bones, helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill – which is expensive and contributes to global warming.

The Green Cone costs £7.50, which includes free professional installation and delivery. Other composters such as wormeries and Green Johannas are also available at discount prices.

To order your Green Cone today call 0800 019 2061 or visit www.greatgreensystems.com

For more information on all the units available visit www.leics.gov.uk/waste or call Leicestershire County Council on Leicester (0116) 305 7005.



**Offer only available to Leicestershire residents, excluding Leicester City.*

Summer Food

When the weather warms up our thoughts naturally turn to eating outdoors. Whether it's a picnic out in the country or a barbecue or meal in the garden, it is important to make sure the food you serve is safe. So, here are four important tips.

Control the temperature

Remember, keep your hot food hot and your cold food cold. Only a few things, like bread and crisps, are actually safe to keep at room temperature, for long.

For hot food, the safest way is cook and serve immediately. Always cook sausages, burgers, kebabs, pork and poultry thoroughly until they are piping hot right through with no pink meat left and juices running clear. Meat cooks quickly on a barbecue and may look cooked, but still be raw on the inside, so check before serving. Have a look at www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/webpage/barbecue_bug_leaflets

For cold food use a cool box and bag with enough ice packs to keep the food chilled. Frozen juice cartons make excellent ice packs. Keep the cool box or bag in the boot, away from direct sunlight and on reaching your destination, leave the food inside until just before you are ready to eat.

Take care with drinking water

When out and about, stick to bottled water.

Hand washing

When handling food, proper hand washing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the harmful bugs which cause food poisoning.

Before eating or drinking and after going to the toilet, touching raw meat and contact with animals, wash your hands thoroughly.

Bring soap for hand washing and make sure you dry your hands properly afterwards.

If you do not have safe clean water, bring antibacterial hand wipes or gels to clean your hands.

Protecting food from contamination

Food poisoning bacteria cannot move from place to place by themselves. They are easily spread to food by contact with surfaces or the ground, raw foods, dirty hands and dirty utensils or equipment.

Separate raw food from ready to eat food such as cooked food, salads, bread and sandwiches.

Place raw meat in sealed containers and pack at the bottom of the cool box or bag to keep their juices from dripping onto other food. Or better still, use a separate cool box or bag for raw and ready-to-eat foods.

Use separate equipment, plates and utensils for raw and cooked or ready to eat foods including barbecued food.

Use clean utensils not hands for handling food where possible.

Do not allow food or utensils to touch the ground or other outdoor surfaces such as picnic benches.

Never put cooked food on a dish which has been used previously for raw foods unless it has been thoroughly cleaned.

Birds, insects and animals can be a source of food poisoning bacteria, so don't leave food and equipment lying around.

Recipe: Roasted vegetable couscous salad with feta cheese

This salad can be served as a vegetarian main course or as a side dish. It is great to take on picnics. **Serves 6 - 8**

Ingredients

250g couscous

15ml (1 tablespoon) olive oil

5ml (1 teaspoon) bouillon powder

250ml boiling water

Roasted vegetables

1 yellow pepper - cut into 2 - 3cm chunks

1 red pepper - cut into 2 - 3cm chunks

1 courgette - cut into 2 - 3cm chunks

1 red onion - cut into 2 - 3cm chunks

30ml (2 tablespoons) olive oil

1 garlic clove - crushed salt and pepper

200g feta cheese

basil leaves

Method

Heat the oven to 220°C/425°F/Gas 7.

Place the prepared vegetables, olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper into a roasting tin and roast for 30 - 45 minutes until slightly crispy at the edges.

Prepare the couscous. Place it into the mixing bowl with the bouillon powder. Add the olive oil and 250ml boiling water. Cover and leave for 15 - 20 minutes.

Cut the feta cheese into cubes and tear the basil leaves. Fork up the couscous to separate the grains.

Put the couscous in the serving dish, pile on the roasted vegetables and any juices from the roasting tin, top with feta cheese and basil leaves.

Serve warm.

HOT TIPS: The vegetables and couscous can be prepared in advance.

Use a varied selection of vegetables including cherry tomatoes, aubergine, fennel and orange pepper.