



Letterbox

Our Way to Better Customer Care

Christmas and New Year 2010

Brocks Hill Country Park, Visitor Centre and Café

Christmas/New Year Closing

The Visitor Centre will be closed on Friday 24 Saturday 25 Sunday 26 December and Saturday 1 January 2011. The Country Park and Natural Play Area are open at all times.

CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT

December 22, 12:00-4:00pm

Come along to our Christmas Activity Hunt for all the family. Small activity stations will be positioned around the park. All who complete the challenges will get to see Santa, and all children will receive a small prize! £1 per person

Christmas/New Year Activities

Wednesday 22 December

11:00am-12noon. Decorate a Glass. For unaccompanied children age 10+. £2.20p each includes a tumbler glass. Booking is essential.

1:30pm-2:30pm. Decorate a Tile (snow scene). Age 3 yrs+ but youngsters will require lots of help. £1.65p each. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

Thursday 23 December 2010

11:00am-12noon and 1:30-2:30pm.

Decorate a Christmas Paper Plate. £1.65p each. Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

Wednesday 29 December 2010

11:00am-12noon and 1:30pm-2:30pm. Make a Model Winter Garden in a Box. All ages. £1.65p each. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

Thursday 30 December 2010

11:00am-12noon and 1:30pm-2:30pm.

Make a Snowman. All ages. £1.65p each. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

Tuesday 04 January 2011, 2:00pm-3:00pm.

Make a Fat Ball for Birds. Age 3 yrs + but youngsters will require help. £1.65p each. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential. NB. Bird seed used may have been stored next to peanuts.

For further information and to book call Leicester (0116) 2572 888

Oadby and Wigston Council Budget



Dear Resident

You will all know that the Government needs the public sector to make big savings over the next 4 years so they can try and clear the country's huge debt. This means that this Council will need to save well over £1 million next year from our budget of about £8.5 million. We will then have to save something like another £0.5 million on top of that in each of the following 3 years.

We have thought for some time that we were going to have to make even bigger cuts than we have over the last few years so have been putting lots of plans in place to deal with this. For example we have invested in and improved our recycling operation which should make over £200,000 more profit next year than we did 2 years ago. You can help us make even more money by recycling more. We will soon be starting a textile and clothing recycling service which we hope as many residents as possible will use. We are also constantly making ourselves more efficient by streamlining the organisation and not replacing staff who leave, finding new ways of working, sharing costs with other Councils and working with the private sector.

All of this means that from April 2011 when these cuts need to be made we will be able to protect all the visible front line services that you receive. We will be protecting the services that you have repeatedly told us are the most important to you such as the weekly refuse and

recycling service at a time when more and more councils are collecting every 2 weeks. We will keep free shoppers' parking in the town centres and will be one of the very few councils in the entire country to still do this.

I can assure you that we will balance the Council's budget next year and every year, as we always have done, regardless of how difficult it has been made for us. We are going to have to make very tough decisions but as a council our priority will be to keep all the visible front line services to residents going. I also promise you that the council will consult you again later next year when we will be making decisions about the following years' budgets.

Finally we know times are hard so we will not be increasing Council Tax next year.

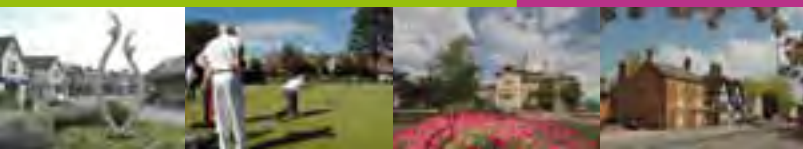
**John Boyce
Leader of Oadby and Wigston
Borough Council**

The Friends of Peace Memorial Park

VALENTINE'S COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12 February 2011 from 10am to 12pm. Sheila Mitchell Pavilion in the Park, Long Street, Wigston Magna.

All welcome • Raffle, Cards, Crafts and Bookstall. Tea or coffee and biscuits - £1.00



Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 2DR

T: 0116 2888 961 F: 0116 2887 828 www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Taxi Company and Taxi Driver Award

The Council is introducing a good practice award for both taxi drivers and taxi companies and would like you to get involved in deciding which company and which driver should receive the award!

We are asking for members of the public to complete nomination forms and give a rating to the Borough's taxi drivers and taxi companies for factors such as safe driving, customer service or professionalism, to help us find the outstanding performers.

This feedback will be used by a panel of Councillors and Licensing Officers when deciding which driver and company deserve the good practice award.

Cllr Mrs Helen Loydall, the chairman of the Council's Licensing Committee said, "The Council would like to promote this award which recognises the good practice of our taxi companies and taxi drivers. This award is an ideal way to encourage drivers and companies to aspire to the standards set by our top performers. We would ask members of the public who use taxi services to fill in a nomination form to help find the best company and driver in our Borough."

Private Hire Vehicles, Private Hire Operators and Hackney Carriages are all eligible for the award.

Members of the public will have until 3 June 2011 to submit nomination forms. Forms can be handed directly to a taxi driver or at the reception desk of the Council Offices.

You can download a nomination form by visiting the Council's website: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk or by contacting the Licensing Section on telephone number (0116) 2572 732, or by email: licensing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

2011 is Census year

The next census in England and Wales is on 27 March 2011.



The statistics produced by the census are used to allocate funding for local services such as schools, hospitals and emergency services. They are used to identify where funds are most needed.

Personal information is kept confidential for 100 years and not shared with anyone (including local and central government). We all have to take part. You, your family, all of your neighbours, even the Royal Family. Completing the census is required by law.

This year, for the first time, the census will be delivered by post. It can be returned by post or completed online.

Guidance for completing the census is available in 58 languages and help is available for anyone who needs it. For more information go to the census website at www.census.gov.uk

The Office for National Statistics, which runs the census, is currently recruiting local people for a number of jobs in your area. More details of these job opportunities can be found at: www.censusjobs.co.uk.

Having problems paying your council tax? Not sure what to do next?

Contact our Council Tax Section as soon as you start experiencing problems.

We are here to help

Past experience shows that residents who contact us as soon as they start having problems paying, are usually able to pay with our assistance. Any delay in making contact can result in additional charges being raised.

We fully understand that some people are struggling with all of their bills and although the tax needs to be paid within the tax year we do have a number of solutions at our disposal if we know that you are having problems paying.

We will...

See if you can claim Council Tax Benefit or if you may be eligible for any council tax discounts, and provide you with any necessary forms.

In the majority of cases the Council can come to an agreement for you to clear the arrears.

Whatever your situation we want to help you, so contact us as soon as possible on 0116 2572 747, or by visiting any of our Customer Service Centres, the addresses and opening times can be found on our website, or by calling the main switchboard on 0116 2888 961.

This publication can be made available in your language and in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, electronic and audio tape. Tel: (0116) 2572 712 or Email: pr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Landlords - don't get caught out

There are many reasons why landlords want to take back possession of their property. From the tenant's not paying their rent to simply not wanting to let it any longer. In all cases of eviction the correct legal procedures must be followed. Landlords who evict tenants illegally can face serious criminal proceedings with penalties including maximum fines of £5,000 and up to six months imprisonment.

Eviction always requires the service of a correctly worded legal notice on the tenants, but landlords need to ensure they serve the appropriate notice as there are different ones depending on the reason for the eviction. Once a notice expires a landlord cannot forcibly evict the tenants if they refuse to leave. Instead they have to go to the

County Court to apply for a Court Order.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council currently receive several enquiries each week from private sector tenants who are concerned that their landlord is evicting them incorrectly. The Council do investigate these complaints and will prosecute landlords if there is sufficient evidence to take to Court. However, officers also offer free advice to landlords on legal procedures to avoid them making mistakes.

Environmental health officer, Phil Fasham who investigates complaints in private sector housing said,

"In many cases landlords are making mistakes due to lack of knowledge rather than because they are rogue landlords. Whilst we generally want to persuade landlords and tenants to resolve problems to avoid evictions, we do understand that there can be good reasons for wanting the property



back. In those cases we would rather educate the landlord to do it correctly than have to investigate a complaint against them."

The Council will shortly be publishing a simple guide for private sector landlords which will include a section on eviction procedures. A more comprehensive guide on letting property is freely available from http://www.anuk.org.uk/Information/LandlordHandbook/Landlord_trainingmanual_web.pdf

Landlords and tenants who have queries about tenancy law can contact Environmental Health or Housing Options on 0116 2888 961.



Council Housing - New arrangements for gas servicing and repairs

We have recently appointed a new company - Lovell Respond – to deal with all repairs and servicing for gas appliances in Council properties. This Company has a strong track record in providing an excellent service to tenants.

Lovell Respond will contact you by letter when your appliances are due to be serviced. If your heating system breaks down, please telephone 0845 2990356, and select option 3.

For emergencies only outside of office hours, please continue to contact Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Call Out Team. Telephone 0800 083 9695



Useful information for Council tenants

Central Heating Fault Checklist



Now that the weather is turning colder you will no doubt be turning your central heating on, probably for the first time this year.

We are trying to reduce the number of callouts to central heating systems where the gas engineer finds that the system has not broken down but the boiler has either been switched off or the controls are not set properly.

Below is a list of items for you to check if your heating is not working.



1. Is the boiler switched on?

Check there is power to the boiler. There is usually a switch below the boiler, sometimes marked 'Boiler Isolator'. Switch should be down.



2. Has the boiler lost pressure?

On modern combination boilers (combi's) there is sometimes a filling loop

situated beneath the boiler alongside a gauge. If the gauge is in the red the boiler needs re-pressurising. Turn the tap on the filling loop until the needle just goes into the green sector.



3. Have you sufficient gas credit on your meter?

Check that the meter is in credit.



4. Is the room thermostat set correctly?

This is usually sited on the wall in the hall.

Turn it up until you hear a 'click'. This could be well above 20 degrees i.e. the weather is still mild.



5. Is the programmer set correctly?

This can be situated within the boiler, on the

kitchen wall or in the airing cupboard and be either one that is set manually or digital.

Check that it is set to the correct time and the on and off times are correct. Check that it is switched to 'on', 'twice daily' or continuous.



6. If fitted, are the thermostatic radiator valves set correctly?

Turn the thermostat radiator valve to a higher setting. Usually calibrated 1-5.



7. Radiator not getting hot at the top.

This is usually due to air in the radiator. It can be removed using a radiator bleed key. Turn the key slowly. You should hear a hissing sound as the air is forced out.

8. Still not working?

If after trying all of the above the heating system is still not working please telephone Lovell Respond for assistance on Telephone 0845 2990356.

Warming News for Householders in Oadby and Wigston

Since June 2005 thousands of households in Oadby and Wigston have successfully applied to the Warm Front Scheme resulting in over £1.97 million worth of Government money being spent on making residents homes warmer and more energy efficient.

Warm Front provides a package of insulation and heating measures tailored to meet individual needs, including loft and cavity wall insulation, draught proofing, hot water tank jackets and in some cases, additional heating which could be a new central heating system.

Councillor Bill Boulter said: "We are delighted that this partnership has helped make so many homes in Oadby and Wigston warmer and more energy efficient. It's only by working together that we will ensure that the Warm Front Scheme reaches as many people as possible. We don't want people to miss out and potentially spend another winter in a cold home."

The Warm Front Scheme can provide assistance of up to £3,500 (this goes up to £6,000 in areas where an oil fired central heating system is installed) to homeowners and private tenants receiving certain income or disability related benefits or credits, to help them keep warm and save money on energy bills.

In addition, people over the age of 60 who do not have working heating and are not in receipt of benefits may be entitled to £300 off the cost of a boiler replacement, or repair, under the Warm Front Rebate Scheme.

Ravi Kumar, Warm Front Coordinator for the area, said "There is more help available for people who struggle to keep warm in winter. This is a very popular scheme and we would encourage Oadby and Wigston residents to apply."

To apply to Warm Front call 0800 316 6007 - Monday-Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, go to www.warmfront.co.uk, or call into Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Offices for a leaflet or further advice.



Pets in Council Properties: Check before getting one!

Before you make the decision to keep a pet at your Council-owned property, you will need to stop and consider what tenancy you have and where you are living as this will depend on whether you will be given permission to keep a pet at all.

If you are.... an Introductory Tenant

You will not be allowed to keep a pet at all if you are living in a Council owned flat or maisonette.

- At your New Tenant visit (approximately 6 weeks after moving in) your Area Housing Officer will check that you do not have a pet.
- If, we later find out that you have got a pet, your Area Housing Officer will ask you to make your own arrangements to re-home the animal at no cost to the Council.
- If the pet is not re-homed, you will be served with a Notice to Terminate your Introductory Tenancy.

If you are... a Secure Tenant

You will have to ask for permission to keep a pet and this must be made in writing to your Area Housing Officer, on the understanding the pet will not cause a nuisance or disturbance to other residents.

- You will be limited to how many pets you keep in your home. If the number of animals kept is felt to be too many, especially if they are causing damage to the property, constitute a health hazard to the tenant, or are the cause of complaints from neighbours, then you will be required to find them alternative homes.
- Your Area Housing Officer will look at your personal circumstances and use their discretion to grant permission to keep a pet.
- You will be asked to sign a 'pets permission contract' agreeing to act as a responsible pet owner.

- Permission may be withdrawn at any stage, if you do not keep your pets in a responsible manner and you will be asked to re-home your pet.
- Your Housing Officer will monitor the way in which you keep your animal.
- No dangerous animals can be kept. This includes the following breed of dogs: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro.

Area Housing Officer Claire Erskine explains, "People need to be aware that getting an animal is a breach of their tenancy conditions, and it can become costly and distressing when we have to advise people they are not allowed to keep them. We also have to take into account that some flats or maisonettes are not ideal living conditions for some pets and is just not fair to the animal."

Please ensure that you think carefully and ask advice about getting a pet, otherwise this could jeopardise your home. Ring your Area Housing Officers at the Housing Section on 0116 2572 619 if you need any further advice or are unsure what type of tenancy you hold.



Annual Report to Tenants

As a landlord, we are now required to produce an Annual Report to Tenants in October of every year. The purpose of this report is to help tenants see how well we are performing as a landlord. The report highlights how well we are complying with the national standards that we are required to meet. It also sets out our plans for improving the service in the future, including the development of local offers.

A copy of the report is available on our website – www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk. For a paper copy of the report, or for further information, please contact Claire Erskine on 0116 2572 619 or email housing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



Important changes to the Housing Register -



An update on Choice Based Lettings

Please read on ...

In our last article, we told you that there were a number of important changes coming to the way that we let our properties. These changes will affect how we deal with your housing application in the future and will come into effect from January next year.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council are working with other district councils in Leicestershire to bring in one scheme that will cover the whole of the Leicestershire area. We are required by the Government to introduce Choice Based Lettings by the end of 2010.

Good progress has been made towards implementing the scheme and we will be writing to everyone on the Housing Register shortly with more details. Anyone who is on the Housing Register at the moment will need to complete a new application form – you will receive one in the post before the end of the year. You will need to provide up-to-date details of your circumstances. We will also be asking for photo identification and proof of your income and savings – which you will not have been asked for before. Once registered for the new scheme, you will be given a reference number and a password, along with full details of how the new choice based lettings scheme works.

We have around 1000 people on the Housing Register, so it will be a busy period for housing staff who will be keeping existing services running while planning and implementing this major change.

With the new scheme, all applications will be placed into one of four 'bands' – we will no longer be using a points system.

These bands are:

- **Priority** – emergency cases where the need for housing is more serious than other cases. For example: homeless families, chronically ill people
- **High** – cases where there are multiple problems
- **Medium** – where a person has one clear reason for needing to move, for example: medical problems, currently living in short term accommodation, harassment, needing to move nearer to relatives for care and support
- **Low** – for example: can afford private accommodation, does not live locally or does not have a connection to the area, is already housed in suitable accommodation.

All vacant properties will be advertised on a website and at local offices, such as the Council offices and libraries. Empty properties will be advertised every fortnight. If you see a property you like, then you will need to say that you want to be considered for it (this is known as making a bid). You will be able to do this either on-line, using an automated telephone line or sending a text message. You will be able to make three bids for vacant properties during every fortnightly cycle. The property will go to the person who is in the highest band and has been waiting the longest. You will also have a chance to bid for some properties in other districts.

If you are unable to access our offices, the libraries or the internet and require any assistance, then please let the Housing Section know. Likewise, if you are aware of anyone who is vulnerable and may need additional assistance, then contact us as we may be able to act on your behalf.

Email: housing@oadby-wigston.gov.uk. Telephone: 0116 2572 619. Write to: the Housing Section, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire. LE18 2DR. Or visit one of our Customer Service Centres.

Digital UK is the independent, not-for-profit organisation leading the process of digital TV switchover in the UK.

Impartial information is provided on what people need to do to prepare for the switch to digital, and when they need to do it. The company was set up by public broadcasters at the request of the Government.

For more information visit:
[www:digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk)

When will I switch?

There are 9 transmitter groups in the Central TV region that will switch from analogue to digital TV at different times, starting on 30 March 2011.

Need a helping hand switching to digital TV?

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC and it can provide everyone aged 75 and over or eligible disabled with everything needed to switch one TV to digital.

For more information visit: helpscheme.co.uk or telephone 0800 40 85 900

digitaluk





2010 October half-term Sports programme



The October half term sports programme was a great success, with nearly 50 young people signing up to take part in one of the three sports programmes on offer.

The Leisure Development Officer, Avril Lennox, was delighted that so many individuals benefited from the scheme. Thanks go to Beauchamp College for their valuable partnership working to enable this local opportunity to take place.

Children aged 8 to 18 years had the opportunity to take part in a range of

sports including Danish Long Ball, New Age Kurling and Trampolining, in the main sports hall at Beauchamp College.

Zain, aged 9, who has not participated in one of the council's multi-sports schemes before said:

"I really had a lot of fun taking part in lots of different sports. My favourite one was dodgeball".

Sophie, aged 13, took part in the trampolining scheme. She said:

"I've met lots of new people which is cool, and I've learnt a lot of new trampolining tricks. I'd love to join the new trampolining club when it's set up".

The Oadby and Wigston Mayor, Councillor Michael Griffiths, attended the last day of the scheme and presented certificates and prizes. The feedback from both parents and children attending the Trampolining sessions was extremely positive; as a result there are plans to set-up a trampolining club for children. If you would like to get involved in this new club, please contact Avril on (0116) 2572 673 or email avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Newsround from the Carers project



Stepping Stones, the bereavement group that is supported by the Carers project, is growing in size. The people that attend decide where and when they want to meet up and which activities they would like to do. If you live in Leicestershire and have lost someone close to you, and would like to meet other people who are going through the same thing, you can join the group by calling the Carers project to find out where and when the next session will take place. The group is informal and all the members are warm and welcoming.

Christmas is around the corner and this year all three groups will be joining together to have Christmas lunch. The

lunch will be on the 20 December at the Aberdale Inn on the outskirts of Wigston. The Aberdale serves an excellent Christmas meal and there will be over 40 people in attendance. If you are a carer and would like to join us, call the project to book a place. You can also bring the person you are caring for too!

Carers Rights day is in December and this year we are holding a really interesting forum on the 10 December for carers to receive the latest information about the changes that will be happening to the NHS. We have some fantastic speakers including Charles Huddleston from Clasp the Carers Centre who will be giving an

overview on the White Paper which is about the 'Biggest Restructure of the NHS' since it was started in the 1940's. We also have representatives from the LINK and LPT's Foundation Trust. Finally we have Edward Garnier coming to hold a Question and Answer session with carers which will help answer some of the many worries you may have about about how this will affect you and the people you care for. Refreshments and light bites will be available during this event. If you would like to attend this meeting; call the Carers project 0116 2810 026 x25 for booking and more further information.



Local Council recycling initiative protects residents from Government cuts



Until a year ago, recycling materials collected from residents in the Borough, were collected

and delivered to Leicestershire County Council's Civic Amenity site at Whetstone for transporting. This cost over £80,000 to the residents of Oadby and Wigston.

In July 2009, the Council took over the responsibility for the processing of recycling materials for itself. It started developing its own material recycling plant at the Oadby Depot. Such facilities usually cost millions but through clever use of existing buildings and using pre-used sorting machinery, the district has achieved the same for as little as £150,000.

"When starting down the road to processing, our residents recycling materials, we did not know of the financially difficult times to come". Says Councillor Bill Boulter, "But the timing for this plant coming live could not have been better. The new recycling line began operating just a couple of months ago and will be turning a profit within just a few months. This means that when residents recycle they are not just helping the environment, they are also helping to keep their council tax low."

Today the plant processes an average of 46 tonnes of paper and card, 16 tonnes of glass, 11 tonnes of plastic bottles and packaging and 1 tonne of cans every week. In addition to this, 78 tonnes of garden waste is also collected. By the end of this year, the plant will have processed more than 3,500 tonnes of recyclable waste. Companies looking to purchase the materials processed at the Oadby Recycling Plant have commented on the high quality of the materials produced and are pleased to offer premium prices for them.

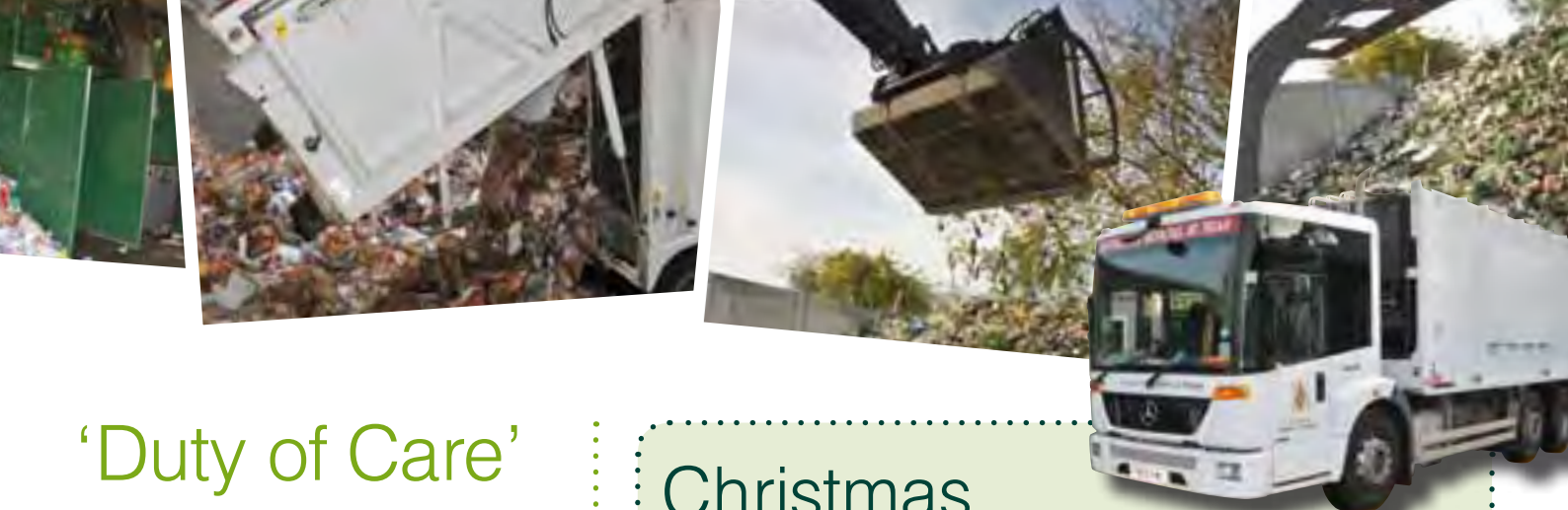
Councillor Bill Boulter welcomed the recycling facility stating that, "Building the recycling plant has put us in control of what we can offer residents in terms of recycling. There was a time when all we could collect were the conventional recyclables such as paper, plastic bottles and drinks cans. Thanks to the plant we have managed to add new materials and find new markets for recyclables such as plastic trays, yogurt pots and aluminium foil and we plan to be able to take even more materials soon. The service is about to be extended to collect unwanted clothing, handbags and shoes from households. I would urge you to use your local charities for useful clothing items and use the Council's clothing collection for items that are no longer of use to anyone."

The collection and processing of materials has increased our recycling rate to 47%, meaning that we will reach the target rate of 48% by the end of March 2011.

Did you know?

- ✓ Over 2.5 billion cans are recycled in the UK each year, saving 125,000 tonnes of solid waste every year
- ✓ Stretched end to end, these recycled cans would stretch three quarters of the way round the Earth
- ✓ An estimated 13 billion plastic bottles are disposed of each year
- ✓ 1 tonne of plastic = 20,000 plastic bottles
- ✓ Recycling a single plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a 60W light bulb for up to 6 hours
- ✓ Recycling 1 tonne of plastic bottles saves 1.5 tonne of carbon
- ✓ 11% of household waste is plastic, 40% of which is plastic bottles
- ✓ The unreleased energy contained in the average dustbin each year could power a television for 5,000 hours.
- ✓ Glass is 100% recyclable and can be used again and again.
- ✓ Glass that is thrown away and ends up in landfills will never decompose.
- ✓ Recycled paper produces 73% less air pollution than if it was made from raw materials.

(Sources: www.recycling-guide.org.uk and www.recycle-more.co.uk)



'Duty of Care'

In the borough of Oadby and Wigston, a weekly kerbside waste collection is provided for residents.

Because this collection is not for commercial organisations, businesses are expected to make their own arrangements for the collection of their waste.

Occasionally, the environmental health department is required to advise businesses about their legal obligations in this area. Often this is because we learn that they are in the habit of taking their waste home or to a local tip.

Stephen Bruce, Head of Environmental Health said "We tell them that they have a legal responsibility to ensure that they produce, store, transport and dispose of their business waste without harming the environment. This is called their 'duty of care'. People and the environment should be protected from illegally managed waste."

In practice, what should happen is that when someone sets up a business, or takes over an existing business, where waste is going to be generated, they set up a contract with a licenced contractor to collect their waste. The size of bin and frequency of collection will be something that can be discussed when the contract is set up. All businesses have a duty of care, even if they are just run by one person.

After that, all their waste would be taken away from their site on a regular basis by the licenced waste carrier and legally disposed of. If asked to provide evidence of this, the business should produce paperwork (known as 'waste transfer notes') to show where its waste goes.

People who run businesses cannot take their waste home with them or take it to a Leicestershire County Council civic amenity site. Home collections and local tips are for domestic waste only.

If you are concerned about the waste from a local business or wonder where the waste from that business goes, please speak to a member of environmental health department. We can check that the waste is not being disposed of illegally and give advice if we feel it is needed.

Christmas Holiday and New Year collection dates 2010/11

Normal collection day	Will be collected on
Wed Dec 22	Normal Collection Day
Thurs Dec 23	Normal Collection Day
Fri Dec 24	No Collection
Tues Dec 28	No Collection
Wed Dec 29	Normal Collection Day
Thurs Dec 30	Normal Collection Day
Fri Dec 31*	Double Collection
Tues January 4*	Double Collection

*Will be double collection which is 6 black bags and unlimited recycling bags

Garden waste: There will not be a garden waste collection service between 24 December 2010 and 7 January 2011. Normal collections will resume from Mon 10 January 2011.

Please note: In the event of adverse weather conditions services may be suspended until the weather improves.

Surface Water Culvert Clean up

The open channel that takes surface water from Blaby Road towards the River Sence, regularly becomes choked near its outfall due to natural debris and other waste. This leads to water building up in the channel and the possibility of Flooding. Severn Trent Water carry out regular inspections of the channel and clear waste to keep it free flowing. The last clearance took place at the beginning of October and found amongst the waste were several black sacks of household rubbish, wooden pallets, tree cuttings, plastic bottles and a CD player!

The Council, in partnership with Severn Trent, have contacted occupiers adjacent to the open water course to ask for their assistance in keeping the channel clean. In addition, if anyone has information relating to a fly-tipping incident in the channel, please contact Environmental Health on 0116 2572 601.





New Planning Strategy adopted for the Borough

In September, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council became the second Council in Leicestershire to adopt a Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy, which covers the period to 2026, sets out how much development will be provided; where new land for houses and businesses will be provided; and contains proposals that will ensure the countryside and important areas of open space are not only protected, but improved and better managed in the future. It also covers key principles related to employment areas, design, sustainability and infrastructure.

The Core Strategy focuses the majority of new development within Wigston town centre and Oadby and South Wigston district centres. It identifies proposals to support investment in Oadby and South Wigston district centres and to establish Oadby as a small town centre.

It identifies Wigston as the main settlement for growth in order to support investment in Wigston town centre and to facilitate an improvement of the range of facilities and services available there. Therefore, development needs that cannot be met within the centres will be met through an extension to the existing urban area of Wigston. Wigston is also the most accessible settlement, both to other locations within the Borough and to Leicester city.

Following several opportunities for the public to comment, the Core Strategy was 'Examined' by Independent Planning Inspector Jill Kingaby BSc(Econ) MSc MRTPI in April. She concluded that the document provided an appropriate basis for the planning of the Borough to 2026.

Having an adopted Core Strategy puts the Borough in a strong position by ensuring that all new development is properly planned, and takes place in the most appropriate locations, in order to meet the long term vision and aspirations of the local community.

The adopted Core Strategy, which forms part of the Council's Local Development Framework, can be viewed in the Planning Section of www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk on the Forward Plans pages.

The Halloween Football Weekend

On behalf of the Oadby and Wigston Community Safety Partnership a weekend of football skills and activities for young people of the borough was organised to coincide with Halloween weekend.

Twenty five young people attended the football sessions, which were held on 29, 30 and 31 October at Guthlaxton College. The sessions ran from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. teaching the fundamental skills of football, which in turn raised participants self-esteem, confidence and aspirations allowing them to 'enjoy and achieve'.

Some of the participants will hopefully be attending coach education programmes in the near future, thus enabling the young people to step into basic sports leadership at a young age, which will also help towards sustaining the project.

Jamie who attended the sessions said,

"If it wasn't on I would be hanging around the streets getting into trouble".

Callum also took part and said,

"Really good fun and interactive football sessions where everybody takes part".

After the sessions River said,

"Love playing against the boys they're wicked"

The number of attendances over three days was 48, it was funded by Regional Improvement and Efficiency Funds (RIEF) through Leicestershire County Council as part of the Locality Integrated Youth Support Services Positive Activities for Young People programme.



FREE Respite Care Directories for all Carers

CLASP The Carers Centre are now giving away Free Respite Care Directories to carers of older adults and health care professionals working with carers. The directories include information on respite services such as residential and nursing homes, sitting services, care attendant schemes, day services, social clubs and support groups from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

If you would like to receive a copy then please contact Jenny on 0116 2510 999 or jenny@clasptheacarerscentre.org.uk



Oadby Wigston

Community Safety Partnership



As chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), I am pleased to be working with local people

and other partners to not only reduce the incidents of, but also the fear associated with, crime and disorder within the borough. The primary purpose of the CSP is to make the Borough of Oadby and Wigston a safer place to live, work and visit and to improve the quality of life within our community.

The CSP brings together a collection of people and organisations that have a real commitment to do everything in their power to have a positive impact on crime and disorder and have undertaken to work closely alongside local communities in bringing about a sense of safety for all. These organisations include the Probation Service, Police, Police Authority, Fire Authority, Health, Leicestershire County Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

The plan is to continue to build upon previous successes of the Partnership by setting some tough challenges with regard to the crime and disorder issues identified as being of most concern. We will need, and are able, to call upon the benefits of working in partnership to find innovative and sustainable ways of bringing about solutions to local problems. The priorities for the CSP for 2010/11 are set out below:

Anti-Social Behaviour

Aims: reduce levels of ASB in identified hotspots, target CSP resources to the top 5 criminal damage locations, reassure communities that effective action is being taken against ASB, make realistic improvements to the quality of life for all people who live in, work in and visit the Borough.

Violent Crime

Aims: reduce levels of violent crime in identified hotspots, reduce the likelihood of being a victim of violent crime within the Borough, reduce the fear of crime, target CSP resources to the top 5 violent crime locations, increase public confidence in reporting incidents of crimes against people, identify and support vulnerable members of the community.

Drugs and Alcohol

Aims: to reduce levels of drug and alcohol use amongst young people, to reduce alcohol related violence in town centre locations, provide access to effective treatment for people experiencing difficulties with drug and alcohol use, to undertake enforcement measures against the illegal supply of drugs and alcohol, reassure communities the CSP is taking effective action with regard to drugs and alcohol

Acquisitive Crime

Aims: reduce levels of crime against property in identified hotspots, reassure communities effective action is being taken, reduce the fear of crime, target CSP resources to the top 5 vehicle crime locations, provide support for victims of acquisitive crime, identify and support vulnerable members of the community with regard to acquisitive crime.

We are employing a number of tactics to achieve these aims, including the periodic use of an unmarked police car and targeting of specific individuals and locations. Consequently, we have achieved a 28% reduction in the number of burglaries and a 27.8% reduction in the number of robberies within the borough from last year's figures. The number of offences for which individuals have been brought to justice have also risen.

Councillor Kevin Loydall
Chair Community Safety Partnership

Senior Citizens Annual Concert

The Annual Concert for the Senior Citizens of the Borough will take place at Guthlaxton College, Station Road, Wigston, on Saturday the 19 March 2011 from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.

The tickets for the concert are free of charge and free transport is also available to those who require it. Please note that if you do require transport and have any disability needs, we are very happy to be of assistance to you in any way we can.

If you would like the opportunity of attending the concert, please contact Kate Faulkner at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 2DR - Telephone No: 0116 2572 674

Kate will be happy to complete a booking form with you on the telephone or alternatively, please write to Kate and a booking form will be sent to you.

The deadline for receipt of completed booking forms is Friday 4 March 2011.



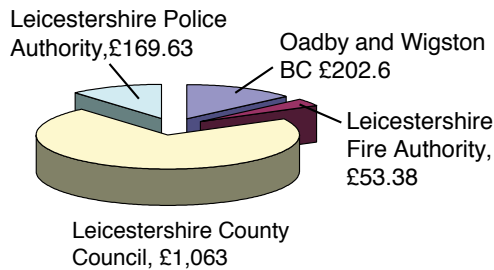
2010/11 Council Spending



The Council obtains the money to fund the services we provide from a variety of sources. Each year the Government gives us a grant towards our costs but that does not cover the cost of everything we do. We get the rest of the money we need in a variety of ways including Council Tax.

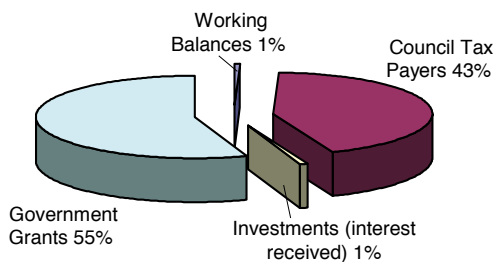
Every household is set into a band ranging from A to H, which determines how much Council Tax is paid. Nationally band D is used when quoting an average figure. This year (2010/11), for a band D taxpayer Oadby & Wigston's share of the Council Tax is £202.60 for the year.

Band "D" Council Tax £1,488.61



From 2011/12 onwards, Councils will receive 25% less over the next four years. To make up this shortfall all non-statutory services will be reviewed

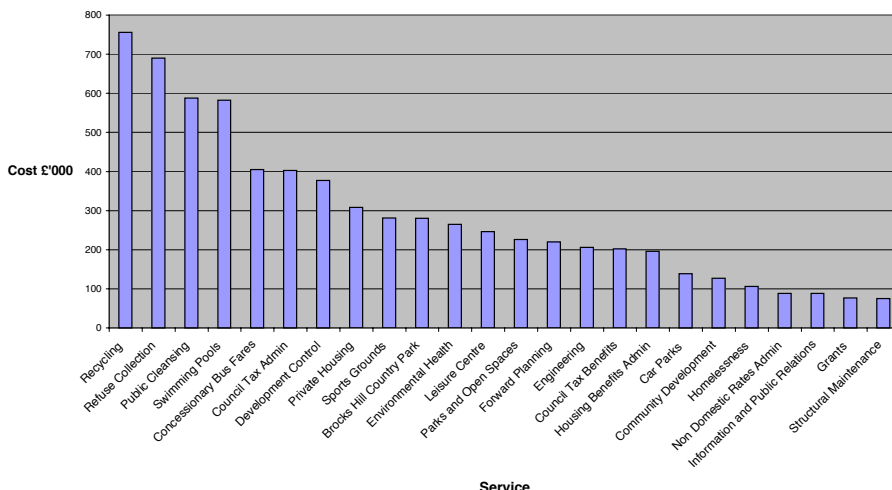
Where does the money come from



What is the money spent on?

In 2010/11 the Council budgeted to spend a net £8,383,000 on running the services that you receive. The chart below shows the main categories of spending:

Cost of Services



Are we up to standard?

A message from the Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee, David England

In order to ensure a high standard of conduct amongst Councillors, each Council in 2001, was required to set up an 'arms length' Standards Committee.

Here in Oadby and Wigston this Committee consists of eight members, four experienced elected Members of the Council and four independent persons drawn from the community. The Committee is chaired by one of these independent persons and I have the honour of holding the post this year.

The Committee is currently responsible for, amongst other things, the following activities:

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members;
- Ensuring that members undergo suitable training so that they can carry out their duties effectively;
- Advising on the Members' Code of Conduct and protocols;
- Carrying out local assessments of complaints, including conducting hearings and determining any appropriate sanctions in the case of a breach of the Code of Conduct;
- Overview of the Council's policies on ethical standards, including 'Whistleblowing'.

Maintaining high standards of conduct requires vigilance by the public, Members and Officers. The Standards Committee is there to monitor and oversee these matters and to investigate any problems or allegations which may occur.

If anyone has any concerns about the conduct of the Council or any of its Members they should address these concerns in the first instance to the Council's Monitoring Officer, Mrs Anne Court, who will advise on any formal action which may need to be taken.

You can get further, more detailed information on the Council's website which is: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Please rest assured that your Standards Committee is working hard to ensure that Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's continuing high standards are maintained.

David England, Chairman.