



Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Cultural Strategy Action Plan

2005 - 2015

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WHY HAVE A CULTURAL STRATEGY ?



Leicestershire Cultural Strategy – Love Leicestershire

A Cultural Strategy Partnership for Leicestershire which included all representatives from all the Borough and District Councils developed and produced a County Wide Cultural Strategy - Love Leicestershire.

The Strategy was produced as part of the Commitment to meet Government requirements set out by the Department of Culture Media And Sport (DCMS) to have all Local Authorities produce a Strategy by the end of 2002.

The Strategies were to consider those areas of cultural activity such as – arts, sports, heritage, crafts, parks, tourism, countryside recreation as well as addressing cross cutting issues related to social inclusion, anti-poverty, crime reduction and community cohesion.

The Leicestershire Cultural Strategy – **Love Leicestershire** identified through a comprehensive consultation exercise with stakeholders and the local communities around the County a number of key treasures and achievements that Local people where very proud of such as the National Forest and the Grand Union Canal and they felt that Culture had a positive role to play in the wellbeing of community life and the enjoyment of the local environment.

From the consultation four themes were identified. These were:-

- **Strengthening Communities**
- **Celebrating Leicestershire**
- **Improving Lifestyles and Health**
- **Building a Creative Economy**

The Strategy moves on to identify a range of strategic aims under each of the four themes as challenges set to identify or improve the potential for enhancing the quality of life throughout Leicestershire and provides opportunities to involve real communities in the process. These aims are identified in the Action Plan section shown later in this document and used, taking regard to other key locally identified objectives, as the key drivers to set the framework for action within this local document.

OTHER KEY STRATEGIES

Oadby and Wigston Community Plan and Local Strategic Partnership

The Oadby and Wigston Local Strategic Partnership is a body that brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations active within the Borough, in a partnership to agree and implement a joint strategy known as the Community Plan.

In developing this Community Plan, the LSP has had regard to the priorities of National Government, and the Regional context within which the local Community Plan needs to be developed. Examples of some of these Documents are:-

- **Education Strategy to 2006 and Education Development Plan**
- **NHS Plan “Planning and Priorities and ‘Addressing Inequalities in Health**
- **local agenda 21 strategy**
- **National Policing Plan and Oadby and Wigston Crime and Disorder Partnership’s Reduction Partnership Strategy**
- **Leisure Strategy**
- **Youth Strategy**
- **The Local Transport Plan 2001 – 2006**
- **Leicester Shire Economic Partnership (LSEP) Action Plan**

Through consultation with Oadby and Wigston stakeholders the Oadby and Wigston Partnership has lead the development of a long term vision and Community Plan for the

area. The Plan is set out in a number of key themes which echo the community's aspirations identified through an earlier consultation undertaken in 1999/2000 under Local Agenda 21 – Our World Our future, from which objectives and actions have been set. These are:-

- **Learning and Employment**
- **Health**
- **Transport and the environment**
- **Culture and Leisure**
- **Crime and Disorder**
- **Community**

Oadby and Wigston Youth Strategy

The Council's commitment to improve provision for young people requires an acknowledgement of their right to make a positive contribution to their communities. This includes the involvement of young people in consultation about the opportunities available to them and their aspirations for the development of provision in future years.

As identified above the Council lead the way in setting up the Local Strategic Partnership from which evolved the process for determining the content of the Community Plan.

In developing a strategy for working with young people the Community Plan and its consultation has helped to lead some key priority action for this plan, particularly in relation to reducing crime and disorder through diversionary activities. The Strategy aims to provide a voice for young people in a democratic and inclusive manner. Further consultation with local young residents and stakeholders have identified the need for better services and facilities that directly meet local need, more innovative use of diversionary activities, opportunities for young people to fully engage with and in their community. Some actions developed through the Strategy are:-

- **Young Citizen Award**
- **Diversionary Activities**
- **One-stop Shops**
- **Support the development of the Connexions project in South Wigston**
- **Teen Health Clinics**
- **Youth Bus**
- **Youth Edition of letterbox**
- **Youth Forums Developed**
- **Employment of Media Assistants**
- **Youth Resources Directory**

Oadby and Wigston Sport and Leisure Strategy and Arts and Heritage Strategy

In 2002 the Council's Leisure Development Service and Arts and Heritage Service carried out a programme of consultation with residents of the Borough in order to establish the views of all sections of the community with regards to existing and future Sport and Leisure Provision. The aim was to identify the needs and aspirations of the Borough and set a programme of action to define the delivery of the identified needs. This would be done through the production of the Oadby and Wigston Borough Sports and Leisure Strategy and the Borough Arts and Heritage Strategy (under review).

A Programme of depth and innovative consultation with the community took place which identified a number of key issues. Again these issues echoed those priorities previously identified through earlier consultation undertaken in the Local Agenda 21 Strategy, those being:-

- **Developing facilities and activities for young people by working with schools and youth groups**
- **Access to leisure and arts that meet the needs of all social and cultural groups**
- **More opportunities for different types of activities and facilities**

A number of specific objectives arose from the consultation for Leisure Development and Arts and were incorporated into the Leisure Strategy action plan. These are:-

- **Work with local organisations to extend the quality, accessibility and diversity of existing opportunities.**
- **Identify a range of potential opportunities that address the different cultural and social needs of the Borough.**
- **Provide accessible information on available leisure opportunities.**
- **Develop better access to leisure facilities for those people with special needs or who experience exclusion.**
- **Improve access to local activities and facilities for young people.**
- **Develop tools to empower young people to take part in the decisions that are made about different opportunities.**
- **Investigate ways to improve access to existing facilities in and around the Borough that provide different leisure opportunities.**
- **Provide high quality activities and experiences that are physically, mentally and socially rewarding through the use of professional services.**
- **Advertise and celebrate achievements that help raise a higher Borough profile to residents, visitors, local businesses and organisations.**
- **Provide Sporting opportunities to everyone who wishes to engage in activities through working with partners of and supporting the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Sports Strategy.**

Oadby and Wigston Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Strategy

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 made community safety a Partnership responsibility. The Act requires local authorities, the Police and other agencies to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in their areas. These parties must work together to develop a Strategy to tackle those issues recognised as concerns to the community. As a result the Oadby and Wigston Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was formed in September 1998.

The Partnership has undertaken consultation with the community on priorities and perceptions associated with crime and disorder and an evaluation of the 2004 Audit and the outcomes of the consultation have helped to form the agenda for actions to be commenced under the new 2005 to 2008 Strategy. The main aims for the Strategy are:-

Crimes against the Person:-

- To reduce recorded incidents of Domestic Violence particularly repeat victimisation
- To support Harassed Tenants and Neighbours and reduce the incidence of complaints
- To increase the number of vulnerable households benefiting from direct advice on distraction burglary
- To measurably reduce the dependency of Referred Drugs Cases and the number of families requiring support
- To increase the number of Work Schemes for Young Offenders
- To reduce the number of reported Racial Incidents (and other hate crime) which require further action against perpetrators.

Crimes against the property:-

- To maintain a continual reduction in the Incidence of Burglary and to increase the level of detection rates.
- To identify Business and Property crime Hot Spots and to harden 50 premises per annum as targets for criminals in those areas, by application of security features and advice to residents and business.
- To continually maintain public awareness of measures to safeguard against Theft of and from their Vehicles
- To increase membership of the CROWS Retail Crime Scheme by 10 businesses per year, and maintain the measured reduction in retail crime incidence
- To use and advise upon the utilisation of CCTV to deter crime and to identify perpetrators.
- To identify hot spots and time periods for the occurrence of Robbery and Open Theft and reduce incidence of these by focused policing and cross-agency co-operation
- To work with Businesses, Retailers and Banks to identify levels and measurably reduce Credit card and Other Fraud
- To identify hot spots of Criminal Damage and focus policing, CCTV and offer local authority response so as to reduced number of incidents.

Anti-Social Behaviour:-

- To increase the amount and diversity of Initiatives for Youth Diversion and Advice, and reduce incidents of interference and criminal damage to youth facilities
- To abate Noise and other statutory nuisance in measurably shorter periods and reduce the number of sustainable complaints
- To reduce the number of incidents of fly tipping, graffiti and dog fouling and bring more perpetrators to justice
- To maintain full application of all relevant police powers to measurably reduce Unruly behaviour, disorder, criminal damage and vandalism
- To utilise test purchasing, the Council's Licensing Powers and Saturation Policy to reduce reported incidents associated with Binge drinking and other Alcohol Misuse
- To design out anti-social behaviour in all parks and open spaces so as to measurably reduce complaints.
- To identify and improve by design and implementation 2 areas requiring improved Community Safety Lighting in each year of the Strategy
- To expedite the use of possession Action and ASBOs to deal with Anti-Social Tenants
- To support the actions of the Police and Fire Services Arson Task Force to reduce the number of incidents of Arson and hoax calls
- To continue to improve response times for the safe removal of Abandoned and Burnt-out Vehicles



Sunset Borough Countryside

A Cultural Strategy Action Plan for Oadby and Wigston



Grand Union Canal

It is now the task of the Borough Council to create its own local Strategy action plan for the Borough of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. To put into action the locally relevant strategic aims and challenges identified in the County Wide Strategy. To integrate these with the Cultural recommendations identified through other Borough Strategic documents that have already been adopted and begun to pave the way towards improving the quality of life within the Borough. e .g Community Plan, Sport and Leisure Strategy, the Arts and Heritage Strategy and the Borough Youth Strategy identified above.

The following sections of this Strategy aim to combine cohesively the aims and objectives of all the relevant strategies and bring them together into one co-ordinated approach, focused at delivering realistic and proactive action with and for the community.

What do we want from a long term Cultural Strategy:-

- **An opportunity for everyone to participate in cultural activities and to celebrate their chosen faith and individual culture in a diverse yet cohesive community that is free from isolation and exclusion and without fear of intimidation or crime.**
- **A rich environment of leisure opportunities, education and training and a strong and prosperous local economy that all residents and visitors have access to, and can engage in.**
- **A Borough where young and old alike, of all abilities and walks of life are proud of their history and heritage, they want to call their own**

ABOUT THE BOROUGH OF OADBY AND WIGSTON

The Borough of Oadby and Wigston lies to the south eastern side of Leicester city and is the smallest in area of Leicestershire's seven districts. The Borough has seen extensive residential development since the Second World War. The area is predominantly urban, consisting of three main settlements; Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. It covers 2352 hectares and has a population of 55,795. The population density is 23.72 persons per hectare compared to 2.93 for Leicestershire.

The average household size is 2.45¹. The Borough is therefore small in area and densely populated. Pressure for development means that residents place a high value on remaining green spaces. Owner occupation is high at 85.45% compared with 81.1% in Leicestershire, 7.95% rent from the Council or social landlords (Leicestershire 11%), 18.26% own no car or van (Leicestershire 16.8%).

The Borough is ranked 235th out of 354 English local authorities (1 being the most deprived). The ethnic population is 16% (13% of Asian or Asian British origin), this is the second highest in the East Midlands next to Leicester City. Oadby wards have a higher percentage Asian population than in Wigston (average 5%), in particular Uplands Ward (35.9%) and Grange Ward (29.59%). The high minority ethnic population means that community cohesion is important.

There is a higher than average proportion of young people in the Borough compared to Leicestershire and the East Midlands District as is shown in the following table.

Area	% population 10-19 years
St Peter's Ward	11.59
Oadby Grange Ward	*27.97
Oadby Brocks Hill Ward	14.36
Oadby Uplands Ward	14.34
Oadby Woodlands Ward	16.28
Wigston St. Wolstan's Ward	12.47
Wigston All Saints Ward	12.48
South Wigston Ward	11.32
Wigston Meadowcourt Ward	13.33
Wigston Fields Ward	13.64
Average for Oadby and Wigston Borough	14.76
Leicestershire	12.88
East Midlands	12.39

¹ 2001 census data

**The high percentage of 16-19 years olds in Grange Ward includes students living in university accommodation and is therefore not a true reflection of the resident population. This figure also affects the overall average for Oadby and Wigston Borough which stands at 13.31% for the other nine wards.*

Economy

Manufacturing is an important area and is closely linked with that of Leicester city but there is a lack of land for expansion existing industry or inward investment. Major employers are Jacobs Bakery (900 employees), Colorgraphic (Leicester) Ltd. (350), Hays Solutions (500-700), Bupa Hospital (400). Other important local industries include Invicta Plastics, Premier Drum Ltd and Cromwell Tools.

Whilst deprivation is low the former Bassett Ward (now South Wigston Ward) is ranked as the most deprived ward in the Borough. In terms of education the highest percentage of persons aged 16-74 with no qualifications is Wigston Fields Ward at 39.53% and South Wigston Ward at 38.05, this is compared to an average of 28.61% for the Borough and 28.21% for Leicestershire. The former Bassett Ward which forms a large proportion of the current South Wigston ward was ranked within the most 10% of all wards in England, and with regard to child poverty was ranked within the most deprived 20% of wards in England.

Unemployment is above the County average (2.3%) at 2.5% but below that of the East Midlands which is 3.2%. The highest percentage of unemployed persons in the Borough is South Wigston ward at 3.52%, second highest is St Peters Ward at 3.45%, followed by Wigston Fields ward at 3.28 %. In absolute terms levels of deprivation are low but there are some pockets of high deprivation. The average household income in the Borough was £22,000 compared to an average of £22,600 in Leicestershire. There is a net outflow of workers from the Borough into Leicester.

Housing

There are 21,922 households in Oadby and Wigston, the average house price is £93,832 compared to £103,441 in the East Midlands. In January 2004 there were 1302 Council properties and ten registered social landlords providing a stock of 320 home predominantly in South Wigston. There were 859 people on the Council housing waiting list in January 2004. The Council has an over supply of housing land in the current structure plan period, which has necessitated new supplementary planning guidance limiting development in Greenfield sites. The stock of Council houses is diminishing and, as houses become more expensive, there is need for more affordable accommodation. There are tensions between the need to make such provision and the need to preserve green field land.

Health

Generally the health of people living in the Borough is good. A lifestyle survey undertaken in 2002 suggested that asthma was the most prevalent illness in the borough suffered by 19% of those under the age of 17 and 24% of respondents stated that they could not afford all the dental treatment they required. 15.7% of residents who responded have a long term limiting illness and 10.6% of people of working age have a long term limiting illness. 7.4% of people have 'not good' health and 10.45% are providing unpaid care. This is not out of line with such levels in the rest of Leicestershire and lower than rates in the East Midlands as a whole.

Crime

Generally crime rates in the Borough are significantly lower than those of Leicestershire and the East Midlands. In many areas the rate of crime decreased from 1999 – 2001. The 'Fear of Crime' survey 2001 revealed that almost 90% of residents were 'worried or very worried' about violent crime and 88.4% were 'worried or very worried' about youth crime. Antisocial behaviour is an increasing problem whilst crime levels are generally low the fear of crime is a real issue for residents.

Anti-social behaviour has emerged as a key priority over recent years, both locally and nationally. The User Satisfaction Survey 2003 consulted 3,161 residents in their local area. A repeat exercise, in support of the 2004 Audit, consulted 120 businesses and produced responses from 194 residents and 539 young people (who received their own questionnaire). Residents in the Borough think the main problems of anti-social behaviour are vandalism, graffiti, deliberate damage, drunkenness and physical and verbal abuse. Young people are concerned about vandalism as well, but also mentioned drugs, bullying and mugging.

Environment & Sustainability

There are 23 sites of interest for nature conservation in the Borough and two local nature reserves. Brocks Hill in Oadby is a unique environment centre built to demonstrate wind and solar power, photovoltaic, rainwater re-cycling and sewage composting. It is set in 67 acres of country park containing young woodland, meadowland, community orchard, arboretum, play area and human sundial. The Community Planning process cites a Biodiversity Action Plan which covers the whole of the borough in relation to endangered species and habitats. The plan highlights the intention to develop the potential of Brocks Hill Environment Centre as a '*centre of environmental excellence and community activity*'. Visitors to the centre in 03/04 were 23,825, for 04/05 the number was 27,885 and the predicted target for visitor numbers in 2005/06 is 28,500. The built up nature of the Borough, its proximity to major road networks and Leicester city together with travel to work patterns means that the road network is often congested. Residents are concerned about and interested in the environment, and there is active participation in recycling and voluntary groups which work to preserve and enhance the environment such as 'Friends of the Park' groups.

WHAT DOES THE BOROUGH HAVE TO OFFER?

The Borough has a wealth of opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to engage in rewarding cultural activities. These are wide and varied; many are facilities in place to enable sport such as football, tennis and bowls, others provide opportunities for physical recreation such as walking and cycling and others lend themselves to gentle relaxation for reading, picnics or just taking in the wildlife.

Some of these facilities are also being developed to meet the recommendations that local people have stated they wanted to see in the Borough e.g. events, shows, fairs, taster sessions and places for young peoples activities.

Other community venues are being utilised to provide alternative recreation to celebrate the Borough and to share knowledge about its rich and diverse make up of different cultural communities and the valuable heritage and history of ages gone by.

Swimming Pools



Wigston Swimming Pool. Wigston

The Council has two swimming pools, one of which is situated in Wigston and the other is in Oadby.

Both of these pools are managed on behalf of the Council by Leisure Connection PLC under a Management Contract. This Contract commenced in January 1999 and is for a 10 year duration. Brief details of each of the pools are as follows:-

Wigston Swimming Pool

This is situated opposite the mini roundabout junction of Pullman Road and Station Road in Wigston. Wigston is the longest and deepest Local Authority owned pool in Leicestershire and has:-

- A five lane, 33 metre, swimming pool (water depth from 0.9m to 3.5m) (3 feet to 11 feet 6 inches).
- A 65 metre Aqua – Catch Flume.
- Balcony seating area overlooking the pool. (Seating capacity 275)
- Harper Fitness Suite consisting of 20 stations.
- A Sauna Suite with a Cabin.
- A refreshment area and sports bar café.
- Children's soft play area (Pirates in Paradise) to cater for 16 children.

Oadby Swimming Pool

This is situated adjacent to Leicester Road and Sandhurst Street and overlooking Ellis Park in Oadby. The facility has:-

- A five lane, 25 metre x 10 metre deck level swimming pool (water depth 0.9m to 2.0m) (3 feet to 6 feet).
- A spectator area.
- A refreshment area.

Wigston pool is the longest and deepest in Leicestershire which enables it to hold National and Regional events.

Disabled activities are available at both of the swimming pools and they are fitted with easy access steps and hoists.

Leisure Centre

The Council has one Leisure Centre which is known as Parklands Leisure Centre and this is situated on the green wedge which separates Oadby and Wigston. It is therefore geographically positioned at the Centre of the Borough.

This facility is managed on behalf of the Council by Leisure Connection PLC under the terms of a Management Contract. The current Contract commenced in April 1997 and is for a 12 year duration. Brief details of the Leisure Centre are as follows:-

Parklands Leisure Centre

This is situated off the main Wigston Road in Oadby along the recently named Washbrook Lane. The facility has:-

A Main Hall	A Crèche
A Secondary Hall	A Fitness Suite
8 Badminton Courts	A Bar
A Health Suite (Sauna and 2 Sunbeds)	A Large Function Suite
A Cafeteria	



Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby

The Council operates a Leisure Card Scheme across the three sites and the Contractor administers this scheme on behalf of the Council. Leisure Cards are available for both residents and non residents of the Borough and sales of cards have continued to increase such that many people now obtain a reduction in fees for all three facilities.

Brocks Hill Country Park and Environment Centre

Brocks Hill Country Park and Environment Centre opened to the public in April 2001. The Centre has been built close to Parklands Leisure Centre on the green wedge between the townships of Oadby and Wigston and the Country Park effectively protects the green wedge from future housing development.

The project was funded through the Millennium Commission who awarded a sum of £939,000 to be matched by the Council and local sponsorship. The Centre enables the public to see at first hand how a self-sufficient building operates. The building aims to illustrate the design and technology capable of providing complete self sufficiency. It acts as a base for the provision of innovative environmental education for visitors of all ages and provides interpretation on environmental issues so that visitors are influenced to act responsibly in the environment they live in.



Brocks Hill Environment Centre and Country Park, Oadby

The Environment Centre has been designed to be autonomous in its energy needs. The building uses a passive solar design with large areas of south facing glazing and high levels of insulation to reduce heat loss. The integrated energy systems include the UK's first ventilated photovoltaic array, a solar air heating system, an evacuated tube solar hot water system, a dual fuel wood/oil burner and a 20kW wind turbine. Water is collected from the roof of the building and is used for toilet flushing and grey water and sewage is treated on site using a BioDisc sewage treatment plant.

Within the Environment Centre there is:

- An Exhibition Area
- Classroom
- Conservatory
- Office
- Café
- Toilet Facilities

The first floor of the Centre provides office accommodation which is leased to Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

The Country Park has been landscaped and over 18,000 trees planted. The park aims to show how biodiversity can be enhanced through the creation of sustainable landscapes and the creation of wildlife habitats. It provides an educational resource to show visitors how to reap the benefits and resources from the land without harming the environment.

The Country Park contains:-

- A Community Orchard
- Arable Fields
- Lucas' Marsh (a Wetland Nature Reserve)
- An Arboretum
- Wildflower Meadows
- wildlife Ponds
- Children's Play Area

- Human Sundial
- Surfaced all ability paths

The Centre offers a comprehensive programme of events and provides a good range of children's holiday activities. The centre also offers educational visits for Schools and community groups and provides a venue for conferences and meetings. The centre offers a perfect venue for hosting educational and business days.

Examples of some recent activities held at the centre include:-

- **Kite making**
- **Children's crafts**
- **Hanging basket workshop**
- **Rubber stamp workshop**
- **Calligraphy workshop**
- **Weekly Walk for Health Group**
- **Monthly Wildlife Watch Meetings**
- **Apple Day**
- **Allotment Day**
- **Composting days**

Brocks Hill Country Park and Environment Centre is at the end of Washbrook Lane, off Wigston Road in Oadby, close to Parklands Leisure Centre.

Oadby Municipal Golf Course

Oadby Municipal Golf Course is situated on land which is leased to the Council by Leicester Racecourse. This lease extends until 2014 when it next comes up for renewal.

The resident PGA Golf Professional Andrew Wells has responsibility for the course, golf shop and management of the clubhouse. The Oadby Golf Club also operates from the clubhouse premises and it currently has around 200 members. Brief details of the Golf Course facilities are as follows:-

This is situated off the A6 Leicester Road in Oadby and is also easily accessed from the South Leicester Ring Road. The facility has:-

- A pay and play 18 hole golf course set in 140 acres (9 of the 18 holes are located within the adjoining Race Course track and are not available for use on race days).
- Two practice areas.
- A practice putting green.
- Two practice nets.
- A clubhouse containing bar, lounge and dining areas, games room, male and female locker rooms with toilet and shower facilities.
- A fully stocked golf shop and workshop.
- An extensive parking area.
- A mess room with toilet and small kitchen.



Oadby Municipal Golf Course, Oadby

Allotments

The Council has four allotment sites situated throughout the Borough and these are located as follows:-

Aylestone Lane Allotments, Wigston	139 Plots – 3.20 hectares
Wigston Road Allotments, Oadby	127 Plots – 2.77 hectares
Brabazon Road Allotments, Oadby	14 Plots – 0.23 hectares
Manchester Gardens Allotments, Wigston	16 Plots – 0.40 hectares
(There are also 0.80 hectares of Private Allotment Gardens here.)	

There is a toilet block on the Aylestone Lane site, with female and male sections. This toilet block was donated by R F Brookes for use by allottees. It is kept locked but allottees are supplied with a key.

Parks and Sports Grounds

There are currently 15 parks and sports grounds (including 2 significant open spaces with play areas) in the Borough and these cover an area of some 334,320m².

These facilities are listed below:-

- (i) Blaby Road Park, South Wigston (5.66 hectares) – this has a pavilion, bowling green, multi purpose ball court, 2 children's play areas and 2 football pitches. A cricket pitch and skate board park is also available in the park.

The pavilion is of brick construction with a pitched metal roof, high small windows, double shutter doors, kitchen, changing rooms and toilets. It is currently used as a meeting room, bowls headquarters, sports changing rooms and a polling station.

- (ii) William Gunning Park, South Wigston (1.84 hectares) – this has a children's play area and a football pitch.

- (iii) Freers Park (1.25 hectares) – this has a children's play area and a number of young peoples activities e.g. Basket ball/football facilities.
The Poplars community centre is located adjacent to the park.

- (iv) Peace Memorial Park, Wigston (0.99 hectares) – this has a new pavilion, bowling green and has a multi purpose ball court which includes tennis. The whole park has been re-designed and a new pavilion provided using Heritage Lottery funding.

The new pavilion is circular in shape and is clad in cedar wood. It has won an award from the Royal Society of British Architects for its unique design and appearance. There is also a toilet block on the site.



Peace memorial Park, Wigston

- (v) Willow Park, Wigston (5.49 hectares) – this has a pavilion, tennis court, basket ball court, children's play area, skateboarding park, BMX track, 2 football pitches and a jogging track. ~An unfenced section of equipment for older children which includes gym style facilities.

The pavilion is of brick construction with a pitched tiled roof, small high level windows, changing facilities and toilets. There is also a toilet block on the site.

- (vi) Horsecwell Lane Recreation Ground, Wigston (3.46 hectares) – this has a pavilion, children's play area and 3 football pitches.

The pavilion consists of a wooden single storey structure with a flat roof, some windows, single doors, kitchen, locker room, changing room, showers, toilets, main hall and storage areas. The facility is well used as a crèche, for football and a venue for discos and many other events.

- (vii) The Meadows Public Open Space, Wigston (1.84 hectares) – this has a children's play area.

- (viii) Florence Wragg Way Public Open Space, Oadby (0.03 hectares) this has a children's play area.

- (ix) Hayes Park, Wigston (0.95 hectares) – this has a children's play area.

- (x) Ellis Park, Oadby (1.20 hectares) – this has a pavilion, bowling green, 3 tennis courts and a children's play area.

The pavilion is a single storey wooden structure with large and small windows, double entrance doors and a flat roof. It contains a meeting and social room, toilets, kitchen, storage area, and locker room. It is only utilised by the Oadby Bowls Club.

- (xi) Rosemead Drive Park, Oadby (0.57 hectares) – this has a children's play area.

- (xii) Uplands Road Park, Oadby (6.10 hectares) – this has a pavilion which is used by a number of community groups, the parks has 5 football pitches, 2 cricket pitches, a children's play area and a skate board facility.

The pavilion consists of a brick building, with a pitched tiled roof, single doors, double patio doors, small windows, veranda, kitchen, function room, boiler room and a storage room.

- (xiii) Coombe Park, Oadby (5.67 hectares) this has changing facilities (a portacabin), 3 football pitches, a children's play area and a community orchard/arboretum. The Council is currently actively working on a scheme to provide a new pavilion which would be hired out by the community for various activities.



Coombe Park, Oadby

- (xiv) Iliffe Avenue Park, Oadby (0.25 hectares) – this has a children's play area.
- (xv) London Road Park, Oadby (0.13 hectares) – this has a children's play area.

Other open Space Developments

On the 31st January 2003 the Council completed purchasing 0.96 hectares of land alongside the Grand Union Canal in Wigston for use as a Nature Reserve.

There is a proposal being looked at to develop a Country Park in Oadby arising from the new development on Florence Wragg Way. This will enable people who live in Oadby to connect to the bridleways and footpaths into the open countryside towards Stoughton. The park will also provide access for dog walkers to take a local circular walk.

The Borough Council considers it important that local people have good access to play and open space close to where they live in order to achieve a healthy and sustainable community. Therefore, the consideration of such facilities should be an integral part of any new housing development and the Borough Council has prepared supplementary planning guidance which requires £1959.00 per dwelling in lieu of open space provision where this cannot be provided on site

Libraries, Museums and Records Office

The Borough has a number of Libraries that are overseen by the Leicestershire County Council. These are:-

- **Oadby Library, Sandhurst St. Oadby**
- **Wigston Library, Bull Head St. Wigston**
- **South Wigston Library and Bassett Community Centre, Bassett St. Sth. Wigston**
- **County Records Office – Leicester Road, Wigston**



Bassett Centre – South Wigston

Framework Knitters Museum, Bushloe End. Wigston

The Council has the leasehold of this building and it is a museum of Framework Knitting. There is a detached workshop Circa 1880 with knitting frames in situ and a large garden. The building is listed and consists of a two storey brick master hosiers house of 17th century origins with 18th and 19th century alterations. The property is currently managed by a Building Preservation Trust.



Framework Knitters Museum, Wigston

Helping Hands Advice Centre – South Wigston and Oadby

The Council currently provides funding through its Corporate Grant opportunities to provide two community Advice Centres:-

- **Blaby Road, South Wigston**
- **Leicester Road, Oadby**