

Oadby Stakeholders Forum

Terms of Reference

- The representatives of the interested parties to listen to one another to understand each other's role, needs and aspirations.
- To find out what is already being done by the various groups in Oadby and to make suggestions and connections as to how such work could be developed.
- To explore what facilities and opportunities currently exist in Oadby and to discern if they can be used more effectively.
- To foster a sense of common purpose by identifying projects whereby the whole community could benefit from a partnership approach.
- To seek to work together where so doing could achieve more than working individually.
- To develop a community life which reflects the multi-cultural and multi-faith dimensions of modern Oadby and which enables the whole community to flourish.

1. Where have we come from?

Oadby was a village until 40 years ago. It had a population of approximately 3000. It was a tight-knit community with everyone knowing everyone else. Since the 1960s Oadby has grown rapidly, with new housing springing up with each successive decade. By the year 2000 the population had jumped to 20,000. Moreover the population was becoming multi-cultural, reflecting the changing face of Leicester city itself. The 2001 census gives an accurate reflection of the specific age span, cultural and faith diversity of each of Oadby's five wards. The explosive growth in housing in Oadby, however, was not accompanied by an equal emphasis on public buildings. The more recent estates have no public buildings at all, so the character of Oadby is one of modern suburbia.

2. The problems which this generates are now becoming evident. Attractive housing is fine when those who live in them are of working age and in good health. But once old age and poor health sets in the isolation of individuals within Oadby can become very acute. No one group has got an overall picture of how many isolated individuals there are, but each group will be able to recount instances of this. The high price of land and its acute shortage now within the borough means that even when new public buildings are needed - for example a library, a community hall, a mosque - it is difficult to enable these obvious needs to be met. The situation is

not helped by the fact the Council does not own the shops on the Parade and therefore cannot allocate anything there as public space. The net result is that it is very hard to find a heart to Oadby. There are communities, and communities within communities, all of which have some experience of what it means to live in Oadby, and all of whom have something to contribute to make life better for the more vulnerable members of our society. It is commonly agreed that the groups who lose out the most in the modern Oadby are the elderly and the young. There are few public buildings outside of schools where teenagers can go, and with such a high population of young people in the borough this remains a major concern.