# Wigston residents outraged over council's £10,500 sign expenditure



Residents of Wigston, Leicestershire are rightfully furious after the local council’s decision to spend over £10,500 on a flashy Hollywood-style sign, deemed by many as an extravagant waste of taxpayer resources. With public funds being squandered on such frivolities, it’s no wonder locals feel disconnected from the decisions being made on their behalf.

The council’s ill-advised expenditure only came to light following a Freedom of Information request, with many residents expressing their outrage online. "Who decides where our money goes? I don't recall being asked for my thoughts," said one disgruntled local, directly highlighting the council's lack of consultation.

The Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has attempted to justify the installation by claiming it will promote a sense of "local pride and identity." But this justification rings hollow amid growing concerns over more pressing issues that the council has chosen to ignore. Interestingly, local MP Neil O'Brien has been vocal in criticizing what he calls a "wasteful" expenditure, pointing out that residents "deserve better," especially when the council has plans to remove litter bins from the district.

The outrage is palpable as residents question the priorities of their elected officials. “Complete waste of money. Why is there even a grant for this nonsense? It shows the council is completely out of touch,” lamented one community member, clearly frustrated by the neglect of core services. Many argue that funds could have been better spent on essential needs like free parking, maintaining the high street, or refurbishing public parks.

In a clear attempt to placate residents, the council shared a video celebrating the sign's construction on their social media, boasting of other minor "improvements" around town. Yet this effort backfired, with locals expressing their disdain in the comments. One frustrated individual branded it "another waste of taxpayer money," to which the council responded with an inadequate reminder of how competitive funding applications work. But local scepticism remains high, particularly as the community grapples with neglected public spaces and the looming threat of vandalism against the new sign.

Concerns are compounded by the glaring discrepancies between indulgent spending and crucial public amenities; many locals are still mourning the loss of park benches, crumbling skate parks, and disintegrating rubbish bins. The council’s prioritization of a gaudy sign amid these issues only fuels the narrative that it is deeply out of touch with the community’s real needs, particularly as paid parking is rolled out in once free areas.

With the dissatisfaction mounting, it is now a critical time for the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. They must confront the disappointment felt by residents and reevaluate their strategies, as the apparent disconnect between council initiatives and community priorities becomes ever more glaring. It remains uncertain whether they can effectively address these growing grievances or if they will continue down a path of misguided expenditures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/oa...> - This URL could potentially support information related to Freedom of Information requests, which are mentioned in the article as the means by which the council's expenditure became public knowledge. However, no specific request is found related to the Wigston sign.
* <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester...> - This part of the URL suggests it could be from the Leicester Mercury, a local news source that might cover stories about the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and potential community reactions to local decisions.
* <https://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/> - The official website of the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council could provide information on council decisions, including the installation of the Hollywood-style sign and responses to community feedback.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/> - This URL could provide insights into statements or questions raised by local MP Neil O'Brien regarding council spending and decisions.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-freedom-of-information-requests> - This URL offers guidance on making Freedom of Information requests, which were used to uncover the council's expenditure on the sign.