

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillors N Brown (in the Chair), R Berrington (substituting for Amanda Hack), Mrs A Ambrose, R Waterton, and local residents Mr R Tilley, Mrs J Tilley, Mrs S Zastawny, Mr J Hazelgrove, Mrs B Hazelgrove, Mr T Smith, Mr J Johnson, Mrs C Bromey, Mrs C Read, Mr K Hammersley and Mrs J White

Officers in attendance: Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk, Mrs P Snow Deputy Executive Officer & Community Services Manager

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amanda Hack and Mrs B Copson

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2016

Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd June 2016 were received and noted.

4. Braunstone Town Council Annual Survey Results

It was noted that the Annual Survey closed on 31st August and the results circulated to members. It past years approximately 20 responses were received but this year 55 responses had been received. Local residents agreed that it was very important to support the continuation of the Braunstone Town library and the Shakespeare Park Improvement Project. Members were asked to consider alternative methods of consulting with residents or increasing the number of respondents to the survey, particularly with residents of Thorpe Astley.

5. Braunstone Town Library

Members noted that proposed changes to the library lease received from Leicestershire County Council had been forwarded to the Town Council's solicitors for consideration. As the lease discussions were between Braunstone Town Council and Leicestershire County Council no discussion could be held on what these changes involved. However, it was noted that any request for a sub-lease had not yet been considered until the main changes to the lease had been considered. The solicitors recommendations regarding the changes to the lease would then be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee.

It was also noted that any discussions on the running of the library and services provided were between Leicestershire County Council and Fabula and Braunstone Town Council was not involved in these and, therefore, could not comment on the proposals for the running of the library in the future.

Members of the Citizen's Advisory Panel expressed great concern regarding the library and current proposals including the situation with current staff at the library, financial situation of Fabula and its ability to pay the lease, child protection for young people and the reduction in the scope and number of books that will be available for the public to access. It was confirmed that Braunstone Town Council could not comment on these concerns as they were not part of the discussions as these were strictly between Fabula and the County Council.

It was noted that details of costs for Braunstone Town Council to provide shared services such as staff, cleaning, internet etc had been forwarded to Fabula for consideration but had been declined.

Discussions were held on what Fabula proposed to do in the library and what services they would be providing. As neither the residents or Braunstone Town Council had information on this, it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with Fabula and representatives of Braunstone Town Council to discuss community concerns including the provision and scope of books for adults, access to community computers and child protection issues when the library was open to the public. Discussions on financial matters were between Fabula and Leicestershire County Council only. It was agreed that notes would be taken clarifying the position and reported back to the Citizen's Advisory Panel at a future date.

6. Shakespeare Park Improvement Project

Members had an opportunity to view the proposed project and layout. It was noted that the Shakespeare Park Improvement Project had now reached the public consultation stage. Draft architect layout plans, lighting proposals, layout for the playground and access plans for the construction work had been received and had been endorsed by the Shakespeare Park Improvement Project Working Group. Public consultation on the proposed project would take place between 1st and 23rd September including Braunstone Town Council website, display at Braunstone Civic Centre, drop-in event at Braunstone Civic Centre on 20th September between 5pm and 8pm and wider consultation with the bowls and football club members. Details of the amended timescales were noted.

Queries were made into the height of the trees backing onto Avon Road properties and whether these would be reduced in height during the proposed work.

7. Customer Services - Survey

It was noted that a Customer Services survey was currently in progress and responses received to date were circulated. To date the responses were very positive about the services and staff on the reception at Braunstone Civic Centre. The Survey would continue until 30th September.

8. Neighbourhood Planning

It had been suggested that Braunstone Town Council consider undertaking Neighbourhood Planning and the details of Neighbourhood Planning had been circulated to members. Members were asked to consider the merit of undertaking this and noted that it would be a significant undertaking and would need active community engagement to be successful. An undertaking of this size would require 3 – 4 years of work but it was noted that several local town/parish councils were currently undertaking their own Neighbourhood Planning. Members were asked to contact the Town Council if they were interested in actively helping with the Neighbourhood Plan if it was decided to proceed with.

9. Termination of the Meeting

Future dates for the Citizen’s Advisory Panel were noted.

The meeting closed at 20.55pm.

SIGNED _____ (CHAIR)

DATE _____