

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Councillors P Moitt (in the Chair), A Ambrose, N Brown, R Waterton, and local residents, Mr J Dodd, Mrs B Hazelgrove, Mr J Hazelgrove, Mr Jim Johnson, Mr John Johnson and Terry Smith.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Shepherd and local residents Mrs N Blight, Mrs J Tilley, Mr R Tilley and Mrs J White.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th September 2017

The Minutes of Meeting held on 7th September 2017 were received and noted.

4. Braunstone Town Council Annual Survey Results

The Panel received the collated results and responses from the Annual Survey 2017. It was noted that, despite an extension to the deadline date, only 15 responses had been received. Members commented on the responses received about litter in the Town. It was noted that local football teams using the pitches were aware that part of the Pitch Allocation Policy was to ensure that litter was cleared up after matches.

5. Review of Consultation and Surveys

The Panel were asked to consider ideas for undertaking the annual survey and other consultation exercises. It was noted that responses for the annual survey were very low and consideration had been made on other ideas to consider for consultation with local residents. Face to face interaction with local residents was the most effective way of encouraging them to complete surveys and the Town Council held several suitable events during the year where consultation could take place.

Other suggestions for expanding the methods of consultation were also discussed by the Panel, such as a direct approach to hirers.

6. Update on Braunstone Town Library

Members of the Panel noted that the Braunstone Town Library was still currently being run by Leicestershire County Council. The Braunstone Town Community Library group were struggling to recruit volunteers and trustees for the running of the library and it was uncertain if the group would now take over the running of the Library. The Panel were advised that the offers made by Braunstone Town Council to directly run the library was still open for Leicestershire County Council to consider.

7. Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning

The Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning of the Town Council was circulated to members. The Plan set out the operation of the Council and its future objectives along with the increasing financial pressures facing the organisation in the forthcoming years.

Members of the Panel acknowledged the pressures facing the Town Council, particularly with the loss of £45,000 of Council Tax Support Grant, and supported the approach which struck a balance between identifying efficiency savings while increasing the precept in order to protect services.

8. Council Objectives

Details of the Town Council's Priorities and Objectives for 2017/2018 had been circulated for the Panel's information. It was noted that the Citizen's Advisory Panel was not included in the Community Development Objectives and was agreed to include this.

9. Capital Plan

The Braunstone Town Capital plan 2017/2018 was circulated to members and noted (item 9 on the agenda).

10. 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I

It was noted that the Community Development Committee had agreed to the co-ordination of community projects to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War in 2018. The Town Council was happy to support groups with the provision of space at either Braunstone Civic Centre or Thorpe Astley Community Centre or local open spaces and parks for community events to take place. It was also noted that a recommendation had been forwarded to the Policy & Resources Committee for a budget of £1000 to be included in the 2018/2019 budget to allow groups to apply for small grants of up to £200 to provide financial support for groups/events for commemorative projects. If approved, the grants would be available from 1st April 2018.

A project had already been instigated for residents to knit or crochet poppies that would then be used to make a display at the Braunstone Civic Centre and Thorpe Astley Community Centre. The aim was to collect over 7000 poppies and completed poppies could be left at Braunstone Civic Centre for collection by the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group.

11. Shakespeare Park Improvement Project

Members noted that planning permission had now been received for the new pavilion at Shakespeare Park. The tender documents, business plan and business case were being drafted up and initial works on the project were expected to commence in Spring 2018.

It was suggested that any trees or hedges that would be removed in the early stages should be removed off sight before spring due to nesting birds which could delay works.

12. Health and GP Services in Braunstone Town

The Panel noted that discussions were still being held with the Clinical Commissioning Group regarding the provision of health services at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. Discussions with the service providers have appeared promising to date and it is hoped that some health care provision for the short to medium term may be provided at the centre from Spring 2018.

13. Lubbethorpe

An update on the current position regarding the Lubbethorpe development was received. It was noted that 45 houses were now complete and some occupied but provision for an onsite health centre would not be available until 900 houses were occupied.

The number of speed humps on the Lubbethorpe side of the bridge would be reduced as house frontages were completed. Panel members expressed concern that the removal of the speed humps would increase traffic volume over the bridge and noted that Section 106 traffic safety measures was still in the planning stage.

14. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

SIGNED _____ (CHAIR)

DATE _____