



BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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TO ALL ELECTORS OF BRAUNSTONE TOWN

ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

YOU are invited to take part. It will be held at
Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway, Braunstone Town

THURSDAY, 16TH MAY 2019

at 7.30pm

Chairperson:
Councillor S. Betts, Town Mayor

The Towns Meeting may by law discuss all town affairs
and pass resolutions about them

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Towns Meeting 10th May 2018 (Enclosed)
3. Town Mayor's Report 2018/2019 (Enclosed)
4. Town Council Accounts and Budgets (Enclosed)
5. Leader's Report – Achievements 2018/19 and Priorities for 2019/20 (Enclosed)
6. Braunstone Town Heritage Warden's Report 2018/2019 (Enclosed)

Signed:

Councillor S. Betts, Town Mayor

Dated: 8th May 2019

**There will be an opportunity to meet local Councillors later
in the evening**

BRAUNSTONE TOWN

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

Held on THURSDAY 10TH MAY 2018 at 7.30pm

In the Chair, Councillor Bill Wright, Town Mayor.
There were 20 persons present at the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Berrington, Alex Dewinter, Sam Fox-Kennedy Berneta Layne and Tracey Shepherd and from John Dodd (Heritage Warden).

2. Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting – 11th May 2017

The Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting held on 11th May 2017 were circulated with the agenda, which was made available to all persons present, and were taken as read.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting held on 11th May 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

3. Town Mayor's Report 2017/2018

A report had been circulated with the agenda summarising the following:

- Community Activities;
- Community Achievement;
- Thorpe Astley;
- Programme of Events;
- Summer Fete;
- Anniversaries/Civic Events;
- Curry Night; and
- Town Mayor's Charity – Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People.

Councillor Bill Wright, Town Mayor for 2017/2018, reported on activities during his Mayoral year:

"Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Towns Meeting. This meeting gives residents of the Town an opportunity to reflect on the activities in our Town over the past year and look ahead to the forthcoming year. Later this evening, the Full Council will consider the Annual Report of the Town Council which details our achievements over the past 12 months and sets out our proposed activities for the next 12 months and the Leader of the Council will highlight some of these in his report".

“For myself as Town Mayor it has been a very memorable year. It is a privilege and an honour to be chosen to serve for the third time as Town Mayor, a role which has served the people of the Town for 40 years”.

“It has been a privilege during my year to experience first-hand the hard work and dedication of many in our community who serve and support the needs of others and are committed to making our Town a vibrant place in which to live”.

“I was invited to attend many events to celebrate, honour and recognise achievements of our residents and these are detailed in the report, which you have as part of your agenda for this meeting”.

“The 22nd Town Mayor’s Annual Awards of merit on Friday 20th April was an opportunity for me to thank the groups who had joined me in putting on the programme events which this year raised funds of £1,867 for local groups and good causes”.

“The event was also an opportunity to recognise the deserving unsung heroes of our community, whose efforts and service has made a real difference to people’s lives and the life of our community. Through the Town Mayor’s Award of Merit I recognised the work of five individuals and a community group:

- Jack Haselgrove – In recognition of his work on the authorship of the commemorative history book on Braunstone in the 1920s & 30s, providing a fascinating account into how life changed when the small manor village quickly grew into a sub-urban community.
- Pat & Eddie Bates – In recognition of their work on the display cabinet here at Braunstone Civic Centre.
- Braunstone Town Heritage Archive Group – In recognition of the group’s work in the community, preserving and making available, archive history of Braunstone Town.
- Jackie Stamp – In recognition of her service to the Braunstone Life and Braunstone West Social Centre.
- Lisa Scroby – In recognition of her volunteer work delivering the Braunstone Life for over 14 years”.

“I hope that the Town Council will continue to play a central role for many years to come in helping to bring people together and promoting the strong sense of community spirit that I have encountered”.

“Earlier on the same day as my Awards Night, I undertook the official ribbon cutting for the opening of the Kingsway GP Branch Surgery at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. The new branch surgery received its first patients on Monday 30th April and will initially be open on Mondays and Thursdays. The Leader, I’m sure, will talk more about this in his report, but I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in making this happen and to wish the partners and staff at Kingsway Surgery the very best with making this new and welcome service a success”.

“On a personal note, I am grateful that my year as Town Mayor has given me the opportunity to raise the profile of my charity, Rainbows, which provides care and support to life-limited children and their families. I toured the hospice in June witnessing first-hand the dignity and courage of the children, family and staff”.

“Fundraising for my charity has included my charity abseil and my charity Curry Night as well as proceeds from the Programme of Events. At these event and the others in the programme of events throughout the year, the generous people of Braunstone Town have helped me in raising £3,003 for Rainbows. I wish to thank everyone for supporting these events, especially the Fire & Rescue Service and Chef & Spice who helped me organise two memorable and successful charity fundraisers. It truly is a remarkable amount which has been raised for a very worthy cause”.

“I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their support over the year, in particular to my consort Sharon who has been there supporting me in this important role every step of the way”.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the next Town Mayor a most enjoyable and successful year”.

4. Town Council Accounts and Budgets

Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of the Council, reported on the Town Council’s financial position. The Town Council’s Accounts and Budget Report was circulated with the agenda, which was made available to all persons present, and were taken as read.

5. Leader’s Report – Achievements 2017/18 and Priorities for 2018/19

A report had been circulated with the agenda, which was made available to all persons present. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, reported on the Town Council’s achievements during 2017/2018 and looked ahead to the Town Council’s priorities for 2018/2019. A copy of the draft Annual Report for 2017/2018, due for consideration and adoption at Annual Council, was also circulated.

Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development

“Following last year’s public consultation for our ambitious proposals to improve the pavilion, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park, we finalised the site layout and the plans for the new sports pavilion and in the autumn we received planning approval. We have received and are assessing tenders for the construction works of the pavilion and redesign of the site and in the forthcoming months we anticipate that we will be in a position to appoint a contractor”.

“In addition to our own funds, we are seeking Sport England funding and external sponsorship towards this project which will greatly improve the sporting provision as well as the playground and tennis courts provision”.

“In the current financial climate, it is proving difficult to access external sources of funding as quickly as we would have liked and this has resulted in delays to the timescales for delivery of the project. However, the Town Council continues to work hard with its partners to move the project forward to the delivery stage and we remain confident that work will commence on the site in the late summer”.

“With an anticipated construction of around 12 months, once complete, the site will host improved play facilities, including provision of sensory play equipment, improved tennis courts, extended car parking and a new sports pavilion facility including modern changing facilities and a multi-function, multi-purpose club room, meeting room and social facility”.

Access to NHS General Practice Services

“Since the autumn of 2016, the Town Council has been working on behalf of concerned local residents representing their concerns to the NHS about issues of access and availability of General Practitioners at local GP surgeries. Given the concern, I was delighted that Stephen Sampson, Practice Manager of Kingsway Surgery agreed to speak to Town Councillors about his plans for the surgery at Policy & Resources Committee in August. I would like to thank Stephen for taking the time to talk to us about the issues the surgery has faced and their plans to resolve these, which include a new bookings system, more appointments and clinics, participating in recruitment initiatives and provision of information to patients”.

“Following that meeting, Kingsway Surgery presented ambitious proposals to the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, ourselves and Blaby District Council to address many of the problems residents have identified when accessing GP services by utilising the unused NHS facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre from spring of this year”.

“Residents have consistently told us about the difficulties they face in accessing GP services and the Thorpe Astley Community Appraisal identified that provision of a Doctors Surgery and Health Facilities was the top priority, supported by 93.3% of respondents. Since Thorpe Astley Community Centre opened in 2010, the Town Council has put considerable effort in terms of time and resources working with the NHS to achieve the delivery of health services from the Community Centre”.

“Therefore, I am delighted that during the year we made significant progress with the NHS to ensure that the unused medical rooms at Thorpe Astley Community Centre would be utilised for much needed GP services from April 2018. The new Kingsway branch surgery received its first patients on Monday 30th April and will initially be open on Mondays and Thursdays. However, the practice is hoping to offer more appointments as patient demand grows. The Thorpe Astley service offers patients registered at Kingsway Surgery GP appointments, practice nurse clinics and a minor surgery clinic”.

“The Town Council is grateful to Kingsway Surgery for their positive and sensible approach in expanding their provision to meet increasing demand and we look forward to working with them to ensure that this service is both successful and sustainable”.

Braunstone Town Library

“Residents will be aware of the work that had been undertaken to transfer Braunstone Town Library to a local group, “Braunstone Town Community library”.

The group was set up by Fabula, a social enterprise who had been developing plans for the future management of the library. During the latter part of 2017, for a number of reasons, Braunstone Town Community Library Group came to the conclusion that pursuing the management of the library was no longer feasible”.

“Therefore, at the end of 2017, the Town Council was approached by Leicestershire County Council to ascertain whether it remained interested in running the Library, which was confirmed by Policy & Resources Committee in February 2018. The County Council’s Cabinet on 9th March approved the Town Council’s outline proposals to take over management of the Library service, while the County Council continues to meet its long-term lease obligations. Since then, both Councils have been in transfer discussions based on proposals submitted by the Town Council in September 2015”.

“This is good news for the Town since this decision at last secures the future of our library after years of uncertainty. Transfer however will not take place until later in the year as the legal agreements and detailed arrangements needed to ensure that the transfer is successful take time to be prepared”.

“I know the future of our Library is important to many residents and I will keep you updated with progress”.

Community Centres

“We have invested this year in improvements to the fabric of both our community centres with the installation of dado rails and by undertaking internal and external decorating. Due to financial pressures (see below), many of the capital projects were put on hold, however, in the forthcoming year we plan to refurbish the toilet facilities at the Civic Centre, while making improvements to the kitchen and storage facilities at the Civic Centre bar to enable it to also operate as a café providing a social and meeting place for the community on weekdays”.

Thorpe Astley Open Spaces

“During the year we completed the legal transfer and took possession of public open space at Thorpe Astley from Persimmon Homes. We have completed transfer arrangements with Barrett Homes. Therefore, we are in a position during 2018/19 to complete the legal transfer of open spaces at Thorpe Astley to the Town Council in order to enable future investment and improvement to the facilities, including ensuring improvements are implemented to the Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park”.

Highway Safety at Thorpe Astley

“On Thursday 22nd June 2017, the Planning & Environment Committee considered issues of parking and speeding on streets of Thorpe Astley and the impact upon air pollution from congestion on Lubbesthorpe Way. 25 members of the public attended and contributed to the meeting”.

“As a result the Town Council is working hard through its membership of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board to ensure that measures to improve the

crossing points on Meridian Way are brought forward now that the bridge over the M1 to Lubbethorpe has opened”.

“Additionally, local Town Councillors and residents collected over 220 signatures, for submission to Leicestershire County Council to request a Community Speedwatch scheme in Thorpe Astley, which was approved and will operate during September 2018. A community group is being established and the Town Council will work with them to identify locations for our speed sign in order to assist the scheme”.

100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1

“During the year the Community Life Group brought members of the community together to plan and organise community events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 in November 2018”.

“To date, the group have already achieved a considerable amount, having already made some 3,000 poppies for a poppy cascade at Braunstone Civic Centre. The group’s proposals include a parade from St. Crispin’s Church to the Civic Centre on Remembrance Sunday and ideas to improve the Memorial Garden”.

“The group is made up of various sections of the community and are bringing people together with ideas for the whole community to commemorate the anniversary. The Town Council is delighted to be working with the community to commemorate the anniversary and have identified funding to support community groups organise events”.

Financial Risks and Pressures

“In my report last year I highlighted that Blaby District Council had voted to end the payment to parish and town councils of the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant and New Homes Bonus from April 2018, in order to plug a gap in their own finances. The loss of this income, along with existing financial pressures faced by the Town Council equated to an approximate increase of 17% on the Town Council’s share of Council Tax bills. For a typical Band B household, the equivalent of paying around £15 per year extra”.

“During the year we worked hard to identify ways to protect the services which many in the Town value, while finding ways to deliver these services and run our operations more efficiently, an approach supported by the Town’s Citizens’ Advisory Panel at its December meeting”.

“In January the Council set its budget and was able to protect all of its front line services while identifying slightly over £10,000 per annum of ongoing savings, and £55,000 of our reserves over the next two years, in order to minimise the impact of Blaby’s decision on local tax payers, which has enabled us to reduce the increase in Council Tax for 2018/2019 to 9.7%, the equivalent of around £8.15 on a typical band B property for the year”.

“I would like to thank residents for their understanding and support for our approach which strikes a balance between protecting services, making savings and

increasing Council Tax. Nonetheless, the use of our reserves to spread the impact on residents following Blaby's decision will impact upon the Council's finances and ability to deliver capital investment over the next 3 to 5 years".

Update Reports

"Updates on the above matters are published in a regular Leader's report in the Braunstone Life and on the Council's website".

6. Braunstone Town Heritage Warden's Report 2017/2018

The Heritage Warden's Report for 2017/2018 was circulated with the agenda:

Natural Environment

"The only certain thing is the uncertainty of our weather! Again this year has been totally opposite to last year, plenty of cold weather and snow delaying the start of spring".

"Despite some vandalism to the pond, several primary school classes have enjoyed a mixture of events in the orchard area of Franklin Park, orienteering, pond dipping and nature hunts. Fortunately, the weather was sunny. The school children showed their appreciation by sending in drawings and notes of their experiences particularly the discovery of a fish, a first for our pond".

"During February 2018 we carried out some much-needed pruning to the apple trees, we will wait and see how successful that will be next Apple Day".

"It is rewarding to see that the Wildlife Watch Group that I help start in 2010 is still going strong. A lot of the original youngsters are still attending passing on their nature skills to a new set of children. They still use the Franklin and Mosssdale Meadow parks for their main activities, a superb asset provided by our Town Council".

Built Environment

"The New Lubbethorpe development has started to expand and the new bridge over the M1 and new spine road have opened. So far, no further archaeological discoveries have come to light. I have raised concerns over the future of the Abbey Farm and Hopyard Farm buildings, but I have been assured that when they are vacated they will be preserved and used for community use".

"As you are all aware I'm still the Chairman of Braunstone Heritage Archive Group (BHAG) and this compliments most of my Heritage Warden Duties. Our small dedicated team have attracted a few more members during the last twelve months and several others have promised to attend our Wednesday afternoon meeting when they can".

"We have now settled into our workroom at Paul Pender's Shakespeare. Each week we have/are holding three-day sessions which have allowed us to prepare various visuals for the various projects we are involved with. Although we had

intended to use the Shakespeare for our meetings the growing numbers of members have made it impractical to hold our weekly meetings there, so we are now back at the Civic Centre for our Wednesday afternoon meetings”.

“The publication by the Town Council of BHAG member Jack Haselgrove’s book entitled “When Life was Transformed In Braunstone” to mark the 90th anniversary of the formation of Braunstone Civil Parish. The book follows research by BHAG members into the old Parish Minute Books held at the Civic Centre”.

“This project has inspired our group to embark on a project to provide displays of local and national events for the years 1927 to 1939 to be mounted in the large notice boards at the Civic Centre. We hope to produce a further book covering the years 1940 to 1950”.

“This project has been nominated for an award from the national “Community Archives & Heritage Group” under the “Gathering Heritage” category, winners will be announced at their annual conference in Birmingham on 10th July”.

“Another heritage project we are undertaking is an exhibition to mark the 850th anniversary of the creation of St Peter’s Church due on 23rd 24th June”.

“This is a joint project with Braunstone History Group based at the Brite Centre”.

“We are covering the events happening in the 12, 13,14,15,16 and 17 centuries”.

“Another project we are involved with is the commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the First World War. This theme is used in our display cabinet at the Civic Centre and will form the basis of our exhibition stand at the summer fete and during the week leading up to the 11th November. As Heritage Warden I have been asked to support a separate project to provide a “Waterfall” of handmade poppies to hang from the outside wall of the Council Chamber. This hopefully will be a joint project with the Town Council and “Community Life” group”.

“Like last year my Heritage Report would not be complete without a reference to Braunstone Town Library, this year is no exception. After two years of little or no progress Fabula have decided to drop out of their arrangement with the County Council. Eventually the County Council have given the running of our library to our Braunstone Town Council, phew! We can now look forward to cooperating with the Town Council in providing a superb community library and community hub, hopefully with a section devoted to Braunstone’s history”.

“Finally, can I extend my and BHAG’s thanks to the Town Council for their continued support of the Heritage Warden facility and to BHAG”.

7. Termination of Meeting

The Town Mayor thanked those present for attending and with no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

16th MAY 2019

Item 3 – Town Mayor’s Report 2018/2019

I (Councillor Sharon Betts) took up the role of Braunstone Town Mayor for the second time on 10th May 2018 and I have attended numerous functions to date to celebrate, commemorate and support a wide variety of events in Braunstone Town, Blaby and Leicestershire.

It has been a privilege and an honour to have been chosen to serve as first citizen and experience first-hand the hard work and dedication of many in our community who serve and support the needs of others. We have a wide variety of activities and proactive community groups and it has been a real privilege to meet and see the vital work of our volunteers who are committed to making the Town a vibrant place to live.

Thank you also to the groups who joined me in putting on the Programme of Events, which raised funds for local groups and good causes.

I also had the opportunity to organise events in aid of my Mayoral Charity for the year, RSPB Leicestershire Branch, Woodside Animal Centre.

Community Activities

Early in my year I was made very welcome at the Vaisakhi Event on 12th May at Braunstone Civic Centre. Also, the Diwali Celebration, Friday 26th October was a good and enjoyable community event.

In addition, I was invited to attend and support the Ravenhurst after school fete on Friday 22nd June and the Allotment Society Open Day on Saturday 11th August.

Community Achievement

Throughout the year I have attended many events that have taken place to celebrate, honour and recognise achievements of our residents, many deserving unsung heroes of our community.

On Friday 26th April I hosted my Award’s Evening. I am honoured to have met so many local residents and to have seen the work of our local groups and organisations at the heart of our community life, many work hard to raise funds for their ongoing work and it has been very humbling to see the work that volunteers undertake in our community to help those less fortunate.

The Town Mayor's Awards of Merit scheme has now been running since 1997. The Awards are an opportunity to recognise and thank the residents that contribute to the community and who really make a difference to other people's lives. This year I was delighted to award the following residents and groups with an Award of Merit:

- Betty Power, Vi Steele and Jean Storer – in recognition of their work in the community of Braunstone Town undertaking litter picking and planting bulbs
- Bryan and Betty Copson – in recognition of their work in the community of Braunstone Town and St Crispin's Church
- Lin Burrows and Debbie Kenney – in recognition of their hard work in organising the Poppy Cascade and Remembrance Parade to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War

On behalf of myself and the residents of the Town, I would like to thank all these Award winners for the work they do in our community.

Programme of Events

Thank you to the groups who joined me in putting on the Programme of Events, which raised funds for local groups and good causes. I hope that the Town Council will continue to play such a central role for many years to come in helping to bring people together and promoting the strong sense of community spirit that I have encountered.

Events for the Christmas season included Christmas quiz and games night and carol services. The Christmas Craft Fair held at Braunstone Civic Centre on Saturday 24th November provided net proceeds to my charity, Woodside Animal Centre.

A Fashion Show was held on Friday 15th March with net proceeds being donated to my chosen charity, Woodside Animal Centre.

Summer Fete

The Town's annual Summer Fete was held on 28th July on Mossdale Meadows, which was a bit blustery, nevertheless it was supported by many local volunteers and was very well attended.

Anniversaries/Civic Events

The significant event this year was the commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War/World War 1.

If like me you attended the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade or if you have passed by the Civic Centre, you will have been moved by the 14,178 hand-made unique poppies each commemorating the life of a Leicestershire man lost during service in World War One.

My thanks go to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers from Braunstone Community Life who joined together to create the Poppy Cascade. We don't know the amount of time it took to create the hand-crafted poppies but the team spent well over 2,500 hours sewing the poppies onto the meshes, which is approximately 55 square metres.

The Group also had the vision to refurbish the memorial garden with the two memorial stones. The garden and memorial garden will provide a focal point in the years to come for acts of remembrance and dedication to our service personnel through Armed Forces Day and other events.

It was therefore, appropriate that I, along with the Leader of the Council and other Councillors were able to thank the groups and residents involved in these projects for their dedicated hard work at a special thank you reception evening on 18th January.

Curry Night

My final fundraising event of the year is a Charity Curry Night at Chef Spice, Hinckley Road, Leicester, on Monday 13th May, which will add to my final total raised towards my charity for the year, RSPB Leicestershire Branch, Woodside Animal Centre.

Town Mayor's Charity – RSPB Leicestershire Branch, Woodside Animal Centre

On a personal note, I am grateful that my year as Town Mayor has given me the opportunity to raise the profile of my charity, RSPB Leicestershire Branch, Woodside Animal Centre, which takes in and cares for stray and unwanted pets, aids recovery and return of injured wildlife to their habitat and rehabilitates animal victims of cruelty. The Centre also finds homes for unwanted cats, dogs and small pets.

I am pleased to report that I have raised over £600 during the Programme of Events for my chosen charity which included a Christmas Craft Fair, Spring Fair and Fashion Show.

At my Awards Night on 26th April, I was able to present a cheque for £2,340.17 to Woodside Animal Centre. The money raised from my Curry Night will be added to this and I will announce the final total raised. I would like to thank all those who supported events and donated to my charity. I am delighted with the amount raised for a very worthy cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their support over the year, in particular to my consort Bill who has been there supporting me in this important role every step of the way. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the next Town Mayor a most enjoyable and successful year.

*Councillor Sharon Betts
Braunstone Town Mayor, 2018/2019*

BRAUNSTONE TOWN
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

16th MAY 2019

Item 4 – Town Council Accounts and Budgets

Statement of Accounts 2017/2018

The Accounts and Statement of Assurance prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations were approved by the Town Council on 28th June 2018. The Audit was completed on 3rd October 2018.

A copy of the Statement of Accounts is available on the Council's website and can be obtained and inspected during the opening hours of the Customer Service Shop at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Unaudited Accounts 2018/2019

The Town Council has produced draft figures for the 2018/2019 financial year; these are subject to the Internal Audit (22nd May) and will be considered by the Town Council's Corporate Governance Sub-Committee, Policy & Resources Committee and Full Council in June, prior to submission for external audit.

In line with the Town Council's Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Strategy, the Town Council continues to address an on ongoing funding gap of approximately £45,000, following Blaby District Council's decision to end passing on the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant to parishes from April 2018. The Town Council is seeking to balance its books through a combination of savings, council tax increases and use of reserves. £37,000 of reserves was allocated for this purpose during 2018/2019, of which £31,818 was used.

Budgets for 2019/2020

The Town Council continues to work hard to improve the services it provides to people living and working in the area while ensuring that it invests in infrastructure for future generations. The forthcoming year presents further challenges and uncertainty, with this in mind the Town Council approved its Capital Plan and budget for 2019/2020 at its January meeting. For 2019/2020 the precept for band B, which includes over half the properties in Braunstone Town, has increased by £4.58, this represents an increase of 4.98%.

Prudent financial management over many years has enabled the Town Council to establish reserves to invest for the future in our parks and community facilities along with investing in operational efficiency measures, which during the current year is estimated to deliver £3,500 of ongoing savings. However, as mentioned above, in 2019/2020 the Town Council continues to address an on ongoing funding gap, for which it has allocated £18,000 of reserves. Further details of the challenges and the Town Council's approach to addressing the issue are set out in the Leader's Report at item 5 on the agenda.

Accounts & Budgets

The following table indicates:

- the year end audited position for the years ending 31st March 2017 and 2018;
- the draft year-end figures for the financial year ending 31st March 2019;
- the Town Council's intended income and expenditure for the current financial year (ending 31st March 2020).

	31st March 2017	31st March 2018	31st March 2019*	31st March 2020#
Balances Brought Forward	£350,420	£312,803	£268,198	£236,782
Annual Precept (+)	£495,653	£519,556	£574,107	£622,817
Receipts (+)	£233,536	£275,113	£188,871	£1,181,626
Staff Costs (-)	£442,384	£462,129	£463,924	£485,415
Loan Repayments (-)	£63,912	£63,786	£60,891	£60,797
Payments (-)	£260,510	£313,359	£269,580	£1,276,231
Balances Carried Forward	£312,803	£268,198	£236,782	£218,782
Cash & Short Term Investments	£308,409	£250,239	£229,438	-
Fixed Assets & Long Term Investments	£4,542,473	£4,549,629	£4,551,639	-
Total Borrowings	£379,906	£335,103	£289,474	£766,519

* the year-end accounts for 2018/2019 have not been considered for approval by the Council and have not been audited.

the year-end figures for 2019/2020 are based on the budget, adopted by Council on 31st January 2019.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

16th MAY 2019

Item 5 – Leader’s Report – Achievements 2018/19 and Priorities for 2019/20

The Town Council’s Policy & Resources Committee on 11th April 2019 finalised the draft Annual Report for 2018/2019, a copy of which is attached as an appendix. The Annual Report summarises our achievements in 2018/2019 and sets out our plans for the forthcoming Council year (2019/2020). This report will be received by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, which meets following the Annual Towns Meeting, for consideration and adoption.

The Town Council continues its work to protect, enhance and improve services for the residents of the Town and below is a summary of our work and achievements over the last year and priorities for the coming year.

Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development

Following planning permission being granted for our ambitious proposals to enhance the sporting, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park, we appointed a contractor to undertake the improvement works to the site and pavilion.

The Town Council has been working hard with the local sports clubs to obtain funding and also on the future management arrangements for the new Pavilion facility.

In addition to our own funds, and Section 106 funding, on 11th March 2019, notification was received that Sport England’s Community Asset Fund Review Panel had considered the Town Council’s application for grant funding and had awarded the project £100,000. This is a significant sum towards our funding efforts and we hope will give a boost to similar applications for funding we have with the Football Foundation and Leicester City Football Club’s Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Foundation. Positive discussions are ongoing with the County Football Association and we currently anticipate a response from the Football Foundation next month.

In the current financial climate, it is proving difficult to access external sources of funding as quickly as we would have liked and this has resulted in delays to the timescales for delivery of the project. However, the Town Council continues to work hard with its partners to move the project forward to the delivery stage and we remain confident that work will commence on the site in the late summer.

With an anticipated construction of around 12 months, once complete, the site will host improved play facilities, including provision of sensory play equipment, improved tennis courts, extended car parking and a new sports pavilion facility including modern changing facilities and a multi-function, multi-purpose club room, meeting room and social facility.

Access to NHS General Practice Services

The year began with the opening of the NHS facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, which the Town Council had been trying to bring about since 2010.

Kingsway Surgery's branch at Thorpe Astley offers patients registered at Kingsway Surgery GP appointments, practice nurse clinics and a minor surgery clinic.

I, along with many residents, am delighted with the opening of the branch GP surgery in Thorpe Astley. Residents have consistently told us about the difficulties they face in accessing GP services and the Thorpe Astley Community Appraisal identified that provision of a Doctors Surgery and Health Facilities was the top priority, supported by 93.3% of respondents. Since Thorpe Astley Community Centre opened in 2010, the Town Council has put considerable effort in terms of time and resources working with the NHS to achieve the delivery of health services from the Community Centre. Since the autumn of 2016, the Town Council had been working on behalf of concerned local residents representing their concerns to the NHS about issues of access and availability of General Practitioners at local GP surgeries across the Town and the area more widely.

In September, the surgery at Thorpe Astley extended its opening hours from two days per week to five. In addition, the Town Council has worked with the surgery to provide additional space at the Centre for a second GP consulting room, which potentially doubles the number of GP appointments available at Thorpe Astley.

While there has been understandable frustration over the years that there was no GP provision in Thorpe Astley, having been able to work closely with Kingsway over the past couple of years to enable services to be provided, it is good news that the community are making full use of these facilities to the extent that a five day service and a second GP consulting service can now be provided only a year after the service first opened.

The Town Council is grateful to Kingsway Surgery for their positive and sensible approach in expanding their provision to meet increasing demand and we will continue to work with them to ensure that this service is both successful, sustainable and meets local need.

Braunstone Town Library

At the beginning of last year, having accepted our Library proposals represented the most pragmatic way forward, we have been working with the County Council to enable the transfer of the service to the Town Council's management, ensuring improvements to the Library while avoiding additional costs for the Town's taxpayers.

The process is taking some time since the legal arrangements need to be specific and in alignment with the current long term lease agreement the County Council has with the Town Council for the premises.

I am confident that these discussions will be concluded shortly with the aim of transferring the service to the Town Council before the end of the year.

I know the future of our Library is important to many residents and I will keep you updated with progress. However, I ask residents to be patient while the legal agreements and detailed arrangements needed to ensure that the transfer is successful are finalised.

This is good news for the Town since this decision at last secures the future of our library after years of uncertainty.

Capital Projects

We have invested this year in improvements to our CCTV system, which has been expanded at both our community centres as well as being installed at Mossdale Meadows, Thorpe Astley Park and Franklin Park.

Due to financial pressures (see below), many of the capital projects have been put on hold, however, in the forthcoming year we plan to refurbish the toilet facilities at the Civic Centre, while making improvements to the kitchen and storage facilities at the Civic Centre bar to enable it to also operate as a café providing a social and meeting place for the community on weekdays.

Thorpe Astley Open Spaces

During the year we completed the legal transfer and took possession of public open space at Thorpe Astley from Barrett Homes. Currently the transfer documentation for the open space owned by David Wilson Homes and Wilson Bowden Developments is with the land registry and we expect confirmation of the legal transfer shortly. Therefore, we hope to be in a position during 2019/20 to complete the legal transfer of open spaces at Thorpe Astley to the Town Council in order to enable future investment and improvement to the facilities, including ensuring improvements are implemented to the Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park.

100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1

November 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the armistice at the end of the Great War (World War 1) and saw the marking of it by the Town with a magnificent poppy cascade at the Civic Centre, a parade and act of remembrance.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with the Community Life Group throughout the year on their plans to mark this important anniversary, which saw numerous volunteers and community groups come together to make over 14,178 hand-made unique poppies each commemorating the life of a Leicestershire man lost during service in World War One.

For the Town Council, the hard work of the community on these commemorations has provided for an opportunity to refurbish the Garden of Remembrance at the Civic Centre and to install a permanent memorial to those who lost their lives in all recent wars. I am grateful to members of the local community who have been growing plants for the refurbished garden. The memorial garden will provide a focal point in

the years to come for acts of remembrance and dedication to our service personnel through Armed Forces Day and other events.

My sincere thanks go to all those involved with Community Life who not only had the vision but have worked hard to put their vision into practice.

Public Footpath: Watergate Lane to Staplehurst Avenue

Residents who use the footpath between Watergate Lane and Staplehurst Avenue will be delighted that our application for this path to be a “Right of Way” was successful and I would like to thank those residents who provided supporting evidence. We can now enjoy the walk safe in the knowledge that future generations will be able to do the same.

Financial Risks and Pressures

In January, the Town Council met to approve its priorities, capital plan, budget and share of the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year.

Following Blaby District Council’s decision to end the payment to parish and town councils of the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant and New Homes Bonus from April 2018, which for Braunstone Town Council equates to around £50,000 cut per annum, we enter the second year of a three year period where we draw on our reserves and monies allocated to capital projects in order to plug the financial gap while minimising the impact of Blaby’s decision on local tax payers.

We continue to work hard to identify ways to protect the services which many in the Town value, while finding ways to deliver these services and run our operations more efficiently, an approach supported by the Town’s Citizens’ Advisory Panel at its December meeting.

Our approach has enabled us to protect all of our front line services while identifying £3,500 per annum of ongoing savings, and using £18,000 of our reserves, which has enabled us to keep the increase in our share of Council Tax bills for 2019/2020 to £4.58 for a typical band B property.

I would like to thank residents for their understanding and support for our approach which strikes a balance between protecting services, making savings and increasing Council Tax. Nonetheless, the use of our reserves to spread the impact on residents following Blaby’s decision will impact upon the Council’s finances and ability to deliver capital investment over the next 3 to 5 years.

Update Reports

Updates on the above matters are published in a regular Leader’s report in the Braunstone Life and on the Council’s website.

Councillor Nick Brown
Leader of Braunstone Town Council



Welcome to our Annual Report 2018/2019

By Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

APPENDIX 1

The Town Council continues to provide important services to the community and this Annual Report provides a summary of our achievements over the last 12 months and looks ahead to our aspirations for the next 12 months. Recently the Council reviewed its consultation processes with an aim to undertake a range of short surveys/consultations throughout the year. We value your input and therefore, I encourage residents to respond to our surveys and consultations, to help us shape our priorities and services to meet residents' needs.

A full list of our achievements over the year are set out overleaf, however, I wish to reflect on two of these.

The year began with the opening of the NHS facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, which the Town Council had been trying to bring about since 2010. I along with many residents are delighted that Kingsway Surgery opened this branch surgery since you consistently told us about the difficulties you faced in accessing GP services. I am grateful to Kingsway for their positive and sensible approach in expanding their provision to meet increasing demand, which included within six months increasing opening from two to five days a week. We continue to work with them to ensure that this service is successful and will continue to meet the needs of patients. This year we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of world war one. The Town Council provided both a dedicated grant and programme of events scheme for community groups wishing to run commemorative events. Thank you to all those who responded; particularly Braunstone Community Life for their dedicated hard work organising and creating the magnificent poppy cascade, remembrance events and for the vision to refurbish our memorial garden. The memorial garden will provide a focal point in the years to come for acts of remembrance and dedication to our service personnel through Armed Forces Day and other events.

More up to date information on the Council's services and the latest news can be found on our website at www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk or contact our Customer Service Shop at Braunstone Civic Centre where the Council's staff would also be pleased to help.

Once again, thank you for your time.

Councillor Nick Brown



Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2019

Year Ended 31 st March 2018		Year Ended 31 st March 2019
£		£
350,420.68	Balances brought forward	268,198.63
519,556.00	(+) Annual Precept	574,107.00
275,112.89	(+) Total other receipts	188,870.62
462,128.74	(-) Staff costs	463,923.55
63,786.42	(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	60,891.04
313,358.56	(-) Total other payments	269,579.65
268,198.63	(=) Balances carried forward	236,782.01
250,239.41	Total cash and short term investments	229,438.14
4,549,629.49	Total fixed assets and long term assets	4,551,639.29
335,103.23	Total borrowings	289,474.07
The Audit for 2018 was completed on 3rd October 2018		

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2018/2019

The Council believes in openness and transparency, therefore, each year we publish the amount paid to Town Councillors in allowances and the amounts claimed in expenses. Below are the allowances paid (gross) and expenses claimed.

	ALLOWANCE	EXPENSES	TOTAL
Cllr A Ambrose	£375	£0	£375
Cllr M S Aslam	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A S Basra	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P Basra	£375	£0	£375
Cllr R Berrington	£375	£0	£375
Cllr S Betts	£375	£0	£375
Cllr N J Brown	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A DeWinter	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Di Palma	£0	£0	£0
Cllr S Fox-Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A Hack	£0	£0	£0
Cllr S Sangha	£0	£0	£0
Cllr P Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr B Layne	£375	£0	£375
Cllr S Maxwell	£0	£0	£0
Cllr P L Moitt	£375	£0	£375
Cllr G Sanders	£375	£0	£375
Cllr T Shepherd	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Singh	£375	£0	£375
Cllr R Waterton	£375	£0	£375
Cllr B Wright	£375	£0	£375

Our Mission Statement

"We exist to ensure that local services and the environment reach the highest possible standards within the resources available for citizens, visitors and those who work in Braunstone Town; to provide a focus for civic pride; to listen, identify and respond to agreed local needs; and to help develop a strong, secure, self-reliant, self-confident community, free from unlawful discrimination."



BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE CUSTOMER SERVICE SHOP

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Kingsway, Braunstone Town, Leicester, LE3 2PP TEL: 0116 289 0045 FAX: 0116 282 4785

EMAIL: enquiries@braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk



About Braunstone Town Council



The Council provides a wide range of services together with social and recreational facilities. The Council also promotes the interests of the town in its representation to other bodies. It works in partnership with the larger District Council and County Council to provide and supplement local government services within the town area.

The Council comprises 21 members who are elected every four years. Each year the Council elects from amongst its number the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader

The Full Council meets six times a year. The Council has three standing committees: Policy & Resources, Community Development and Plans & Environment Committee. The Plans & Environment Committee meets approximately twelve times a year. All Meetings are open to local residents and include a public participation session on the Agenda. Agendas for the Council and standing committees are available to the public a week before the meeting date. Meetings are held at the Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway, Braunstone Town, Leicester, LE3 2PP. Further information is available on request by telephoning the Council on 0116 2899270 and can also be found on the notice board at the Town Council Offices, Thorpe Astley Community Centre and on the Council's Website

Our Achievements in 2018/2019

- Appointed a contractor to undertake the improvement works to the **Pavilion and Site at Shakespeare Park** and awarded Sport England Grant funding of £100,000 and Developer Contributions of £17,213 towards the project.
- Concluded agreements with the County Council to transfer **Braunstone Town Library** to the Town Council's management by the summer of 2019, which provide for improvements to the service while avoiding additional costs for the Town's taxpayers.
- Working with Kingsway Surgery, facilitated the opening of their branch **GP surgery at Thorpe Astley Community Centre**, its expansion from 2 to 5 days a week and the opening of an additional GP consultation room.
- Our application for the **footpath between Watergate Lane and Staplehurst Avenue** to become a "Right of Way" was successful, protecting the path for future generations.
- Provided both a dedicated grant and programme of events scheme to groups wishing to run events to commemorate the **100th anniversary of the end of world war one**.
- Working with the community, delivered a **refurbishment of the Civic memorial garden** so that it can provide a focal point in the years to come for acts of remembrance and dedication.
- Supported Thorpe Astley residents to establish a **Community Speed Watch** scheme and group, data collected is forwarded to the police to address speeding concerns.
- Renewed and expanded the Council's network of **CCTV cameras** to include new areas including our parks.
- Completed the legal transfer and took possession of **public open space** at Thorpe Astley from David Wilson Homes and Wilson Bowden Developments.
- Merged Fire & Intruder Alarm Contracts at all buildings and appointed a new contractor to empty dog waste bins, **making on-going savings while protecting services**.

Room Hire Figures

CENTRE		Year Ended 31 st March 2019
Braunstone Civic Centre	Hires	3400
	Income	69,529.06
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Hires	1852
	Income	26,066.80

Plans for 2019/2020

In addition to the continuing with the existing level of services, the Town Council aims to achieve the following during the forthcoming year:

- Invest in the redevelopment and improvement of sporting, recreation and play **facilities at Shakespeare Park**;
- **Improvements to our community facilities** at both Braunstone Civic Centre and Thorpe Astley Community Centre;
- Continue to provide and support important **quality of life** initiatives, such as crime reduction and grants for community groups, youth projects and individuals and tackling poor air quality;
- Positively and proactively respond to the evolving and changing social demographic of the community through developing and supporting new and existing events and **community/social inclusion initiatives**;
- Meet the needs of Thorpe Astley residents by facilitating the delivery of **services and events at Thorpe Astley Community Centre**;
- Continue to work to **keep Braunstone Town Library open**;
- Complete the legal transfer of open spaces at Thorpe Astley to the Town Council in order to enable future investment and improvement to the facilities, including ensuring improvements are implemented to the **Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park**;
- Actively working with the developer and Blaby District Council to ensure that the **land adjacent to the M1 bridge is suitably landscaped** to provide protection for residents from the new road and to provide a leisure and recreation space;
- Continue to look to make efficiency savings while ensuring the existing **services are safeguarded and where appropriate improved**.

Your Views

Throughout the year we undertake a range of consultations and short surveys to ascertain the views of residents on our major projects, such as our improvement proposals for Shakespeare Park, other priorities and services and also to help us to articulate the needs and aspirations of the community.

We have a dedicated Consultation page on our website (found under *Town Council*).

www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk/index.php/town-council/town-consultations

Details of consultations and surveys will be notified on our website, in the Braunstone Life, on social media and at our community centres. If you respond to any of our consultations and surveys you will be eligible to be entered into an annual prize draw.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

16th MAY 2019

Item 6 – Braunstone Town Heritage Warden’s Report 2018/2019

There have been two significant heritage events over the last twelve months:

1. Commemoration of the end of World War One,
2. Celebration of 850 years of St Peter’s Church

The commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the first world war, saw the wider community come together to remember not only the terrible loss of life in WW1 but also to remember all people killed in conflicts since then.

Braunstone Town commemorated the event by establishing a War Memorial in the grounds of the Civic Centre culminating in the dedication of the memorial stones, followed by a service of remembrance on the 11th November with a magnificent backdrop display of a poppy cascade on the end of the Civic Centre. The whole event organised and coordinate by the Community Life Group and attended by several hundred residents, civic dignitaries and Central ITV.

Braunstone Heritage Archive Group (BHAG) provided a WW1 display for the whole of 2018 in the display cabinet located in the reception area of the Civic Centre. They also provided displays in the Library during October and November.

An equally spectacular and informative display was provided for the celebrations of St Peter’s 850th anniversary last June. The displays were a joint venture between Braunstone Heritage Archive Group and the Braunstone History Group. The event was publicised in local media and prompted several former members of the congregation to get in touch some of whom came to the two-day event with photographs and memories.

The development of new housing in Lubbesthorpe has stimulated research into the history of Lubbesthorpe and a small group of new residents have attended a “History Walk” along with members of BHAG. Hopefully this history research will provide heritage information to new residents.

BHAG continue with the regular changing of the displays in the reception area of the Civic Centre and in the display board in the library.

Still no definite news on the takeover date for the library service by the Town Council.

Natural Heritage.

It's good to see that the Wildlife Group still meet on the first Sunday of the month and that some of the youngsters who came to the early meetings in 2011 are now helpers for the group.

Sadly, this last twelve months have not seen any winter or summer pruning of the apple trees in the community orchard at Franklin Park, the trees are now a bit leggy and we should make every effort to prune them this coming winter. Despite some rainfall the pond is very low on water and we have had to postpone a request by Kingsway North School to go pond dipping. The pond still attracts some mindless vandalism.

Let's hope that the next twelve months are positively bent on providing more interesting facts on our heritage and perhaps, just perhaps we might have a suitable museum!

John Dodd
Braunstone Town Heritage Warden