

Welcome to our Annual Report 2016/2017

By **Councillor Nick Brown**, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

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. Our Annual Survey response this year was our highest ever and showed high satisfaction across our services. We valued your input and throughout the year have acted on comments you made. Therefore, I encourage residents this year to again respond to our survey, your input is valued in shaping our priorities and services to meet resident's needs. I would also like to extend our appreciation to all those local residents and partners who have, over the year, become involved in events and projects instigated by the Council and given their support to assist us in providing the high level of service to local people.



However, there remains difficult decisions ahead for the Town Council, following Blaby District Council's decision to end the payment of the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant and New Homes Bonus from April 2018. This equates to a predicted loss of income of around £45k equating to an approximate increase of 17% on the Town Council's precept (£15 for a typical Band B property). We are already reviewing our options for service reductions, service efficiencies, generating alternative income and the future Council Tax charges.

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 2017

Year Ended 31 st March 2016		Year Ended 31 st March 2017
£		£
424,269.00	Balances brought forward	350,420.68
477,804.00	(+) Annual Precept	495,653.00
329,155.00	(+) Total other receipts	233,535.76
373,275.00	(-) Staff costs	442,383.95
64,038.00	(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	63,912.42
443,495.00	(-) Total other payments	260,509.61
350,420.00	(=) Balances carried forward	312,803.46
323,741.00	Total cash and short term investments	308,408.89
4,539,448.00	Total fixed assets and long term assets	4,542,472.99
422,628.00	Total borrowings	379,906.10
The Audit for 2016 was completed on 29th September 2016		

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2016/2017

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	£325	£0	£375
Cllr R Berrington	£375	£0	£375
Cllr S Betts	£375	£0	£375
Cllr N J Brown	£0	£0	£0
Cllr A DeWinter	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Di Palma	£0	£18	£18
Cllr S Fox-Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A Hack	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Joshi	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr B Layne	£375	£0	£375
Cllr Sam Maxwell	£375	£0	£375
Cllr Stuart Maxwell	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P L Moitt	£375	£0	£375
Cllr G Sanders	£375	£0	£375
Cllr T Shepherd	£108	£0	£108
Cllr D Singh	£325	£0	£325
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 2016/2017

- Improvements to our **Parks & Open Spaces** – installation of replacement safety surfaces and new play equipment.
- Following consultation, formulated plans for additional services at **Thorpe Astley Community Centre**, in the event that NHS services are not forthcoming.
- Provided support and co-ordination for **community events** to celebrate HM **Queen's 90th birthday**.
- Co-ordinated and supported Community Groups to deliver a varied **programme of events to the community** including quiz nights, concerts and craft fairs.
- Undertook **successful Annual Survey consultation** (increasing responses from 24 to 55) helping us shape services to meet resident's needs.
- **Improved access to services for customers** through new CRM system enabling service requests, incidents and enquiries to be logged and tracked, providing an efficient first and one-stop service for residents.
- Working to **protect Library services** held discussions with both the County Council and the group who are due to take over the management of the Library to ensure that residents aspirations form part of future service delivery plans.
- Worked with Blaby District Council to deliver **summer sports and recreation activities** at Mossdale Meadows and Thorpe Astley Park and provided for the **BB19 Youth Bus** to continue to visit the Town each week.
- Following a public consultation, finalised plans for **improvements to the Pavilion, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park**, aiming for work to commence in 2017/18.
- Continued to work with Blaby District Council to support initiatives aimed at **improving air quality** and mitigating impact of the Lubbethorpe development on residents.
- Following feedback, launched a brand-new **website**, improving navigation and page information and integrating information from social media.
- Worked to ensure the **continuation of pre-school services at Thorpe Astley Community Centre**.
- Commenced a review of the use and charging of **Community Centres** to ensure they remain accessible for all residents.

Room Hire Figures

CENTRE		Year Ended 31 st March 2017
Braunstone Civic Centre	Hires	3400
	Income	£67,036.40
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Hires	1339
	Income	37,569.34

Plans for 2017/2018

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**.

Braunstone Town Council Annual Survey – Free Prize Draw - £50

The views of Braunstone Town residents are vital in assisting the Council in providing services that people really want and also helps us to articulate the needs and aspirations of our local community to the larger District and County Councils or to other agencies and government bodies.

You can help us in making decisions on our services by completing the Council's Annual Survey. Hard copies can be obtained from Braunstone Civic Centre and Thorpe Astley Community Centre, or if you wish we can post it to you. The survey is also available online at www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR RETURNING YOUR RESPONSES FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST 2017.