



## BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

# Welcome to our Annual Report 2023

By Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

Despite these challenging times, the Town Council continues to provide important services to the community, this Annual Report provides a summary of our achievements during 2022/2023 and looks ahead to our aspirations for the next 12 months.

A full list of our achievements is set out overleaf, however, I wish to reflect on a three of them here.

This year work commenced on improving Walking and Cycling Connections; with the new pathway through Mossdale Meadows completed. The next stages include the path being linked through Meridian Leisure. Further works are due to be carried out later this year to improve the pathway and crossing points along Meridian Way. This is a significant development for our community providing better access to Meridian Leisure and Business Park for Braunstone Town residents and to the Civic Centre/Library and Mossdale Meadows for Thorpe Astley residents. Work to improve access to Aylestone Meadows from Kingsway is also due to take place this year.



Improvement Works have been undertaken to the Civic Centre Facilities. A new kitchen facility enables the Civic Community Lounge to offer hot and cold food through the day providing a community meeting place. The refurbished toilets includes a new Changing Places toilet for individuals who need assistance when using the toilet, making our facilities accessible for everyone.

The new Pavilion facility, site improvements and refurbished tennis courts at Shakespeare Park have been fully completed and delivered under budget by £32,735. The Council and the sports clubs hosted a successful community open day in June showcasing our new Sports Pavilion facilities. Work is underway on the future management arrangements with the Sports Clubs to enable the new Pavilion facility to be available for hire and community use during the coming year. Also in the coming year we aim to deliver the final stage of our improvements: refurbishment of the playground, which includes the installation of sensory play equipment, providing for those children with special needs to play alongside their siblings.

With finance and contractors now in place, in the summer of 2023 we will be installing solar PV panels on our buildings and an air source heat pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. With energy bills increasing this project has become a top priority for the Council, not only in response to the challenges of climate change but also to protect the Council's finances and to avoid excessive Council Tax increases.

A full list of the Council's Capital Projects and Delivery Objectives for the coming year, along with information on our services can be found on our website at [www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk) or by contacting Customer Services.

Once again, thank you for your time.

### ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022		YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
£		£
618,174.73	<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	286,317.22
681,961.00	(+) Annual Precept	720,356.00
172,030.00	(+) Total other receipts	338,512.47
434,301.32	(-) Staff costs	544,101.77
94,185.39	(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	82,433.06
657,361.80	(-) Total other payments	504,210.64
286,317.22	(=) Balances carried forward	214,440.22
243,220.55	Total cash and short term investments	157,711.05
5,400,445.75	Total fixed assets and long term assets	5,429,227.79
1,061,861.96	Total borrowings	1,120,527.97

### Mission Statement

We exist:

1. 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;
2. To provide a focus for civic pride;
3. To listen, identify and respond to agreed local needs;
4. To help develop a strong, secure, self-reliant, self-confident community, free from unlawful discrimination.



# BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

## Achievements (2022/2023)



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.



# BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS 2022/2023

## 1. Protect and Enhance our Parks and Open Spaces

- Completed the second phase of the Shakespeare Park Improvements with the refurbishment of the Park Tennis Courts;
- Opened the New Shakespeare Pavilion building and site for use by the sports clubs; with a successful community open day in June 2022;
- Supported the sports clubs at Shakespeare Park to grow with one-off grant fund;
- Further invested in and enhanced tennis provision through Tap4Tennis; rolling out the scheme at Shakespeare Park tennis courts;
- Approved designs and received tenders for improvements to the Culvert and bridge over Lubbethorpe Brook at Mossdale Meadows.



**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TAP 4 TENNIS!**  
**AT THORPE ASTLEY PARK AND SHAKESPEARE PARK**

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:  
[www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk)

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL:  
[ENQUIRE@BRAUNSTONETOWNCOUNCIL.ORG.UK](mailto:ENQUIRE@BRAUNSTONETOWNCOUNCIL.ORG.UK) OR  
 CALL: 0145 2890045





### 2. Provide Vibrant Community Facilities

- Refurbished customer toilets at Braunstone Civic Centre, including the provision of a changing places toilet to ensure our facilities are accessible to everyone;
- Provided kitchen facilities to enable the Civic Community Lounge to offer a weekday café service;
- Implemented revised Community Centres hire arrangements providing discounts for regular users, community groups & residents;
- Attracted new activities and hires to Thorpe Astley Community Centre in response to a residents' survey;
- Provided both Library outreach services and support and advice services at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.



### 3. Support and Connect the Local Community

- Established a weekly Warm Welcome Space over the winter months at Braunstone Civic Centre;
- Supported new and existing community activities and initiatives through our enhanced Community Grants Schemes and our Programme of Events;
- Co-ordinated and supported successful community events, such as Apple Day; the Queen's Jubilee commemorations, and open days at both Shakespeare Park Pavilion and Thorpe Astley Community Centre; and
- Developed successful Library community events and initiatives; including children's reading, heritage displays and arts & craft events.



### 4. Respond to Climate Change and champion sustainable development

- Developed an Action Plan to deliver the actions identified in the Carbon Audit with a view to the Council becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030;
- Completed designs, appointed preferred contractors and secured funding for the installation of Solar PV Panels, an air source heat pump and Electric Vehicle Charging Points;
- Adopted an Environment and Biodiversity Strategy in order to enhance nature and biodiversity on our urban green spaces;
- Supported and facilitated initiatives to improve cycling and walking routes within the Town and to the City Centre, Fosse Park and Meridian;
- with phase 1, improvements at Mossdale Meadows, delivered; and
- Implemented a Bike to Work Scheme.



### Your Views

Throughout the year we undertake a range of consultations and surveys to ascertain the views of residents on major projects, such as our improvement proposals, 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).



## **1. Protect and Enhance our Parks and Open Spaces**

**Aim: To invest in and maintain high quality urban green spaces for sport, recreation and play, while enriching the natural environment.**

### **Delivery Objectives for 2023/2024:**

- Complete Phase 3 of the Shakespeare Park refurbishment: Playground.
- Open the New Shakespeare Pavilion building for use by the community.
- Support existing Clubs at Shakespeare Park to grow while supporting new sporting activities, such as Tennis and Pétanque.
- Invest in Thorpe Astley Park Tennis Courts and deliver tennis initiatives to enhance participation.
- Continue to work with Blaby District Council and the developer to ensure improvements are made to the culvert at Thorpe Astley Park.
- Carry out repairs to the Culvert and Bridge at Mossdale Meadows.
- Refurbish and enhance Impey Close Play Area and surrounding open space.



## **2. Provide Vibrant Community Facilities**

**Aim: To provide vibrant, accessible and cost effective community facilities, which continue to be used by and respond to the needs of our community.**

### **Delivery Objectives for 2023/2024:**

- Deliver essential works on the Civic Centre building fabric.
- Expand the Bar Service to include a weekday Civic Centre café service along with outreach services at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

## **3. Support and Connect the Local Community**

**Aim: To both nurture and enhance the Town’s community life and connect our communities to reduce isolation and build community cohesion.**

### **Delivery Objectives for 2023/2024:**

- Support new and existing community activities and initiatives through our Community Grants Schemes and Programme of Events.
- Co-ordinate community events, such as Apple Day, Coronation of King Charles III, and a Thorpe Astley Summer Event – Thorpe Astley on the Beach.
- Develop Library events, initiatives and continue community engagement; including children’s reading, heritage displays and arts & craft events.
- Support the Local Area Coordination Project.



## **4. Respond to Climate Change and champion sustainable development**

**Aim: To embed climate and environmental awareness in our decision making and actions and play our part in supporting the community to do the same.**

### **Delivery Objectives for 2023/2024:**

- Deliver actions identified in the Carbon Audit with a view to the Council becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- Undertake surveys and produce Management Plans to enhance the biodiversity of our parks and open spaces.
- Support and facilitate initiatives to improve cycling and walking routes within the Town and to the City Centre, Fosse Park and Meridian.
- Work to ensure that development meets present needs, minimises air pollution and car journeys, while protecting the needs of future generations.

