



BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Serving the communities of Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley

Darren Tilley – Chief Executive & Town Clerk

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TO ALL ELECTORS OF
BRAUNSTONE TOWN AND THORPE ASTLEY

ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

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

THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 2022

at 7.30pm

You can also observe the meeting, ask questions and join the discussion through Zoom Video and Audio Conferencing:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85637046344?pwd=b2RNTmxMd3BOWmppbXlFZ05LdS9xdz09>

Meeting ID: 835 6985 1325

Passcode: 941892

**Chairperson:
Councillor S. Sangha, Town Mayor**

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Towns Meeting 12th May 2022 (Enclosed)
3. Town Mayor's Report 2022/23 (Enclosed)
4. Town Council Accounts and Budgets (Enclosed)
5. Leader's Report – Achievements 2022/23 and Priorities for 2023/24 (Enclosed)

Signed: 

Councillor S.Sangha, Town Mayor

Dated: 10th May 2023

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

Held on THURSDAY 12th MAY 2022 to 7.30pm

In the Chair, Councillor Darshan Singh, Town Mayor.
There were 28 persons present at the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Parminder Basra.

2. Minutes of the Towns Meeting 13th May 2021

The Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting held on 13th May 2021 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 13th May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

3. Town Mayor's Report 2021/22

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

- Community Activities
- Community Achievement
- Programme of Events
- Library Events
- Summer Fete
- Anniversaries/Civic Events
- Town Mayor's Charity – Macmillan

Councillor Darshan Singh, Town Mayor for 2021/2022, reported on activities during his Mayoral year:

"It has been a privilege and an honour to have been chosen to serve as the Town's First Citizen and experience the hard work and dedication of many in our community who serve the needs of others and are committed to making our Town a vibrant place in which to live".

"I attended many events to celebrate, honour and recognise achievements of our residents and these are detailed in my report on the agenda".

"Following the Covid pandemic, our summer fete was back. We had good weather, and the event was very well attended and supported by many local volunteers and groups".

"I would also like to thank Councillors for their support on the day with my stall, raising money for my chosen charity, Macmillan".

"Apple Day" was also back this year. Residents enjoyed the family orientated fun day with apple picking and juicing, animal displays, stalls and Birds of Prey".

"In October, I hosted a thank you event for the Covid Community Response volunteers for their work supporting out most vulnerable residents during those difficult times".

"Thank you to everyone who joined me supporting and putting on this year's Programme of Events, which raised funds for local groups, good causes and my charity".

"Events included Craft Fairs a carol service, Christmas Panto and family Craft Day and a Community Quiz night".

"Thank you all those who attended and helped to make the events a success".

"At my Award's Evening I was delighted to give an Award of Merit to the Trustees of the Community Minibus in recognition of their work providing a community transport service for the elderly and vulnerable residents of Braunstone Town".

"Unfortunately, the mini bus was unable to continue following the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Trustees have been able to work with Commbus to ensure that most of the services continue".

"The trustees also made a generous donation to the Town, which has enabled a grant scheme to be provided for social inclusion initiatives supporting the older and more vulnerable people in our community".

"On behalf of myself and the residents of the Town, I would like to thank the trustees and all who were involved with the community minibus for the years of dedicated service they provided to our community".

"On a personal note, I am grateful that as Town Mayor I have been able to raise £3,207 for my Mayoral charity, Macmillan. Macmillan campaigns for real change and to help everyone with cancer to live their life as fully as possible".

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to my consort Sohan who supported 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 2021/22 and Priorities for 2022/23

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 2021/2022. A copy of the draft Annual Report for 2022, due for consideration and adoption at the Annual Council, was also circulated.

"The Town Council's Policy & Resources Committee on 28th April 2022 finalised the draft Annual Report for 2022, a copy of which is attached as an appendix. The Annual Report summarises our achievements during the Council Year May 2021 to May 2022 and sets out our plans for the forthcoming Council year (2022/2023). The report will be received by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, which meets following the Annual Towns Meeting, for consideration and adoption".

"Despite the recent pandemic and the current economic and financial pressures, 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 our priorities for the coming year".

Braunstone Town Library

"In my report to the Towns Meeting last year, I announced that we were successful in obtaining a grant for £5,000 for activities to involve the community in our Library. This grant has enabled the library to encourage local residents to engage in the community, reduce isolation, volunteer to run projects and provide a vibrant, community-led library".

"Over the past year we have held art and nature workshops, children's music sessions and engagement events in the library. This culminated in our Spring Celebration Event held on Saturday 26th March where we brought together all the events held over the past year and shared them with the community. We are particularly pleased that as a result of these sessions we now have volunteers to run events in the library including the Coffee morning and Story Time".

"The workshops and events that took place over the year were filmed and the video is available on the Council's website and social media channels".

"I'm also delighted that the Town Council has entered into a partnership agreement with the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group to support and enhance services provided through the library. We will be working closely together in the coming year to further develop Library events, initiatives and continue our community engagement".

Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development

"Phase 1 of our ambitious improvements to Shakespeare Park are now complete, with our brand-new Pavilion facility now being used by the sports clubs. The new facility includes modern changing facilities and a multi-function, multi-purpose club room providing a meeting room and a social facility. The pavilion and site

are able to support lawn bowls, pétanque, football and tennis providing for both sustaining and encouraging growth in sport participation”.

“The Town Council continues to work with the existing clubs on the future management arrangements for the new Pavilion facility. Legal agreements have now been drafted and it is anticipated that these can be implemented in the autumn in order that the teams can take a lead in managing and running the facility for the benefit of sport and recreation”

“The first part of Phase 2, to improve the tennis court facilities is virtually complete with the final touches, including acrylics, line markings and installation of the nets to be completed this month”.

“Once the new courts are open, residents will be able to book a court using our Tap4Tennis bookings service, which is also available at Thorpe Astley Park tennis courts. The use of a pre-booked court entry system will give certainty around court availability, as well as providing funds to invest in court facilities and provide training sessions, all with the aim of increasing participation in tennis and sport”.

“Funding continues to be sought for the improvements to the playground facilities, including the installation of sensory play equipment. While part of the funding has been secured, securing all the funding needed to deliver the project is proving difficult in the current financial climate. This has resulted in delays to the timescales for delivery of this part of the project. However, the planning condition on the playground is being discharged this month and assuming funding can be secured, works can commence in the autumn and winter of 2022. The new play facilities will potentially be available for use early in 2023”.

Civic Centre Improvements

“During 2021/2022, the Council finalised its plans to improve the facilities at Braunstone Civic Centre and invited contractors to tender for the works”.

“The works include refurbishment of the toilets, including the provision of a brand-new Changing Places Toilet Facility”.

“I am delighted that the Council was successful in bidding to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities for funding to provide a Changing Places toilet. Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. Changing Places toilets meet these needs and it is right that we invest in these improvements to ensure that all in our community can access, enjoy and benefit from the services we provide at the Civic Centre site”.

“The internal reorganisation of the building also provides an opportunity to improve the kitchen facilities for the Civic Community Lounge to enable the provision of a café service, utilising the Bar Lounge more effectively and providing a wider community social space”.

“Funding for the wider toilets and kitchen improvements is also being finalised and assuming the Council is successful in attracting this funding, works are likely to commence in the autumn and be completed early in the new year”.

Climate Change and the Environment

“In recent years the impact of climate change has become increasingly visible and, therefore, in 2021 the Town Council adopted a Climate Change & Environmental Strategy. The Strategy sets out a roadmap for the activities of the Town Council to become carbon neutral; for promoting and encouraging awareness and action on climate change; to move towards renewable energy sources; and to ensure the protection and enhancement of the town’s green spaces”.

“Following adoption of the Strategy, the Council has also developed and implemented an Environment & Biodiversity Strategy for the Town’s parks and green spaces in order to promote and encourage tree planting and seek to increase and enrich biodiversity”.

“To ensure that the Council becomes carbon neutral by 2030, we also commissioned a Carbon Audit of our activities, which reported in February of this year and sets out 11 recommendations for reducing the Council’s carbon footprint by approximately 40% by 2024. An Action Plan has also been developed setting out tangible actions the Council will take over the next couple of years to address the impact of our own activities on the climate”.

Strategic Aims and Delivery Objectives 2022/2023

“Following the pandemic and with a view to ensuring the Council is in a strong position to address the uncertainties and challenges we all face as a community in the coming years, the Council adopted its Medium-Term Priorities and Financial Planning Framework in November 2021”.

“Following this, the Council reviewed its ten key priorities refining and focussing them into four strategic aims for the medium term:

1. **Protect and Enhance our Parks and Open Spaces:** to invest in and maintain high quality urban green spaces for sport, recreation and play, while enriching the natural environment.
2. **Provide Vibrant Community Facilities:** to provide vibrant, accessible and cost-effective community facilities, which continue to be used by and respond to the needs of our community.
3. **Support and Connect the Local Community:** to both nurture and enhance the Town’s community life and connect our communities to reduce isolation and build community cohesion.
4. **Respond to Climate Change and champion sustainable development:** to embed climate and environmental awareness in our decision making and actions and play our part in supporting the community to do the same”.

“Each Aim is supported by specific delivery objectives for the year and there are 21 specific delivery objectives for 2022/2023. These are reviewed and developed

as part of the annual review of the Council's Business Plan and Capital Plan and the annual setting of the budget and Council Tax precept".

"A summary of the delivery objectives is contained in the Annual Report and full details are set out in the Council's Business Plan, which is available on our website and from Customer Services at Braunstone Civic Centre".

Capital Plan

"Alongside the Council's Business Plan, the Council approves a Capital Plan, which sets out proposed improvements to our assets and infrastructure".

"In the coming year, priority capital projects include:

- replacing the vehicle and pedestrian culvert bridges at Mosssdale Meadows given the existing culverts are not suitable for the flow of water which causes flooding on the park;
- Shakespeare Park playground improvements and provision of sensory play equipment;
- refurbishment of both sets of toilets at Braunstone Civic Centre, including the provision of a Changing Places Toilet to make the Centre fully accessible to all;
- refurbishment of the Civic Community Lounge kitchen facilities to enable the expansion of the facility to provide a café service and provide a wider community social space;
- installation of Solar PV Panels on the Council's buildings in order to protect the public finances from the significant increase in energy costs and to address the impact of our operations on the environment by reducing our carbon footprint; and
- investing in improvements to cycling facilities at our community facilities to encourage cycling and to ensure parked cycles are safe".

"A full list of the Council's Capital Projects is available on our website and from Customer Services at Braunstone Civic Centre".

Community Governance Review

"Following a consultation by Blaby District Council on potentially splitting Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley into two separate parishes, the District Council concluded that no further action be taken given only 11 out of 42 responses to the consultation supported the idea".

"We never believed there was any evidence that supported splitting our parish and the detrimental impact on both the council tax and local services would have affected all our residents".

"As a result of the decision to end the process, the Town Council can now get on with ensuring that we respond to the challenges of our time and deliver high-quality, cost-effective improvements and investment to services in both Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley".

6. Braunstone Town Heritage Warden's Report 2021/22

The Heritage Warden's Report for 2021/2022 was circulated with the agenda:

"As the Covid restrictions are gradually lifted we can try and resume a "normal" life once again!"

"A very successful "Apple Day" was held in September 2021, a very fine warm day with quite a few apples to pick and turn into apple juice. Unfortunately, the dry weather had lowered the water level in the pond making it unsuitable for the proposed pond dipping, let's hope 2022 can make this a successful occasion for the school children who had looked forward to delving the depths of the pond!"

"The weather was kind to us when we had a couple of weekends in January/February 2022 to winter prune the apple trees, sadly we did find that someone had cut down the two plum trees which had always a bumper crop of plums. Why they were sawn down and by whom we will never know, a mindless act of vandalism".

"The wild flower meadow has had a makeover and hopefully will give us a fine display in June".

"The proposed conservation area on the south side of Braunstone Lane (Main St) has taken a step forward in its designation. Because of a lack of finances, neither the Town Council or Blaby District Council could afford to make the initial character appraisal, so I took up the cause and produced a draft appraisal. This has generally been accepted and the process of designation has slowly started with the Town Council approving the character appraisal and requesting Blaby District Council to commence their legal process of designating a conservation area".

"Hopefully after a 50-year gap both sides of Braunstone Lane (Main St) will be one conservation area".

"Unfortunately, we were unable to persuade Blaby District Council's planning processes to reject the proposed development of 13 houses on the farmyard area of the listed building, Manor Farm House in the centre of the original village".

"The partnership agreement between our community library and Braunstone Heritage Archive Group, for which I am Chair, has got underway with changing themes on the notice board displays and 3D displays in the recently acquired illuminated display cabinets. At last, there is some space in which to display some of the littlest seen heritage artifacts donated between 1974 and 2022".

7. Termination of Meeting

The Town Mayor thanked those present for attending and with no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN AND THORPE ASTLEY
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

18th MAY 2023

Item 3 – Town Mayor’s Report 2022/23

I (Councillor Satindra Sangha) took up the role of Braunstone Town Mayor on 12th May 2022.

During my term as Town Mayor I have attended events to celebrate, commemorate and support a wide variety of activities in Braunstone, 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 our community a vibrant place to live.

I am certain that our community groups will continue to thrive and it has been my honour to meet and see these volunteers who put so much dedication into the groups which they support.

I also had the opportunity to organise events in aid of my Mayoral Charity for the year, Rainbows.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

I began my year as Town Mayor attending events in the community to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee, which saw the community come together with events at our Community Centres, Library, schools and in some cases in the street. I was invited to attend the following events to mark the Jubilee:

- 27th May at the Library Coffee morning,
- 1st June at Kingsway Primary School, and
- 3rd June, Picnic at Thorpe Astley Park and Community Centre.

The sense of celebration at such an extraordinary achievement by a very special lady will remain in our hearts and minds for years to come.

Therefore, along with many in our community, across the country and around the world, it was with great sadness that we received the news on 8th September that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away.

It was an honour to be able to read out the Proclamation of our new King Charles III on 11th September 2022 at the Civic Centre Memorial Garden and thank you to those who attended to show support for our new Head of State and to reflect on the life and service of our former Queen.

Many shared their thoughts, memories and appreciation in books of condolences at our Community Centres, which have now been sent to the County Records Office for safe keeping.

During the Platinum Jubilee year, the Town Council planted trees as part of the national Queen's Canopy initiative. This important project will now take on a new meaning as well as acting as a permanent and lasting tribute in our community to our late Queen for the decades to come.

Despite our sadness and loss, the overwhelming sense of pride and loyalty to Her Majesty for her 70 years unwavering service as the longest reigning monarch in British history has highlighted our shared sense of community and values as well as our shared feelings of both sadness and joy.

Community Activities

It has been a pleasure to host and be invited to many of our community events and activities:

- I was welcomed to the annual Vaisakhi celebrations at Braunstone Civic Centre on 21st May;
- I opened the new Shakespeare Park Pavilion and hosted the open day on 19th June;
- Allotment Open Day was held on 13th August; and
- Thorpe Astley Community Centre Open Day on 17th September.

On Saturday 1st October 2022 I hosted the "Apple Day" event at the Community Orchard on Franklin Park. This family orientated fun day with apple picking and juicing, animal displays, stalls and Birds of Prey was very well attended by residents. We had good weather and it was lovely to see the children enjoying picking apples and making apple juice.

Community Groups are at the forefront of activities, which reduce loneliness and isolation particularly among the most vulnerable. I welcome the support that the Town Council has offered through its Community Development grants and I hope that the Town Council will work to ensure that community groups continue to be supported.

Community Achievement

During my term I attended events that have taken place to celebrate, honour and recognise achievements of our residents, many deserving unsung heroes of our community.

My Awards of Merit evening took place on Thursday 11th May at Braunstone Civic Centre. This year, in order to raise funds for my chosen charity Rainbows, the Awards evening was also a Charity Curry Night where residents and Councillors could purchase tickets for the event and support those who were receiving awards. Groups receiving net proceeds from the Programme of Events and nominees for an Award of Merit were given complimentary tickets as my guests for the evening.

I was delighted to recognise the following:

1. Jack Haselgrove for his work on the two history books of Braunstone Town, including his kind offer to assign the Copyrights of both books to the Town Council; and
2. Volunteers running the weekly coffee morning, craft & chatter and Storytime groups at the library.

I hope that the Town Council will continue to play a central role for many years to come in helping to reduce isolation by bringing people together by promoting the strong sense of community spirit that I have encountered.

Programme of Events

Thank you to everyone who joined me supporting and putting on this year's Programme of Events. These events provide an opportunity for us to share what is good about our community and our community spirit, as well as raising vital funds to help support our community groups.

The programme launched on the 3rd September with the Chess Club Open Sessions/Taster Day at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Diwali Celebrations on 21st October at Braunstone Civic Centre was well supported by over 100 people.

Similarly, the Children's Halloween Disco at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 30th October was well supported and sold out.

On Saturday 19th November I hosted our Christmas Craft Fair at Braunstone Civic Centre. I, supported by my consort, Daniel, sold Samosas a raffle for my chosen charity – Rainbows. I would also like to thank the stall holders and visitors who supported the event and made it a success.

December was a busy month for the Programme of Events, commencing on 2nd December with a popular Christmas Movie Night at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. The annual Christmas Pantomime and family Craft Day on 4th December at Braunstone Civic Centre was well attended and a huge success. Finally, Harvest Church hosted an exceptional carol service on 11th December, which I enjoyed attending.

I attended the Ratby Band Barn Dance at Braunstone Civic Centre on 18th March and on Friday 24th March, the Community Quiz night was back at the Civic Centre and was well supported. On behalf of all those who attended, I would like to thank St Crispin's Church for organising a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On Saturday 9th April the Craft Fair and community activities day returned to Thorpe Astley Community Centre. I would like to thank all those residents and stall holders who attended for helping to make the event a success.

I am personally grateful to the organisations who put on these events since the programme also enables funds to be raised for my chosen charity, Rainbows Children's Hospice. Thank you to everyone who supported the events.

Summer Fete

The Town's annual Summer Fete was held on 6th August 2022. With good weather, the event on Mossdale Meadows was successful with a variety of stalls and was very well attended and supported by many local volunteers and groups along with residents who seemed to enjoy the day.

I would also like to thank Councillors for their support on the day with my stall, raising money for my chosen charity, Rainbows Hospice.

Anniversaries/Civic Events

On 21st May 2022 I joined the 60th anniversary celebrations at Friar Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church.

On 20th June the flag was raised at the Civic Memorial Garden to mark the week running up to Armed Forces Day.

On 23rd June, I attended the 60th anniversary celebrations at Winstanley School.

On 18th September I supported the RAF: 83rd Anniversary Battle of Britain ceremony at Christchurch.

On 30th October it was an honour to support the unveiling of the new Sikh War Memorial at Victoria Park.

On 11th November, I hosted the annual Armistice Day ceremony at the Civic Memorial Garden, which was well supported; and on 13th November I represented the Town at the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Crispin's Church.

Town Mayor's Charity – Rainbows

On a personal note, I am grateful that my term as Town Mayor has given me the opportunity to raise money for my charity, Rainbows Children's Hospice.

On 22nd April I attended the Rainbows Open Day in Loughborough and was reminded of the important work the charity does with children and their families as they make the most of every precious moment.

I am pleased to report that I have been able to raise over £4,000 during my term as Town Mayor from events in the Programme of Events, Summer Fete, specific fundraising events and donations for my chosen charity, Rainbows Children's Hospice.

Thank you very much for your support.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their support over the year, in particular to my son and consort Daniel 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 Satindra Sangha
Braunstone Town Mayor, 2022/23*

BRAUNSTONE TOWN AND THORPE ASTLEY
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

18th MAY 2023

Item 4 – Town Council Accounts and Budgets

Statement of Accounts 2021/2022

The Accounting Statements for 31st March 2022, prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, were approved by the Town Council on 30th June 2022. The Audit was completed on 26th September 2022.

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 2022/2023

The Town Council has produced draft figures for the 2022/2023 financial year; these have been the subject of Internal Audit (3rd May 2023) 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 ongoing funding pressures including staffing and pension costs and rising utility costs. The Town Council is seeking to balance its books through a combination of savings, council tax increases and use of reserves.

Budgets for 2023/2024

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 2023/2024 at its January meeting. For 2023/2024 the precept for band B, which includes over half the properties in Braunstone Town, has increased by £8.45, this represents a below inflation increase of 7.37%.

Prudent financial management over many years has enabled the Town Council to establish reserves to invest for the future in the Town's parks and community facilities along with investing in operational efficiency measures. During 2023/2024 over £32,000 of savings and income generation has been identified resulting from the installation of solar PV panels, an air source heat pump and electric vehicle charging points. The savings/additional income will be used to balance budgets, reinvest in services and infrastructure, and take further measures to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. However, in 2023/2024 the Town Council continues to address an on ongoing funding gap, for which it has allocated £3,000 of reserves.

Accounts & Budgets

The following table indicates:

- the year end audited position for the years ending 31st March 2021 and 2022;
- the draft year-end figures for the financial year ending 31st March 2023;
- the Town Council's intended income and expenditure for the current financial year (ending 31st March 2024).

	31st March 2021	31st March 2022	31st March 2023*	31st March 2024#
Balances Brought Forward	£245,340	£618,175	£286,317	£214,440
Annual Precept (+)	£646,304	£681,961	£720,356	£776,035
Receipts (+)	£1,124,855	£172,030	£338,512	£598,056
Staff Costs (-)	£485,278	£434,301	£544,102	£582,013
Loan Repayments (-)	£66,628	£94,186	£82,433	£102,619
Payments (-)	£846,418	£657,362	£504,211	£692,459
Balances Carried Forward	£618,175	£286,317	£214,440	£211,440
Cash & Short Term Investments	£621,657	£243,221	£157,711	-
Fixed Assets & Long Term Investments	£4,563,475	£5,400,446	£5,429,228	-
Total Borrowings	£1,128,008	£1,061,862	£1,120,528	£1,443,458

* the year-end accounts for 2022/2023 have not been considered for approval by the Council and have not been externally audited.

the year-end figures for 2023/2024 are based on the budget, adopted by Council on 26th January 2023.

NOTE: The variation in the balances carried forward, and the cash and short term investments, between 2021 and 2022 is due to the full Public Works Loan for Shakespeare Park being drawn down in the financial year 2020/21, while nearly half of the contract payments made during the 2021/2022 financial year. While 5% of the contract costs (approximately £60,000) was retained and paid in the 2022/23 financial year. Based on the current Medium Term Financial Strategy, balances carried forward on 31st March 2023 was projected to be around £220,000.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN AND THORPE ASTLEY
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

18th MAY 2023

Item 5 – Leader’s Report – Achievements 2022/23 and Priorities for 2023/24

The Town Council’s Policy & Resources Committee on 27th April 2023 finalised the draft Annual Report for 2023, a copy of which is attached as an appendix. The Annual Report summarises our achievements during the Council Year May 2022 to May 2023 and sets out our plans for the forthcoming Council year (2023/2024). The report will be received by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, which meets following the Annual Towns Meeting, for consideration and adoption.

Despite the current economic and financial pressures, 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 our priorities for the coming year.

Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development

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 new facility includes modern changing facilities and a multi-function, multi-purpose club room providing a meeting room and a social facility.

A central aim of this project is for Clubs to increase participation and therefore, membership. The brand new much improved and enhanced facility acts as a catalyst in this respect providing modern facilities and meeting/social space. More members should mean more money collected in membership fees. The pavilion and site are able to support lawn bowls, pétanque, football and tennis providing for both sustaining and encouraging growth in sport participation. The Council and the sports clubs hosted a successful community open day in June showcasing the new facilities and the sports on offer.

Residents are able to use tennis courts using our Tap4Tennis bookings service, which is also available at Thorpe Astley Park tennis courts. The use of a pre-booked court entry system will give certainty around court availability, as well as providing funds to invest in court facilities and provide training sessions, all with the aim of increasing participation in tennis and sport.

The new Pavilion building is a shared sports facility and a community association made up of representatives from the sports clubs and the Council has been formed to run the facility on a day to day basis. The first meeting of the Committee of the Shakespeare Park Management Association was held on Monday 27th March. The Committee appointed a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The Committee also adopted a constitution and authorised the Treasurer to set up a Bank Account.

Since then, two further meetings have been held. The Licence to Occupy and Manage the Pavilion has now been issued and accepted by the Association, which will enable

the new Pavilion facility to be available for hire and community use during the coming year. In addition, 10 year pitch licences have been issued to the Clubs, providing security of tenure, which should unlock funding opportunities and enable the Clubs to continue to grow.

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.

A grant from the National Lottery of £45,000 was awarded on 27th April. Along with Section 106 funding, Tesco Bags of Help funding and underspends from phases 1 and 2 of the project, funding for the playground improvements has now been secured. A planning condition on the playground remains to be discharged and with lead in times, it is expected that works will commence at the end of the summer holidays meaning the new play facilities will be available for use in October 2023.

Braunstone Civic Centre Improvements

Having secured funding and appointed a contractor, works to improve the toilet and kitchen facilities at Braunstone Civic Centre began in January 2023. The building works were completed last month with some snagging and fitting works in the new Café kitchen to be completed this month.

The refurbished toilets included a new Changing Places toilet. I am delighted that the Council was successful in bidding to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities for £19,941 funding towards the cost of providing a Changing Places toilet. Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. Changing Places toilets meet these needs and it is right that we invest in these improvements to ensure that all in our community can access, enjoy and benefit from the services we provide at the Civic Centre site.

The internal reorganisation of the building provided an opportunity to improve the kitchen facilities. The new kitchen facility for the Civic Community Lounge will expand the bar service to include the provision of a café service offering lunches and meals, utilising the Lounge more effectively and providing a wider community social and meeting space.

Supporting our Community

Following the Covid-19 pandemic and with the current cost of living crisis, the Town Council has continued to support and facilitate initiatives to support our community groups and those in our community who are most in need.

With the support of our Library volunteers, we ran a Warm Spaces Lunch throughout the winter period. The initiative provided a hot soup and an opportunity to socialise, meet others and seek support and advice through the Town's Local Area Coordinator.

In addition, the Town Council continues to provide support to our voluntary organisations and groups, who are at the heart of our community, by offering discounted arrangements, including free use, when using our community centres, and with additional funds available through our community grants scheme. Furthermore, following a generous gift from the trustees of the former Braunstone Town Community minibus, a new community and social inclusion projects grant scheme has been established.

Climate Change and the Environment

In recent years the impact of climate change has become increasingly visible and, therefore, in 2021 the Town Council adopted a Climate Change & Environmental Strategy. The Strategy sets out a roadmap for the activities of the Town Council to become carbon neutral by 2030; for promoting and encouraging awareness and action on climate change; to move towards renewable energy sources; and to ensure the protection and enhancement of the town's green spaces.

Following adoption of the Strategy, the Council has also developed and implemented an Environment & Biodiversity Strategy for the Town's parks and green spaces in order to promote and encourage tree planting and seek to increase and enrich biodiversity.

To ensure that the Council becomes carbon neutral by 2030, we also commissioned a Carbon Audit of our activities, which made 11 recommendations for reducing the Council's carbon footprint by approximately 40% by 2024. An Action Plan was developed and approved by Policy & Resources Committee in June last year. Since then, work began a pace to deliver the recommendations and address the impact of our own activities on the climate.

Following a procurement process, this month work is due to commence on installing Solar PV Panels and Electric Vehicle Charging Points at our Community Facilities. In addition, an Air Source Heat Pump will also be installed at Thorpe Astley Community Centre over the summer. These initiatives will not only reduce our carbon emissions by around one-third but will also ensure the Council meets its budgeted £18,000 savings on utility costs.

Our climate and environmental commitments are not just about the Council's carbon footprint, they are equally about supporting our community to respond. Therefore, the Town Council has been working closely with its partners to improve cycling and walking routes in order to provide sustainable transport connections between the various communities, facilities and services in our Town and also between the Town and the City Centre, Fosse Park, railway stations, bus stations and other surrounding retail and employment areas. Work began on phase 1 of these improvements in February with the enhancement of the pathway through Mossdale Meadows. Work on the lighting and CCTV is due to be complete by the end of this month. Shortly after the path will be linked through Meridian Leisure. Further works are due to be carried out in the autumn 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.

Strategic Aims and Delivery Objectives 2023/2024

In 2021, the Council reviewed its ten key priorities refining and focussing them into four strategic aims for the medium term:

1. **Protect and Enhance our Parks and Open Spaces:** to invest in and maintain high quality urban green spaces for sport, recreation and play, while enriching the natural environment.
2. **Provide Vibrant Community Facilities:** to provide vibrant, accessible and cost effective community facilities, which continue to be used by and respond to the needs of our community.
3. **Support and Connect the Local Community:** to both nurture and enhance the Town's community life and connect our communities to reduce isolation and build community cohesion.
4. **Respond to Climate Change and champion sustainable development:** to embed climate and environmental awareness in our decision making and actions and play our part in supporting the community to do the same.

Each Aim is supported by specific delivery objectives, which are reviewed and developed as part of the annual review of the Council's Business Plan and Capital Plan and the annual setting of the budget and Council Tax precept. For 2023/2024 there are 17 specific delivery objectives.

A summary of the delivery objectives is contained in the Annual Report and full details are set out in the Council's Business Plan, which is available on our website and from Customer Services at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Capital Plan

Alongside the Council's Business Plan, the Council approves a Capital Plan, which sets out proposed improvements to our assets and infrastructure.

In the coming year, priority capital projects include:

- replacing the vehicle and pedestrian culvert bridges at Mossdale Meadows given the existing culverts are not suitable for the flow of water which causes flooding on the park;
- Shakespeare Park playground improvements and provision of sensory play equipment;
- enhancements to Impey Close playground and Open Space;
- installation of Solar PV Panels at the Council's Community Facilities, and an air source heat pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, in order to protect the public finances from the significant increase in energy costs and to address the impact of our operations on the environment by reducing our carbon footprint; and
- installation of Electric Vehicle Charging points and improvements to cycling facilities at our community facilities to support sustainable travel by our service users, hirers and staff.

A full list of the Council's Capital Projects is available on our website and from Customer Services at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Getting Involved

The Council welcomes the input of the community in shaping our services and initiatives. Residents can have their say on a range of service improvements, initiatives and projects through consultations, which are notified in the Braunstone Life, on our website, social media and notices around the Town.

Residents can have their say at our Council and Committee meetings through the Public Participation item on each agenda.

The Council also has a Citizens' Advisory Panel, which is open to all residents to join, which meets quarterly and discusses our Business Plan, Capital Plan, initiatives and projects and receives details of our consultations.

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*



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 or by contacting Customer Services.

Once again, thank you for your time.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Table with 3 columns: YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022, (blank), YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023. Rows include financial data such as BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD, Annual Precept, Total other receipts, Staff costs, Loan interest / capital repayments, Total other payments, Balances carried forward, Total cash and short term investments, Total fixed assets and long term assets, and Total borrowings.

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 Lubbesthorpe 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

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL:
ENQUIRIES@BRAUNSTONETOWNCOUNCIL.ORG.UK OR
 CALL: 016 2890045



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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.

