

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9th March 2023

Item 15 (b)

Blaby District Council Parishes Group, 01.03.2023

Introduction: I, along with several others, could not attend this meeting because of attendance at the BDC Parish Liaison event. However, here are the notes submitted for inclusion in the Group's Minutes.

Braunstone Town Council notes

1. BTC's Council Tax increase (Band D) for 2023/24 is 7.37%. The average for Parishes in the BDC area is 6.09% with some Parishes having double figure increases.
2. The new parkland on Meridian Way Extension (and adjacent to the M1) is nearing completion. It will be joined to the existing parkland running between the M1 and the Thorpe Astley estate.
3. The Shakespeare Park sports facilities rebuild is completed.
4. Tendering and contract allocation are continuing for (a) solar PV panels and battery storage and (b) EV charging. These developments are part of the Council's drive towards minimising carbon emissions.
5. Work is commencing on facilities improvements (toilets and kitchen) in the Civic Centre.
6. The Council is providing a Warm Welcome Space on Tuesdays at the Civic Centre.
7. This Spring the pedestrian and cycleway paths, which will enable movement through Mossdale Meadows, the Meridian Leisure Centre and on to Thorpe Astley and Lubbethorpe, will be completed.
8. The Community Library now offers a wide variety of events and services.
9. Future events organised by the Council are:
 - (a) Family Barndance, 18th March
 - (b) Community Quiz, 24th March
 - (c) 'Thorpe Astley By The Sea 2023', 1st July
 - (d) Annual fete on Mossdale Meadows, 5th August

Councillor Bob Waterton

02.03.23

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9th March 2023

Item 15b – Blaby District Council Parish Liaison : Parish Chairs and Clerks Meeting, 01.03.23

Background

This was the third in the series of these meetings which alternate with a series for Parish Clerks only.

The meetings are jointly arranged by John Richardson (Strategic Director, BDC), who chairs the meetings, and Jake Atkinson (Chief Executive, LRALC).

The Agenda for the meeting of 01.03.23 is attached as Appendix A.

From the Parishes there were approximately 20 representatives (including Clerks). Parishes represented included Braunstone Town, Enderby, Kilby, Glenfield, Huncote, Glen Parva, Sapcote, Croft, Cosby, Lubbesthorpe.

Report on Agenda Items

LRALC UPDATE

Items are shown on the Agenda.

Post-election training will include: 'Becoming A Councillor', the new Code of Conduct and the new Register of Interests.

Jake Atkinson also referred to LRALC's 'Civility and Respect' project. He encouraged Parishes to pledge support.

The De Montfort University report ('The Future of Local Councils') is significant in my view and members should have a look at it. In particular, it emphasises (i) the increased professionalism in PC's and (ii) the growing range of activities and services provided by PC's. In the light of the report I asked what will be done by BDC to recognise the points made by the report. In response, John Richardson said he is proposing to work towards a District and Parishes Charter (see Item 5 on the Agenda).

BDC UPDATES

1) John Richardson: (a) BDC will be liaising with Parishes to carry out a Carbon Footprint Pilot, (b) BDC is intending to introduce S106 planning in advance of developments by creating a list of PC infrastructure priorities, (c) BDC will be developing a 'built facilities' strategy.

2) Community Safety Team: This report was long and complex but mention was made of (a) Home Office funds (particularly for dealing with anti-social behaviour), (b) a BDC 'advisory' complaints office and (c) Community Bystander Training (Multiple Dates, Eventbrite) – the first sessions are on Wednesday 15th March 2023, 9.30 to 11.30 and 14.30 to 16.30.

3) Elections: The report included relevant dates and (a) notice of the Candidate and Agent Briefing at 6.00pm on 7th March (Council Chamber), (b) discussion of voter I.D. issues including protection for polling station officers and (c) a statement that a candidate's home address doesn't have to be included on the nomination form.

4) The Register of Members' Interests form has been revised and should be used post-elections.

5) BDC's Safeguarding Policy (with a bitesize guide) will be sent out to PC's.

PARISH UPDATE

No issues were raised under this heading.

Conclusions and Observations

1. The updates contained a number of useful items including notifications of policies and documents due to reach Parish Councils in the near future; where appropriate, BTC may need to consider actions and responses.

2. Participation by PC representatives was minimal although no time was available under the 'Parish Update' heading.

Cllr Bob Waterton

Blaby District Parish Liaison – Parish Chairs and Clerks Meeting

Wednesday 1st March at 4.30 pm for 5.00 pm start
at Blaby District Council Offices – Council Chamber, Narborough

A G E N D A

ARRIVAL – Registration, Tea/Coffee and Informal Networking

4.30 pm

(John Richardson (Blaby DC) and Jake Atkinson (LRALC) will be in attendance

Chair: John Richardson, Strategic Director, Blaby District Council

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS AROUND TABLE	5.00 pm Prompt
2.	<p>LRALC Update – Jake Atkinson, Chief Executive LRALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General update on Parish issues locally and nationally • Post election LRALC training • Review of how LRALC is governed • Future of Local Councils - where local councils fit into levelling up and devolution plans (DeMontfort University report); see here: SLCC The Future of Local Councils 	5.05 pm
3.	<p>BLABY DISTRICT Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon Footprint Pilot for Parish Councils (John Richardson) • The work of the Community Safety Team (Rebecca Holcroft/Carol Parker) • Elections (Katie Brooman) • Revised Register of Members’ Interests Form (Louisa Horton) • Safeguarding Policy & Bitesize Guide for Parish Councils (Teresa Neal) 	5.20 pm
4.	<p>PARISH UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for Parishes to share issues of best practice/interest to attendees 	6.00 pm
5.	<p>FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>Any suggested agenda items - inform LRALC via this link: Blaby DC - Parish Liaison Support Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils (leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaby District and Parish Charter <p>Future Parish Liaison Meeting Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 24th May at 10.00 am to 11.30 am for Parish Clerks • Wednesday 6th September at 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm for Parish Clerks & Chairs • Wednesday 29th November at 10.00 am to 11.30 am for Parish Clerks 	6:20 pm
6.	MEETING CLOSE	6.30 pm prompt

**ACTIONS FROM THE BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PARISH LIAISON MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER AT 11.00 AM**

NO.	ACTION	PROGRESS
1	Louisa to send out the Recharging Policy to all Parishes after the meeting.	Complete
2	Louisa Horton to send out contact details for Katie Brooman, the Council's Election Manager to all Parishes – Katie.Brooman@blaby.gov.uk	Complete
3	Paul Coates to circulate the Fees and Charges to all Parishes early in the New year.	The Parish Fees and Charges will be agreed for 2023/24 at February Council Meeting. However, grass cutting charges have increased by 6.6% as have litter bin emptying services. Trade waste bins have increased by between 4-10% (i.e. 4% for 1100l bin and 10% for 240l bin)
4	Alison to email all Parish Councils before the next meeting on Wednesday 1 st March at 5.00 pm at Blaby District Council, asking for items for the agenda.	Complete