

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Imran Uddin (Chair), and Councillors Satindra Sangha and Darshan Singh and residents Jeanette Essex, Barbara Haselgrove, Jack Haselgrove, Susan Metson, Geoff Simmonds, Satwant K. Singh.

Officers in Attendance: Darren Tilley, Chief Executive & Town Clerk and Pauline Snow, Deputy Chief Executive & Community Services Manager.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Sam Fox-Kennedy and residents John Dodd and Anthony Mason

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting

The Panel received the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2023 in order to confirm their accuracy and be signed by the Chairperson.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st August 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

4. Feedback/Progress with issues raised at previous Open Sessions

The Panel received feedback and progress with pursuing issues raised at previous Citizen's Advisory Panel Open Sessions (Item 4 on the agenda).

It was noted that a response had been received from Leicestershire County Council Environment and Transport Department regarding the request for additional signage to Braunstone Town on highway signs before reaching Fosse Park Island. The County Council advised that additional local directional signage is not something they consider implementing following guidance from the Department of Transport. It was noted that over usage of signs was discouraged as many drivers now use satellite navigation systems when travelling to new areas and too many highway signs dilutes safety-critical messages.

The Panel suggested that the Welcome to Braunstone Town signs on the slip road be brought forward towards the island so that they are more visible to drivers.

Lighting on the Lubbesthorpe Bridle Path would be considered for inclusion in the Town Council's forthcoming Capital Plan. The Town Council would also be actively pursuing other initiatives with Leicestershire County Council and Blaby District Council to further develop the cycling and walking networks across the district to

link communities and different areas of the Town. Consideration would be made to improve links through Mossdale Meadows from Shakespeare Drive to Brockenhurst Drive; improved Franklin Park footpath; Kingsway North to Avon Road footpath and Thorpe Astley footpath through to Leicester Forest East.

The Panel suggested that when installing footpath lighting, that light pollution within the Town be considered and measures undertaken to reduce this as much as safely possible.

AGREED:

1. that the County Council be contacted to move the Welcome to Braunstone Town sign nearer to the island; and
2. that when installing lighting, consideration to be made on the impact of light pollution.

5. Open Session

This provided an opportunity for Panel members and attendees present to raise matters of public interest.

The Panel discussed a recent Diwali event held at the Civic Centre and suggested amendments to the organisation of the Diwali Celebration be included in the 2024 event.

AGREED that a reduction in ticket numbers to provide a more comfortable and more easily managed event.

6. Braunstone Town Council Results from Surveys

The Panel received the results of the Town Council surveys, including feedback on current initiatives (item 6 on the agenda).

The Panel noted that the responses from the surveys were very low and considered ideas to increase responses to the surveys undertaken.

AGREED:

1. that a reason why the survey was being undertaken be included in the promotion to engage more residents;
2. that better use of Town Council noticeboards should also be considered to promote surveys including using QR codes to access the survey; and
3. that paper copies of the survey being available at Town Council venues.

7. Priorities, Projects and Financial Planning

The Panel received the Council's medium-term strategy along with the current priorities, objectives and capital plan in order to determine whether they were relevant to address current and emerging issues faced by the Council and the community and to consider and comment upon progress during the current year

and consider and identify any new issues and projects for 2024/2025 and beyond for recommendation to Policy & Resources Committees (Item 7 on the agenda).

AGREED that the report be noted.

8. Draft Climate Change & Environmental Action Plan

The Panel considered items for a proposed annual action plan to deliver the Climate Change and Environmental Strategy's Objectives (Item 8 on the agenda).

It was noted that the Town Council had engaged a specialist contractor to undertake Biodiversity studies on all Town Council owned land in April 2024 to advise on land management to support and sustain wildlife and green spaces.

The Town Council's work on Climate Change and Environment Planning was to lead by example and encourage residents to consider what they can do to help the environment.

AGREED that the following be considered:

1. to encourage residents to avoid the removal of grass and plants and tarmacking or block-paving front gardens to accommodate extra parking; and
2. initiatives to encourage residents to plant more seeds and plants could be considered after the biodiversity studies had been completed and promoted, particularly to younger residents.

9. Braunstone Village Conservation Area Extension

The Panel received an update on the progress with proposals to extend the Braunstone Village Conservation Area to the South of Braunstone Lane (Item 9 on the agenda).

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk advised that a recent update had been received from Blaby District Council as follows:

- Four to six weeks for production of draft documents – February/March 2024
- Two to four weeks for internal checking – March/April 2024
- Six to eight weeks suggested for public consultation – April/May 2024
- Four to six weeks suggested for assessing consultation responses and revising documents for final approval – June/July 2024
- Meeting to consider designation – July 2024

Although the progress on the work was slow this was positive news. Work on agreeing a Conservation Area included technical planning work that needed to be accurate and thorough to avoid potential planning problems in the future.

Panel members expressed frustration at the time taken to start work on the area and expressed concern over upcoming planning applications that could impact on the area before a Conservation Area was approved by Blaby District Council.

Braunstone Town Council was very keen to ensure that the Conservation Area was established and would ensure that the key partners undertake the work within the timescales now agreed.

Panel members were advised to contact the Town Council over any upcoming planning applications within the proposed Conservation Area, that they were concerned about and that Planning & Environment Committee meetings were open to the public to attend.

AGREED that the update be noted.

10. Arrangements for commemorating 80th Anniversary of D-Day in June 2024

The Panel shared ideas and considered proposals for commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in June 2024 (item 10 on the agenda).

Draft suggestions for activities and events would be considered by the next Community Development meeting due to be held on 7th December 2023 and suggestions from residents would also be included.

Ideas being considered included lighting of the Memorial Garden at the Civic Centre in lieu of lighting a beacon; a short service of commemoration at the Memorial Garden on 6th June 2024 followed by refreshments and Coffee Morning organised by the library volunteers; planting of poppy seeds on land owned by the Town Council; displays and photographs organised by the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group; a mini Programme of Events to support local community groups to organise their own events and a small budget to offer a grant scheme to community groups to arrange their events.

AGREED

1. that the draft proposals be noted; and
2. that the link that Braunstone Town had with the 82nd Airborne Division be highlighted in the forthcoming commemorations of the D-Day landing.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

NOTE:

**CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime and Disorder implications of all its activities and to do all that it can to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area.
EQUALITIES ACT 2010**

Braunstone Town Council has a duty in carrying out its functions to have due regard to:-

- *eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;*
- *advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and;*
- *foster good relations between different groups*

To ensure that no person receives less favourable treatment on the basis of race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for 29th February 2024.

SIGNED:

DATE: