

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 1st JUNE 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Imran Uddin (Chair), Councillor Leanne Lee (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Richard Forest, Satindra Sangha and Darshan Singh and local residents John Dodd and Jeanette Essex.

Officers in Attendance: Pauline Snow, Deputy Chief Executive & Community Services Manager.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Talent Nuyandoro

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of Meeting

The panel received the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2023 in order to confirm their accuracy and be signed by the Chairperson.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

4. Panel Work Programme for 2023/2024

Panel members received a copy of the Town Council's Annual Report for 2023 in order to consider priorities, if any, for the Panel's work during 2023/2024.

Panel members discussed the Strategic aims and delivery objectives of the Town Council for 2023/2024.

With regards to Supporting and Connecting with the Local Community aims, panel members discussed co-ordination between different authorities and local groups in order to provide a better approach to providing services on different days and locations, including the Warm Space initiative that the Town Council organised along with other groups in the Town. It was noted that not all groups or organisations wished to work with the council on joint projects but further work was needed to try and encourage a more co-ordinated approach to community work.

Members discussed the need to involve local groups and residents with the Panel in order to get relevant feedback and engagement on issues within the Town.

Much of the promotion and work undertaken by the Town Council is posted on the website and social media but concern was raised about the number of residents who don't use or have access to modern methods of communication. The Panel

members suggested that posters and flyers be made available on notice boards, local shops, post offices, sheltered housing, surgeries etc where vulnerable and elderly residents are more likely to see them in order to try and reach all residents of the Town.

AGREED that local community groups be contacted and encouraged to attend the Citizen's Advisory Panel meetings to put forward ideas and suggestions.

5. Braunstone Town Council Surveys

The Panel considered a programme of surveys.

It was noted that the Town Council no longer undertook an annual major survey on projects and plans for the forthcoming year but now undertook shorter, targeted surveys.

Members of the Panel queried how the surveys were made available to the public and it was noted that surveys were made available on the website, social media and paper copies were made available in the community centres and the library.

Members suggested that surveys needed to be more widely distributed as many residents did not use or have access to digital surveys and did not attend the centres and would therefore not be aware of the surveys.

AGREED

1. that paper copies of the surveys be forwarded to local community groups for distribution to their members or other contacts that may be interested in completing a survey;
2. that representatives of local groups and organisations be encouraged to attend the Citizen's Advisory Panel to help engage with the community; and
3. that the Braunstone Life be used to promote the Panel and encourage residents to attend.

6. 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.

It was noted that Leicester City Council would be carrying out a review of the Braunstone Village Conservation Area in the summer of 2023 and had agreed to include the proposal to extend the conservation area to the south of Braunstone Lane in the consultation. The Project Specification, once drafted, would need approval from the appropriate Head of Service at both Leicester City Council and Blaby District Council.

Work on the extension to the Braunstone Village Conservation area was progressing but at a very slow rate.

7. Shakespeare Park Improvement Project

The Panel received an update on progress with improvements to the play facilities and Future Management arrangements for the Pavilion at Shakespeare Park.

It was noted that the Management Committee would take over the running of the Shakespeare Sports Pavilion as from 1st June 2023.

Funding was now in place for the work to be carried out the refurbishment of the existing playground at Shakespeare Park. However, the planning application for the site included the requirement to provide decibel readings for the musical play equipment on the playground. The contractor had been unable to provide accurate decibel readings and therefore alternative play equipment had been suggested for the sensory garden that would not require decibel readings, in order to prevent a delay in the commencement of the work. The alternative equipment and revised layout of the play area was circulated for members of the panel to comment on.

AGREED that the proposals for the alternative equipment and revised layout of the play area be supported.

Matters Raised by Residents attending the meeting

Panel members raised concerns regarding the arrangements with the new management committee running the Shakespeare Sports Pavilion as from 1st June. Concern was raised on how the booking of rooms would be arranged and the procedure for making complaints. It was queried if the license and constitution of the new committee was available online or if it was available for public inspection.

Concerns were also raised regarding young people playing football up against the rear of the new sports pavilion and the grass cuttings being disposed over against residents' fences that were deep and creating a smell. The area was also reported to be overgrown with weeds that were being deposited into residents' gardens.

A query was also received regarding financial support from the Town Council for the repair of the roof at St Crispin's Church. Unfortunately, the Town Council was not legally able to support with financial support for the upkeep of religious buildings but was able to support any community fundraising events.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.

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 31st August 2023.

SIGNED:

DATE: