

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 31st AUGUST 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Imran Uddin (Chair), and Councillors Sam Fox-Kennedy, Satindra Sangha and Darshan Singh and residents John Dodd, Jayamati Chauhan, Barbara Haselgrove, Jack Haselgrove, Andrzej Stanislaw Jablonski, Anthony Mason, Talent Nyandoro, 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 Leanne Lee.

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 1st June 2023 in order to confirm their accuracy and be signed by the Chairperson.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

4. Open Session

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

The following items were discussed along with proposed actions.

- a) the Welcome to Braunstone Town sign on the slip road off Fosse Park island is not noticeable by traffic coming from M1 and M69 motorway lane until it is too late to turn into the slip road. It was suggested that signage to Braunstone Town is included in the highway signs before reaching the Fosse Park island.

Proposed action:

- i. *to contact the local County Council to ascertain if a request can be made to Leicestershire County Council Highways department to install additional signage for Braunstone Town;*
- ii. *To include on the agenda of the next Braunstone Town Council Planning & Environment Committee meeting.*

- b) Comments were received regarding parking in Disabled Bays at Braunstone Civic Centre car park.
- i. Visitors to the centre not displaying Blue Badges when parking in disabled spaces;
 - ii. Braunstone Town Council staff parking in disabled spaces;
 - iii. Contractors using disabled parking spaces to store equipment during recent work to the library;
 - iv. Delivery vans using disabled parking spaces to drop off items to the Civic Centre and library.

Proposed action:

- i. *That all visitors to the Civic Centre and Library be advised that unless they display a Blue Badge they should not park in disabled bays.*
 - ii. *All staff to be reminded that parking in disabled parking bays without displaying a Blue Badge is prohibited.*
 - iii. *That contractors be advised that equipment compounds were to be set up in the agreed locations when work is carried out.*
 - iv. *Clear signage required showing disabled bays.*
- c) Car park lines at Braunstone Civic Centre need remarking as no longer visible. It was noted that relining the car park bays at Braunstone Civic Centre is included in the Town Council's Capital Plan work

Proposed action: to propose that the Capital Works to the car park be brought forward in the Capital Plan as a priority.

- d) Parking at Braunstone Civic Centre by Blood Donors. Large truck used to transport equipment for the NHS blood donor service blocks cars in when they arrive. Staff used to cone off the car park bays by the side of Millfield Hall on days when Blood Donors were booked in.

Proposed action: to reinstate putting out cones by Millfield Hall to prevent other vehicles parking on days when Blood Donors were due to attend.

- e) Concern was raised regarding the crossroads on Kingsway where several residents had witnessed accident as drivers travelling on the Kingsway were unaware of the crossroads despite some signage being in place.

Proposed action: to contact the local County Councillor to express concern at the number of accidents at the crossroads and request that Highways consider installing further signage to advise that vehicles must stop at the crossroads, to prevent further accidents.

- f) It was suggested that central white lines down Kingsway be installed as it was noted that the road was very narrow when passing vehicles and buses and drivers needed guidance on road position.

Proposed action: to contact the local County Councillor to request the central white lines be installed on Kingsway.

- g) Concern was raised at the number of white work/transit vans parked on residential roads, pavements and junctions.
- h) Suggestions were made to encourage community cohesion in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley and organise community events in the Town. It was noted that Braunstone Town Council organised annual events for the whole community including the summer fete, apple day, Programme of Events, events in the library and the new Thorpe Astley at the Beach event.
- i) It was noted that the new Walking and Cycling route through Meridian and Mossdale Meadows had encouraged an increase in pedestrians from Braunstone Town and Braunstone City area. Concern was raised that there was no lighting installed down Lubbesthorpe Bridle Road from Shakespeare Drive to Brockenhurst Drive entrance to the park. This had been suggested in the early plans for the Walking and Cycling route but Leicester City Council, who had led the project, felt that lighting the Bridle Road would primarily only benefit Braunstone Town residents.

Proposed action: to consider the possibility of installing lighting down Lubbesthorpe Bridle Road and include in the Capital Plan Programme.

- j) It was noted that a small pocket of land adjacent to Mossdale Meadows belonging to Jelson Homes had come up for sale and it was queried if the Town Council was aware of this and if so, and would the Town Council be considering purchasing the open space. It was confirmed that the Town Council was aware of the availability of the land but currently had no plans to purchase further land.
- k) Concern was raised regarding youths in the area which wore hoods and masks covering their faces which residents felt was intimidating. It was also noted that there had been an increase in burglaries in the area. It was suggested that concerned residents could attend the Community Development Committee meeting as the Police were invited to attend these to give an update on crime in the area. Residents could then raise any concerns with the police at the meetings.

5. Library – Community engagement/involvement and Social Inclusion

The Panel received an update on community involvement and social inclusion initiatives at Braunstone Town Library (item 5 on the agenda).

A report was due to be submitted to the next Community Development Committee meeting setting out a proposed criteria and procedures for considering new activities in the Library, taking into account the existing criteria for use of free rooms in the Town Council's other venues.

John Dodd advised that the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group had been running Family History tuition in the Library using the public computers but this had not been successful. It was difficult to undertake this when activities were taking place in the Library due to the noise. It was noted that under the Service Level

Agreement with the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group that they were permitted to access the Library out of opening hours for various activities.

AGREED

1. To note the report; and
2. to support the introduction of a criteria and principals for future use of the Library by organisations.

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.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk, read out a recent update received from Blaby District Council as follows:

Leicester City Council have “advised that in broad brush terms the plan is to get draft paperwork done by the end of September then Leicester City Council and Blaby do internal checks/consultations in October, and public consultations can take place on either side of the boundary in November, with potential adoption around the end of the year. As the latter aspect has some unknowns then clearly that could drift more into January”.

“This is really encouraging but does need to be caveated by the need for an agreed brief and price in order for Blaby District Council to be able to move forward on this. However, I do not expect this to slow down the above timetable. We will work on this with Leicester City Council and keep you updated. Also as previously discussed we will need to revisit the timetable we had drafted and ensure we arrange the ‘inception meeting’ with all three councils in attendance”.

It was felt that this was on optimistic timescale and that adoption of the proposed conservation area was unlikely to happen until early 2024 as the brief and proposed costs for the project had not yet been agreed. However, it was important to ensure that all the work and planning details were fully considered and included before progressing the adoption of the conservation area.

AGREED that the update be noted.

7. Improvements to Impey Close Play Area and Open Space

The Panel received outline proposals for the refurbishment and enhancement of Impey Close Play Area and surrounding Open Space (item 7 on the agenda).

The proposed work included refurbishment of existing playground equipment and installation of additional play equipment in the playground along with installation of new safety surfaces. It was also proposed to install additional equipment for older children around the edge of the playground, refurbishment of the paths adjacent to the playground and installation of a bench adjacent to the sculpture at the end of the path.

It was suggested that lighting could be installed in the area as the paths were not lit.

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

The meeting closed at 8:55pm.

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 30th November 2023.

SIGNED:

DATE: