

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 29th FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Leanne Lee (Chair), and Councillor Sam Fox-Kennedy; and local residents John Dodd, Jeanette Essex, Susan Metson and Geoff Simmonds.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Darshan Singh, Satindra Sangha and Imran Uddin; and from local residents Jack and Barbara Haselgrove.

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 30th November 2023 in order to confirm their accuracy and be signed by the Chairperson.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th November 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 no response had been received from County Highways regarding the Kingsway Crossroads and central white lines

It was proposed that the item on the Disabled parking spaces and car park lines at Braunstone Civic Centre, Blood Donor Truck and the Lubbesthorpe Footpath lighting be removed from the update as these items were now included in the Town Council Capital Plan.

It was noted that visitors to the centre were still parking in the disabled spaces and not displaying a Blue Badge. Managing this was difficult due to the disabled space markings being in poor condition and lack of signage on two of the spaces.

AGREED:

1. that the marking of the disabled parking spaces be referred to the Town Council Management Team to discuss;
2. that the marking of the disabled parking spaces remains on the update list;

3. that marking of the car parking lines at the Civic Centre, Blood Donor Truck parking and the Lubbesthorpe Footpath lighting items be removed from the update list.

5. Open Session

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

At the last meeting held on 30th November 2023 initiatives to encourage residents to plant more seeds and plants had been discussed under Biodiversity strategies.

Investigations had been undertaken into an option to encourage residents to plant more seeds. It was proposed that A5 sheets of paper with flower seeds embedded in the paper, be purchased and distributed in the Braunstone Life to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. To purchase enough sheets for distribution in the Braunstone Life was a moderate cost that the Town Council could consider contributing to. Inclusion of the seed sheets would be undertaken in the April edition of the Life with instructions on how to plant and the reasons for the initiative. It was suggested that any resident that was not able to utilise the sheet be encouraged to donate to local schools.

A meeting with the Braunstone Life representatives, local residents and the Town Council could be arranged to discuss this proposal further.

A query was raised regarding the sale of woodland adjacent to Brockenhurst Drive. It was understood that the land had been sold but had since been put back up for sale and resold.

The Town Council had not received any further information on the sale of the land or what proposals there were for the land. It was noted, however, that Blaby District Council had now approved a tree preservation order for the whole site.

6. Braunstone Village Conservation Area Extension

The Panel received an update on the progress with proposals to designate an area of Braunstone Village to the South of Braunstone Lane as a Conservation Area (Item 6 on the agenda).

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk provided an update regarding the Conservation Area:

It was noted that Leicester City Council had now completed the evidence appraisal reports and the reports were now with Blaby District Council for internal checking.

The Town Council would seek confirmation that the draft reports produced were being recommended and that the Policy Team and Planning Control Team were confident that the reports were robust and suitable documents before going to public consultation.

An additional meeting of the Town Council's Planning & Environment would take place on 11th April 2024 to consider the draft reports.

An updated outline timetable for the remainder of the work is provided below.

Timescales/Dates	Stage
February 2024	1. Evidence Gathering - <i>complete</i>
March 2024	2. Internal Checking - <i>underway</i>
11 th April 2024	Braunstone Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee considers consultation recommendation
16 th April 2024	Blaby District Council considers undertaking consultation
April / May 2024	3. Public Consultation
23 rd May 2024	Proposed Citizens' Advisory Panel meeting
June 2024	4. Assessing Consultation Responses
16 th July 2024	5. Blaby District Council considers Adoption proposal

AGREED that the following be noted:

- a) an additional meeting of Planning & Environment Committee had been scheduled for Thursday 11th April 2024 to consider the published report and recommendations being submitted to a meeting of Blaby District Council on 16th April 2024 on whether to undertake a public consultation; and
- b) the next meeting of Citizens' Advisory Panel was planned for Thursday 23rd May 2024, which could consider and respond to the public consultation (depending on timescales, this may need to be moved or an additional meeting arranged).

7. Library – Community engagement/involvement and social inclusion

The Panel received an update on community involvement and social inclusion initiatives at Braunstone Town Library (item 7 on the agenda).

The Panel received an update on the library and activities for the coming months.

It was noted that several craft and activity events had been organised for the library including, Women Empowerment Open Day, Craft Sessions for family's and model making activities.

The latest figures on the use of the Library from Leicestershire County Council provided very good results with the Braunstone Library being one of the top libraries in the County for new joiners and stock issues.

Members of the Panel suggested that promotion of activities in the library should be placed on all notice boards in the Town as well as social media. It was also noted that clarification should be made that the library is still open for normal library activity when events are taking place such as the Coffee Morning and Craft sessions.

AGREED that the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

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 TBC