

# BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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### NEWS RELEASE

Braunstone Town Councillors react with dismay as Blaby District Council is set to consult on splitting the parish in two.

Blaby District Council on 14th December 2021 is due to consider an item to undertake a Community Governance Review of Braunstone Town with a view to creating separate Local Councils for Thorpe Astley and the rest of Braunstone Town.

Braunstone Town Council Leader Councillor Nick Brown said "These proposals have appeared on the agenda of Blaby District Council from nowhere. We have been trying to find out the reasons behind the proposal coming forward given there is not a residents' petition and since the last Blaby consultation in 2011, which rejected the idea, there has been no significant development or population changes". Councillor Brown added "in the absence of any evidence of support from electors, we can only assume that Blaby's Administration is driven by short-term partisan party political motivations".

Following a Community Governance Review and consultation, Blaby District Council has the power to create an order to formally create two separate local councils, which includes splitting the existing assets of the Town Council, which can only:

1. result in the reduction in the quality and diversity of services available to all the residents, but especially those residents in any smaller parish;
2. result in an increase Council Tax Bills because of diseconomies of scale; and
3. delay or halt entirely both the Town Council and any new Council's response to Climate Change and investment in new and improved facilities and services.

Deputy Leader of Braunstone Town Council, Councillor Amanda Hack, stated "These proposals are especially disappointing given the Town Council successfully coordinated a community response to the pandemic, has protected and enhanced services such as the Town's Library and supported essential services at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, such as the pre-school, GP Surgery and Covid vaccinations". Councillor Hack added "following the pandemic and in a time when resources are tight, the Town Council's focus is to support our community and local groups recover, along with responding to the challenges faced by Climate Change. It is frustrating that Blaby District Council appears to be more focussed on drawing lines on maps, creating more Councils and Councillors, and as a result placing more demands on taxpayers while subjecting our residents to lower quality and less resilient local services".

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE, KINGSWAY, BRAUNSTONE TOWN, LEICESTER, LE3 2PP  
Braunstone Town Council serves the 17,000 strong population of Braunstone Town and, with an annual precept of £646,304, its services include community centres, open spaces and parks, community development services, including crime reduction initiatives, community events and a direct link to public services through its Customer Service Shop.