

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL

THURSDAY 9th OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Mr N Brown (in the Chair), Mr J Dodd, Local Resident, Councillor Mrs J Fox, Councillor Mrs A Hack, Mrs B Haselgrove, Local Resident, Mr J Haselgrove, Local Resident, Mr J Jameson, Local Resident, Mr J Johnson, Local Resident, Mr T Smith, Local Resident.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs P Hurd, Community Development and Centres Manager, Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mr T Chapman.

1. Disclosure of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest

2. Report of the Meeting held on 12th September 2013

The Report of the Meeting held on 12th September 2013 was received and noted.

3. Annual Report Questionnaire Results

- a) The Annual Report 2013/2014 was received and noted.
- b) The Annual Report Questionnaire was received and noted. A document setting out proposed actions and responses to the comments received was submitted. Members were advised that 23 responses had been received and copies of comments and the Town Council's Actions/Responses to the comments were circulated to members. Mrs Fox queried if the Town Council external notice board indicated that only official Braunstone Town Council notices were to be put on the boards to discourage fly posting. It was noted that Blaby District Council posted notes saying Cancelled or closed on to unauthorised posting to discourage this. Members noted that comments had been received on Civic Centre events and it was noted that the events held at the Civic Centre were suggested by the local groups that were sponsored by the Town Council. Local groups could be encouraged to consider new events in the Programme but it was noted that new events tried in the past had not always been successful.
- c) Final Performance Indicators 2013/2014. The Final Performance Indicators for 2013/2014 were received and noted. It was noted that the levels of staff sickness were high and were being monitored.

4. Priorities for the Review of 2014/2015

Members agreed not to set any additional priorities at the present time.

5. Future of Braunstone Town Library

- a) The briefing report received by Policy & Resources Committee regarding the future of Leicestershire libraries was received and noted. Members were advised that a meeting of Leicestershire County Council would hold a meeting on 23rd September to discuss the response to the Consultation. A final decision on the future of the libraries would be made by the County Council in November 2014 and a Scrutiny Panel would be set up to discuss the support package to be set up to help communities and organisations if they wished to take over the running of local

libraries. Written responses from organisations had been invited to be submitted by 13th October 2014. The Town Council had also been invited to present oral evidence on 15th October 2014 regarding the future of the Braunstone Town library. Members noted that decisions on which libraries would remain County Council operated was based on the number of people using the library but it was noted that the Braunstone library was not open as many hours as other libraries and that Braunstone Town had a larger population than other communities. All members of the committee agreed that a wider range of criteria should have been used to decide which libraries would remain open. Members were assured that Braunstone Town Council would continue to fight the proposed changes to Braunstone Town library.

It was noted that it would be the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Braunstone Library on 14th December 2014 and members agreed that this be publicised.

- b) The Terms of Reference for developing future Library provision was received and noted. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk advised that local parishes could work together to share resources to help run the local libraries. It was also noted that due to the close proximity of the Braunstone Civic Centre that services, staff and structures could be used in conjunction to continue running the library.
- c) An update on Leicestershire County Council's future library proposals was received and noted by members.

6. Holmfield Park

It was noted the Holmfield Park pavilion had now been demolished and that options to improve the play area would be considered. An outline timescale for the redevelopment of Holmfield Park was received by members.

7. Consultation

Members were advised that a policy on Pitch Allocations had been drafted for approval. Consultation on the new Pitch Allocations policy would be undertaken with local sports clubs and via the Braunstone Town Council website.

Formal consultation would also be carried out with local residents on proposals for the Braunstone Town library once a decision is received from Leicestershire County Council on whether the library would become a Community Partnership Library.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Panel had been scheduled for 4th December 2014 which would remain depending on the information received from Leicestershire County Council regarding the future of the library service.

9. Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.40pm