

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE **6TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Mrs S Maxwell (In the Chair), Mr R Berrington, Miss S Betts, Mr N Brown, Mr N Chamberlain, Mr T Chapman, Mrs S Fox-Kennedy, Mrs J Fox, Mr P Kennedy, Mr P Patel, Mr W Wright.

Officers in Attendance: Mr I Laughton, Executive Officer & Town Clerk, Mrs P Hurd, Civic Centre Manager/Community Development Officer, Miss J Leech, Assistant Executive Officer – Admin.

Apologies: Mr M S Aslam.

1. Disclosures of Interest

Mr R Berrington and Mrs J Fox declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 5a by reason of being Trustees of CAFFY.

2. Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Orders 16f and 70 the meeting was adjourned to give an opportunity for members of the public present to raise matters of public interest for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions.

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

3. Report of the Meeting Held 21st November 2013

The Report of the last meeting held on 21st November 2013 was accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Crime Reduction Services

- i) Blaby District Council – Community Services
Blaby District Council's Community Safety Officer (ASB) was present at the meeting to make a presentation on Anti-social Behaviour.

Mrs Carol Parker, Community Safety Officer for Blaby District Council and the new PCSO for the area, were present at the meeting to introduce themselves to Members and to give advice on their processes for responding to incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Mrs Parker explained the definition of anti-social behaviour, and the various measures that can be taken by the District Council. These included mediation, preventative measures through multi-agency working, probation and intervention through the Vulnerable People and Places Forum to aim to stop incidents escalating. A flowchart showing the procedure for dealing with someone acting in an anti-social way, which included advice and warning letters, was circulated for information.

In response to a query from Mrs J Fox, Mrs Parker confirmed that it was not the District Council's responsibility to deal with issues with housing tenants because housing associations had dedicated officers to deal with these matters, however, she did see benefits in partnership working.

An issue was raised with regard to groups of youths gathering in the Kingsway underpass. Mr Parker noted that she could highlight problem areas with the police to include in their beat patrols and she would relate this problem with them.

Mrs Parker was disappointed to note that the budget for the BB19 Youth Bus had been reduced and as a consequence the service provided as part of schools visits could be impacted on. She hoped to investigate whether there were any funding opportunities available.

It was noted that local residents should be advised to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour to the police or to the contacts for the Community Safety Team at Blaby District Council to ensure that they are responded to appropriately and any ongoing issues can be identified.

In response to a query from Mr P Patel, Mrs Parker confirmed that there was information available with regard to problems with parking on pavements and through inconsiderate parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas, etc.

In respect of problems with inconsiderate parking around school entrances during the school run, Mrs Parker confirmed that she had dealt with issues at other schools, however, it was difficult to enforce unless the police could include the areas as part of their patrols.

Mrs Parker was aware that parish and town councils had a key role in responding to anti-social behaviour as they were aware of what was happening in their area. Mrs Parker was advised that the Town Council employed a Crime Reduction Co-ordinator and it would be beneficial if they worked closely together.

Mrs Parker circulated leaflets with the relevant contact details for her department and Members thanked her for her attendance.

- ii) **Crime Reduction Co-ordinator's Report**
A progress report from the Crime Reduction Co-ordinator covering the action taken on the current crime trends and to encourage new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes was received and noted.
- iii) **Neighbourhood Takes Charge**
The reports of the Neighbourhood Takes Charge Meetings held 15th January 2014 and 4th February 2014 were received and noted. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk reported that Officers from Blaby District Council had advised him that the pilot scheme was progressing well. On 10th February there would be a 'door knocking' exercise in the area of the scheme for collecting questionnaires, getting feedback from residents, etc. Questionnaires had already been distributed and there was a collection box in the Civic Centre reception for collecting responses.

A follow up consultation meeting had been scheduled for 24th February 2014 at the Braunstone Civic Centre at which Braunstone Town Members had been invited to carry out introductions. That meeting would need to be given adequate publicity. It was to be published in the Braunstone Life and publicity posters had been produced.
- iv) **Speed Activation Sign**
The latest data from the Speed Activated Sign which had been located at Murby Way targeting vehicles exiting the estate, were received and noted. There was discussion on what would be the best action to proceed taking on board the information received. It was noted that the Sign was to be moved to Jewsbury Way, Thorpe Astley, which was the next most demanded place identified as part of the consultation process.

RESOLVED

To obtain data from the locations identified as part of the consultation process, and then seek relevant advice on what would be the most appropriate measures at each individual location.

- v) Braunstone Town Watchers
The report of the Braunstone Town Watchers Meeting held 18th November 2013 was received and noted (copy attached to this report). The date of the next meeting was scheduled for 17th February 2014. It was noted that a presentation had been made by an Officer from Blaby District Council's Community Safety Partnership Team and they had planned to attend the next meeting with a progress report.

5. Community Development & Centres Manager's Report

- a) Community Grants and External Funding Updates
A list of Community Grants and external funding received since 1st April 2013 was received. It was noted that the Winstanley Youth Forum had applied for a £1,500 grant from the CAFFY fund and the Ratby Youth Band had applied for a grant of £1,200.
- b) Community Grant Applications
RESOLVED
That the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 (General Power of Competence) should incur the following expenditure:-
- i) Royal Air Force Association Braunstone - £300 – to provide a band for a concert hosted by the local branch to commemorate the centenary start of WW1

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The remaining grants budget to 31st March 2014 was £385.

- c) Letters from Community Groups
To receive the following letters from groups regarding community grants

None received
- d) Improvements to Parks & Open Spaces
A progress report on the funding towards the 'Proposals & Priorities For Improvement to Our Open Spaces and Parks', was received. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk reported that he had arranged for the services to the Holmfield Park changing rooms to be disconnected and that quotes would need to be sought for the demolition works.
- e) Community Development Projects
i) The report covering from November 2013 from the Community Development & Centres Manager on Community Development Projects was received. Members noted that the Police and Crime Reduction Co-ordinator had attended one of the SWAGAT group meetings to give the group advice on crime preventative initiatives. The Braunstone Swimming Club had now been presented with their new kit through the sponsorship of Fosse Park Centre.
- f) Feedback Reports – to receive feedback reports from the Community Development & Centres Manager.
i) It was noted that the date for the Summer Fete had been scheduled for 26th July 2014 from 11.00am to 4.00pm. The meeting of the Summer Fete Sub-Committee was scheduled for 12th March 2014.

- g) Town Mayor's Support and Initiatives
- i) Town Mayor's Report
Members were reminded that the Town Mayor was hosting a Fashion Show at the Thorpe Astley Community Centre on Saturday 28th February 2014 from 7.30pm. Members were also reminded that the service to mark the 25th Anniversary of St Crispins Church was on 9th February 2014.
 - ii) 'Walk to Remember' Meeting
It was noted that the Heritage Group had held a meeting on 29th January 2014 to discuss the event to commemorate the outbreak of WWI, at which Mr M S Aslam had been in attendance. A further meeting had been scheduled for 13th February 2014.
 - iii) The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Memorial Appeal
A letter dated 8th November 2013 from the President of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Memorial Appeal requesting financial support towards the cost of erecting a memorial for the Regiment at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, was received and noted.

RESOLVED

That a response be sent to the Memorial Appeal to say that the Town Council would be happy to have one of their collection boxes located at the Council's centres.

6. Community Action Partnership

A letter dated 10th December 2013 from Community Action Partnership in response to the Town Council's request for further information on its services was received and noted. Members were reminded that the Partnership was asking Parish and Town Councils to consider it for a contribution of £2,000 to enable it to continue with its current service provision.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to Community Action Partnership to confirm that unfortunately, due to budgetary restraints being faced by parish and town councils at the present time, the Town Council would not be in a position to make a financial contribution towards the Community Action Partnership.

7. Financial Comparisons

The Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2013 to 20th January 2014 were received and noted.

8. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

NOTE:

CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime & 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 issues were considered in connection with each of the above decisions. Unless otherwise stated under each item of this report, there were no implications.