

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
20TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Ms A Hack (In the Chair), Mr N Brown, Mrs S Fox-Kennedy, Mrs J Fox, Mr P Kennedy, Mrs S Maxwell.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk, Mrs P Hurd, Community Development & Centres Manager, Miss J Leech, Assistant Executive Officer (Admin)

APOLOGIES: Mr M S Aslam, Mr A S Brasra, Mr N Chamberlain.

1. Disclosure of Interest

Mrs J Fox declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in agenda item 6b by reason of being a Board Member of the East Midlands Housing Association.

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.

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

3. Report of the Meeting held on 18th September 2014

The Report of the last meeting held on 18th September 2014 was accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Community Grants and Funding

a) Community Grants and External Funding Updates

A list of Community Grants and external funding received since 1st April 2014 was received.

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) Braunstone Swimming Club - £300 – swim equipment
- ii) The Ratby Co-operative Band - £300 – refurbishment costs to bandroom.
- iii) Braunstone Trinity Football Club - £300

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Grant budget for 2014/2015 was £5,000. The current balance of community grant budget was £537.00.

RESOLVED

- i) To vire a sum from the Summer Fete heading to cover the three grant applications received.*
- ii) For a report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee as to possible reasons for the increase in applications to enable the Committee to review the Community Grants budget for the remainder of the year.*
- iii) To make a recommendation for the Policy & Resources Committee to consider any increases in the budget for Community Grants for the 2015/2016 year.*

5. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

A progress report on the funding towards the 'Proposals & Priorities for Improvements to Our Open Spaces and Parks'.

a) Holmfield Park

The changing rooms had been demolished in October and an invitation to tenders for the provision of play equipment for the site had been issued to play equipment suppliers. The deadline for tenders was 1st December 2014 and details would be received at the next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Panel on 4th December 2014. The Panel would then make recommendations to be received by the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 15th January 2015. Applications for funding towards the project were being sought, along with contributions from s106 monies via Blaby District Council. It was anticipated that, should these funding applications be successful that there would be an estimated £7,000 shortfall.

b) Shakespeare Park

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk reported that the Council had been contacted by an organisation called 'Shared Access' who acted on behalf of mobile phone companies to identify sports/community facilities who owned land within areas of poor mobile phone reception, to see if they would consider allowing the lease of an area of land on their site to position a phone mast in lieu of a financial contribution towards the Group. He had met with the organisation at Shakespeare Park as this was within an area of poor reception. They had identified an ideal site adjacent to the tennis courts. Shared Access had indicated that, subject to tests and their findings being acceptable to the mobile phone companies, a financial contribution would be made to the Town Council. They would also cover the cost of the Town Council's legal expenses and relevant planning applications etc. Shared access could also provide information events to local residents. Shared Access would advise the Town Council of the outcome of the tests in due course.

6. Community Development Projects

- a) **Local Area Co-ordinator**
The Community Development & Centres Manager advised Members of a meeting held on 29th October 2014 at which a presentation on an overview of the Scheme had been given and that there had also been a stakeholders meeting in November to discuss the role of the Co-ordinator. It was expected that the Co-ordinator post would be in place in March 2015. There had been representatives from other agencies present at the meetings, including Social Services and NHS England. It was noted that the GPs would have a role in referring people to the Scheme, however, they had not yet been in attendance at any of the Stakeholder meetings.
- b) **Neighbourhood Takes Charge**
The Community Development & Centres Manager reported that she and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk had met with the District Council's Community Services Group Manager to discuss the progression of the Scheme. It was noted that, despite local residents expressing an interest in being involved in the scheme, only two residents were regularly attending the meetings. There had been discussions at how this could be improved, and it was considered that it would be beneficial for the residents to host their own meetings to encourage involvement. A meeting had subsequently been arranged to be held in a resident's home. There was discussion as to how the Town Council could generate more interest, with the potential for more door to door visits, mailings giving background on what had been achieved so far, and the use of social media. It was hoped that the improvement works currently going on may also generate interest. It was noted that there were successes from the Scheme with residents carrying out litter picks and effectively redirecting residents' queries to appropriate authorities.

7. Crime Reduction Services

- a) **Neighbourhood Watch**
The Community Development & Centres Manager reported to Members that there had been a reduction in the attendance at the Town Watchers meetings. She, the Crime Reduction Co-ordinator and Mr W Wright had met to discuss how the attendance could be increased, and changes to the format to future meetings included a room layout that encouraged the Co-ordinators to have an input in the discussions, and opportunity to swap ideas, etc.

It was acknowledged that, following the Town Council's recruitment of a Crime Reduction Co-ordinator, that they would be required to introduce a town wide NHW Scheme, and at the same time the Town Watchers would be required to take on the responsibility for its own running. It was noted that, currently, the Town Watchers was not properly constituted as it did not have a Treasurer or Secretary. It was discussed as to whether the Group had the necessary knowledge on how to run a constituted group as this had previously been carried out by a Town Council officer.

Following discussion it was agreed that a representative from another successful Neighbourhood Watch Group would be invited to a future meeting of the Town Watchers to give them advice on how to run a constituted group and that the Chair of the Town Watchers would take the lead on forming agendas, etc.

It was noted that the attendance of meetings should not be taken as an indicator to the work of the NHW Co-ordinators, as there were active NHW Co-ordinators who committed a lot of time to sharing information with households in their scheme but did not attend the Town Watchers meetings.

- b) **Speed Activation Sign**
The results of the Speed Activation Sign based at Jewsbury Way from 18th August to 3rd September and 5th September to 24th September 2014 were received. It was noted that the speed figures were lower than where the sign had been previously sited, however, it was not considered to be a particularly problem area. Members noted that other areas that had been highlighted to them by residents had included Henley Crescent and Turnbull Drive.

8. Social Inclusion

- a) **Town Mayor's Support and Initiatives**
The Community Development & Centres Manager updated Members on the Town Mayor's projects. The Town Mayor had attended a number of Programme of Events, and had also represented the Council at Remembrance Service events. It was noted that St Crispin's Church would be holding its Christmas Tree festival to coincide with the Carol Service.
- b) **Braunstone Town Library 50th Anniversary**
Details of the Braunstone Town Library 50th Anniversary event scheduled for Saturday 6th December 2014 were received. Volunteers were required for helping greet visitors and with serving refreshments.

9. Annual Report and Questionnaire – proposed Action/Responses

The results off the Annual Report Questionnaire relevant to the Committee, along with proposed Action/responses to the issues raised. Once the responses had been agreed by all relevant committees, these would be actioned.

10. Blaby District Council Scrutiny

Feedback from Blaby District Council on the Town Council's recommendations for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee was receive, which included the Review of public infrastructure in respect of Lubbesthorpe; Review of increasing access with the provision of further leisure centre/activity in the north of the District; and Review of the disposal of land/assets. The Town Council would be involved in discussions on the Lubbesthorpe infrastructure through the Lubbesthorpe Consultative Group. The District Council referred the Town Council to its community grants programme in relation to extending leisure options, and the Scrutiny Committee considered its processes for the disposal of its assets/land at its meeting held 29th October 2014, the results of which were reported back by Mr P Moitt at the Full Council meeting.

11. **Financial Comparisons**

The Financial Comparisons from 1st April 2014 to 31st October 2014 were received and noted.

12. **Estimates 2015/2016**

- a) The Financial Comparisons from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 were received and noted.
- b) A list of outstanding Capital Projects relevant to the Committee were received. It was noted that there were two long term outstanding items.

RESOLVED

That the following three items would be deleted from the outstanding Capital Projects' list.

Community	
Details of Project	Reason for Proposed Deletion
Youth Bus	Service provided by Blaby District Council
CCTV Narborough Road South Subways, estimated cost £26,750 (<i>Source: Parish Plan</i>)	Expensive to run and time consuming catching offenders. Other options for crossings, decoration of subways and working with partners on prevention should be explored.
Local Shopping Centres (Improve viability of local shopping centres – Street Furniture/Festive Decorations/Hanging Baskets), estimated cost £8,500 (<i>Source: Parish Plan</i>)	This items was suggested as part of the Parish Plan, however, there has been limited interest concerning its development and implementation.

- c) The draft Estimates for the Community Development Committee for 2015/2016 were received and noted.

RESOLVED

That the draft Estimates for the Community Development Committee be forwarded to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee for its consideration, with consideration for an increase in the Community Grants budget following receipt of further information on reasons for an increase in applications in the current year.

13. **Termination of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

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.