

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

5TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.40PM

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk, Miss J Leech, Assistant Executive Officer (Admin)

APOLOGIES: Mr A S Basra, Mr N Chamberlain, Mr T Chapman, Mrs S Fox-Kennedy, Mrs J Fox.

1. Disclosure of Interest

There were no disclosures by Members of any Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

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 on 20th November 2014

The Report of the last meeting held on 20th November 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

There were no grant applications received for the current meeting.

c) Braunstone Town Youth Fund

An application to the Braunstone Town Youth Fund from Winstanley Community College to enable its students to participate in the Greenpower Challenge, was received.

RESOLVED

- i) *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:- that Winstanley Community College be awarded £600 from the Youth Fund towards to enable it to participate in the Greenpower Challenge and that, as part of the confirmation of the grant, the College be asked to give publicity to it as part of promoting their project.*

ii) *That, in light of the number of students representative of Braunstone Town at Bosworth College, the college be contacted to raise their awareness to the scheme, however, that it be made clear that funding would be made available for schemes that were inclusive of students from Braunstone Town.*

- d) **Community Grants**
Arising from the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 12th January 2015, Members considered the Council's approach to considering grants applications, particularly in relation to the value of grants approved. It was noted that the current financial year was the first year where there had been a higher demand for grants than budgeted for. Following discussion it was agreed to retain the current process and estimated budget for the Community Grants.

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'. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk updated Members on the progress of funding applications towards the Holmfield Park Improvement Project. He also advised Members that he had signed the register of interest accepting the terms with Shared Access for the scheme at Shakespeare Park. He hoped that this would open up other funding opportunities for the improvement project.

6. Community Development Projects

- a) **Local Area Co-ordinator**
A report on the progress of the Local Area Co-ordinator Scheme was circulated to Members. A Local Area Co-ordinator Manager had been recruited and it was planned for the Co-ordinators to be recruited before April 2015.

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk reported that he had already provided the District Council with details of relevant groups that meet in the area and for the District Council to supply them with information on the Local Area Co-ordinator Scheme and how it can help them.

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk would continue to liaise with the Leadership Group in the lead up to the introduction of the scheme in the Town and would keep Members updated on progress.

- b) **Neighbourhood Takes Charge**
It was noted that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Takes Charge Group was 18th February 2015. The Chair of the residents' group was scheduling a meeting for that group for the near future.

7. Crime Reduction Services

- a) Crime Statistics
A report from the Crime Reduction Co-ordinator on the Crime statistics and trends was received and noted.

The figures showed that there had been a 10% rise in crime in Braunstone Town in the last twelve months, higher than the figure for across the County as a whole, with the biggest impact being from vehicle crime. Members considered whether there could be any way of identifying whether the increase in crime could be linked to the introduction of the Part-Night Lighting Scheme.

RESOLVED

That a letter of invite be sent to the Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire to attend a future meeting of the Council specifying what information on the crime statistics the Council would like further information on, and on what action the Police would be taking to reduce the crime, and that representatives of the Braunstone Town Watchers also be invited to the meeting.

- b) Braunstone Town Police Update
The Braunstone Town Police Newsletter for January 2015 was received and noted.
- c) Street Lighting Consultation
A letter dated 17th December 2014 from Leicestershire County Council with regard to its annual review of the Part Night Lighting Scheme was received. Members received the maps of the schemes across the Town for information. The County Council had indicated in its letter that as part of the review there had been no concerns raised by the police and the County Council was now giving parish and town councils the opportunity to make comment.

Members made reference to the issue relating to the increase in crime shown in the crime statistics report received earlier in the meeting, particularly in that the crime figures for the parishes neighbouring the city boundary where the Part-Night Lighting Scheme had been introduced showed an increase in the last twelve month period, whereas the within the City itself, where there was no reduction in lighting, the figures were showing a slight decrease in crime.

RESOLVED

- a) *That a letter be sent to the Police requesting more detailed statistics on the locations and times of crime taken place in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley mapped out to enable a comparison against the plans for the Part-Night Lighting Scheme.*
- b) *That a response to Leicestershire County Council's consultation be sent advising it of the Town Council's intention to seek this additional information from the Police and also that it would be inviting the Crime Commissioner to a future meeting of the Council as an opportunity for him to explain the reason for the increase in crime. A request would be made therefore to the County Council for it to keep the Part-Night Lighting Scheme under review for a further twelve months to allow the Town Council opportunity to obtain further evidence.*

- d) Neighbourhood Watch – Braunstone Town Watchers
The report of the Braunstone Town Watchers Meeting held 1st December 2014 was circulated to Members. It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Watchers was scheduled for 16th February 2015 at which a new Secretary and Treasurer would need to be elected.
- e) Speed Activation Sign
The results of the Speed Activation Sign for the period 14th October to 28th October 2014 and 12th November to 30th November 2014 were received. Members were pleased to note that during its location at Jewsbury Way, on average 95% of vehicles were travelling within the normal speed limits. It was noted that the Sign had now been located at all of the sites from the original list of hotspots for speeding vehicles highlighted from consultation with residents. Members considered possible future locations for the Sign. It was agreed that preference would be given to roads within a residential area.

RESOLVED

That the following locations be added to the list for monitoring with the Speed Activation Sign; Henley Crescent leading to Braunstone Close (to be given priority), Turnbull Drive, Littefayre/Withers Way, Braunstone Lane.

8. Social Inclusion

- a) Town Mayor's Support and Initiatives
It was noted that the forthcoming events that the Town Mayor would be in attendance was the Barn Dance and Photographic Display, as part of the Programme of Events. He would also be raising the Commonwealth flag on 9th March 2015 at 10.00am at the Braunstone Civic Centre. He would also be attending the Braunstone Life's AGM and St Crispins Church's Community Quiz Night.

The Chair took the opportunity to feedback to Members on correspondence she had received from the Charity Wishes 4 Kids, which she had supported during her term as Town Mayor. They had been pleased to report on a number of activities that ill children had been able to enjoy through the charity from the funds that had been raised during her term.

- b) Summer Fete Sub-Committee
The report of the Summer Fete Sub-Committee Meeting held 28th January 2015 was received and noted. It was confirmed that the date for the Summer Fete was Saturday 25th July.

9. Financial Comparisons

The Financial Comparisons from 1st April 2014 to 29th January 2015 were received and noted.

10. Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

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.