

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL **THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor N Brown (Chair), Councillors Roger Berrington (substituting for A Hack), R Waterton and local residents, Mrs B Hazelgrove, Mr J Hazelgrove, Mr J Jameson, Mr B Smith, Mrs J Tilley, Mr R Tilley and Mrs S Zastawky.

Officers in attendance: Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk, Mrs Pauline Hurd, Deputy Executive Officer & Community Services Manager

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Hack, Mr J Dodd and Mr J Johnson.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 8th October 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2015 were received and noted.

4. Update on the Library and Customer Service Shop

Update on Library Services

Members noted that Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet on 7th October approved a proposal for consultation to replace Braunstone Town Library with a mobile library service. The consultation runs from 19th October 2015 until midnight on 17th January 2016.

On 17th November 2015, SOLAG, Save our Library Action Group, held a meeting at Braunstone Civic Centre, which was attended by County Council and Town Council officers and the Leader of Braunstone Town Council. The meeting was attended by approximately 150 residents. At the meeting, the Town Council had an opportunity to circulate and present its proposals for a Community Hub, which has the support of the Citizens' Advisory Panel. Opposition to the Leicestershire County Council's proposal for a mobile library service to replace the Braunstone Town Library was noted. Members of the Committee agreed that the mobile service would not be sufficient to serve existing customers and could not accommodate future new customers.

The Leader and Executive Officer & Town Clerk of Braunstone Town Council met with Leicestershire County Council's Lead Member and Head of Service regarding the library and were waiting for a response concerning a potential way forward which may retain the Library Service. Members discussed the option of releasing

the County Council from the lease but to do this would have an adverse financial impact upon the Town Council's finances and services.

Leicestershire County Council will need to present a proposal to Braunstone Town Council by March 2016 regarding the library and depending on what was proposed, local residents would be consulted.

Leicestershire County Council also held a consultation event at Braunstone Civic Centre on Tuesday 1st December that was attended by Town Councillors and local residents.

Update on Customer Service Shop

Blaby District Council approved their Customer Access Strategy at their Cabinet Executive on 21st September 2015 and approved in principle the plans to deliver their customer services and social inclusion services through the proposed combined Community Hub in Braunstone Town. A meeting to discuss the details of the Service Level Agreement has been arranged for Wednesday 16th December 2015.

Town Council Response to the Mobile Library Proposal

It is the intention of the Town Council to respond to the consultation on replacing the Town Library with a mobile Library Service, a response will be considered and approved at Policy and Resources Committee on 14th January 2016.

The Advisory Panel were invited to identify issues and themes which could be considered for inclusion in the Town Council's response.

RESPONSE: That the Town Council forward the following response to the County Council's proposal to replace the library with a mobile library

"The proposal of the mobile service to serve Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley is wholly inadequate to service existing users never mind new users and the 1964 Act to provide library services to local residents would not be carried out as required"

5. Update on Holmfield Park Improvements

Members were advised that the improvement work to the play equipment at Holmfield Park had now been completed which included new swings and toddler climbing frame. It was suggested that the Town Mayor could formally open the play area in the near future.

6. Shakespeare Park Improvement Project

It was noted that a meeting of the Shakespeare Park Improvement Project Working Group met on 3rd December 2015 to discuss proposals for the improvement of the pavilion, sport and recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park.

Representatives from Braunstone Town Council, Shakespeare Park Bowls Club and Braunstone Juniors Football Club were present at the meeting. It was noted that the pavilion was in need of major refurbishment and problems with the roof,

heating, changing rooms, kitchen, storage areas and toilets had been noted. Funding sources would be investigated to support the project and sports clubs advised that funding was available by their respective governing bodies. Investigation would be made into engaging a suitable architect to prepare draft plans for the project.

7. Improving the appearance of Braunstone Town

It was noted local residents in Braunstone Town had put forward suggestions to enhance the Braunstone Town area to include hanging baskets, planters, new signs etc. A working group of local residents had been formed to look into the possibility of undertaking the work. It was noted that any installation on the highways or public land would need the permission from the relevant authority. It was noted that a representative from the group would be attending a meeting with the Town Clerk to discuss the plans and the possible involvement of the Town Council. Members also highlighted the need to include Thorpe Astley in any proposals for enhancing the area.

8. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for 3rd March 2016.