

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Mr N Brown (in the Chair), Councillor Miss A Ambrose, Councillor Mr M S Aslam (substituting for Councillor Miss A Hack), Mrs N Blight, Local Resident, Mr J Dodd, Local Resident, Councillor Mrs J Fox, Councillor Mrs B Haselgrove, Local Resident, Mr J Haselgrove, Local Resident, Mr T Smith, Local Resident, Mrs L Spick, Local Resident, Mrs J White, Local Resident.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor T Chapman, Councillor Ms A Hack, Mr J Jameson, Mr J Johnson, Local Resident.

1. Disclosure of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest

2. Report of the Meeting held on 4th December 2014

The Report of the Meeting held on 4th December 2014 was received and noted.

3. Future of Braunstone Town Library

- a) Background Information on Current Use and Services
An extract from Leicestershire County Council's Community Library Information Pack relating to the Braunstone Town Library including facilities available, opening hours, staffing, activities, usage, etc was received and noted.
- b) A progress report from the Executive Officer & Town Clerk on the Town Council's proposals for a combined public service facility was received. It was proposed to use the same staffing to provide both services. Braunstone Town Council had submitted its expression of interest in running the service and to date, meetings had been held with officers from Leicestershire County Council and Blaby District Council to discuss the potential service level, employment of library staff etc.

Leicestershire County Council had confirmed that the current book stock within the proposed Community Libraries, would remain the property of Leicestershire County Council and would be expected to be distributed throughout the community libraries. The Library Service currently charges a fee for the use of the DVDs. Should the Community Libraries wish to make money from the same service, they would be expected to supply their own DVDs.

Representatives of the Braunstone Heritage Group raised concerns about the relocation of unique local publications and archival material to The Record Office. Leicestershire County Council confirmed that this decision had been made as part of an audit of the material and it had been felt that it was better placed under the management of an experienced officer. However, where

possible, copies of the documents would remain in the Libraries. The Braunstone Heritage Group was reassured that this would not impact on the material that they had collected.

Details of plans drawn up by an architect to link the Civic Centre to the Library Building were displayed.

The timescales involved with taking over the library service. It was noted that a final set of draft proposals for the Business Case, with the general agreement of all partners, could be produced by early spring. Because the Town Council's business case did not match Leicestershire County Council's model it was expected to be an ongoing process. It was estimated that the launch of the new service would be around late summer/early autumn.

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk referred to the report of the Director of Adults and Communities to be received by the County Council's Cabinet on 16th March 2015. The purpose of the report was to update the Cabinet on the registrations of interest on running the libraries and proposed a number of recommendations to move to the next stage of the process. These recommendations included authorising the Director of Adults and Communities to assess the business cases, authorise the County Solicitor to prepare the necessary legal agreements with the business cases compliant with the County Council's requirements, enter into a further round of engagement, including where the initial outline business plan submitted required further work to be complaint with the County Council's requirements and a report to be received by the Cabinet at its next meeting on 11th May 2015.

- c) **Future Shape of Provision of Service**
The Panel received a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Citizens Advisory Panel's involvement in shaping the future of the library service and ensuring a better and more responsive Library Service.

It was noted that the Panel would need to consider in more detail say the proposed opening hours for the library. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to consult the schools on this matter. It was also discussed whether the opening times could be adapted to seasonal usage.

With regard to the additional services, the Heritage Group asked that they be provided with an area to display their artefacts.

It was noted that, should the service be extended to the Thorpe Astley Community Centre, that the County Council's book stock would not be able to be used there as they were not looking to expand their service.

4. Next Meeting

It was not expected that there would be any sufficient information to consider by the Panel over the next few months and therefore it would not be necessary to call a meeting at any time before May.

5. Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.25pm