

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PLANS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Robert Waterton (Chair), Councillor Bill Wright (Vice-Chair), and Councillors Parminder Basra, Roger Berrington, Sharon Betts, Phil Moitt and Darshan Singh.

Officers in attendance: Darren Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk.

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

105. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

106. Disclosures of Interest

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

107. Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Order 3.6, members of the public may attend the meeting for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions in respect of any item of business included on the agenda.

There were no members of the public present.

108. Minutes of the Meeting held 8th December 2016

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th December 2016 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

109. Air Quality

The Committee received a report, which set out the background to the item's consideration and included Blaby District Council's 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (item 5 on the agenda).

Anna Farish, Environmental Services Manager, Blaby District Council, and David Gould, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Blaby District Council, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on Air Quality in Braunstone Town (appended to these minutes) and answered questions concerning air quality monitoring and mitigating measures.

The following issues were highlighted during the presentation:

- a) air quality monitoring was undertaken in accordance with Central Government policy advice and technical guidance; while monitoring and management was mainly technical in nature, it was important to use local knowledge to identify potential problem areas;
- b) monitoring of air quality was undertaken across the District using tubes, which gave general levels over a month, more detailed results were provided by a smaller number of air quality monitoring stations, however, the number of these were limited due to the stations being expensive to install and operate;
- c) according to guidance, action on air quality could only be taken where safe levels were exceeded next to residential properties, therefore, monitoring took place in residential areas/adjacent to a dwelling;
- d) a new monitoring station was likely to be provided as part of the Castle Acres Section 106 Agreement, the monitoring station was likely to be located on the southern end of Narborough Road South;
- e) consideration was being given to reviewing the existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), which may result in focussing activity in AQMA1 solely around Narborough Road South and identifying a new AQMA in Enderby; and
- f) an action aimed at improving air quality in the future included an initiative to promote better and sustainable travel planning, seeking Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs funding, and working with schools and young people.

It was noted that both Doctor's Surgeries had been contacted to advise on whether there were any trends concerning the number of patients with breathing problems, particularly in children and elderly people and that no responses had been received.

RESOLVED

1. that Braunstone Town Council support (including by writing a letter of support to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) Blaby District Council's application for Government funding for an initiative working with schools and young people on understanding the importance of air quality and promoting use of "green" travel planning;
2. that a copy of Leicester City Council's air quality monitoring figures be forwarded to Blaby District Council;
3. that representatives from Leicestershire County Council Highways department be invited to attend a future meeting of the Plans & Environment Committee to set out their priorities and objectives for improving air quality as part of their management of the highway network and set out the effectiveness of partnership arrangements, particularly with District Councils, concerning improving air quality; and
4. that a future meeting of the Committee consider potential locations for monitoring air quality and that the request be submitted to Blaby District Council for consideration.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To support proactive steps to reduce pollution by encouraging future generations to think and act differently when travelling.*

2. *To highlight that Leicester City Council present their monitoring results by the hour, not just as an average, which assisted with identifying particular times of the day when pollutants were in excess of safe levels.*
3. *The way in which highway improvements were planned and implemented and existing highways were managed, including access for new development, had a significant impact upon whether air quality could be improved.*
4. *Given air quality monitoring equipment was moved around the District and the concerns about the impact upon air quality of new developments such as Lubbethorpe and Castle Acres, the Town Council could use its local knowledge to identify potential problem areas.*

110. Planning Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted that there had been no responses to planning applications taken under Delegated Authority.

111. Planning Applications

The Committee received details of planning applications to be considered by Blaby District Council (item 7 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the following responses be forwarded to Blaby District Council:

1. **Application No:** 16/1711/FUL
Description: Sub-division of existing dwelling into two dwellings
Location: 1 Royce Close Thorpe Astley Braunstone Town Leicestershire
Response: *Braunstone Town Council does not object to the sub-division of the existing dwelling into two dwellings, subject building control approval.*
Reason: *The proposals did not involve any extension or change to windows and therefore did not impact on the amenity enjoyed by the neighbouring properties; the number of on-site car parking spaces for each property was sufficient for the number of bedrooms.*

112. Additional Planning Applications

The Committee received details of planning applications received since the publication of the agenda (item 8 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the following responses be forwarded to Blaby District Council:

1. **Application No:** 16/1330/FUL
Description: The following amendments have been made to this application:
 1. The total number of dwellings proposed has been

reduced from 8 to 7, the access road has been widened and the design and landscaping of the development has been amended.

2. A Phase 1 Land Contamination survey has been submitted.
3. Please note that the description of the development has been amended to read as the following: "Erection of 7 dwellings with associated access, vehicle parking and amenity space. (Includes demolition of existing commercial buildings) (Revised Scheme)".

Location: 2 - 4 Westover Road Braunstone Town Leicestershire LE3 3DT

Response: *Braunstone Town Council objects to this application since:*

- i. there would be a loss of local employment premises;*
- ii. there was no provision for sewage services;*
- iii. the rear car park lacked security measures;*
- iv. the proposed development would be out of keeping with the character/appearance of the area; and*
- v. it was likely that there was land contamination on the site and the consequences of any impacts could be severe in some cases*

Reasons:

- i. The site currently contains premises suitable for small local enterprises, including retail outlets, which were in under supply in the area.*
- ii. The application indicated that it was unknown how sewage would be dealt with from the development.*
- iii. The location and design of the car park would mean that it was an accessible and secluded site and there were no details of mitigating security measures.*
- iv. The site would be overdeveloped and the design of the existing residential properties was semi-detached bay fronted housing.*
- v. The Land Survey undertaken identified that there was potential for significant contamination to be present at the site and therefore a proportionate programme of site investigation should be undertaken in order to establish the presence or absence of contamination and to enable a quantitative assessment of the associated environmental risks.*

113. Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted that there had been no licensing applications dealt with under delegated authority.

114. Planning Decisions

The Committee received and noted planning decisions made by Blaby District Council (item 10 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that feedback on the following decisions be sought from Blaby District Council:

- a) 16/1572/FUL – 506 Braunstone Lane: a letter be sent to the Planning Case Officer; and
- b) 16/1601/HH – 23 Darien Way: the Chair of the Committee to arrange to meet the Planning Case Officer.

Reasons for Decision

To keep a watching brief on the decisions and to review the impact of Town Council comments upon the decision making process:

- a) Particular concerns about tandem development and the impact upon the amenity enjoyed by neighbouring properties;*
- b) Particular concern about overdevelopment of the site.*

115. Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

The Committee considered whether there were any items for the next meeting of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board, scheduled for 1st February 2017.

RESOLVED that the request concerning an open meeting for all local councillors concerning the phasing and timescales be pursued.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that an update was provided on the phasing and timescales for Lubbesthorpe and the wider impact of any delays.

116. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st December 2016 (item 12 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

There were no issues identified with income and expenditure to date.

117. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 2nd November 2016 until 10th January 2017 (item 13 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the Period 2nd November 2016 until 10th January 2017 be approved.

Reason for Decision

To authorise payments in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations and the Council's Financial Regulations.

118. 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.

SIGNED _____ (CHAIR)

DATE _____

APPENDIX – PRESENTATION ON AIR QUALITY (Minute 109)

Air Quality in Braunstone Town

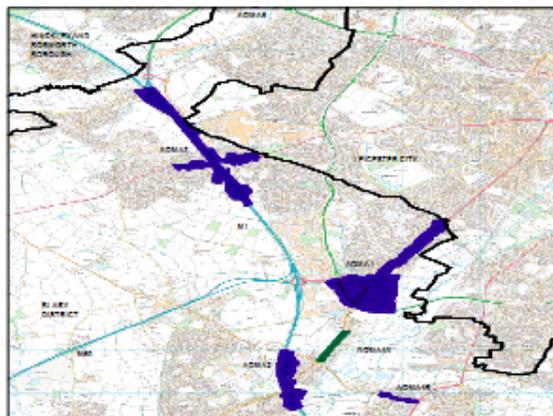
David Gould
Senior EHO
Blaby District Council
19th January 2017

What is Air Quality

- Complex issue
- Largely invisible
- Emotive
- But more logical than you might imagine!
- Monitoring and modelling – in brief

What are the air quality issues in Blaby District?

- Nitrogen Dioxide from roads is our main problem
- Levels in LFE, Braunstone Town, Thorpe Astley and Enderby
- Existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)
- Developments – planning applications



Possible mitigation methods

- Reduce vehicle travel – modal shift
- Smooth traffic flows and avoid congestion
- Influence drivers – behaviour/choice of vehicles/maintenance
- Barriers/catalytic coatings (compare to noise)

Current and Future Action

- Review of monitoring
- Review of existing AQMAs
- Possible new AQMA
- Section 106 funding
- Traffic management with Highway Authorities
- Air Quality Strategy