

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 22ND JUNE 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Robert Waterton (Chair), Councillor Sharon Betts (Vice-Chair), and Councillors Sam Fox-Kennedy (substituting for Berneta Layne), Paul Kennedy (substituting for Roger Berrington) Phil Moitt, Darshan Singh and Bill Wright (Town Mayor Ex-Officio).

Councillor Amanda Hack also attended the meeting.

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

There were 25 members of the public present at the meeting.

12. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berneta Layne, Roger Berrington, Tracey Shepherd and John Dodd (Ex-Officio).

13. Disclosures of Interest

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

14. 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 25 members of the public present.

Three general issues were raised by members of the public as follows:

- a) Hedges – were cut by the Council on one side of Foxon Way but not the other. This would be looked at and a written response would be given to the questioner.
- b) Trees on Meridian Way – at the back of Tilley Close were large and overbeating and had not been cut. It was confirmed that this was David Wilson Land and their responsibility.
- c) Street Lighting – concern of increased crime and household burglaries as a result of part-night lighting and concern of safety when walking at night since new LED lights did not provide all round light. Councillor Bill Wright undertook to raise the issue with the relevant police and community safety bodies.

In respect of item 5 on the agenda (minute 16), Highway Issues - Thorpe Astley, the following were raised by members of the public:

- a) Meridian Way Road layout – the number of traffic islands in close proximity and the design of the road and layouts puts pedestrian safety at risk; for example vehicles have come off the road and hit lamp posts and property boundaries at the point where pedestrians would be waiting to cross the road; vehicles were often heard racing on the road and fuel spillages made the surface of the road hazardous.
- b) Parking of Foxon Way – parking, mainly by workers at Meridian Business Park, was dangerous making it difficult to exit the side roads and to cross the road safely, particularly when attempting to cross the road with children, visibility was restricted. Foxon Way was a bus route and since there was dangerous parking every day and therefore residents would have to call the police every day, an accident was waiting to happen. Particular dangerous parking blackspots were close to the roundabout with Meridian Way and Owen Close. Parking was worse at peak times for the Royal Mail, i.e. Christmas and New Year. Parking restrictions in the form of double yellow lines was needed on Foxon Way, which would force people to park on Meridian Business Park instead.
- c) Parking on Burchnall Road – was also an issue particularly when space was limited on Foxon Way, making the junction of Burchnall Road and Tilley Close dangerous and a risk of collision when residents reverse out of their drives.
- d) Speeding – particular problem on Murby Way and Foxon Way. Residents had witnessed two incidents on Murby Way where a speeding car hit the curb and burst its tyres. Initiatives were required to reduce traffic speeds such as speed cameras, speed checks, chicanes and speed bumps. It was also suggested that there could be improved signage warning drivers of the dangers of speeding in a residential area and restrictions could be placed on traffic turning left into Thorpe Astley from Lubbesthorpe to prevent the estate being used as a rat run.
- e) Air Pollution – it was noted that there were projections for a 100% increase in traffic on Meridian Way once the bridge over the M1 to Lubbesthorpe opened. Monitoring should be in place now to collect the base figure and section 106 monies should be used to purchase an air quality monitoring station.

15. **Minutes of the Meeting held 25th May 2017**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th May 2017 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

16. **Highway Issues - Thorpe Astley**

The Committee considered issues of parking and speeding on streets of Thorpe Astley and the impact upon air pollution from congestion on Lubbesthorpe Way (item 5 on the agenda).

The Committee considered and took into account issues raised by members of the public (see minute 14 above).

RESOLVED

1. that a formal request be submitted to the Director of Environment & Transport, Leicestershire County Council, requesting that Leicestershire County Council work in partnership with Braunstone Town Council:
 - a) to consider changes to the road layout on the northbound carriageway of the A563, Lubbesthorpe Way, between the Meridian Way junction and the Braunstone Lane bridge;
 - b) to consider and consult upon a scheme of works, including improvements to existing crossing points and to the road layout, on Meridian Way and Withers Way; and
 - c) to consider regulatory and preferential parking schemes in the Meridian and Thorpe Astley areas;
2. that Blaby District Council be requested:
 - a) to undertake air quality monitoring on Lubbesthorpe Way between Withers Way and the Braunstone Lane bridge;
 - b) to assist with reaching an agreement with businesses on Meridian Business Park to control where their employees park; and
 - c) to explore whether it was possible to increase Civil Parking Enforcement in the Foxon Way area; and
3. that Leicestershire Police be requested to increase patrols in the Foxon Way area and to take action against parked vehicles which were causing an obstruction or reducing visibility for highway users and an invitation be extended to the Police to attend a future meeting to discuss safety concerns resulting from dangerous parking; and
4. THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE that the Speed Sign be located on Jewsbury Way, Foxon Way, Meridian Way, Murby Way, The Littlefare and Withers Way and that a hand held speed camera be purchased for the purposes of a Community Speedwatch scheme.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To address, through improvements to highway design, the impact of traffic growth from both Lubbesthorpe and Meridian Business Park:*
 - a) *it appears that a combination of traffic merging at the end of the dual carriageway along with traffic merging from Meridian/Thorpe Astley was contributing to the congestion at this point,*
 - b) *to ensure that the issue of pedestrian safety and the road layout on Meridian Way and Withers Way, which was highlighted as a current concern by residents, was pursued with County Highways in order to ensure community consultation and input, and*
 - c) *to address concerns about the increase in parking in residential streets in Thorpe Astley by employees who work at Meridian Business Park, some parking was considered potentially dangerous.*
2. *There was regular congestion at peak times on the northbound carriageway of Lubbesthorpe Way towards Braunstone Way at the point the dual carriageway ended; risking increased air pollution and an adverse impact upon the health of residents living on Tillett Road, Collins Close, Kingsway North and Westover Road. Parking on Foxon Way and on Burchnall Road by employees working at Meridian Business Park was presenting dangers to highway users and residents in the area.*

3. *To address and prevent dangerous parking, particularly on Foxon Way and Burchnall Road and ensure the safety of residents and highway users.*
4. *Given that among the locations across the Town, the main roads in the Thorpe Astley area attract the highest average speeds, it would be reasonable to focus on these streets over the next few months in order to gather comparative statistics and to take appropriate action to address high speeds which was threatening the safety of pedestrians and having an adverse effect on the quality of life enjoyed by local residents.*

17 Planning and Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority

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

18. Planning Applications and Licensing Applications

The Committee received details of planning applications to be considered by Blaby District Council (item 7 on the agenda). The Committee noted that there had been no licensing applications.

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

1. **Application No:** 17/0680/HH
Description: Single Storey Extension to Side and Rear.
Location: 27 The Glade Braunstone Town Leicestershire LE3 2WB
Response: *Braunstone Town Council does not object to this application, subject to the following condition: that three on-site parking spaces be provided within the curtilage of the property and remain in use in perpetuity.*
Reason: *The proposed extension was single storey and located to the rear of the property. The curtilage of the property was sufficient, therefore there was no overbearing effect and the proposed extension was unlikely to have any impact on the amenity enjoyed by the neighbouring properties. However, the plans showed "Bedroom 3" and "Study", which could be used as a forth bedroom, therefore in accordance with Local Plan Policy T7, on-site parking for 3 vehicles should be provided.*
2. **Application No:** 17/0677/HH
Description: Single storey side extension
Location: 66 Westover Road Braunstone Town Leicestershire LE3 3DW
Response: *Braunstone Town Council objects to the application.*

Reason: *The extension on the front of the property would be visually intrusive and would introduce a discordant element into the street scene and be out of character with the design of the area, specifically the property on the opposite side of Columbine Close.*

19. Additional Planning and Licensing Applications

The Committee received details of planning applications received since the publication of the agenda (item 8 on the agenda). The Committee noted that there had been no licensing applications.

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

1. Application No: 17/0729/FUL

Description: Erection of detached storage building.

Location: 2 Laversall Way Braunstone Town Leicester
Leicestershire

Response: *Braunstone Town Council does not object to this application, subject to confirmation that there would be no loss of existing parking provision.*

Reason: *The site was located in an industrial area which was landscaped and woodland separated the area from nearby residential housing, therefore there would be no impact upon the amenity enjoyed by residential properties. While it could be assumed from the plans that there was no loss of existing parking provision, no vehicle parking details were submitted with the application.*

20. District Planning Authority – Determination Process

The committee received an update on recommended changes to the Call-in of planning applications at Blaby District Council (item 9 on the agenda).

Councillor Bill Wright advised that scrutiny at Blaby District Council had made requests concerning the planning call-in process and more planning call-ins were being considered. While the wording of the process allowed planning call-in requests to be refused by the Head of Planning, Councillor Wright was confident that requests would not be refused.

21. Planning Decisions

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

RESOLVED that the decisions be noted.

Reason for Decision

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

22. Feedback on Planning Application Decisions

The Committee noted that there was currently no planning application decisions on which feedback was required.

23. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2017 to 13th June 2017(item 12 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

There were no issues of concern with the income and expenditure against the budget for 2017/2018.

24. Approval of Accounts

The Committee noted that no payments have been made from the Planning & Environment service between 1st April 2017 and 13th June 2017.

25. 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: _____

DATE: _____