



# BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

[www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk)

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TO ALL ELECTORS OF BRAUNSTONE TOWN

## ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

YOU are invited to take part. It will be held at  
Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway, Braunstone Town

THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

at 7.30pm

Chairperson:

Councillor B. Wright, Town Mayor

The Towns Meeting may by law discuss all town affairs  
and pass resolutions about them

### A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Towns Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Enclosed)
3. Town Mayor's Report 2017/2018 (Enclosed)
4. Town Council Accounts and Budgets (Enclosed)
5. Leader's Report – Achievements 2017/18 and Priorities for 2018/19 (Enclosed)
6. Braunstone Town Heritage Warden's Report 2017/2018 (Enclosed)

Signed:

Councillor B. Wright, Town Mayor

Dated: 2nd May 2018

**There will be an opportunity to meet local Councillors later  
in the evening**

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING**

**Held on THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2017 at 7.00pm**

In the Chair, Councillor Berneta Layne, Town Mayor.  
There were 24 persons present at the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shabbir Aslam and Ajmer Basra.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were circulated with the agenda, which was made available to all persons present, and were taken as read.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

**3. Town Mayor's Report 2016/2017**

A report had been circulated with the agenda summarising the following:

- Community Activities;
- Community Achievement;
- Recognising Service;
- Thorpe Astley;
- Programme of Events;
- Summer Fete;
- Anniversaries/Civic Events;
- Caribbean Evening;
- Town Mayor's Charity – Arthritis Research UK; and
- Upholding Community Values.

Councillor Berneta Layne, Town Mayor for 2016/2017, reported on activities during her Mayoral year:

“Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Towns Meeting. This meeting gives residents of the Town an opportunity to reflect on the activities in our Town over the past year and look ahead to the forthcoming year. Later this evening, the Full Council will consider the Annual Report of the Town Council which details our achievements over the past 12 months and sets out our proposed activities for the next 12 months and the Leader of the Council will highlight some of these in his report”.

“For myself as Town Mayor it has been a very memorable year. It is a privilege and an honour to be chosen to serve as Town Mayor, a role which has served the people of the Town for 40 years. During my year I was able to experience first-hand the hard work and dedication of many in our community who serve and support the needs of others. I have been amazed at the wide variety of activities and the number of proactive community groups there are in Braunstone Town. It has been a real privilege to meet so many people who are committed to making our Town a vibrant place in which to live”.

“Throughout the year I have attended many events that have taken place to celebrate, honour and recognise achievements of our residents and these are detailed in the report, which you have as part of your agenda for this meeting. I wish, however, to highlight some of these”.

“Those of you who have had the opportunity to serve as Town Mayor will no doubt have sponsored and attended the Swimming Club’s annual open meet and seen the hard work and time that the young people and volunteers put in to achieving their success. This year I was able to nominate one of the club’s longest serving volunteers, Trevor Hicks, for volunteer of the year at the Blaby District Outstanding Achievement Awards in recognition of his time and dedication to help others to swim and achieve success, including leading a healthy and active lifestyle. And I was delighted that Trevor was runner up in this category”.

“I hosted the 21st Town Mayor’s Annual Awards of merit evening, last Friday 5th May. It was an opportunity to acknowledge the groups who had joined me in putting on the programme events which this year raised funds of £2360.89 for local groups and good causes. I hope that the Town Council will continue to play such a central role for many years to come in helping to bring people together and promoting the strong sense of community spirit that I have encountered”.

“The event was also an opportunity to recognise the deserving unsung heroes of our community, those whose efforts and service has made a real difference to people’s lives and the life of our community, through the Town Mayor’s Award of Merit. This year I recognised the work of two individuals and two community groups:

- Mrs Nadine Blight in recognition, on her retirement, of her many years work as Secretary for the Braunstone Community Minibus Project;
- Mrs Jo Fox in recognition, on retirement, of her many years work and commitment as a Town, District and County Councillor, including her service as Town Mayor, Town Council Leader and District Chairman;
- Kingsway Flower Club in recognition of the many year’s commitment and support for their members and community events, many of which are held here at the Civic Centre; and
- Leicester Forest Photographic Society in recognition of the many year’s commitment and dedication of this active and well established group, which also regularly meets here at the Civic Centre”.

“My last engagement of the year was a new event, which I was delighted to support. Building on the success of our Christmas Craft Fair, the Town Council organised a Spring Craft Fair at Thorpe Astley Community Centre last Saturday 6th May. Not only was the event well supported by stallholders, many of whom are

regulars at the Christmas Fair, there was also a continuous steady stream of customers. I very much hope that this event will continue in the forthcoming years”.

“On a personal note, I am grateful that my year as Town Mayor has given me the opportunity to raise the profile of my charity, Arthritis Research UK, which as a sufferer is very personal and close to my heart. The charity invests in breakthrough treatments, the best information and vital support for everyone affected by arthritis. If it wasn’t for the hard and dedicated work of the charity, such life changing treatment wouldn’t be available”.

“On 24th March, I was able to host a Caribbean evening here at the Civic Centre in aid of Arthritis Research UK. I was delighted that the event was well supported by my friends, residents and Councillors, which included a hot buffet, live music and dancing. Sixty tickets were sold and I would like to thank all those who helped me organise this memorable and successful community event”.

“At this event and the others in the programme throughout the year, the generous people of Braunstone Town have helped me in raising a total so far, of £2216.49 for Arthritis Research UK. I wish to thank everyone for supporting these events”.

“I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their support over the year, in particular to my consort Pansy who has been there supporting me in this important role every step of the way”.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the next Town Mayor a most enjoyable and successful year”.

#### **4. Town Council Accounts and Budgets**

Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of the Council, reported on the Town Council’s previous year’s financial position. The Town Council’s Accounts and Budget Report was circulated with the agenda, which was made available to all persons present, and were taken as read. Councillor Brown added that the internal audit would be undertaken in the forthcoming week.

#### **5. Leader’s Report – Achievements 2016/17 and Priorities for 2017/18**

A report had been circulated with the agenda summarising the following:

- Town Council – Capital Plan;
- Provision and Access to Public Services;
- Pressures on the Local Infrastructure;
- Financial Risks and Pressures; and
- Update Reports.

A copy of the draft Annual Report for 2016/2017, due for consideration and adoption at Annual Council, was also circulated.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, reported on the Town Council’s achievements during 2016/2017 and looked ahead to the Town Council’s priorities for 2017/2018:

“It has been a frustrating year, many issues have stalled due to outside factors”.

1. “Shakespeare Park: we have been working with the architects on finalising our proposals. The Pavilion has reached the end of its useful life and we are seeking the maximum amount of funding from external sources. I am hopeful that work will commence in the next 6 to 9 months”.
2. “Civic Centre improvements: during the year we plan to refurbish both sets of toilets and the bar area in order to create a café and meeting point”.
3. “Library: I had anticipated this moving forward, however, it is in the County Council’s hands. While I remain disappointed that the Town Council’s proposals, which were sustainable and tailored to the community’s needs was rejected; I and the Town Council want a good and positive relationship with the people who take over the running of the Library”.
4. “NHS Services: there are two areas where we have tried to work with the NHS for the benefit of residents and these remain outstanding and outside our control. First, having spent two years working with the NHS to obtain primary care services from the Thorpe Astley Medical Rooms, the arrangements fell through. Then last year we had interest from Leicestershire Partnership Trust, which also appears to have fell through since there has been no response to our correspondence and communications, which is very frustrating. The NHS should be clear to the community about its position and simply state it is not interested and the facility can be used by the Town Council. The second area relates to GP provision, an issue raised by residents in the County Council election campaign, and the inability to obtain GP appointments. This situation cannot continue and is one the NHS must get on top of”.
5. Budgets: in January this year the Town Council set its budget in good faith, only to be told by Blaby District Council that it would no longer receive £45-£50,000 in Council Tax Support Grant and New Homes Bonus from April 2018. This is a big hit to the Council’s finances equivalent to a 17% increase in precept. I wrote a letter to the Leader of Blaby District Council and his response was not helpful nor supportive. The change has been introduced with no consultation and an amendment to phase out the support grants over 3 years was rejected at a meeting of the District Council. Next year it is going to be a challenge to fill this funding gap and Councillors will be looking to soften the impact, although there is likely to be a significant precept increase”.

“The Council continues to provide much valued services and feedback from residents continues to be positive and the Town Council continues to have the trust of people going forward into this next year”.

## **6. Braunstone Town Heritage Warden’s Report 2016/2017**

The Heritage Warden’s Report for 2016/2017 was circulated with the agenda, the Heritage Warden, Mr. John Dodd, reported to the meeting:

“Once more the change in the weather patterns has dominated our natural world, at the moment we can’t forecast one year to the next; which plants / trees will come

into bud first, what and when migrant birds will arrive; even rainfall and snowfall seem to be getting less”.

“Despite this the community orchard has produced pretty scenes in all the four seasons. Sadly, the pond suffered damage from vandals but the area surrounding the pond has now been changed to make it less attractive to damage”.

“We managed to carry out some pruning of the fruit trees in the orchard area and hopefully this will provide a good crop of fruit later in the year”.

“I have made very few heritage related comments on the planning applications passing through the Planning Committee, which is good news for any archaeological remains, they will not be disturbed or lost. The New Lubbesthorpe development’s archaeological investigations have been completed with significant finds of Iron age/Bronze age settlements which have been recorded but eventually will need somewhere to display the finds. Please don’t let this part of the heritage of Lubbesthorpe be left in dusty cardboard boxes in some basement area of a University or County Council store”.

“As you are all aware I’ve been the Chairman of Braunstone Heritage Archive Group (BHAG) for the last six years and this has taken up, quite rightly, most of my Heritage Warden Duties. Our small dedicated team have managed to stage an annual exhibition relating the all things Braunstone over these last six years”.

“BHAG’s presence has generated a lot of interest and donations which are now overflowing our limited storage space at the Civic Centre, BHAG’s constitution states that we should have a permanent place to store and display our items. Well this year we have, thanks to the generosity of Paul Pender and Son, been given free space and accommodation in his recently restored Shakespeare Pub, now Paul Pender’s main offices for his funeral director’s business”.

“We hope to gradually produce a small village museum, I say “gradually” as we are a small group with limited finances but we hope to make successful bids for funding locally. Early days but we hope this partnership will blossom and attract other partners”.

“Paul Pender will be staging several open days not just to boost his business but to show off his investment in restoring the Shakespeare to a family home, BHAG will be there staging displays of the history of the building and of the village”.

“With both my chairman and Heritage Warden hats on we have embarked on a project to review and publish extracts from the old (older) parish minute books. This has been prompted by the forthcoming 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Braunstone Parish, with a view to have a comprehensive set of articles and display items for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (Probably by then we will qualify as exhibits!!). Also as part of this project we will take the opportunity to digitise these records so that many more people can view them online”.

“With the establishment of the village museum we this will stimulate Blaby into looking for a site for a Blaby District Museum. I would suggest that with the cooperation of the Lubbesthorpe developer, the Abbey Farm building complex

would make a fine venue not only for a museum but as a community hub and resource centre”.

“My Heritage Report would not be complete without a reference to Braunstone Town Library. It has been over twelve months since the County Council awarded the running of the library to the “Fabula” Company and nothing has materialised, still the County Council have to fund the £50,000 annual running cost, surely if Fabula have not been able to fulfil their contract the County Council should award it to the only other contender, Braunstone Town Council”.

“Finally, can I extend my thanks and BHAG’s to the Town Council for their continued support of the Heritage Warden facility and to BHAG”.

**7. Termination of Meeting**

The Town Mayor thanked those present for attending and with no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.

DRAFT

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN**  
**ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING**

**10th MAY 2018**

**Item 3 – Town Mayor’s Report 2017/2018**

I (Councillor Bill Wright) took up the role of Braunstone Town Mayor for the third time on 11th May 2017 and I have attended numerous functions to date to celebrate, commemorate and support a wide variety of events in Braunstone Town, Blaby and Leicestershire.

It has been 40 years since we became a Town and elected our first Town Mayor in 1977. Then, like now, it remains the duty of the Town Mayor to undertake the role of first citizen with dignity and decorum, and, despite this being the third time I was selected to serve as Town Mayor; I didn’t take for granted or take likely the standards that the Town Council expected from me.

It has been a privilege and an honour to have been chosen to serve as first citizen for the last year and experience first-hand the hard work and dedication of many in our community who serve and support the needs of others.

**Community Activities**

I have been amazed at the wide variety of activities and the number of proactive community groups there are in Braunstone Town. It has been a real privilege to meet so many people who are committed to making our Town a vibrant place in which to live.

Early in my year I was made very welcome at the Vaisakhi Event on 27th May at Braunstone Civic Centre. Also, the Diwali Celebration, Friday 27th October was a good and enjoyable community event and I would like to thank Councillor Aslam for his support on the evening.

On Friday 26th January I attended Winstanley Community College for the Braunstone Swimming Club photoshoot.

**Community Achievement**

Throughout the year I have attended many events that have taken place to celebrate, honour and recognise achievements of our residents, many deserving unsung heroes of our community.

On Friday 20th April I hosted my Award’s Evening. I am honoured to have met so many local residents and to have seen the work of our local groups and organisations at the heart of our community life, many work hard to raise funds for their ongoing work and it has been very humbling to see the work that volunteers undertake in our community to help those less fortunate.



The Town Mayor's Awards of Merit scheme has now been running since 1997. The Awards are an opportunity to recognise and thank the residents that contribute to the community and who really make a difference to other people's lives. This year I was delighted to award the following residents and groups with an Award of Merit:

- **Jack Haselgrove** – In recognition of his work on the authorship of the commemorative history book on Braunstone Town. This year the Parish Council was 90 and my thanks go to the hard work of Jack and the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group who have published a fascinating account into how life changed in Braunstone in the 1920s & 1930s when the small manor village quickly grew into a sub-urban community. Copies of the publication are available for £5 from the Civic Centre, the net proceeds being donated to the Town Mayor's Charity.
- **Braunstone Town Heritage Archive Group** – In recognition of the group's work in the community, preserving and making available, archive history of Braunstone Town
- **Pat & Eddie Bates** – In recognition of their work on the display cabinet at Braunstone Civic Centre and for making it a feature of the Centre
- **Jackie Stamp** – In recognition of her community work in Braunstone Town with the Braunstone Life and Braunstone West Social Centre
- **Lisa Scroby** – In recognition of her volunteer work delivering the Braunstone Life for over 14 years

On behalf of myself and the residents of the Town, I would like to thank all these Award winners for the work they do in our community.

### Thorpe Astley

On 16th June, with my Consort and the Deputy Leader, I launched the Book Exchange at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. On 19th August we hosted an open day at Thorpe Astley which gave the community an opportunity to see what their community centre has to offer, including the Pre-School and a chance to meet local Councillors and members of the local neighbourhood police beat team.

On 20th April, I undertook the official ribbon cutting for the opening of the Kingsway GP Branch Surgery at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. The new branch surgery received its first patients on Monday 30th April and will initially be open on Mondays and Thursdays. This facility is a shining example of NHS and local authority colleagues working innovatively and collaboratively to provide local access to essential services now and in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in making this happen and to wish the partners and staff at Kingsway Surgery the very best with making this new and welcome service a success.

## Programme of Events

Thank you to the groups who joined me in putting on the Programme of Events, which raised funds for local groups and good causes. I hope that the Town Council will continue to play such a central role for many years to come in helping to bring people together and promoting the strong sense of community spirit that I have encountered.

Events for the Christmas season included Christmas quiz, children's disco, and Christmas band concert. The Christmas Craft Fair held at Braunstone Civic Centre on Saturday 25th November provided net proceeds to my charity, Rainbows.

Immediately after Christmas, on 6th January "Dick Wittington" Family Pantomime was held at Braunstone Civic Centre and a performance by Bowjangles of "Myths & Legends" was held at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on Sunday 21st January.

Events were held with net proceeds being donated to my chosen charity, Rainbows, included:

- i. Murder Mystery Event featuring the Whetstone Drama Group, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm at Braunstone Civic Centre;
- ii. Fashion Show, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

The annual Quiz Night was held on Friday 23rd March, a great night was had by all.

## Summer Fete

The Town's annual Summer Fete was held on 29th July on Mosssdale Meadows, which was blessed with very good weather and was supported by so many local volunteers and was very well attended.

## Anniversaries/Civic Events

On Saturday 24th June we attended Leicester Cathedral for Armed Forces Day having raised the Armed Forces Flag on Monday 19th June at Braunstone Civic Centre after attending a similar ceremony at Blaby District Council Offices earlier that day. On 31st July, we attended a Service at Leicester Cathedral for the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele.

On 28th September, I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting a very special resident, Lilian Wignall of Fairbourne Road who reached the grand age of 110 on 1st October. I wished Lilian a happy birthday and I presented her with a card and flowers on behalf of the Town Council and the Town's residents. Lilian is a remarkable person; she is engaging and clearly lives for every moment.

The Festival of Remembrance, on Sunday 29th October, at De Montfort Hall, was a poignant event which brought home the importance of remembrance. On Saturday 11th November at 11am I hosted the commemoration of the Armistice at Braunstone Civic Centre and attended the annual Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 12th November at St Crispin's Church, which was attended by the Deputy

Lieutenant, Mr. Resham Singh Sandhu and was Reverend Arthur Deegan's last Remembrance Service before his retirement.

In April, to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force, I attended an Act of Remembrance at Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester.

### Curry Night

I was pleased to have the opportunity, with the support of the owner and staff at Chef Spice, Hinckley Road, Leicester, to organise a Charity Curry Night on Monday 9th April. Tickets were sold at £15.00 each, with the charity receiving £9.00 of the ticket price. 71 people attended the event which included Councillors, staff, family, friends and residents and helped to raise £715 towards my charity for the year, Rainbows.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff at Chef and Spice who helped me organise this memorable and successful evening, for all those who attended and supported the evening and also donated raffle prizes.

### Town Mayor's Charity – Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People

On a personal note, I am grateful that my year as Town Mayor has given me the opportunity to raise the profile of my charity, Rainbows, which provides care and support to life-limited children and their families. I toured the hospice in June witnessing first-hand the dignity and courage of the children, family and staff.

On Saturday 30th September at 12noon I abseiled down the tower of Southern Fire and Rescue Station raising over £1,000 for my charity Rainbows.

I am pleased to report that over £900 was raised during the Programme of Events for Rainbows, which included the Christmas Craft Fair, Spring Fair and Fashion Show.

At my Awards Night on 20th April, I was able to present a cheque for over £3,000 to Rainbows and I would like to thank all those who supported events, donated to my charity, sponsored me and supported me. It truly is a remarkable amount for a very worthy cause.

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I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their support over the year, in particular to my consort Sharon Betts who has been there supporting me in this important role every step of the way. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the next Town Mayor a most enjoyable and successful year.

*Councillor Bill Wright*  
*Braunstone Town Mayor, 2017/2018*

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN**  
**ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING**

**10th MAY 2018**

**Item 4 – Town Council Accounts and Budgets**

**Statement of Accounts 2016/2017**

The Accounts and Statement of Assurance prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations were approved by the Town Council on 30th June 2016. The Audit was completed on 22nd September 2017.

*A copy of the Statement of Accounts is available on the Council's website and can be obtained and inspected during the opening hours of the Customer Service Shop at Braunstone Civic Centre.*

**Unaudited Accounts 2017/2018**

The Town Council has produced draft figures for the 2017/2018 financial year; these are subject to the Internal Audit (18th May) and will be considered by the Town Council's Corporate Governance Sub-Committee, Policy & Resources Committee and Full Council in June, prior to submission for external audit.

In line with the Town Council's Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Strategy, working balances are being increased to help guard against uncertainties and future financial risks facing the Town Council. During 2017/2018, the Town Council invested £13,034 purchasing new parks equipment, which save lease costs and produce approximately £5,000 net ongoing savings.

**Budgets for 2018/2019**

The Town Council continues to work hard to improve the services it provides to people living and working in the area while ensuring that it invests in infrastructure for future generations. The forthcoming year presents further challenges and uncertainty, with this in mind the Town Council approved its Capital Plan and budget for 2018/2019 at its January meeting. For 2018/2019 the precept for band B, which includes over half the properties in Braunstone Town, has increased by £8.14, this represents an increase of 9.7%.

Prudent financial management over many years has enabled the Town Council to establish reserves to invest for the future in our parks and community facilities along with investing in operational efficiency measures, which during the current year is estimated to deliver £10,000 of ongoing savings. However, from April 2018, the Town Council has to address an on ongoing funding gap of approximately £45,000, following Blaby District Council's decision to end passing on the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant to parishes, through a combination of savings, council tax increases and use of reserves. Further details of the challenges this presents and the Town Council's approach to addressing the issue are set out in the Leader's Report at item 5 on the agenda.

## Accounts & Budgets

The following table indicates:

- the year end audited position for the years ending 31st March 2016 and 2017;
- the draft year-end figures for the financial year ending 31st March 2018;
- the Town Council's intended income and expenditure for the current financial year (ending 31st March 2019).

	<b>31st March 2016</b>	<b>31st March 2017</b>	<b>31st March 2018*</b>	<b>31st March 2019#</b>
<b>Balances Brought Forward</b>	<b>£424,269</b>	<b>£350,420</b>	<b>£312,803</b>	<b>£268,198</b>
Annual Precept (+)	£477,804	£495,653	£519,556	£574,107
Receipts (+)	£329,155	£233,536	£275,113	£1,195,221
Staff Costs (-)	£373,275	£442,384	£462,129	£467,450
Loan Repayments (-)	£64,038	£63,912	£63,786	£84,468
Payments (-)	£443,495	£260,510	£313,359	£1,254,410
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>	<b>£350,420</b>	<b>£312,803</b>	<b>£268,198</b>	<b>£231,198</b>
Cash & Short Term Investments	£323,741	£308,409	£250,239	-
Fixed Assets & Long Term Investments	£4,539,448	£4,542,473	£4,549,629	-
Total Borrowings	£422,628	£379,906	£335,103	£790,103

\* the year-end accounts for 2017/2018 have not been considered for approval by the Council and have not been audited.

# the year-end figures for 2018/2019 are based on the budget, adopted by Council on 25th January 2018.

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN**  
**ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING**

**10th MAY 2018**

**Item 5 – Leader’s Report – Achievements 2017/18 and Priorities for 2018/19**

The Town Council’s Policy & Resources Committee on 26th April 2018 finalised the draft Annual Report for 2017/2018, a copy of which is attached as an appendix. The Annual Report summarises our achievements in 2017/2018 and sets out our plans for the forthcoming Council year (2018/2019). This report will be received by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, which meets following the Annual Towns Meeting, for consideration and adoption.

Below is a summary of the significant and major issues currently facing the Town Council and the Town.

**Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development**

Following last year’s public consultation for our ambitious proposals to improve the pavilion, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park, we finalised the site layout and the plans for the new sports pavilion and in the autumn we received planning approval. We have received and are assessing tenders for the construction works of the pavilion and redesign of the site and in the forthcoming months we anticipate that we will be in a position to appoint a contractor.

In addition to our own funds, we are seeking Sport England funding and external sponsorship towards this project which will greatly improve the sporting provision as well as the playground and tennis courts provision.

In the current financial climate, it is proving difficult to access external sources of funding as quickly as we would have liked and this has resulted in delays to the timescales for delivery of the project. However, the Town Council continues to work hard with its partners to move the project forward to the delivery stage and we remain confident that work will commence on the site in the late summer.

With an anticipated construction of around 12 months, once complete, the site will host improved play facilities, including provision of sensory play equipment, improved tennis courts, extended car parking and a new sports pavilion facility including modern changing facilities and a multi-function, multi-purpose club room, meeting room and social facility.

**Access to NHS General Practice Services**

Since the autumn of 2016, the Town Council has been working on behalf of concerned local residents representing their concerns to the NHS about issues of access and availability of General Practitioners at local GP surgeries. Given the concern, I was delighted that Stephen Sampson, Practice Manager of Kingsway Surgery agreed to speak to Town Councillors about his plans for the surgery at

Policy & Resources Committee in August. I would like to thank Stephen for taking the time to talk to us about the issues the surgery has faced and their plans to resolve these, which include a new bookings system, more appointments and clinics, participating in recruitment initiatives and provision of information to patients.

Following that meeting, Kingsway Surgery presented ambitious proposals to the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, ourselves and Blaby District Council to address many of the problems residents have identified when accessing GP services by utilising the unused NHS facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre from spring of this year.

Residents have consistently told us about the difficulties they face in accessing GP services and the Thorpe Astley Community Appraisal identified that provision of a Doctors Surgery and Health Facilities was the top priority, supported by 93.3% of respondents. Since Thorpe Astley Community Centre opened in 2010, the Town Council has put considerable effort in terms of time and resources working with the NHS to achieve the delivery of health services from the Community Centre.

Therefore, I am delighted that during the year we made significant progress with the NHS to ensure that the unused medical rooms at Thorpe Astley Community Centre would be utilised for much needed GP services from April 2018. The new Kingsway branch surgery received its first patients on Monday 30th April and will initially be open on Mondays and Thursdays. However, the practice is hoping to offer more appointments as patient demand grows. The Thorpe Astley service offers patients registered at Kingsway Surgery GP appointments, practice nurse clinics and a minor surgery clinic.

The Town Council is grateful to Kingsway Surgery for their positive and sensible approach in expanding their provision to meet increasing demand and we look forward to working with them to ensure that this service is both successful and sustainable.

### Braunstone Town Library

Residents will be aware of the work that had been undertaken to transfer Braunstone Town Library to a local group, "Braunstone Town Community library". The group was set up by Fabula, a social enterprise who had been developing plans for the future management of the library. During the latter part of 2017, for a number of reasons, Braunstone Town Community Library Group came to the conclusion that pursuing the management of the library was no longer feasible.

Therefore, at the end of 2017, the Town Council was approached by Leicestershire County Council to ascertain whether it remained interested in running the Library, which was confirmed by Policy & Resources Committee in February 2018. The County Council's Cabinet on 9th March approved the Town Council's outline proposals to take over management of the Library service, while the County Council continues to meet its long-term lease obligations. Since then, both Councils have been in transfer discussions based on proposals submitted by the Town Council in September 2015.

This is good news for the Town since this decision at last secures the future of our library after years of uncertainty. Transfer however will not take place until later in the year as the legal agreements and detailed arrangements needed to ensure that the transfer is successful take time to be prepared.

I know the future of our Library is important to many residents and I will keep you updated with progress.

### Community Centres

We have invested this year in improvements to the fabric of both our community centres with the installation of dado rails and by undertaking internal and external decorating. Due to financial pressures (see below), many of the capital projects were put on hold, however, in the forthcoming year we plan to refurbish the toilet facilities at the Civic Centre, while making improvements to the kitchen and storage facilities at the Civic Centre bar to enable it to also operate as a café providing a social and meeting place for the community on weekdays.

### Thorpe Astley Open Spaces

During the year we completed the legal transfer and took possession of public open space at Thorpe Astley from Persimmon Homes. We have completed transfer arrangements with Barrett Homes. Therefore, we are in a position during 2018/19 to complete the legal transfer of open spaces at Thorpe Astley to the Town Council in order to enable future investment and improvement to the facilities, including ensuring improvements are implemented to the Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park.

### Highway Safety at Thorpe Astley

On Thursday 22nd June 2017, the Planning & Environment Committee considered issues of parking and speeding on streets of Thorpe Astley and the impact upon air pollution from congestion on Lubbesthorpe Way. 25 members of the public attended and contributed to the meeting.

As a result the Town Council is working hard through its membership of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board to ensure that measures to improve the crossing points on Meridian Way are brought forward now that the bridge over the M1 to Lubbesthorpe has opened.

Additionally, local Town Councillors and residents collected over 220 signatures, for submission to Leicestershire County Council to request a Community Speedwatch scheme in Thorpe Astley, which was approved and will operate during September 2018. A community group is being established and the Town Council will work with them to identify locations for our speed sign in order to assist the scheme.

### 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1

During the year the Community Life Group brought members of the community together to plan and organise community events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 in November 2018.



To date, the group have already achieved a considerable amount, having already made some 3,000 poppies for a poppy cascade at Braunstone Civic Centre. The group's proposals include a parade from St. Crispin's Church to the Civic Centre on Remembrance Sunday and ideas to improve the Memorial Garden.

The group is made up of various sections of the community and are bringing people together with ideas for the whole community to commemorate the anniversary. The Town Council is delighted to be working with the community to commemorate the anniversary and have identified funding to support community groups organise events.

### Financial Risks and Pressures

In my report last year I highlighted that Blaby District Council had voted to end the payment to parish and town councils of the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant and New Homes Bonus from April 2018, in order to plug a gap in their own finances. The loss of this income, along with existing financial pressures faced by the Town Council equated to an approximate increase of 17% on the Town Council's share of Council Tax bills. For a typical Band B household, the equivalent of paying around £15 per year extra.

During the year we worked hard to identify ways to protect the services which many in the Town value, while finding ways to deliver these services and run our operations more efficiently, an approach supported by the Town's Citizens' Advisory Panel at its December meeting.

In January the Council set its budget and was able to protect all of its front line services while identifying slightly over £10,000 per annum of ongoing savings, and £55,000 of our reserves over the next two years, in order to minimise the impact of Blaby's decision on local tax payers, which has enabled us to reduce the increase in Council Tax for 2018/2019 to 9.7%, the equivalent of around £8.15 on a typical band B property for the year.

I would like to thank residents for their understanding and support for our approach which strikes a balance between protecting services, making savings and increasing Council Tax. Nonetheless, the use of our reserves to spread the impact on residents following Blaby's decision will impact upon the Council's finances and ability to deliver capital investment over the next 3 to 5 years.

### Update Reports

Updates on the above matters are published in a regular Leader's report in the Braunstone Life and on the Council's website.

*Councillor Nick Brown  
Leader of Braunstone Town Council*



## Welcome to our Annual Report 2017/2018

By Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

The Town Council continues to provide important services to the community and this Annual Report provides a summary of our achievements over the last 12 months and looks ahead to our aspirations for the next 12 months. Our Annual Survey responses this year showed high satisfaction across our services. We valued your input and throughout the year have acted on comments you made. Therefore, I encourage residents this year to again respond to our survey, your input is valued in shaping our priorities and services to meet resident's needs. I would also like to extend our appreciation to all those local residents and groups who have, over the year, become involved in events and projects instigated by the Council and given their support to assist us in providing the high level of service to local people.



I am delighted that during the year we made significant progress with the NHS to ensure that the unused medical rooms at Thorpe Astley Community Centre would be utilised for much needed GP services from April 2018. We also received planning approval for our ambitious proposals to improve the pavilion, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park. During 2018/2019 we plan to obtain funding, appoint a contractor and start the works. Finally, on 9th March, Leicestershire County Council approved the principle of the Town Council taking over the management of our Library. Over the summer of 2018 we will be working with the County Council on the detailed legal agreements and timescales for transfer. This is good news for Braunstone Town since this decision at last secures the future of our library after years of uncertainty.

More up to date information on the Council's services and the latest news can be found on our website at www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk or contact our Customer Service Shop at Braunstone Civic Centre where the Council's staff would also be pleased to help.

Once again, thank you for your time.

Councillor Nick Brown

### Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017		Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
£		£
<b>350,420.68</b>	<b>Balances brought forward</b>	<b>312,803.46</b>
495,653.00	(+) Annual Precept	519,556.00
233,535.76	(+) Total other receipts	275,112.89
442,383.95	(-) Staff costs	462,128.74
63,912.42	(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	63,786.42
260,509.61	(-) Total other payments	313,358.56
<b>312,803.46</b>	<b>(=) Balances carried forward</b>	<b>268,198.63</b>
308,408.89	Total cash and short term investments	250,239.41
4,542,472.99	Total fixed assets and long term assets	4,549,629.49
379,906.10	Total borrowings	335,103.23
<b>The Audit for 2017 was completed on 22nd September 2017</b>		

### MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2017/2018

The Council believes in openness and transparency, therefore, each year we publish the amount paid to Town Councillors in allowances and the amounts claimed in expenses. Below are the allowances paid (gross) and expenses claimed.

	ALLOWANCE	EXPENSES	TOTAL
Cllr A Ambrose	£375	£0	£375
Cllr M S Aslam	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A S Basra	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P Basra	£375	£0	£375
Cllr R Berrington	£375	£0	£375
Cllr S Betts	£375	£0	£375
Cllr N J Brown	£0	£0	£0
Cllr A DeWinter	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Di Palma	£0	£0	£0
Cllr S Fox-Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A Hack	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Joshi	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr B Layne	£375	£0	£375
Cllr S Maxwell	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P L Moitt	£375	£0	£375
Cllr G Sanders	£375	£0	£375
Cllr T Shepherd	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Singh	£375	£0	£375
Cllr R Waterton	£375	£0	£375
Cllr B Wright	£375	£0	£375

### Our Mission Statement

*"We exist to ensure that local services and the environment reach the highest possible standards within the resources available for citizens, visitors and those who work in Braunstone Town; to provide a focus for civic pride; to listen, identify and respond to agreed local needs; and to help develop a strong, secure, self-reliant, self-confident community, free from unlawful discrimination."*



### BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE CUSTOMER SERVICE SHOP

Monday – Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Kingsway, Braunstone Town, Leicester, LE3 2PP TEL: 0116 289 0045 FAX: 0116 282 4785  
EMAIL: enquiries@braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk



# About Braunstone Town Council



The Council provides a wide range of services together with social and recreational facilities. The Council also promotes the interests of the town in its representation to other bodies. It works in partnership with the larger District Council and County Council to provide and supplement local government services within the town area.

The Council comprises 21 members who are elected every four years. Each year the Council elects from amongst its number the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader

The Full Council meets six times a year. The Council has three standing committees: Policy & Resources, Community Development and Planning & Environment Committee. The Planning & Environment Committee meets approximately twelve times a year. All Meetings are open to local residents and include a public participation session on the Agenda. Agendas for the Council and standing committees are available to the public a week before the meeting date. Most meetings are held at the Civic Centre, some meetings are held at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. Further information is available on request by telephoning the Council on 0116 2899270 and can also be found on the notice board at the Town Council Offices, Thorpe Astley Community Centre and on the Council's Website

## Our Achievements in 2017/2018

- Held public meetings with the NHS and local GP surgery to **address issues with primary care/General Practice provision** across the Town.
- Worked with the NHS, Kingsway Surgery and Blaby District Council to ensure that **NHS General Practice services** would be provided from **Thorpe Astley Community Centre**, including signing of the agreement and carrying out modifications to the building.
- Co-ordinated and supported Community Groups to deliver a varied **programme of events to the community** including quiz nights, concerts and craft fairs.
- Following vandalism, made **improvements** to play equipment and safety surfaces at **Franklin Park Play area**.
- Reached an in-principle agreement with Leicestershire County Council to manage **Braunstone Town Library**, while the County Council continues to meet its long-term lease obligations.
- Completed the legal transfer and took possession of public open space at Thorpe Astley from Persimmon Homes. We completed transfer arrangements with Barrett Homes, for transfer in 2018/19.
- Obtained planning approval and received tenders for the contract for the **improvements to the Pavilion, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park**, aiming for work to commence in 2018/19.
- Continued to work with Blaby District Council to support initiatives aimed at **improving air quality** and mitigating impact of the Lubbethorpe development on residents.
- Invested in two new **speed monitoring signs** to address safety concerns around speeding traffic and facilitated the establishment of a **Community Speed Watch Scheme** in Thorpe Astley.
- Ensured the **continuation and improvement of pre-school services at Thorpe Astley Community Centre**.
- Invested in new more **efficient parks plant equipment**, while making **on-going savings**.

### Room Hire Figures

CENTRE		Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
Braunstone Civic Centre	Hires	3023
	Income	£70,251.93
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Hires	1613
	Income	£29,872.27

## Plans for 2018/2019

In addition to the continuing with the existing level of services, the Town Council aims to achieve the following during the forthcoming year:

- Invest in the redevelopment and improvement of sporting, recreation and play **facilities at Shakespeare Park**;
- **Improvements to our community facilities** at both Braunstone Civic Centre and Thorpe Astley Community Centre;
- Support Thorpe Astley Community **Speedwatch and road safety measures** to protect the safety of pedestrians around Meridian Way;
- Positively and proactively respond to the evolving and changing social demographic of the community through developing and supporting new and existing events and **community/social inclusion initiatives**;
- Meet the needs of Thorpe Astley residents by facilitating the delivery of **services and events at Thorpe Astley Community Centre**;
- Continue to work to **keep Braunstone Town Library open**;
- Complete the legal transfer of open spaces at Thorpe Astley to the Town Council in order to enable future investment and improvement to the facilities, including ensuring improvements are implemented to the **Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park**;
- Actively working with the developer and Blaby District Council to ensure that the **land adjacent to the M1 bridge is suitably landscaped** to provide protection for residents from the new road and to provide a leisure and recreation space;
- Continue to look to make efficiency savings while ensuring the existing **services are safeguarded and where appropriate improved**.

### Annual Survey – available in July and August 2018 Responses Entered into a Free Prize Draw

The views of Braunstone Town residents are vital in assisting the Council in providing services that people really want and also helps us to articulate the needs and aspirations of our local community to the larger District and County Councils or to other agencies and government bodies.

You can help us in making decisions on our services by completing the Council's Annual Survey. Hard copies can be obtained from Braunstone Civic Centre and Thorpe Astley Community Centre, or if you wish we can post it to you. The survey is also available online at [www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RETURNING YOUR RESPONSES**  
**9am, TUESDAY 28th AUGUST 2018**

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN**  
**ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING**

**10th MAY 2018**

**Item 6 – Braunstone Town Heritage Warden’s Report 2017/2018**

**Natural Environment**

The only certain thing is the uncertainty of our weather! Again this year has been totally opposite to last year, plenty of cold weather and snow delaying the start of spring

Despite some vandalism to the pond, several primary school classes have enjoyed a mixture of events in the orchard area of Franklin Park, orienteering, pond dipping and nature hunts. Fortunately, the weather was sunny. The school children showed their appreciation by sending in drawings and notes of their experiences particularly the discovery of a fish, a first for our pond

During February 2018 we carried out some much-needed pruning to the apple trees, we will wait and see how successful that will be next Apple Day.

It is rewarding to see that the Wildlife Watch Group that I help start in 2010 is still going strong. A lot of the original youngsters are still attending passing on their nature skills to a new set of children. They still use the Franklin and Mossdale Meadow parks for their main activities, a superb asset provided by our Town Council

**Built Environment.**

The New Lubbesthorpe development has started to expand and the new bridge over the M1 and new spine road have opened. So far, no further archaeological discoveries have come to light. I have raised concerns over the future of the Abbey Farm and Hopyard Farm buildings, but I have been assured that when they are vacated they will be preserved and used for community use.

As you are all aware I’m still the Chairman of Braunstone Heritage Archive Group (BHAG) and this compliments most of my Heritage Warden Duties. Our small dedicated team have attracted a few more members during the last twelve months and several others have promised to attend our Wednesday afternoon meeting when they can.

We have now settled into our workroom at Paul Pender’s Shakespeare. Each week we have/are holding three-day sessions which have allowed us to prepare various visuals for the various projects we are involved with. Although we had intended to use the Shakespeare for our meetings the growing numbers of members have made

it impractical to hold our weekly meetings there, so we are now back at the Civic Centre for our Wednesday afternoon meetings.

The publication by the Town Council of BHAG member Jack Haselgrove's book entitled "When Life was Transformed In Braunstone" to mark the 90th anniversary of the formation of Braunstone Civil Parish. The book follows research by BHAG members into the old Parish Minute Books held at the Civic Centre.

This project has inspired our group to embark on a project to provide displays of local and national events for the years 1927 to 1939 to be mounted in the large notice boards at the Civic Centre. We hope to produce a further book covering the years 1940 to 1950.

This project has been nominated for an award from the national "Community Archives & Heritage Group" under the "Gathering Heritage" category, winners will be announced at their annual conference in Birmingham on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Another heritage project we are undertaking is an exhibition to mark the 850th anniversary of the creation of St Peter's Church due on 23rd 24th June.

This is a joint project with Braunstone History Group based at the Brite Centre.

We are covering the events happening in the 12, 13,14,15,16 and 17 centuries.

Another project we are involved with is the commemorations for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War. This theme is used in our display cabinet at the Civic Centre and will form the basis of our exhibition stand at the summer fete and during the week leading up to the 11<sup>th</sup> November. As Heritage Warden I have been asked to support a separate project to provide a "Waterfall" of handmade poppies to hang from the outside wall of the Council Chamber. This hopefully will be a joint project with the Town Council and "Community Life" group.

Like last year my Heritage Report would not be complete without a reference to Braunstone Town Library, this year is no exception. After two years of little or no progress Fabula have decided to drop out of their arrangement with the County Council. Eventually the County Council have given the running of our library to our Braunstone Town Council, phew! We can now look forward to cooperating with the Town Council in providing a superb community library and community hub, hopefully with a section devoted to Braunstone's history.

Finally, can I extend my and BHAG's thanks to the Town Council for their continued support of the Heritage Warden facility and to BHAG.

*John Dodd*  
*Braunstone Town Heritage Warden*