

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 6th DECEMBER 2018

PRESENT: Councillors P Moitt (Chair), N Brown (Vice-chair), A Ambrose and R Waterton; and local residents J Dodd, L Faulkner, J Jameson and J Johnson.

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 6th September 2018

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2018 were received and noted.

4. Braunstone Town Library

The panel received an update concerning the transfer of the Braunstone Town Library Service from Leicestershire County Council to the management of the Town Council (item 4 on the agenda).

The Panel discussed and noted the following issues:

- a) the length of time the process was taking with the County Council was a concern; it was confirmed that the delays were entirely down to Leicestershire County Council; and
- b) there was concern that many of the staffing contracts were temporary and there was concern among Library staff that the transfer process was dragging on.

5. 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I

The panel reflected on the commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in November 2018.

Councillor Moitt stated that the Town should rightly be proud of its efforts from the knitted poppies, to the functions and the refurbishment of the Memorial Garden. It had been the largest set of events held in the Town in recent years and compared very favourably with that of neighbouring areas. Councillor Moitt concluded that it was a good effort by all concerned.

The Panel discussed and noted the following issues:

- a) the dedication event on Wednesday was superb;
- b) Sunday's Remembrance Event was well-supported;
- c) the only little criticism was that the parade on Sunday started too early;

- d) particular credit should go to Lin Burrows and the committee;
- e) emphasis to date tended to be on the fallen rather than the impact, the conflict tended to be misunderstood and in future years with there would be opportunities for wider education on the facts about war;
- f) the play held at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 3rd November, The Window, conveyed real life stories from the perspective of a relative; and
- g) the Second World War was likely to be marked in a different way, with more of an emphasis on the life stories, for example the role and impact upon women.

AGREED that the Panel's thanks be conveyed to all those involved.

6. Priorities, Projects and Financial Planning

The panel received the Council's medium term strategy along with the current priorities, objectives and capital plan. To determine whether they were relevant to address current and emerging issues faced by the Council and the community. To consider and comment upon progress during the current year and consider and identify any new issues and projects for 2019/2020 and beyond for recommendation to Policy & Resources Committee.

The Leader, Councillor Nick Brown, advised the Panel that the Town Council's finances continued to be affected by the consequences of Blaby District Council's decision to remove Council Tax Support and New Homes Bonus of around £50,000 per annum. There was likely to be a further year of impact on the finances.

A member of the Panel noted that significant sections of the pathway along the Kingsway were difficult to pass in a wheel chair due to the gradient of the slopes and requested that a new path around the centre are be considered. The Leader of the Council acknowledged the issue but advised that due to funding pressures on the County Council a new path was unlikely but it may be possible to address the worst gradients on the existing path. The Leader advised that the matter be raised with the County Councillor.

A member of the Panel also noted that the slope on the footpath adjacent to the Civic Centre main car park entrance was tricky for less abled people and recommended that a hand rail be installed.

AGREED that the potential to install a handrail on the footpath adjacent to the Civic Centre main car park entrance be considered for inclusion in the Capital Plan.

7. Annual Survey 2018 - Actions and Responses to Survey Comments 2018

The panel set out for consideration the actions and responses to the issues and comments raised by residents in the Braunstone Town Council Annual Survey 2018.

The Panel discussed and noted the following issues:

- a) the importance of high standards of Customer Service;
- b) support for the idea of the bar also being open as a café; and
- c) the need to sell Braunstone Town better to the outside world.

AGREED

1. that the importance of actively acknowledging customers be dealt with through normal staffing procedures;
2. that the Leicester Mercury be asked to share the information it holds on Braunstone Town, in order for any inaccuracies to be addressed.

8. Shakespeare Park Improvement Project

The panel received an update on progress with improvement to the pavilion, sport, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park.

AGREED

1. that the Library be asked to stock the survey;
2. information about the project and surveys be left in rooms people use; and
3. the project incorporate measures to encourage safe cycling.

9. Health and GP Services in Braunstone Town

The panel received an update on the provision of primary care services in Braunstone Town.

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk updated the Panel on the implementation and expansion of the GP service at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, which was now operating five days a week and the Council was working with the surgery to enable services to be expanded in the new year.

10. Lubbesthorpe

The panel received an update on issues relating to the Lubbesthorpe development and its impact.

Councillor Robert Waterton reported on the following matters:

- a) the first Primary School was due to open in September;
- b) the Site Wide Phasing Strategy had been revised
- c) Affordable Housing Units on Phase 1A was set out in the paper enclosed with the agenda, Councillor Robert Waterton had asked for a spreadsheet setting out progress, which remained to be provided;
- d) improvements to the crossing points on Meridian Way – an outline plan had been submitted by the developer, who would carry out the works, to Leicestershire County Council;
- e) £250 charge to residents for the Land Trust to operate the public open space – it was confirmed that the costs of the Land Trust would be underwritten by the developers;

- f) Tay Road – the developer had recommended tree planting to prevent drivers using the footpath to avoid the speed bumps, however, this had been rejected by Leicestershire County Council; and
- g) Old Warren Farm was due to be demolished, subject to comments of English Heritage, and the materials would be reused at Abbey Farm.

Councillor Waterton advised that the next meeting of the Strategic Consultative Group was due to be held in February.

11. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

NOTE:

CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime and 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.



SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____