

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.45PM

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair) and Councillors Nick Brown, David Di Palma, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Sam Maxwell and Christiane Startin-Lorent.

Also in attendance was the Town Mayor, Councillor Parminder Basra.

Officers in attendance: Darren Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk and Pauline Snow, Deputy Executive Officer & Community Services Manager.

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

61. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ajmer Basra, Alex DeWinter and Sam Fox-Kennedy.

62. Disclosures of Interest

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

63. 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 three members of the public present.

64. Minutes of the Meeting held 9th December 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December 2019 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

65. Town Mayor's Report

The Committee received a report on the activities of the Town Mayor and any proposals for initiatives during the Civic Year (item 5 on the agenda).

The Town Mayor advised that she had organised a Dinner and Dance at the Marriott Hotel on 24th April 2020. Three hundred tickets were available for the evening and 80 had already been sold but she requested help with selling tickets and encouraged members to support the event. Net proceeds would be donated to her chosen charity, Life Links.

The Town Mayor also advised that a Singles Night had been organised at Braunstone Civic Centre on 29th February 2020 with proceeds to her chosen charity, Life Links.

RESOLVED that the update be noted

Reason for Decision

To monitor and review the effectiveness of the Town Council's community engagement activities.

66. Identifying and Dealing with Hate Crime

The Committee received a presentation from Isla Dixon (Leicestershire Police Hate Crime Officer) and Sergeant Alex Goldsmith (Local Neighbourhood Police Team) concerning identifying and dealing with hate crime (copy attached as an Appendix to these minutes).

Members received details of the "Stamp it Out" campaign to encourage the reporting of hate crime.

RESOLVED that the Town Council help distribute identifying and dealing with hate crime resource information in appropriate places and to groups.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the community, particularly vulnerable individuals, could identify hate crime/incidents and were aware of how these could be reported and where to go for support and advice.

67. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

The Committee received an update from the Local Neighbourhood Police Beat team on local community safety and policing initiatives (item 7 on the agenda).

Sergeant Goldsmith provided an update on policing issues since 1st January 2020. Incidents of Anti-social behaviour at Thorpe Astley had been recorded and police patrols had been increased.

Two robberies have been reported in Braunstone Town and were currently under investigation along with four burglaries.

Theft of and from vehicles was still an ongoing issue but mainly due to insecure vehicles and theft of number plates. The police have been

distributing free number plate screws to residents to prevent this happening.

Incidents of drug dealing were still ongoing but no action could be taken by the police unless residents advise them of their concerns or observations. Evidence supplied by residents allows the police to build up a case for investigation and residents were encouraged to report any suspicious activities.

Anti-social behaviour in certain areas of the town was still ongoing but the police and other partners were working together to resolve the ongoing issue with one or two individuals.

RESOLVED that the update be noted

Reason for Decision

To ensure that current community safety and policing updates were received.

68. Library – Community Engagement/Involvement and Social Inclusion

The Committee considered potential initiatives, including volunteering opportunities, to develop community involvement in Braunstone Town Library and provide for social inclusion (item 8 on the agenda).

Members were advised on services reintroduced into the library following the Town Council taking over the management of the Braunstone Town Library. This included the provision of daily newspapers and the sale of stamps and greetings card.

Consultation with users of the library highlighted several services that residents would like to see run in the library including Wriggly Readers sessions and service for house bound residents. A list of residents who had indicated that they wished to volunteer to help with delivering services in the library had also been collected. Several of these volunteers had indicated that they would be willing to help with reading sessions or delivering books to housebound residents.

A draft volunteer application form and Wriggly Readers role description had been drafted for consideration.

Members also discussed options for book swapping services using books donated from residents that could not be incorporated in the Leicestershire County Council book catalogue.

RESOLVED

1. that the reinstatement of previously provided services in the library be supported;

2. that the suggestions for future services being provided in the library arising from the consultation, attached at Appendix 1, be approved and progressed;
3. that the proposed Volunteer Application Form, attached at Appendix 2, be endorsed;
4. that the draft Wriggly Readers role and job description, attached at Appendix 3, be endorsed as a template for this and future volunteer roles; and
5. that provision of a housebound book service be progressed.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that well used services in the library continue to be provided.*
2. *To ensure that new services suggested by users of the library were considered and implemented, where feasible.*
3. *To enable progression with recruiting volunteers to help with activities in the library.*
4. *To enable recruitment of suitable volunteers to provide a reading service in the library, and other services, as requested by the community.*
5. *To ensure that all members of the community would be able to access books and to overcome isolation of people with mobility restrictions.*

69. Civic Memorial Annual Remembrance Events

The Committee set out a process for engaging local organisations and community groups in planning and organising annual remembrance events at the Civic Memorial (item 9 on the agenda).

Members considered proposals to consult residents and organisations on how they wished to see annual remembrance events at the memorial garden be commemorated. It was felt that input from local organisations and groups was vital in the process as their full support in the organisation and attendance of the event was needed if these annual events were to be successful. It was suggested that an article be included in the Braunstone Life inviting residents to put forward their comments. The Citizen's Advisory Panel would also be used to consult with residents.

It was proposed that a Working Group be established with Town Councillors and representatives from local organisations and community groups to discuss events and ideas to take place at the memorial garden.

RESOLVED

1. that the *Process for reviewing annual remembrance events at the Civic Memorial*, as set out in the section of the report, be approved;
2. that the following be submitted to the Working Group for consideration and review:
 - (a) what would be the minimum the Council could deliver on its own?
 - (b) what would be the role of the Town Mayor on Remembrance Sunday?

- (c) what links should there be with Saint Peter's Church, which contained the memorial to those from Braunstone who fought in the First World War?
- (d) what should the balance be between religious and secular commemoration?
- 3. that Councillors Anthea Ambrose (as Chair of the Committee) and Nick Brown be appointed to the Working Group, with substitutions permitted; and
- 4. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of Community Development Committee, to determine any further Councillor appointments and which local organisations and community groups should be represented on the Working Group.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that the Town Council hosted and facilitated annual remembrance events which were supported and organised by established local organisations and community groups.*
2. *To provide the Council's ideas to the Working Group for further consideration, along with those received from local organisations, community groups and residents.*
3. *To provide input on the Council's role hosting and facilitating annual remembrance events, as well as the Council's wider community leadership and social inclusion roles.*
4. *To provide a process for identifying and appointing representation to the Working Group from Councillors, local organisations and community groups, to enable the Group to commence its work.*

70. Summary of Grant Applications

The Committee received a list of grants paid to date and applied for from external sources and received acknowledgements for Town Council Grants (item 10 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

To monitor progress with supporting community groups with identifying sources of funding and with the award of grants under the Council's Community Grants scheme.

71. Community Grant Applications

The Committee considered Community Grant Applications which had been received (item 11 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the following grant applications be approved:
 - a) Asian Elderly Group - £300;
 - b) Punjabi Cultural Society - £300
2. that the following grant application be approved:
 - b) Friends of Highway Spinney - £258; subject to:
 - i. the grant money being paid on 1st April 2020 as the group had already received a grant in the current financial, and
 - ii. the group be excluded from applying for a grant during the 2020/2021 financial year

Reasons for Decision

1. *The grants applications met the scheme criteria.*
2. *the group:*
 - i. *had already applied and received a grant in the 2019/2020 financial year,*
 - ii. *the group could not apply for more than one grant per year.*

72. 75th Anniversary of VE Day Commemorations – Grant Applications

The Committee considered consider Grant Applications for commemorating 75th anniversary of VE Day (item 12 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the following grant applications be approved:

- a) Braunstone Community Life - £200

Reason for Decision

The grant application met the scheme criteria.

73. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

The Committee received a progress report on current projects and funding.

It was noted that a letter of intent would shortly be forwarded to the contractor to agree a proposed start date for the new sports pavilion at Shakespeare Park. A provisional date of 24th February 2020 had been suggested in order for the trees and shrubs in the vicinity of the new building could be removed before the bird nesting commences in March.

An update on the culvert bridge at Thorpe Astley Community Centre was received. It was noted that a footpath closure and diversion order was still awaited from Leicestershire County Council in order for the work on the culvert bridge to commence.

Discussions were also held on the overgrown shrubs adjacent to footpaths and parking on grass verges. Investigations would be made to who was responsible for the maintenance of these areas and the concerns passed to the appropriate authorities.

74. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2019 to 28th January 2020 (item 14 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

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

75. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 4th December 2019 until 28th January 2020 (item 16 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the period 4th December 2019 until 28th January 2020 be approved.

Reason for Decision

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

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.



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.

Leicestershire Police
Protecting our communities

Hate Crime

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Your disability is not a crime.
Your gender identity is not a crime.
Your race is not a crime.
Your religion and beliefs are not a crime.
Your sexual orientation is not a crime.
Your alternative subculture is not a crime.
It is not a crime to be you.

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Definitions

Hate Incident

Any **non-crime incident** which is **perceived** by the victim or **any other person**, to be motivated by a **hostility or prejudice** based on a person's (actual) or perceived difference

Hate Crime

Any **criminal offence** which is **perceived**, by the victim or **any other person**, to be motivated by a **hostility or prejudice** based on a person's (actual) or perceived difference

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So what does that mean in reality?

Hate Incident

A hate incident is the same as a hate crime, although what has happened is not always a criminal offence. Hate incidents may happen once, or several times over a longer period.

- verbal abuse or online abuse - like name-calling and offensive jokes or abuse on Facebook or Twitter
- insults or harassment such as taunting or even ignoring someone because of their difference
- Abusive gestures
- bullying or intimidation by children, adults, neighbours or strangers at school, in the workplace or around residential areas
- physical attacks such as hitting, punching, pushing, spitting
- threats of violence
- hoax calls, abusive phone or text messages, hate mail
- displaying or circulating discriminatory literature or posters
- harm or damage to things such as your home, pet, vehicle
- graffiti
- arson
- Dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes
- malicious complaints for example over parking, smells or noise.

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So what does that mean in reality?

Hate Crime

- offensive or dangerous substances being posted through the letterbox
- verbal abuse
- physical violence and assault
- Criminal damage to your house or car
- Arson
- Murder
- Sexual assault
- Theft
- Fraud
- Burglary
- Hate mail (Malicious Communications Act 1988)
- Causing harassment, alarm or distress (Public Order Act 1986)

Hate crimes and incidents can also be directed at whole communities through:

- desecration of graveyards
- vandalism of places of worship
- offensive graffiti in public places
- acts of terrorism

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“Mate Crime”

“The exploitation, abuse or theft from any person at risk from those they consider to be their friends”

Theft/financial abuse – demanding or borrowing money from the victim with no intention of paying them back

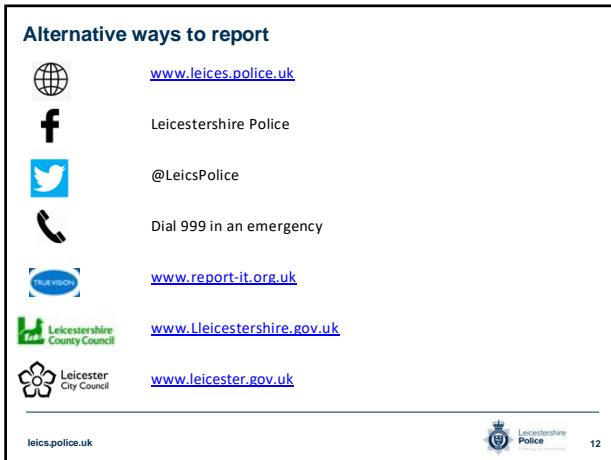
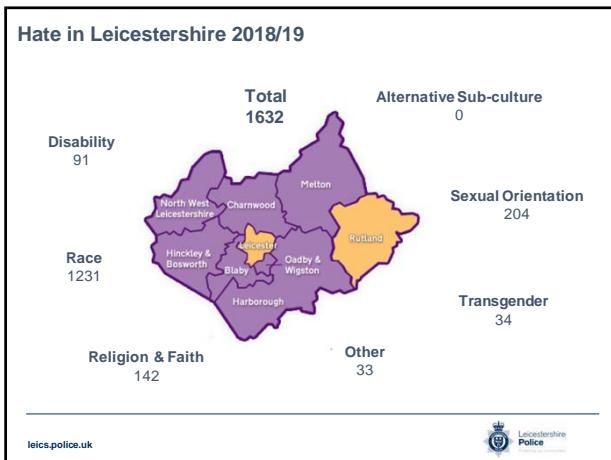
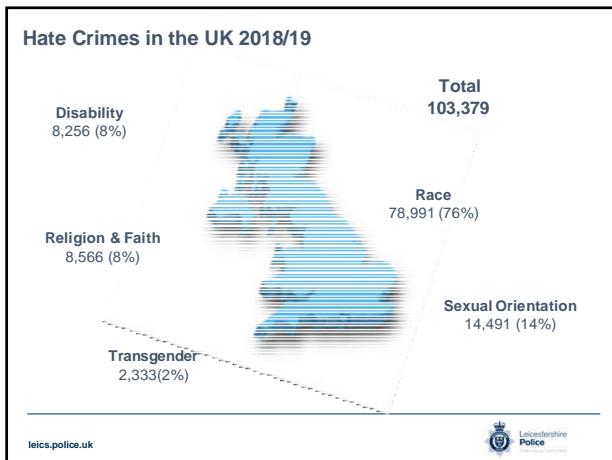
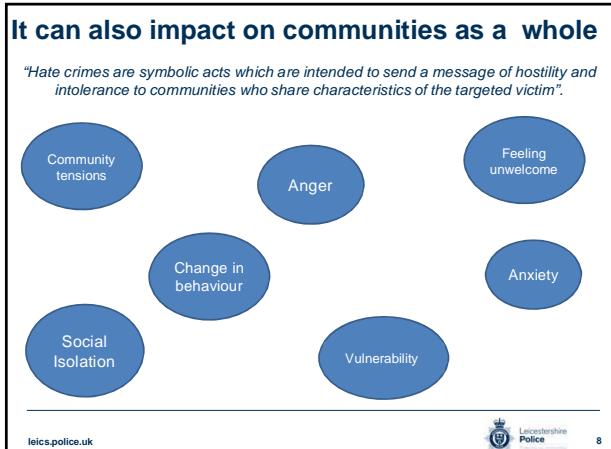
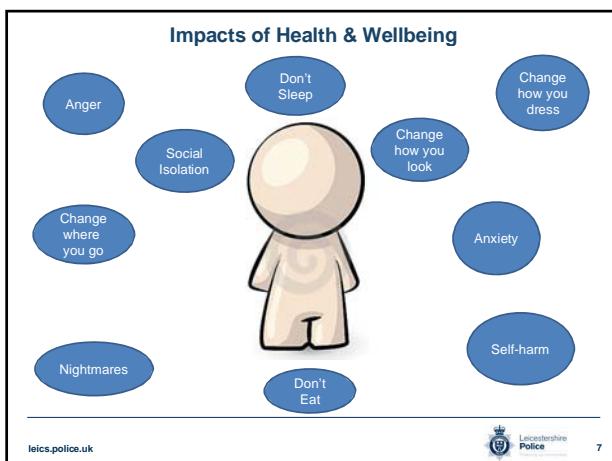
Physical assault/abuse – hurting or injuring the victim

Harassment or emotional abuse – manipulate, mislead, or make the victim feel worthless

Sexual assault/abuse – harming or taking advantage of the victim sexually

Mate crime is a form of hate crime.

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Support for victims

Victim First are an independent and confidential service for victims and witnesses providing support for victims of all hate incidents and hate crimes.

- Emotional Support
- Access to Specialist Support
- Restorative Justice
- Mental Health Support
- Crime Prevention Measures
- Advocacy



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**Any Questions...
Just Ask!**



SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____