

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE AND USING ZOOM VIDEO AND WEB  
CONFERENCING SOFTWARE**

**THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Robert Waterton (Chair), Councillor Phil Moitt (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Sohan Johal, Leanne Lee, Satindra Sangha, Darshan Singh, Christiane Startin-Lorent and Marion Waterton.

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

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

**152. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**153. Disclosures of Interest**

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

**154. Public Participation**

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

There were no members of the public present.

**155. Minutes of the Meeting held 10th September 2020**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2020 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

**156. Air Quality Annual Status Report and Draft Action Plan**

The Committee received the Blaby District 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report and draft Air Quality Action Plan for consideration (item 5 on the agenda).

David Gould and Anna Farish, Blaby District Council Environmental Health, gave a short presentation concerning Air Quality Monitoring and Actions,

along with proposals for a revised Air Quality Action Plan (which is attached at Appendix 1 of these minutes).

Members of the Committee had submitted questions concerning both the proposed action plan and monitoring report, and responses had been provided (attached at Appendix 2).

In response to the presentation and the issues raised, the following issues were identified:

- (a) particulate matter 10 was measured in two places in Blaby District, and the new monitoring stations for Fosse Park would be able to measure particulate matter;
- (b) assessment of particulate matter was more tricky since there were several sources and the health effects were similarly more complex; however, nitrogen dioxide levels could be used as an indication of whether particulate matter was an issue;
- (c) vegetation was especially helpful at reducing exposure to nitrogen dioxide; and
- (d) Blaby District Council would consider whether monitoring should take place at Thorpe Astley Park, due to its proximity to the Motorway; however, these issues had been examined at the planning stage and the park designed as an area of separation.

**RESOLVED** that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, to prepare and submit a consultation response in respect of the draft Blaby District Air Quality Action Plan, including taking into account the following:

- (a) relevant points raised in the questions and responses, attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes;
- (b) developing partnership arrangements to ensure that areas where there were respiratory and health issues due to air quality were identified and further action taken to support residents and reduce the impact; and
- (c) developing the partnership arrangements to ensure that the Highways Authority would respond to the monitoring reports and associated actions set out in the Action Plan.

*Reason for Decision*

*To engage with initiatives and actions to improve air quality in Braunstone Town and the surrounding area; given further development in the Fosse Park and Lubbethorpe areas.*

**157. Planning and Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority**

The Committee received and noted responses to planning applications taken under Delegated Authority (item 6 on the agenda). No licensing applications were received.

**RESOLVED** that the action taken by the Executive Officer & Town Clerk under delegated authority in forwarding the following observations to Blaby District Council be noted:

- 1. Application No:** 20/1002/FUL
- Description:** Change of use of existing outbuilding from ancillary residential use to that of a nail bar and beauty salon (Class use Sui Generis).
- Location:** 3 Shottery Avenue Braunstone Town Leicestershire LE3 2ST (Winstanley Ward)
- Response:** *Braunstone Town Council does not object to the change of use of the outbuilding, subject to the following conditions:*
- (a) the hours of operation being in strict accordance with those set out in section 19 of the application, hours of use, strictly no opening on Sundays and Bank Holidays, and the hours of operation set out not being varied without the explicit consent of the local planning authority;*
  - (b) the number of people on site being limited to one worker and two customers (with dependants and carers exempt) at any time, who must have prior booked;*
  - (c) any advertising or signage to the front of the dwelling being submitted for consideration and approval by the local planning authority;*
  - (d) the existing parking to the front of the dwelling being retained both for the private dwelling and for customer parking;*
  - (e) details of the materials, chemicals and products being used and the trade waste arrangements, including storage and collection, being submitted and approved by the local planning authority; and*
  - (f) neighbouring properties being fully informed of the proposals.*
- Reasons:** *The outbuilding was an existing building on a large plot and neighbouring properties were also large plots; therefore, the impact on the amenity enjoyed by the occupants of the neighbouring residential properties was likely to be limited; however, conditions would provide a balance:*
- (a) to avoid noise and comings and goings during hours when residents were more likely to be at home and/or sleeping;*
  - (b) to reduce noise and avoid over intensification of the use of the site, keeping the number of workers and customers to one at a time, while recognising there would be crossover of*

- customers and reasonable specific exceptions;*
- (c) *to ensure that advertising/signage was in keeping with the visual amenity of the residential street and did not obstruct the highway (including the footway) or present any highway safety concerns;*
  - (d) *to prevent over parking or obstruction on the highway (including the footway), with access to neighbouring properties, there was limited highway parking availability;*
  - (e) *to avoid any hazardous or odorous chemicals, materials or products which could be detrimental to local residential amenity; in addition, it was noted in the application that waste storage and collection was described as existing, it was unclear whether separate arrangements for business waste had already been made, or whether the applicant mistakenly believes that the domestic service could be used; and*
  - (f) *the proposed change was likely to bring a level of activity to the street that would be greater than at present.*

## **158. Planning Applications and Licensing Applications**

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

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

### Planning Application

1. **Application No:** 20/0843/FUL
- Description:** Installation of 3 Condensing units (retrospective)
- Location:** 79 Henley Crescent Braunstone Town  
Leicestershire LE3 2SB (Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward)
- Response:** *Braunstone Town Council does not object to the application; subject to:*
  - a) *the noise and vibration levels remaining within the parameters identified in the submitted noise impact assessment and shown on figures 2 and 3;*
  - b) *no addition, modification or change be permitted to the equipment, without the explicit consent of the Planning Authority; and*
  - c) *the equipment and its casing being installed and maintained in accordance with the*

*relevant regulations and manufacturer's instructions.*

- Reasons:**
- a) *To ensure that noise and vibration levels remained confined to the back area of the building and did not have an adverse impact on the amenity enjoyed by the neighbouring residential properties.*
  - b) *To ensure that the units were compliant with the relevant regulations relating to noise, vibration and health & safety.*
  - c) *To ensure that the safety of the occupants and users of the building and the site.*

### **159. 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 were no licensing applications.

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

- 2. Application No:** 20/1073/HH
- Description:** Single storey side extension.
- Location:** 12 Stratford Road Braunstone Town  
Leicestershire LE3 2SU (Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward)
- Response:** *Braunstone Town Council does not object to the application; subject to the existing on-site parking arrangements remaining available for parking.*
- Reason:** *To avoid additional parking on the highway (including the footway) close to a bend, which could present highway safety concerns.*
- 3. Application No:** 20/1053/HH
- Description:** Garage conversion with raising of existing roof.
- Location:** 50 Kirkland Road Braunstone Town  
Leicestershire LE3 2JP (Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward)

**Response:** *Braunstone Town Council does not object to the application; subject to the on-site parking arrangements shown in the plans being permanently available for parking and size and access being compliant with the standards set out in the Leicestershire Local Highway Guidance.*

**Reason:** *To avoid overhang onto the footway and additional parking on the highway (including the footway), which could result in obstruction and present highway safety concerns.*

**4. Application No:** 20/1088/HH

**Description:** Single story front extension and garage conversion.

**Location:** 4 Shakespeare Drive Braunstone Town  
Leicestershire LE3 2SP (Winstanley Ward)

**Response:** *Braunstone Town Council does not object to the application; subject to the on-site parking arrangements, shown on the submitted plans, remaining available for parking.*

**Reason:** *To avoid additional parking on the highway (including the footway) close to a junction, which could present highway safety concerns.*

**Application No:** 20/1100/HHPD

**5. Description:** The erection of a single storey rear extension which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by 6.0m, for which the maximum height would be 3.5m and the height to the eaves would be 2.55m.

**Location:** 56 Cleveleys Avenue Braunstone Town  
Leicestershire LE3 2GG (Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward)

**Response:** *Braunstone Town Council does not object to the application.*

**Reason:** *The proposals were for a single storey extension at the rear of the property which was on a large plot; therefore there would be limited impact on the amenity enjoyed by neighbouring properties.*

## **160. Planning Decisions**

The Committee received and noted planning decisions made by Blaby District Council (item 9 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.*

## **161. Feedback on Planning Application Decisions**

The Committee noted that there were no planning application decisions by Blaby District Council where the Committee had queried the decision and feedback was awaited.

## **162. Lubbesthorpe**

The Committee considered how Braunstone Town Council should be involved in discussions relating to the impact of the New Lubbesthorpe development on the parish and the wider area, particularly concerning infrastructure improvements and housing and service provision, and identified specific issues which needed to be progressed.

**RESOLVED**

1. that local Parishes be invited to attend an online meeting using Zoom Video Conferencing and that Blaby District Council be invited to attend to report on progress with the development;
2. that Braunstone Town Council's representatives be Councillor Robert Waterton and Councillor Anthea Ambrose; and
3. that the following issues be raised at the meeting:
  - a) phasing and pace of the development,
  - b) social housing provision,
  - c) cleansing of the highway, including the footway, following use by construction vehicles, particularly lorries, and
  - d) Woodland on the site, clarification of the original plan and provisions for preserving it, and
  - e) arrangements for managing and monitoring water flow and drainage, to avoid / mitigate flooding as a result of the development and construction.

*Reasons for Decision*

1. *To ensure that Braunstone Town Council and local parishes could be involved in discussions relating to the impact of the New Lubbesthorpe development on the parish and the wider area, particularly concerning infrastructure improvements and housing and service provision.*
2. *To confirm the Town Council's representatives for the meeting and any future meetings of the group.*

3. *To ensure that the provision of services and improvements kept pace with the development, while avoiding adverse impact on the amenity enjoyed in the neighbouring areas.*

**163. Financial Comparisons**

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2020 (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 2021/2021.*

**164. Approval of Accounts**

The Committee noted that there were no payments between 1st September 2020 and 20th October 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

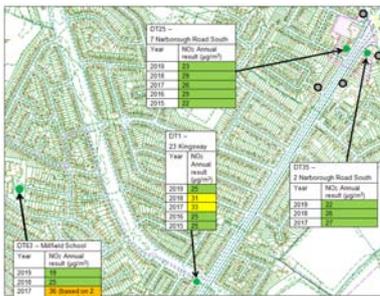
## Air Quality Update

David Gould  
Senior Environmental Health  
Officer  
Blaby District Council  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

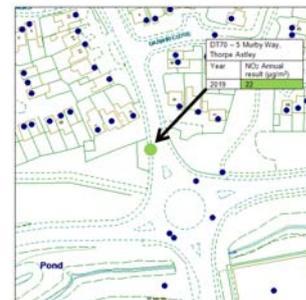
## Today's presentation

- Annual Status Report 2020 – results
- Monitoring at Fosse Park
- Revised AQMA 3 (Thorpe Astley/LFE)
- Consultation on draft Air Quality Action Plan 2020

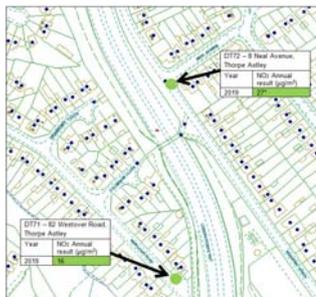
## Results for 2019 (1)



## Results for 2019 (2)



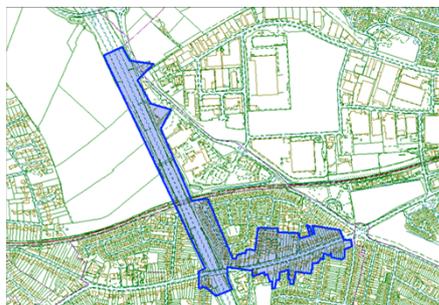
## Results for 2019 (3)



## Monitoring of Fosse Park

- Section 106 money from Castle Acres Development
- New monitoring station on Lubbesthorpe Road
- New 'low cost' monitors at locations close to Castle Acres

### Revised AQMA3



### Draft Air Quality Action Plan (1)

- Current Plan adopted in 2014, no longer fit for purpose
- Replacement plan intended to include more deliverable measures
- Cabinet Executive approved draft for consultation
- Comments invited by the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020
- Final plan to be considered by Cabinet Executive in early 2021

### Draft Air Quality Action Plan (2)

- Section on effects of Lockdown
- Work with County Highways and Public Health
- Links with Local Plan, Climate Change work
- Key priorities section 3.5 on page 11
- Details of measures in table 5.1 starting on page 14

### Draft Air Quality Action Plan (3)

- Monitoring Nitrogen Dioxide levels throughout the district
- Work with local schools, businesses and Leicestershire County Council to try and reduce traffic levels
- To implement the Walk and Ride Blaby initiative to connect communities and places by creating and improving a sustainable transport network

### Draft Air Quality Action Plan (4)

- Work with taxi drivers
- Improved understanding of air quality in AQMAs including gathering of local knowledge
- Use of LLITM model
- Certain road improvements e.g. Braunstone Crossroads
- Improvement of air quality information on website

## APPENDIX 2 – QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AND REPONSES: Item 5 Air Quality Annual Status Report and Draft Action Plan

Members of the Committee had submitted questions concerning both the proposed action plan and monitoring report ahead of the meeting and the following responses were provided.

Question	Response
<p>The monitoring of PM 2.5 appears to have been given some extension (see page 10 of the Annual Status Report - page 26 of the Committee Report) but is still restricted to a few locations. In the light of recent research which indicates that particulate matter from tyres is becoming more significant than that from engines should there not be (a) a greater number of monitoring devices for PM 2.5 and (b) a radical revision of the location of these devices?</p>	<p>PM<sub>2.5</sub> is still not a pollutant that local authorities are required to monitor, unlike PM<sub>10</sub>. It would be difficult to try to justify additional spending on traditional monitoring stations for this pollutant. We have bought 2 'low cost' monitors for use in Enderby, and are due to buy 1 or 2 more using the section 106 funds that we received from the Castle Acres Development (which we used to buy the new monitoring station on Lubbesthorpe Road). These monitors do measure PM<sub>2.5</sub>. We are therefore increasing the number of locations that we are monitoring at.</p>
<p>Do we have any explanations for the general drop in NOx emissions in 2019?</p>	<p>There is not a simple explanation for this. Levels of Nitrogen Oxides are affected by several factors, including weather conditions. This is why trends over 5 years or more are important.</p>
<p>Thorpe Astley continues to be poorly monitored for pollution. Of the three locations listed on page 20 of the Annual Status Report (page 36 of the Committee Report) only one is actually in Thorpe Astley. In addition, concerns have been continually raised about the section of Lubbesthorpe Way that runs past Thorpe Astley and about the whole of Meridian Way yet these roads are not, apparently, monitored and are not, apparently, included in the revised AQMA3 (page 27 of the AQAP - page 111 of the Committee Report). Should this issue be revisited?</p>	<p>We review our monitoring locations at least annually. The next review will take place in November. We respond to the raising of concerns, including requests from Parish Councils – including Braunstone Town Council, Glenfield P.C., Whetstone P.C. and Kilby P.C.. We have to consider the resources that we have available, together with the likelihood of a location that is a 'receptor' being close to or exceeding the Air Quality Objective. Thorpe Astley has been monitored in the past, and no issues found. 3 additional diffusion tubes were deployed to monitor Thorpe Astley (as shown on pages 54 and 55 of the Annual Status Report 2020, following previous discussions. The levels of Nitrogen Dioxide were found to be relatively low in 2019.</p>

Question	Response
Was the BDC submission for grant funding of £120,000 (page 6 of the Committee Report) successful?	Yes it was, and the project is due to commence shortly, its start date having being delayed due to Covid 19.
Blaby District Council has recently launched an active travel plan (p.vi of BDC 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report, April 2020). When was this launched please and what is the detail of this plan?	The active travel project has been ongoing for the last 18 months or so, and focusses on schools and some businesses. We talked about this last time, it is the beat the street project and the employment of an active travel and air quality officer.
AQMA3 has the highest measure of all AQMAs in the district (38µg/m3), yet it is moved. What areas specifically have been or will be removed and/or added? Why is this and when is this happening or has this already happened? What is the reasoning behind removing the M1 as a source for air pollution, especially as AQMA3 has the highest measures in the district?	The section of AQMA 3 that lies to the east of the M1 has been retained as the levels there are still relatively high. The section to the west of the M1 has been removed, following consultation, based on monitored levels over a number of years. The actual extent of an AQMA doesn't necessarily reflect the measures for it in the Air Quality Action Plan. The draft replacement Air Quality Action Plan is open for consultation until the 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2020. The M1 was removed as a source of Nitrogen Dioxide for AQMA 3 based on the monitored results over the last few years. Highways England requested this.
Measures to improve Air Quality so far have only been Noise Barrier and Eco Driving (p.9 of BDC 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report, April 2020). Why are none of the other measures being pursued, for example reducing speed limits (which could result in a reduction of 2µg/m3) or tree planting especially around school areas ( <a href="https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec/about-us/news/planting-healthy-air-in-schools-to-keep-londons-children-healthy">https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec/about-us/news/planting-healthy-air-in-schools-to-keep-londons-children-healthy</a> )?	The draft Air Quality Action Plan includes more measures. An important action for all of the AQMAs is to gather local information about air quality, which will look at what the actual causes of the Nitrogen Dioxide are. This information will be used to inform future action. The use of speed limits may be useful in some situations. Tree planting is not universally recognised as a means of reducing levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (although it can be useful for fine particles). Tree Planting is referred to in our Carbon Neutral Action Plan.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>For accuracy: the locations DT71 &amp; DT72 are located in Braunstone Town and not Thorpe Astley itself. Equally, the AQMA3 area highlighted and pictured on p.27 of the draft BDC Air Quality Action Plan, September 2020 does not include any areas of Thorpe Astley, but only LFE and Kirby Muxloe. Hence the description of Thorpe Astley in the title or description should be removed due to it being misleading and it giving the wrong impression that Thorpe Astley has a multitude of measuring stations when in fact there is only DT70 Murby Way. Could you please confirm?</p>	<p>I agree with your comments relating to the Diffusion Tube locations. The figure on page 27 is merely to give a location for AQMA 3. We will consider whether the wording should be clarified.</p>
<p>Could it be considered to have a monitoring station being implemented on the Play Park at the Community Centre in Thorpe Astley, due to it being geographically very close to the M1 with continuous traffic from the motorway itself and the adjacent lorry park where in addition excessive idling occurs throughout the day. Children could be affected adversely, especially those with pre-existing conditions (i.e. asthma) if air pollution is high and no mitigating action being taken. In addition, there is a pre-school provision at Thorpe Astley Community Centre where small children play outside during longer periods of time throughout the day and these could unknowingly be exposed to harmful pollutants with irreparable damage to their health, especially their lung development.</p>	<p>We review our monitoring locations at least annually. The next review will take place in November. We respond to the raising of concerns, including requests from Parish Councils – including Braunstone Town Council, Glenfield P.C., Whetstone P.C. and Kilby P.C.. We have to consider the resources that we have available, together with the likelihood of a location that is a ‘receptor’ being close to or exceeding the Air Quality Objective. Thorpe Astley has been monitored in the past, and no issues found.</p>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Braunstone Town Council are seeking a joined up approach, maximising opportunities to roll-out an accessible network of electric car charging points, in an effort to contribute to cleaner air. Are you able to provide us with a summary of how Blaby District Council plan to roll-out the provision of electric car charging points across the District, including how they intend to work in partnership with Town/Parish Councils to identify suitable locations and potential funding?</p>	<p>The Council have recently been successful in achieving a grant award for the installation of EV charging points for use in BDC owned car parks. A paper was approved by Council this week with regard to this. Our Green Officer Nick Fear is working with partners across Leicestershire on another bid to look to install EV charging points in other areas of the district. If you are interested in working with him on this I will ask him to contact you once he has further information.</p>