



# 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 on:

**THURSDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

at 7.30pm

You can also observe the meeting, ask questions and join the discussion through Zoom Video and Audio Conferencing:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99411660930?pwd=bFV6eWs1RnZuNXVVSd4NW9aWFNTUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 1166 0930

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**Chairperson:**  
**Councillor P. Basra, 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 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (Enclosed)
3. Town Mayor's Report 2019 – 2021 (Enclosed)
4. Town Council Accounts and Budgets (Enclosed)
5. Leader's Report – Achievements 2019 – 21 and Priorities for 2021/22 (Enclosed)
6. Climate Change – to consider a proposed resolution submitted by Councillor Nick Brown (Enclosed)
7. Braunstone Town Heritage Warden's Report 2020 – 2021 (Enclosed)

Signed:



**Councillor P. Basra, Town Mayor**

**Dated: 5th May 2021**

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN**

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING**

**Held on THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2019 at 7.30pm**

In the Chair, Councillor Sharon Betts, Town Mayor.  
There were 19 persons present at the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Roger Berrington, Deputy Town Mayor, and from Councillor Bill Wright.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

**3. Town Mayor's Report 2018/2019**

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

- Community Activities;
- Community Achievement;
- Programme of Events;
- Summer Fete;
- Anniversaries/Civic Events;
- Curry Night; and
- Town Mayor's Charity – RSPCA Leicestershire Branch, Woodside Animal Centre.

Councillor Sharon Betts, Town Mayor for 2018/2019, 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 privilege and an honour to be chosen to serve for the second time as the Town's First Citizen and experience first-hand the hard work and dedication of many in our community who serve and support the

needs of others and are committed to making our Town a vibrant place in which to live”.

“I was invited to attend many events 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”.

“The 23rd Town Mayor’s Annual Awards of merit on Friday 26th April was an opportunity for me to thank the groups who had joined me in putting on the programme events which this year raised funds of £600 for local groups and good causes”.

“The event was also an opportunity to recognise the deserving unsung heroes of our community, 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 I recognised the work of seven individuals:

- Betty Power, Vi Steele and Jean Storer – in recognition of their work in the community of Braunstone Town undertaking litter picking and planting bulbs;
- Bryan and Betty Copson – in recognition of their work in the community of Braunstone Town and St Crispin’s Church; and
- Lin Burrows and Debbie Kenney – in recognition of their hard work in organising the Poppy Cascade and Remembrance Parade to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the First World War”.

“I hope that the Town Council will continue to play 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”.

“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, RSPCA Leicestershire Branch, Woodside Animal Centre, which takes in and cares for stray and unwanted pets, aids recovery and return of injured wildlife to their habitat and rehabilitates animal victims of cruelty. The Centre also finds homes for unwanted cats, dogs and small pets”.

“Throughout the year, the generous people of Braunstone Town have helped me to raising £2,340.17 for Woodside Animal Centre and I wish to thank everyone for supporting the events during the year”.

“I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to my consort Bill who has been there chauffeuring me to engagements and 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 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.

## **5. Leader's Report – Achievements 2018/19 and Priorities for 2019/20**

A report had been circulated with the agenda, which was made available to all persons present. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, reported on the Town Council's achievements during 2018/2019 and looked ahead to the Town Council's priorities for 2019/2020. A copy of the draft Annual Report for 2018/2019, due for consideration and adoption at Annual Council, was also circulated.

### *Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development*

“Following planning permission being granted for our ambitious proposals to enhance the sporting, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park, we appointed a contractor to undertake the improvement works to the site and pavilion”.

“The Town Council has been working hard with the local sports clubs to obtain funding and also on the future management arrangements for the new Pavilion facility”.

“In addition to our own funds, and Section 106 funding, on 11th March 2019, notification was received that Sport England's Community Asset Fund Review Panel had considered the Town Council's application for grant funding and had awarded the project £100,000. This is a significant sum towards our funding efforts and we hope will give a boost to similar applications for funding we have with the Football Foundation and Leicester City Football Club's Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Foundation. Positive discussions are ongoing with the County Football Association and we currently anticipate a response from the Football Foundation next month”.

“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*

“The year began with the opening of the NHS facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, which the Town Council had been trying to bring about since 2010”.

“Kingsway Surgery’s branch at Thorpe Astley offers patients registered at Kingsway Surgery GP appointments, practice nurse clinics and a minor surgery clinic”.

“I, along with many residents, am delighted with the opening of the branch GP surgery in Thorpe Astley. 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. Since the autumn of 2016, the Town Council had 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 across the Town and the area more widely”.

“In September, the surgery at Thorpe Astley extended its opening hours from two days per week to five. In addition, the Town Council has worked with the surgery to provide additional space at the Centre for a second GP consulting room, which potentially doubles the number of GP appointments available at Thorpe Astley”.

“While there has been understandable frustration over the years that there was no GP provision in Thorpe Astley, having been able to work closely with Kingsway over the past couple of years to enable services to be provided, it is good news that the community are making full use of these facilities to the extent that a five day service and a second GP consulting service can now be provided only a year after the service first opened”.

“The Town Council is grateful to Kingsway Surgery for their positive and sensible approach in expanding their provision to meet increasing demand and we will continue to work with them to ensure that this service is both successful, sustainable and meets local need”.

#### *Braunstone Town Library*

“At the beginning of last year, having accepted our Library proposals represented the most pragmatic way forward, we have been working with the County Council to enable the transfer of the service to the Town Council’s management, ensuring improvements to the Library while avoiding additional costs for the Town’s taxpayers”.

“The process is taking some time since the legal arrangements need to be specific and in alignment with the current long term lease agreement the County Council has with the Town Council for the premises”.

“I am confident that these discussions will be concluded shortly with the aim of transferring the service to the Town Council before the end of the year”.

“I know the future of our Library is important to many residents and I will keep you updated with progress. However, I ask residents to be patient while the legal agreements and detailed arrangements needed to ensure that the transfer is successful are finalised”.

“This is good news for the Town since this decision at last secures the future of our library after years of uncertainty”.

### *Capital Projects*

“We have invested this year in improvements to our CCTV system, which has been expanded at both our community centres as well as being installed at Mossdale Meadows, Thorpe Astley Park and Franklin Park”.

“Due to financial pressures (see below), many of the capital projects have been 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 Barrett Homes. Currently the transfer documentation for the open space owned by David Wilson Homes and Wilson Bowden Developments is with the land registry and we expect confirmation of the legal transfer shortly. Therefore, we hope to be in a position during 2019/20 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”.

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

“November 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the armistice at the end of the Great War (World War 1) and saw the marking of it by the Town with a magnificent poppy cascade at the Civic Centre, a parade and act of remembrance”.

“It has been a pleasure to have worked with the Community Life Group throughout the year on their plans to mark this important anniversary, which saw numerous volunteers and community groups come together to make over 14,178 hand-made unique poppies each commemorating the life of a Leicestershire man lost during service in World War One”.

“For the Town Council, the hard work of the community on these commemorations has provided for an opportunity to refurbish the Garden of Remembrance at the Civic Centre and to install a permanent memorial to those who lost their lives in all recent wars. I am grateful to members of the local community who have been growing plants for the refurbished garden. The memorial garden will provide a focal point in the years to come for acts of remembrance and dedication to our service personnel through Armed Forces Day and other events”.

“My sincere thanks go to all those involved with Community Life who not only had the vision but have worked hard to put their vision into practice”.

### *Public Footpath: Watergate Lane to Staplehurst Avenue*

“Residents who use the footpath between Watergate Lane and Staplehurst Avenue will be delighted that our application for this path to be a “Right of Way” was successful and I would like to thank those residents who provided supporting evidence. We can now enjoy the walk safe in the knowledge that future generations will be able to do the same”.

### *Financial Risks and Pressures*

“In January, the Town Council met to approve its priorities, capital plan, budget and share of the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year”.

“Following Blaby District Council’s decision 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, which for Braunstone Town Council equates to around £50,000 cut per annum, we enter the second year of a three year period where we draw on our reserves and monies allocated to capital projects in order to plug the financial gap while minimising the impact of Blaby’s decision on local tax payers”.

“We continue to work 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”.

“Our approach has enabled us to protect all of our front line services while identifying £3,500 per annum of ongoing savings, and using £18,000 of our reserves, which has enabled us to keep the increase in our share of Council Tax bills for 2019/2020 to £4.58 for a typical band B property”.

“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”.

## **6. Braunstone Town Heritage Warden’s Report 2018/2019**

The Heritage Warden’s Report for 2018/2019 was circulated with the agenda:

“There have been two significant heritage events over the last twelve months:

1. Commemoration of the end of World War One,
2. Celebration of 850 years of St Peter’s Church”.



“The commemorations to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the first world war, saw the wider community come together to remember not only the terrible loss of life in WW1 but also to remember all people killed in conflicts since then”.

“Braunstone Town commemorated the event by establishing a War Memorial in the grounds of the Civic Centre culminating in the dedication of the memorial stones, followed by a service of remembrance on the 11<sup>th</sup> November with a magnificent backdrop display of a poppy cascade on the end of the Civic Centre. The whole event organised and coordinate by the Community Life Group and attended by several hundred residents, civic dignitaries and Central ITV”.

“Braunstone Heritage Archive Group (BHAG) provided a WW1 display for the whole of 2018 in the display cabinet located in the reception area of the Civic Centre. They also provided displays in the Library during October and November”.

“An equally spectacular and informative display was provided for the celebrations of St Peter’s 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary last June. The displays were a joint venture between Braunstone Heritage Archive Group and the Braunstone History Group. The event was publicised in local media and prompted several former members of the congregation to get in touch some of whom came to the two-day event with photographs and memories”.

“The development of new housing in Lubbesthorpe has stimulated research into the history of Lubbesthorpe and a small group of new residents have attended a “History Walk” along with members of BHAG. Hopefully this history research will provide heritage information to new residents”.

“BHAG continue with the regular changing of the displays in the reception area of the Civic Centre and in the display board in the library”.

“Still no definite news on the takeover date for the library service by the Town Council”.

#### *Natural Heritage.*

“It’s good to see that the Wildlife Group still meet on the first Sunday of the month and that some of the youngsters who came to the early meetings in 2011 are now helpers for the group”.

“Sadly, this last twelve months have not seen any winter or summer pruning of the apple trees in the community orchard at Franklin Park, the trees are now a bit leggy and we should make every effort to prune them this coming winter. Despite some rainfall the pond is very low on water and we have had to postpone a request by Kingsway North School to go pond dipping. The pond still attracts some mindless vandalism”.

“Let’s hope that the next twelve months are positively bent on providing more interesting facts on our heritage and perhaps, just perhaps we might have a suitable museum!”

**7. Termination of Meeting**

The Town Mayor thanked those present for attending and with no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

DRAFT

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

**13th MAY 2021**

**Item 3 – Town Mayor’s Report 2019 – 2021**

I (Councillor Parminder Basra) took up the role of Braunstone Town Mayor on 16th May 2019, which at that time I anticipated would be for one year. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council was unable to hold either this annual residents meeting or the Annual Council meeting in 2020. Therefore, I have continued as Town Mayor through the pandemic until the Annual Council meeting this year.

During 2019 and early 2020 I attended numerous functions to celebrate, commemorate and support a wide variety of events in Braunstone Town, Blaby and Leicestershire. Since March 2020, activities have of course been severely restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, it has been a privilege and an honour to have been chosen to serve as first citizen and experience first-hand the hard work and dedication of many in our community who serve and support the needs of others. In particular, during the Covid-19 pandemic this included some exceptional acts of compassion, caring and the coming together of the community to support our more vulnerable residents.

Many of the wide variety of activities, which make our Town a vibrant place to live, were paused during the pandemic. Nevertheless, I am confident that our proactive community groups will once again flourish and it has been a real privilege to meet and see the vital work of our volunteers which existed both before and continued throughout the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to organise any of our usual events and activities such as the programme of events, summer fete and fundraising initiatives in 2020/2021. Part of the programme of events for 2019/2020 did take place before the pandemic struck and my thanks go to the groups who joined me in putting on the programme, which raised funds for local groups and good causes.

I also had the opportunity to organise events in aid of my Mayoral Charity for the year, Life Links.

**Community Activities**

Early in my term, I was made very welcome at the Vaisakhi Event on Saturday 18th May 2019 at Braunstone Civic Centre. Also, the Diwali Celebration, Friday 18th October 2019 was a good and enjoyable community event.

In addition, I was invited to attend and support the Ravenhurst School fete on Friday 28th June 2019 and the Allotment Society Open Day on Saturday 10th August 2019, where I also awarded the prizes for their competitions.

In October, I was invited to judge the Carved Pumpkin Competition at St Crispin's Church on 12th and the Parent & Toddler Group Halloween Fancy Dress Competition on 30th.

### Community Achievement

During my term I attended many events that have taken place to celebrate, honour and recognise achievements of our residents, many deserving unsung heroes of our community.

On Wednesday 19th June 2019 I attended an arts display at Winstanley School Community Lounge and handed out the prizes to the winners of the competition. Later in the year, on 1st September, I had the privilege of joining the Braunstone Swimming Club at the same location to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

In the autumn, I celebrated achievement and gave out awards at the Shakespeare Park Bowls Club Dinner & Presentation event on 1st November and Leicester Magic Circle's Close Up Competition on 2nd December 2019.

Due to the pandemic I was unable to host my Award's Evening in 2020 and this year I hosted a slimmed down event on Friday 7th May 2021, with many attending on-line.

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, particularly during the pandemic.

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. On 7th May 2021, I was delighted to award the following residents and groups with an Award of Merit:

- Kingsway Flower Club – in recognition of the club's many years of promotion and education of flower arranging to the community and providing a community group;
- Braunstone Wombles – in recognition of their your work in the community of Braunstone Town undertaking litter picking and environmental awareness; and
- Braunstone Town Community Food Bank – in recognition of their work in supporting vulnerable residents in Braunstone Town during the Covid-19 pandemic and providing vital food and welfare support.

On behalf of myself and the residents of the Town, I would like to thank all these award winners for the work they have done in our community; particularly during the very exceptional recent times we have all experienced.

## 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. Part of the programme of events for 2019/2020 did take place prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and net proceeds for the events that did take place, were forwarded to the following groups:

- Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for a Barn Dance on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019, when local residents enjoyed a family Ceilidh at the Civic Centre;
- Ratby Co-Operative Senior Band for a "A Festival Of Brass" on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019, when residents enjoyed an evening of first-class music from a championship band;
- Royal Air Force Association for a swing band concert "It don't mean a thing if it aint got that swing" featuring The University of Leicester Big Band, when local residents enjoyed an evening of the big swing band sound;
- Braunstone Heritage Archive Group for "A Miscellany of Memories" exhibition of childhood memories on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019;
- Kingsway Flower Club for their annual flower demonstration "A Christmas Bazaar" on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019, an annual flower demonstration for the festive season was enjoyed by the local residents;
- Braunstone Town Community Minibus for Quiz & Games Night "Around the World" held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, where residents enjoyed an evening of games, quizzes and a light supper; and
- Harvest Community Church Brass Band Carol Service featuring the Oddfellows Brass Band held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019, with residents enjoying a traditional Carol Service at the Civic Centre.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, many community groups and organisations have been unable to meet during 2020 and early 2021 resulting in additional loneliness and isolation particularly among the most vulnerable. I hope that the Town Council will work to ensure that community groups are supported and can be sustainable once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. I hope that the Town Council will continue to play a central role for many years to come in helping to reduce isolation by bringing people together and by promoting the strong sense of community spirit that I have encountered.

## Library Launch

On 2nd November 2019 I had great pleasure hosting the official launch of our community managed Library, following its formal transfer to the Town Council's Management from the County Council in October 2019.

In 2014 our Library was identified by Leicestershire County Council as one of the Libraries due to transfer to community management. Since then the Town Council had been a willing partner seeking to reach agreement which would both keep the Library open and provide a better service that would be more responsive to the needs of local residents.

The event was well attended and marked an exciting development for the local community. While the Covid-19 pandemic put on hold plans for improvements, I wish all those who will be involved in running the service going forward and those who get involved with initiatives, activities and volunteering, the best in making our Library a success.

### Summer Fete

The Town's annual Summer Fete was held on 3rd August 2019, which was the first time it had been held in August (previously held the last week in July). With good weather, the event on Mossdale Meadows was successful with a variety of stalls and being well attended and supported by many local volunteers and groups.

### Anniversaries/Civic Events

Both years have involved hosting anniversaries and Civic Events, in 2019 this included:

- hoisting of flag for 75th anniversary of D-Day Landings
- service to commemorate 75th Anniversary of D Day
- hoisting of Armed Forces Day Flag; and
- annual Remembrance Commemorations.

On 9th March 2020, I was able to lead a short commemoration for the raising of the flag for Commonwealth.

For the rest of 2020 and into 2021, anniversaries and events have been marked by a video message on our Facebook page. This included a pre-recorded ceremony at the Civic Memorial Garden for Armistice Day in November 2020.

### Town Mayor's Charity – Life Links

On a personal note, I am grateful that my term as Town Mayor has given me the opportunity to raise the profile of my charity, Life Links. Life Links provide mental health wellbeing and recovery support through a number of different support networks, offering those it supports the flexibility to choose how they receive support dependent on their own personal needs.

On 10th October 2019, I hosted a coffee morning and mental health wellbeing workshop at Braunstone Civic Centre with the support of representatives from the charity and fellow Councillors. On 14th November 2019, I hosted a Charity Dinner and Dance at Bistro Live. Both events were well attended, with positive feedback, as well as raising funds for Life Links.

Finally, I wanted to help raise awareness of the charity's work even more so with the challenges we have all faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, with losing loved ones, income and our normality. Therefore, between 1st March and 30th April of this year, I encouraged residents to plan a walk and talk session, either with someone in their family or with other people outside their household, as permitted under the restrictions, and within social distance guidelines.

Residents could plan one to 10 sessions and get people to sponsor them to do this for at least 30mins or more and donate the funds to my charity, Life Links, for which I am delighted to say I raised over £1,100 from this initiative.

I had been going on walk and talks with my friend earlier in the year and it had helped start me on a fitness route as well as get therapy during the walks by talking and letting go of my stresses. The aim of the initiative was to help everyone to feel better together, as well as raising money and helping us all feel we were doing our bit to help one another overcome all the difficulties we had been facing.

It is said that we get happiness from helping others, and I hope that those who took part in this challenge helped their own mental health as well as that of others. Small steps can lead to something bigger.

I am pleased to report that, despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions in organising fundraising events, I have been able to raise a total of £5,015 during my term as Town Mayor from events in the Programme of Events, Summer Fete, raffles, specific fundraising events and donations for my chosen charity, Life Links. Thank you to everyone who supported me with both fundraising and raising the profile of the charity's work.

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I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their support over both years, in particular to my consort and husband George 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 Parminder Basra  
Braunstone Town Mayor, 2019 – 2021*

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

**13th MAY 2021**

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

Statement of Accounts 2019/2020

The Accounts and Statement of Assurance, prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, were approved by the Town Council on 25th June 2020. The Audit was completed on 14th October 2020.

*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 2020/2021

The Town Council has produced draft figures for the 2020/2021 financial year; these are subject to the Internal Audit (28th May 2021) 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, the Town Council continues 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 from April 2018. The Town Council is seeking to balance its books through a combination of savings, council tax increases and use of reserves.

Budgets for 2021/2022

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 2021/2022 at its January meeting. For 2021/2022 the precept for band B, which includes over half the properties in Braunstone Town, has increased by £5.66, this represents an increase of 5.51%.

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 £5,000 of ongoing savings. However, as mentioned above, in 2021/2022 the Town Council continues to address an on ongoing funding gap, for which it has allocated £19,000 of reserves.



## Accounts & Budgets

The following table indicates:

- the year end audited position for the years ending 31st March 2019 and 2020;
- the draft year-end figures for the financial year ending 31st March 2021;
- the Town Council's intended income and expenditure for the current financial year (ending 31st March 2022).

|                                      | <b>31st March 2019</b> | <b>31st March 2020</b> | <b>31st March 2021*</b> | <b>31st March 2022#</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Balances Brought Forward</b>      | <b>£268,199</b>        | <b>£236,782</b>        | <b>£245,340</b>         | <b>£618,175</b>         |
| Annual Precept (+)                   | £574,107               | £604,817               | £646,304                | £681,961                |
| Receipts (+)                         | £188,871               | £222,249               | £1,124,855              | £172,578                |
| Staff Costs (-)                      | £463,924               | £479,396               | £485,278                | £516,496                |
| Loan Repayments (-)                  | £60,891                | £60,765                | £66,628                 | £92,358                 |
| Payments (-)                         | £269,580               | £278,347               | £846,418                | £605,393                |
| <b>Balances Carried Forward</b>      | <b>£236,782</b>        | <b>£245,340</b>        | <b>£618,175</b>         | <b>£258,467</b>         |
| Cash & Short Term Investments        | £229,438               | £233,698               | £621,657                | -                       |
| Fixed Assets & Long Term Investments | £4,551,639             | £4,555,705             | £4,563,475              | -                       |
| Total Borrowings                     | £289,474               | £242,998               | £1,128,008              | £1,062,583              |

\* the year-end accounts for 2020/2021 have not been considered for approval by the Council and have not been audited.

# the year-end figures for 2021/2022 are based on the budget, adopted by Council on 28th January 2021.

*NOTE: The variation in the balances carried forward, and the cash and short term investments, between 2020 and 2021 is due to the full Public Works Loan for Shakespeare Park being drawn down in the financial year 2020/21, while nearly half of the contract payments are due to be made during the 2021/2022 financial year. While 5% of the contract costs (approximately £50,000) will be retained and paid in the 2022/23 financial year. Based on the current Medium Term Financial Strategy, balances carried forward on 31st March 2023 is projected to be around £200,000.*

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

**13th MAY 2021**

**Item 5 – Leader’s Report – Achievements 2019-21 and Priorities for 2021/22**

The Town Council’s Policy & Resources Committee on 22nd April 2021 finalised the draft Annual Report for 2019 – 2021, a copy of which is attached as an appendix. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, last year’s Annual Towns Meeting was cancelled, therefore this Annual Report summarises our achievements since 2019 and sets out our plans for the forthcoming Council year (2021/2022). This report will be received by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, which meets following the Annual Towns Meeting, for consideration and adoption.

Despite the difficulties faced since March last year, the Town Council continues its work to protect, enhance and improve services for the residents of the Town and below is a summary of our work and achievements over the last couple of years and priorities for the coming year.

**Braunstone Town Library**

In my report to the Towns Meeting in 2019, I reported that Leicestershire County Council had accepted our Library proposals represented the most pragmatic way forward and that we were working with the County Council to enable the transfer of the service to the Town Council’s management, ensuring improvements to the Library while avoiding additional costs for the Town’s taxpayers.

This work was completed in the summer of 2019, when both Councils reached agreement on the legal text, which was signed on 26th September 2019. Transfer of the management of Braunstone Town Library to the Town Council took place on 1st October 2019 with a successful launch event a month later on Saturday 2nd November.

I know that Library service is important to many residents and I am delighted that the agreement secures the Library’s future along with the County Council’s ongoing financial commitment. I would like to thank the community for supporting our proposals and for their patience while complex and detailed legal agreements were negotiated.

Given there had been uncertainty around the Library’s future for nearly 6 years; the Town Council decided to let the dust settle following the transfer and keep the existing arrangements in place for 6 months. Unfortunately, as the Town Council was beginning to look at options for improving and enhancing the Library service, the Covid-19 pandemic closed the service for several months.

As the Library reopens, I am pleased to advise that we were successful in getting a grant for £5,000 for activities to involve the community in our Library and this coming

year there will be many ways to get involved, such as volunteering for one of the new initiatives or sharing your ideas through our Citizens' Advisory Panel.

### Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development

After 5 years in the planning and design stages, in December 2019 the Council approved a borrowing application to secure the remaining funding required to deliver our ambitious proposals to enhance the sporting, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park. The contractor commenced excavation works early in Spring 2020, with phase 1 of the works a new multi-purpose Pavilion, demolition of the old clubhouse and improvements to the car park due for completion this month.

The new facility includes modern changing facilities and a multi-function, multi-purpose club room providing a meeting room and a social facility. The pavilion and site is able to support lawn bowls, pétanque, football and tennis providing for both sustaining and encouraging growth in sport participation.

Contractors have been appointed for Phase 2 of the works to improve the tennis courts and play facilities.

Funding has been secured for the improvements to the tennis courts, which will include new perimeter fencing and gates and newly constructed foundations with a geotextile membrane surface. The work is due to commence shortly and completed this summer.

Consultation is currently being undertaken on using the Lawn Tennis Association's Tap4Tennis bookings service at both the refurbished Shakespeare Park Tennis Courts and at Thorpe Astley Park Tennis Courts. The use of a pre-booked court entry system will give certainty around court availability, as well as providing funds to invest in court facilities and provide training sessions, all with the aim of increasing participation in tennis and sport.

Funding for the playground improvements is being sought, which is proving difficult in the current financial climate. This has resulted in delays to the timescales for delivery of this part of the project and once funding has been secured, works will commence.

The Town Council is working with both the bowls and football clubs on the future management arrangements for the new Pavilion facility. The preferred option is for the teams to take a lead in managing and running the facility for the benefit of sport and recreation.

### Covid-19 Community Support Initiatives

At the end of March 2020 as Covid-19 spread and it became clear that many in our community would need to stay at home and shield, the Town Council launched the Covid-19 Community Response initiative.

The simple aim of the Community Response was for local residents who need support with day to day living as a result of the Covid-19 advice and restrictions to be

matched with a volunteer from the community who would be able to help them. The scheme provided non-professional support (i.e. not the kind of support offered by agencies and/or carers) and included:

- collecting medicines, prescriptions etc.
- collecting shopping;
- dog walking or taking a pet to the Vets;
- chatting with an individual by phone, video link or email who has to stay at home due to shielding.

The Town Council provided a co-ordination and facilitation role, including a central point of information and contact information for those seeking support and those who wished to offer support. The Council coordinated the Website and Facebook Group which provided a range of information and resources for both residents and volunteers; and in the case of the Facebook Group the opportunity for residents to share information and ideas.

Effective working links were quickly established with Blaby District Council's Community Hub, Leicestershire County Council, Voluntary Action LeicesterShire and various local charities and support organisations to ensure that the scheme complimented the wider offer and that residents and volunteers were directed to the most appropriate scheme for support.

In addition, links were established with local shops and organisations to assist volunteers who were helping residents undertake shopping or collecting medicines on their behalf.

By Easter 2020, there were 64 volunteers registered with the Community Response Scheme with 30 households being supported. At the height of the scheme in May 2020 there were 97 volunteers registered and 55 households receiving support in some form.

I would like to thank our residents who have and continue to help others through these difficult and unprecedented times. The Community Response is still available for Braunstone Town residents to access support whatever the situation and will continue to do so as long as the current Covid-19 pandemic continues in some form. It is monitored on a continuous basis to ensure that it meets the needs of residents and is operating within the risk assessments set up to protect both volunteers and residents.

In addition to the Community Response, the Council provides support to the Community Foodbank by providing a base for it to operate at the Civic Centre. We have worked with our partners at Kingsway Surgery to facilitate the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. The Town Council has also provided additional grant funding to support community groups during and after the pandemic and this scheme remains in place until October 2021 for Groups to access as they return to meeting in person again.

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help and support their community and neighbours through these very difficult times.

## Civic Centre Improvements

This year the Council is looking at long overdue improvements to the facilities at Braunstone Civic Centre. The proposals include refurbishment of the toilets, including the provision of a brand new Changing Places Toilet Facility.

Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. Changing Places toilets meet these needs and although these specialist facilities have a significant cost, it is right that we make the investment to ensure that all in our community can access, enjoy and benefit from the services we provide at the Civic Centre site.

The internal reorganisation of the building also provides an opportunity to improve the kitchen facilities for the Civic Community Lounge to enable the provision of a café service, utilising the Bar Lounge more effectively and providing a wider community social space.

## Thorpe Astley Open Spaces

During 2020 we completed the final legal transfer of the public open spaces at Thorpe Astley with David Wilson Homes and Wilson Bowden Developments. All that remains to be completed are the improvements to the Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park and work is due to commence on this before the end of the year. Once completed, the park will be transferred to the Town Council's ownership.

## Climate Change

In recent years the impact of climate change has become increasingly visible. During the coming year, the Town Council will develop a Strategy and an Action Plan to address the impact of its own activities on the climate, as well as setting out how it will provide leadership in response to the climate change agenda. This will include a programme for ensuring the activities of the Town Council become carbon neutral; promoting and encouraging awareness and action on climate change; moving to the use of renewable energy sources; and ensuring the protection and enhancement of the town's Green spaces, promoting and encouraging tree planting, and seeking to increase and enrich biodiversity.

## 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*

# BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

## Welcome to our Annual Report 2019-2021



### APPENDIX 1

By **Councillor Nick Brown**, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

Despite these challenging times, the Town Council continues to provide important services to the community and this Annual Report, which due to the pandemic covers two years, provides a summary of our achievements since May 2019 and looks ahead to our aspirations for the next 12 months.

A full list of our achievements are set out overleaf, however, I wish to reflect on three significant areas here.

In the summer of 2019, the Town and County Councils reached agreement to transfer the management of Braunstone Town Library to the Town Council, which took place in October 2019 with a successful launch event a month later. I am delighted that the agreement secures the Library's future along with the County Council's ongoing financial commitment, avoiding additional costs to the Town's taxpayers. I would like to thank the community for supporting our proposals. However, it doesn't end here, your Library is now managed locally and we want to provide a more responsive service to meet the needs of local residents. Therefore, as the Library reopens there will be many ways to get involved, such as volunteering for a new initiative or sharing your ideas through our Citizens' Advisory Panel.



Early in 2020 phase 1 of the works to deliver our ambitious plans to improve the facilities at Shakespeare Park commenced. The new multi-purpose Pavilion is due to open late Spring 2021 and supports lawn bowls, pétanque, football and tennis and provides for both sustaining and encouraging growth in sport participation. Phase 2 of the works to improve the tennis courts and play facilities is due to commence once funding has been secured.

Finally, the Council has continued to support the community during Covid-19 through our Community Response helping those in need, supporting a Community Foodbank at the Civic Centre, facilitating the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine at Thorpe Astley Community Centre and through additional grant funding to support community groups during and after the pandemic. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help and support their community and neighbours through these very difficult times.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the report sets out 10 key priorities for the Town Council. A new one this year sets out our commitment to addressing issues impacting on the climate.

Information on our services and the latest news can be found on our website at [www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk) or by contacting Customer Services.

Once again, thank you for your time

Councillor Nick Brown

### Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

| Year Ended<br>31 <sup>st</sup> March<br>2020                      |   | Year Ended<br>31 <sup>st</sup> March<br>2021 |
|---|---|--|
| £   |   | £  |
| <b>£236,782.01</b>  | <b>Balances brought forward</b>         | <b>£245,340.26</b>                           |
| £604,817.00   | (+) Annual Precept                      | £646,304.00                                  |
| £222,249.08   | (+) Total other receipts                | £1,124,854.83                                |
| £479,395.64   | (-) Staff costs                         | £485,277.95                                  |
| £60,765.04  | (-) Loan interest / capital repayments  | £66,628.11                                   |
| £278,347.15   | (-) Total other payments                | £846,418.30                                  |
| <b>£245,340.26</b>  | <b>(=) Balances carried forward</b>     | <b>£618,174.73</b>                           |
| £233,697.70   | Total cash and short term investments   | £621,657.04                                  |
| £4,555,704.79   | Total fixed assets and long term assets | £4,563,474.78                                |
| £242,997.99   | Total borrowings                        | £1,128,008.14                                |
| The Audit for 2019 was completed on 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 |   |  |

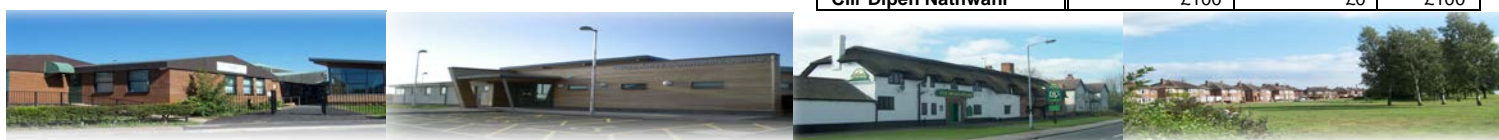
### MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2020/2021

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 B Lunn Scoppie   | £108      | £0       | £108  |
| Cllr M Waterton       | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr N J Brown        | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr A DeWinter       | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr D Di Palma       | £0        | £0       | £0    |
| Cllr S Fox-Kennedy    | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr A Hack           | £0        | £0       | £0    |
| Cllr S Sangha         | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr P Kennedy        | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr S Johal          | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr S Maxwell        | £0        | £0       | £0    |
| Cllr P L Moitt        | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr T Shepherd       | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr D Singh          | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr R Waterton       | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr L Lee            | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr C Startin-Lorent | £375      | £0       | £375  |
| Cllr Imran Uddin      | £0        | £0       | £0    |
| Cllr Dipen Nathwani   | £100      | £0       | £100  |

### Our Mission Statement

*"We exist to ensure that local services and the environment reach the highest possible standards within the resources available, to provide a focus for civic pride; to listen, identify and respond to agreed local needs; to help develop a strong, secure, self-reliant, self-confident community."*



### 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](mailto:enquiries@braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk) [www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](http://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. Meetings are held at the Braunstone Civic Centre, and online using Zoom video conferencing. 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 2019/2021

- Delivered **significant improvements** to the Sport and Pavilion facilities at **Shakespeare Park**, to ensure the facilities are fit for purpose and to increase participation and access to **Sport**.
- Appointed contractors to carry out phase 2 of the **Shakespeare Park** improvements to improve the **tennis and play facilities**.
- Completed the transfer of **Braunstone Town Library** from the County Council to the Town Council's Management on 1st October 2019 securing the future of the Library while retaining agreements to ensure that the County Council continued to meet its financial and legal obligations protecting the interests of the Town's taxpayers. A community opening event was held.
- Installed new **welcome signage** at **Thorpe Astley** to provide for a sense of place and to remind drivers that they are entering a residential area.
- Completed the **transfer of open spaces** at **Thorpe Astley** from David Wilson and Wilson Bowden homes to the Town Council's ownership.
- Established and provided coordination and support for a **Covid-19 Community Response Scheme** to bring together those who needed help with shopping, supplies and pet care during the pandemic with **volunteers** who wanted to help others in their neighbourhood.
- Introduced measures to ensure our services were **Covid-19 secure**, from **Parks, Play Areas and Sports Courts to our Community Centres and Library**. To ensure that we could maintain as many services as possible within the Covid-19 regulations and restrictions we adopted revised terms and conditions and prices for hirers using our community facilities and sports pitches; introduced **ring and collect at the Library** and provided access to **Council and Committee meetings** remotely through **video conferencing**.
- Supported local community volunteers establish a **Food Bank Service** at Braunstone Civic Centre to provide essential food supplies to those who are struggling particularly due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Provided **additional grant funding** for **community groups** to help the continue both during the pandemic and to recover afterwards.
- Converted **car park** and **footpath** lighting to **LED**

### Plans for 2021/2022

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

- **Shakespeare Park** works have commenced and are due to be **completed** in **2021**. The Council has ambitions to **increase** community use and **sport participation** at the site;
- Improvements to our **community facilities** at both **Braunstone Civic Centre** and **Thorpe Astley Community Centre**; to include a **Changing Places toilet** at the Civic Centre;
- Positively and proactively **provide support** for re-establishing **community groups, events and activities** in 2021/22 to **reduce isolation** and build **community cohesion**;
- Meet the needs of Thorpe Astley residents by facilitating the delivery of **services and events at Thorpe Astley Community Centre**; to consider whether there is a need to extend other Council services to Thorpe Astley Community Centre in order to reduce isolation and provide better access to services for Thorpe Astley residents.
- Continue to work to keep **Braunstone Town Library** open; whilst **enhancing Library services** due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**
- Legal **transfer of open spaces** at Thorpe Astley to the Town Council has now been completed. Improvements to The **Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park**; to be completed and enhanced;
- The impact of **climate change** has become increasingly visible. The Town Council will develop a **Strategy** and an **Action Plan** to address the impact of its own activities on the climate, it will provide leadership, and partnership with the principal Councils, to respond to the climate change agenda.
- Following a consultation, the Town Council is 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**.
- Provide and support important **quality of life** initiatives, such as **crime reduction**. Since 2014, the Town Council has supported the **Local Area Co-ordination project** connecting it with the community and by providing a base from which it can operate.
- Continue to look to make efficiency savings while ensuring the existing **services are safeguarded and where appropriate improved**, the Town Council will seek to make £18,486 in ongoing savings over the next two financial years.

### Your Views

Throughout the year we undertake a range of consultations and short surveys to ascertain the views of residents on our major projects, such as our improvement proposals for Shakespeare Park, other priorities and services and also to help us to articulate the needs and aspirations of the community.

We have a dedicated Consultation page on our website (found under *Town Council*).

[www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk/index.php/town-council/town-consultations](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk/index.php/town-council/town-consultations)

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

**13th MAY 2021**

**Item 6 – Climate Change**

**To consider the following proposed resolution, submitted by Councillor Nick Brown:**

Braunstone Town recognises that:

1. Human influence on climate has been the dominant cause of observed warming since the mid-20th century. Global temperatures have already increased by 1° Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. The report informs us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.
2. The UK has, at international level, signed into the Paris Accord 2015 and to the commitments agreed in 2018 at the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) which amongst other things recognise the need to limit by 2030 temperature rises to between 1.5° C and 2° C above the internationally recognised preindustrial baseline. As a consequence the UK has set targets into law under the Climate Change Act 2008.
3. Individuals cannot be expected to make the required changes on their own. Nations and society need to change their sources of energy, laws, taxation policies and infrastructure to make low carbon living easier and the new norm.
4. a 'Climate Emergency' has been declared and we all have a part to play.

The Town Council therefore resolves to produce a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy by November 2021 to:

1. Pledge to make the activities of Braunstone Town Council carbon neutral and embed climate and environmental awareness in all our decision making.
2. Promote and encourage awareness and action on climate change, environmental protection and recycling by local residents, businesses and community organisations.



3. Put climate change at the heart of our procurement policies including moving to the use of renewable energy sources for its activities and encourage its customers and suppliers to do likewise.
4. Protect and enhance the town's Green spaces, promote and encourage tree planting, and seek to increase and enrich biodiversity.

*Councillor Nick Brown  
Leader of Braunstone Town Council*

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

**13th MAY 2021**

**Item 7 – Braunstone Town Heritage Warden’s Report 2020 – 2021**

The activities of the Heritage Warden have been almost nonexistent due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The proposed development of the farmyard of Manor Farm on Braunstone Lane (Main Street) with affordable dwellings has cause for concern over the protection of the setting of the Grade II listed Manor Farm. This site is in the core of the villages and although the current building was first recorded in the 1660’s the site would have been occupied with earlier buildings which date to the 12/13 century. Their foundations should still exist under the farmyard. Sadly from a heritage point of view, central government have “updated” the planning regulations which are now similar to those of the 1960’s! A shining example of the 1960’s planning can be seen by the modern brick house , butting right up to the original timber framed village shop, also a Grade II listed building.

Sadly my request to Blaby DC to have the Main Street area included as a conservation area has not been taken up despite Leicester City Council’s recent re-appraisal of their side of Main Street’s conservation area created in the 1970’s. It seem quite ridiculous where one side of the Main Street has the protection of a conservation order, yet all the oldest timber framed buildings opposite their conservation area, are not in any sort of conservation order apart from their Grade II listing status.

The Braunstone Heritage Archive Group continue to help with the development of our library services albeit in abeyance with Covid19. Hopefully as restrictions are lifted we can play a more active role.

The research project to discover the location of the early 13 century Manor House in the Church Field is still on hold waiting for a geophysical survey and funding prior to the main community “dig” over subsequent years.

Our heritage involvement with the Lubbethorpe development is a “Watching Brief” as Lubbethorpe has now it’s own Parish Council which presumably can now nominate their own Heritage Warden.

During the lockdown a few members of BHAG and one in particular, Jack Haselgrove, has published a book on the “Humble2 Residents of Braunstone based on research of over 200 copies of wills and inventories held in the Records Office. They have illustrated how “humble” peasant stock managed to improve their lot and

leave “substantial” goods and cash for their desendants. It appears the most “treasured” item was the bed! Copies are available from Jack or myself, cost £8.

Our heritage of Flora and Fauna:

Like all of us, besides Covid19, we have been affected by climate change. Seasonal weather is no longer seasonal and plants and animals are battling to come to terms with the changes. We have not seen many fruits in our community orchard last year and it appears that any fruit which matured was very quickly picked within a day! Vandalism has also been too frequent with the pond the central figure, all sorts of items have been thrown in. It might be time for an effective management plan for the three parts of the community orchard area of Franklin Park, one for the orchard area proper, one for the wild flower meadow and one for the pond. I understand that groundsmen resources are stretched but based on previous responses for help with pruning of the orchard fruit trees, I am sure we could get together a good support group not only to help with pruning twice a year but also to rake away the meadow cuttings in the autumn.

I would like to thank the support of the members of BHAG and of course to the Civic Centre Staff who appear to be changing over the past 12 months.

Thank You

*John Dodd*  
*Braunstone Town Heritage Warden*