

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Phil Moitt (Chair), Councillor Leanne Lee (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Marion Waterton and local residents Mr John Dodd and Mrs J Dodd.

Officers in attendance: Mr Darren Tilley, Executive Officer, Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Pauline Snow, Deputy Executive Officer & Community Services Manager and Miss Scarlett Myers, Communications & Events Officer.

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th November 2020 and 29th July 2021 were received and noted.

4. Panel Work Programme for 2021/2022

The Panel received a copy of the Town Council's Annual Report for 2019 - 2021 and considered priorities, if any, for the Panel's work during 2021/2022.

Members praised the work undertaken in the response to the Covid -19 pandemic and this showed good leadership in a difficult situation.

Members queried when the Shakespeare Park Pavilion would be open to use and if free rooms would be available to local community groups. It was noted that the pricing structure would be determined by the Management committee when this had been established.

It was also queried if the community response scheme would continue to support vulnerable residents and it was noted that this support was contained in the Town Council's ongoing priorities to support the community and vulnerable residents.

It was noted that the Town Council's Climate Change Strategy was at the forefront of the Council's priorities.

5. Braunstone Town Council Surveys

Braunstone Town Council had been undertaken an annual survey with residents for several years but responses had always been very low.

Members were asked to consider alternative ways to undertake surveys and encourage responses from the community.

Members considered several ways to gauge residents' views and suggestions including approaching residents at Thorpe Astley Centre when attending for flu and Covid-19 vaccinations, forms in the centres and community library, surveys on the back of tickets purchased for events, offering prize draws, website and social media. It was important to ensure that surveys were short and easily accessible to the community.

6. Enhancing a Socially Inclusive and Vibrant Community

The Panel considered how the Town Council could support the community groups recover and be sustainable following the Covid-19 pandemic, along with developing new and existing events and community/social inclusion initiatives in order to reduce isolation and build community cohesion.

Members were advised of the current initiatives being undertaken and the support being offered to community groups.

Members highlighted the importance of the Braunstone Life in the community as it was missed and considered what support could be offered to the group to ensure the Life continues.

The Panel considered how the Town Council could support community groups recover and be sustainable following the Covid-19 pandemic, along with developing new and existing events and community/social inclusion initiatives in order to reduce isolation and build community cohesion. It was suggested that a survey of local community groups be undertaken to see what support they required to return back to meeting and providing services for the community.

Members felt that the community library was an important venue to offer events and it was noted that work was now in progress to organising events in the library and to see what sort of activities residents want. It was also felt that it was important to involve the local schools in the activities and advise them of the facilities in the library that could be utilised.

It was noted that an annual Horticultural Show used to be held in the community and it was suggested this could be a good community event to bring people together. Members were advised that a new community group had recently held a Horticultural show at the Civic Centre and it would be useful to encourage this to become an annual event.

Other considerations for community events included scarecrow competitions, Front Garden competitions etc. to bring the community together.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting, scheduled to be 2nd December 2021.

NOTE:

CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime and Disorder implications of all its activities and to do all that it can to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area.

EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Braunstone Town Council has a duty in carrying out its functions to have due regard to:-

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;*
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and;*
- foster good relations between different groups*

To ensure that no person receives less favourable treatment on the basis of race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.



SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____