

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF CITIZEN'S ADVISORY PANEL**  
**THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Leanne Lee (Vice Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Parminder Basra and Darshan Singh and local residents John Dodd and Jeanette Essex.

**Officers in Attendance:** Darren Tilley, Chief Executive & Town Clerk and Scarlett Myers, Communications and Events Officer.

**1. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**2. Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

**3. Minutes of Meeting**

The Panel received the Minutes of the meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 in order to confirm their accuracy and be signed by the Chairperson (item 3 on the agenda).

**AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

**4. Panel Work Programme for 2022/2023**

The Panel received a copy of the Town Council's Annual Report for 2021/2022 in order to consider priorities for the Panel's work during 2022/2023 (item 4 on the agenda). The report contains the Council's achievements during the 2021-2022 period and sets out the strategic aims and delivery objectives for the coming year.

Comments received by attendees at the meeting included where the report was housed, it was advised that the Report could be found online via the website or obtained from Reception.

Members also queried what was to be done with/at Mossdale Meadows within the enhancement of our Parks and Open Spaces objective (Objective 1 – Strategic Aims and Delivery Objectives 2022/2023, Annual Report 2022). Discussion led to the buildings within the park and their lifespan. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk updated the meeting in regard to work that would be done within the Open space.

Additionally, as a part of the Climate Change and Environmental Strategy the Council were looking into Solar Panels on all of the buildings as a way to be more energy efficient. However, the roof at Mossdale was not suitable currently so the Council would need to look into this. It was also added that there plans to improve the changing rooms at the park.

Furthermore, the paths within the park were raised as an issue and something to think about for the future. The new Cycle Path project was then the topic of discussion in response to this point. Members were advised that the proposed Cycle pathway would connect Lubbethorpe through to Leicester and would include pathways through Mossdale Meadows and Braunstone.

The discussion then led on to the Civic Centre's facilities and accessibility within the Centre. A concern was raised that an improved hearing loop system was needed within the centre. The members of the meeting were then advised that there was a hearing loop available. However, after further discussion the equipment and its capabilities came into question. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk advised that the Capital Plan contained an item to upgrade the audio equipment. Members asked the Council to investigate the possibility of a Hearing Loop in the Council Chamber.

## **5. Braunstone Town Council Surveys**

The Panel considered a programme of surveys (item 5 on the agenda). The Panel were updated and informed on the surveys the Council had undertaken within the last year. This included the User Survey (Centre's), Thorpe Astley Community Centre Survey, Library User Survey, Proposed Environment & Biodiversity Strategy Consultation and Proposed Extension to Conservation Area survey.

Members questioned where certain surveys could be found and how they were distributed to the local residents. An update was given as to where the links and information to and on the online surveys would be located. The surveys were always shared online via the website, these could be found by going to the Consultation Page, additionally the Surveys were often mentioned in the Braunstone Life (if they were not included) and repeatedly shared via the Council's social media channels. Surveys could also be accessed via the Civic Centre Reception.

Councilors advised that they were happy with the distribution of the Surveys and where they could be found.

The Centre's User Survey was brought into question as members queried whether the document was sent to all hirers. It was noted that the survey should go out to all hirers, this matter would be looked into further to ensure the correct procedure was being followed.

## **6. Draft Climate Change & Environmental Action Plan**

The Panel considered a proposed annual action plan to deliver the Climate Change and Environmental Strategy's Objectives (item 6 on the agenda).

During the meeting members discussed the Supporting the Local Community section of the Strategy. Members raised ideas in line with the following objectives:  
(f) support and promote efforts by the principal councils for the town to reduce its waste and recycle more; and

- (g) provide opportunities for residents to recycle more of their waste when visiting the Town's parks & open spaces and community facilities and work with the District Council to increase provision across Town.

Suggestions were given for returning and recycling medicine packets with the community as the aluminum within them was salvageable and ideas such as, Swap Meet/Swap Shop.

The Council also heard from residents who were interested in developing and protecting the Wildlife spaces around the Town. It was put forward to the meeting that an Audit of the Wildlife Corridor all the way through Mossdale would be useful and good for the community. It was also suggested that if an Audit was to go ahead a map of the Wildlife Corridor would be appreciated by the community to define the area.

During the meeting, local residents suggested it would be nice for Bird Boxes to go on the newly planted trees to brighten up the community. Members suggested having children from the area paint the boxes as an activity. It was concluded that the Council could potentially look into this further.

On page 7 of the 'Extract from Climate Change & Environment Strategy' it was noted and queried that an action to be delivered was to install a hybrid air source heat pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk responded by explaining that the pump was recommended during the Carbon Audit that was carried out, however, everything would be checked again before a contractor is hired.

**AGREED** that the following be recommended to Policy & Resources Committee for inclusion in the Climate Change & Environmental Action Plan:

- a) provide for returning and recycling medicine packets with the community as the aluminum within them was salvageable and ideas such as, Swap Meet/Swap Shop;
- b) an Audit of Wildlife Corridors with a map of the Wildlife Corridor in order for the areas to be defined for the community; and
- c) install Bird Boxes on newly planted trees to brighten up the community; Children from the area could paint the boxes as an activity.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm.

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.*

*These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for 1st September 2022.*