

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL – 3rd MARCH 2022

Item 5 - Proposed Conservation Area for Braunstone Village

Purpose

To receive the results of the recent resident's survey on the merits of designating as a conservation area, the area of Braunstone Village to the south of Braunstone Lane to coincide with the already designated conservation area within the Leicester City boundary, and to consider whether any modifications should be recommended.

Background

On 2nd December 2021, the Panel noted proposals and received a resident's survey on the draft Character Appraisal and merits of designating as a conservation area, the area of Braunstone Village to the south of Braunstone Lane to coincide with the already designated conservation area within the Leicester City boundary (see minute 5).

First Stage Consultation and Survey

The Consultation Survey was available in paper form, on the Council's website, and has been included in the December issue of the Braunstone Life.

All properties in the proposed area and the Braunstone Conservation Area in Leicester City were leafleted with details of how to respond to the Survey.

The following stakeholders were also contacted by e-letter and made aware of the proposals, timescales and survey:

- Blaby District Council, Planning Policy Department;
- Braunstone Heritage Archive Group;
- Braunstone History Group;
- Leicester City Council, Planning – Conservation Team;
- Leicestershire County Council, Historic & Natural Environment Team; and
- Saint Peter's Church

Consultation Responses

The Citizens' Advisory Panel provided a response to the proposals at its meeting on 2nd December 2021 (see minutes at item 3 on the agenda).

The survey closed on 10th January 2021 and there were 38 responses to the survey and these are set out at Appendix 1.

Blaby District Council have also provided an initial response to the outline proposals, which is attached at Appendix 2.

Engagement with key local partners

A meeting was held between Braunstone Town Council's Town Clerk, Braunstone Town's Heritage Warden and Blaby District Council Planning Policy Officers on 2nd February 2022 to map out the next stages of the process and ensure that appropriate technical support was provided.

Initial contact has been made with the Heritage Team at Leicestershire County Council to ascertain if they can provide professional input into the draft Character Appraisal. The County Council have offered to share any relevant data they have access to from the Historic Environment Records.

Next Stages and Timescales

It was originally anticipated that the final Character Appraisal and proposed area for designation would be published for public exhibition during January and February 2022; with at least one drop in exhibition and session being held for residents to ask questions and make comments. However, following the meeting held on 2nd February 2022, it has been agreed that further technical assessment is needed to ensure the character appraisal is robust and recognises the area's special character.

Therefore, pending confirmation of revised timescales, the next stages and indicative timescales is predicted below:

- (a) Planning & Environment Committee on 10th March 2022 to consider consultation responses and whether any amendments should be made to the proposals and the draft Character Appraisal;
- (b) Engagement with key local partners continues on the proposed Character Assessment up to April 2022;
- (c) Publication of final Character Appraisal and proposed area for designation for public exhibition at Braunstone Civic Centre during May 2022; during that time at least one drop in exhibition and session should be held early evening for residents to ask questions and make comments;
- (d) Consideration by Citizens' Advisory Panel in May 2022; and
- (e) Determination by Planning & Environment Committee in June 2022 for submission to Blaby District Council to designate the Conservation Area.

Action Requested

Consider the responses from the recent resident's survey (Appendix 1), and from Blaby District Council Planning Policy Team (Appendix 2), on the merits of designating as a conservation area, the area of Braunstone Village to the south of Braunstone Lane to coincide with the already designated conservation area within the Leicester City boundary, and consider whether any modifications to the proposals and draft character appraisal (Appendix 3) should be recommended.