



BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

BUSINESS PLAN 2021/2022

Priorities & Objectives

Town Council Mission

The Council's Mission Statement sets out its vision to provide high quality services and support the needs of the community, while recognising that this is only sustained by ensuring that the resources to do it are available.

Mission Statement - *We exist:*

1. *to ensure that local services and the environment reach the highest possible standards within the resources available for citizens, visitors and those who work in Braunstone Town;*
2. *to provide a focus for civic pride;*
3. *to listen, identify and respond to agreed local needs; and*
4. *to help develop a strong, secure, self-reliant, self-confident community, free from unlawful discrimination.*

"Spectemur. Agendo" translates "Let us be Judged by Our Actions"

Town Council Priorities (2021/2022)

In addition, Key Priorities for the Town Council during 2021/2022 include:

1. *Shakespeare Park*

The Town Council has commenced phase 1 of its ambitious plans to invest in the redevelopment and improvement of sporting, recreation and play facilities at Shakespeare Park. Works commenced on building a new pavilion and making improvements to the site in 2020, which is due for completion in Spring 2021. Tenders have been received for phase 2 of the project: improvements to the Tennis Courts and Playground; preferred contractors have been selected and once funding is in place works will commence. Once the new Pavilion is open the Town Council will work with the Bowls and Football Clubs to ensure the facilities can be accessed by the community, sport participation is increased and new sports and clubs are established, for example Tennis and Petanque.

2. *Community Centres*

The Town Council is working on improvements to our community facilities at both Braunstone Civic Centre and Thorpe Astley Community Centre; this includes improvements to the Civic Centre toilet facilities, including the provision of a Changing Places Toilet, enabling the Civic Community Lounge to provide food and café services, and making improvements to community rooms and conferencing facilities.

3. Quality of Life Services

The Town Council continues to provide and support important quality of life initiatives, such as crime reduction and grants for community groups. The Town Council also seeks to play its part on tackling climate change and poor air quality, recognising the importance of air quality in the context of the new Lubbethorpe development, which could result in an increase in air pollution in Blaby District. 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.

4. Enhancing a Socially Inclusive and Vibrant Community

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, many community groups and organisations have been unable to meet resulting in additional loneliness and isolation particularly among the most vulnerable. During 2021/22, the Town Council will work to ensure that community groups are supported and can be sustainable once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the long term the Town Council will seek to address any gaps in services that occur, for example where groups are no longer meeting due to the effects of the pandemic, to ensure support is provided. The Town Council will positively and proactively respond to the evolving and changing situation by developing and supporting the Covid-19 Community Response, as well as new and existing events and community/social inclusion initiatives in order to reduce isolation and build community cohesion.

5. Meet the needs of Thorpe Astley residents by facilitating the delivery of services and events at Thorpe Astley Community Centre

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. To provide a vibrant community centre, a place for community groups offering a range of activities and events for the community.

6. Braunstone Town Library

Responsibility for the management of Braunstone Town Library transferred to the Town Council in October 2019, ensuring the service is safe and will be retained. Unfortunately, plans to enhance the Library as a community facility have been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During 2021/22, as a community leader, the Town Council will seek the views and aspirations of the community in order to shape the future of the Library Service, while ensuring the sustainability of all services provided from the Civic Centre site.

7. Thorpe Astley Open Spaces

The Town Council has been responsible for the management and maintenance of Thorpe Astley open spaces since 2014, having received the developer commuted sums. The Town Council has completed the legal transfer of all open

spaces at Thorpe Astley with the exception of Thorpe Astley Park. During 2021/22, the Town Council will work to ensure improvements are implemented to the Culvert and Thorpe Astley Park is transferred to the Town Council's ownership. The Council will then identify future investment and improvement to the parks and open space facilities in Thorpe Astley.

8. Lubbesthorpe

The Town Council continues to represent the concerns of residents and monitor the impact upon their quality of life of the Lubbesthorpe construction, particularly the opening of the new link road to Thorpe Astley. 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.

9. Efficient Services

Having made £35,700 in ongoing savings since 2015/2016 without impacting on the delivery of services, the Town Council continues to look to make efficiency savings while ensuring the existing services are safeguarded and where appropriate improved. Given the financial uncertainties identified in the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning analysis, the Town Council will seek to make £18,486 in ongoing savings over the next two financial years.

10. Responding to Climate Change

In recent years the impact of climate change has become increasingly visible and public awareness more widespread. During 2021/22, the Town Council will develop a Strategy and an Action Plan in order to address the impact of its own activities on the climate. In addition, the Town Council will seek to provide leadership, including in partnership with the principal Councils and other organisations, to support the community to respond to the climate change agenda.

Town Council Objectives

In addition to the Mission Statement and Priorities, the Council has key objectives relating to its Committees and Service Areas.

Planning and Environment Objectives

1. To ensure sustainable development, which meets the needs of the present generation without prejudicing the needs of future generations.
2. To improve the environment, in pursuit of which, objectives 3 to 7 below are contributors.
3. To seek high standards of design and construction within planning applications and to ensure all developments are consistent with environmental objectives.

4. To inform and consult local residents about major planning proposals, Development Plans and other planning initiatives by central and local government.
5. To work with others to minimise the impact from:
 - (a) traffic; and
 - (b) air and light pollution.
6. To promote responsible dog ownership and waste disposal.
7. To provide and maintain street seats and notice boards at key locations.
8. To monitor the New Lubbesthorpe development and to respond to any implications of that development for the environment of the Town.

Community Development Objectives

Nurturing and enhancing community life, equal opportunities and social inclusion.

Young people

1. To create opportunities for young people to have a voice
2. To identify young people's needs and give support to new local initiatives including summer holiday activities

Crime reduction services

3. Reduce opportunities for crime, increase public safety and establish a community spirit

Social inclusion, recreation & culture

4. To work with our partners to attract increased funding and the provision of a wider range of sporting and other services at local level
5. To provide support for the Office of Town Mayor
6. To assist local clubs and societies to undertake their work for the benefit of the citizens of Braunstone Town
7. To direct grants to organisations where this will be of greatest benefit to the citizens of Braunstone Town
8. To organise arts events/ entertainment's/ Civic Occasions which bring people together
9. To encourage the formation of new community groups by promoting free/subsidised use of the Civic Centre
10. To promote social inclusion

Corporate Management & Capital Project Objectives

1. To ensure effective management of the authority
2. To ensure effective implementation of the Council's policies and priorities
3. To ensure the Council's management arrangements, facilitate performance and efficient use of resources
4. To provide efficient and effective office services to support the Council's activities
5. To provide efficient and effective support to the democratically elected members to enable them to make policy decisions
6. To provide efficient and effective information to committees

7. To deal with telephone calls, and personal callers, promptly, courteously and efficiently
8. To ensure and arrange effective staff training
9. To develop a motivated workforce with the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to implement the Council's policies and services
10. To maintain adequate personal records, health and safety controls, and fire evacuation polices
11. To manage and control land and property belonging to the Council
12. To maintain an effective filing and retrieval system
13. To undertake capital projects for the benefit of the citizens of Braunstone Town
14. To ensure that major repairs and renewals are satisfactory and undertaken on Council owned buildings
15. To provide office accommodation for the Council's administrative staff
16. To ensure the Council engages with the Community concerning its activities, including with consultative bodies, such as the Citizens' Advisory Panel.

Community Centres Objectives

1. To provide and maintain high quality function rooms for use by hirers
2. To provide and maintain quality meeting rooms for Council and local community groups at low cost
3. To provide a Licensed Bar/Catering service for use by hirers and community groups at prices that are comparable with other similar establishments in the area
4. To maintain usage of the Centres for the benefit of the community

Open Spaces & Parks Objectives

1. To provide and maintain parks and open spaces to a high standard
2. To provide quality sports facilities to meet identified needs
3. To provide and maintain play equipment to a high and safe standard
4. To help fight pollution and climate change by planting trees on our parks

Adopted by Council 28th January 2021 (Minute Reference 5895).