



# BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

## Welcome to our Annual Report 2022

By Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

Despite these challenging times, the Town Council continues to provide important services to the community, this Annual Report provides a summary of our achievements during 2021/2022 and looks ahead to our aspirations for the next 12 months.

A full list of our achievements is set out overleaf, however, I wish to reflect on a couple of these here.

In September 2021, the Town Council adopted a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy, which sets out our ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon net zero by 2050.

The Strategy also sets out how we will work with others to support the community respond to the climate crisis and improve our environment. We have already completed the first step commissioning a carbon audit of our activities, which has made recommendations concerning the Council's buildings and vehicles that will reduce our emissions by 41%.

This coming year we aim to deliver on this first stage, installing solar PV panels on our buildings and installing an air source heat pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

As the Library reopened following Covid-19 we have been successful, working with our partners at the Cultural Communities Network and the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group, in providing a more responsive service to meet the needs of local residents. Family sessions were held over the summer holidays, with an artist in residence to incorporate music, song, finger puppets and crafts. We ran an intergenerational music project incorporating listening to music on vinyl and discussing various strands from the music including art, yoga and creative writing. Workshops were held which involved bulb planting, crafting and making bug/bee homes. Finally, children's story and music sessions are held on Friday mornings for pre-school children. I would like to thank our residents who have and continue to support these initiatives, making our library a vibrant and active community facility for all generations.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the report sets out our 4 strategic aims. Significant projects will be undertaken: improvements to the playground at Shakespeare Park, completing the refurbishment of the facilities at the park. Refurbishment of the Civic Centre toilet facilities, including the provision of a Changing Places toilet to make our facilities accessible to all. Investment in improvements at our facilities and across the town to reduce dependence on carbon and provide for sustainable travel.

A full list of the Council's Capital Projects and Delivery Objectives for the coming year, along with information on our services 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.

### ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

#### Mission Statement.

**We exist:**

- 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;**
- 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, free from unlawful discrimination.**

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021		YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
£		£
£245,340.26	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	618,174.73
£646,304.00	(+) Annual Precept	681,961.00
£1,124,854.83	(+) Total other receipts	172,030.00
£485,277.95	(-) Staff costs	434,301.32
£66,628.11	(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	94,185.39
£846,418.30	(-) Total other payments	657,361.80
£618,174.73	(=) Balances carried forward	286,317.22
£621,657.04	Total cash and short term investments	243,220.55
£4,563,474.78	Total fixed assets and long term assets	5,400,445.75
£1,128,008.14	Total borrowings	1,061,861.96





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.



## Our Achievements in 2021/2022

- **Shakespeare Park Improvements:** Completed both Phase 1, new pavilion and site improvements and Phase 2, refurbishment of tennis courts; of our £1 million investment in improvements to the sporting, recreation and play facilities. The New Pavilion is being utilised by the existing bowling and football clubs.



- **Successfully put the case to stop Blaby considering proposals to split the Parish,** avoiding our projects and investments being under threat and ensuring residents don't face the burden of unnecessary tax increases.

- **Provided £1100 additional funding to community groups to assist with recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.**
  - **Launched an additional grant fund for community groups to assist with the establishment of new groups where there are gaps in community provision, in order to support community activity and social inclusion.**



- **Implemented new arrangements for hirers of our community facilities; including a simplified pricing framework, reducing the minimum booking time for regular hirers and discount schemes for regular hirers and hirers of multiple rooms.**





- Adopted a Climate Change & Environmental Strategy setting out how the Council will achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030 and net zero by 2050; the strategy also sets a framework for the Council to work with its partners to support residents and businesses in the Town make changes towards a less carbon dependent future.

- Made a partnership agreement with the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group to support and enhance services provided through the Library.



- Worked with the Trustees of Drummond to develop proposals for a new public park and recreation space utilising unused land off Meridian Way; providing for supporting the environment and biodiversity, screening Thorpe Astley from the new road and air pollution, while providing a new amenity space for recreation, plan and exercise.



- Commissioned a Carbon Audit, which has made recommendations on actions the Council can take to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and have developed a Carbon Action Plan, including commencing preparations, including surveys, for it's implementation.



- Wild flower areas planted throughout the town along with planting of trees.

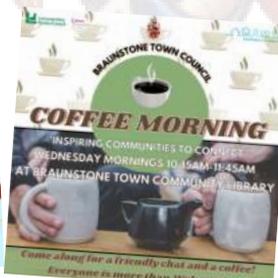
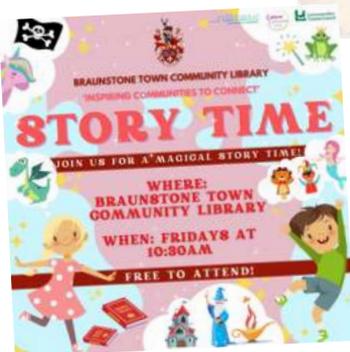


- Successfully applied for a grant to central government through Blaby District Council for a Changing Places Toilet to be installed at Braunstone Civic Centre as part of forthcoming building refurbishment.



- A year-long community project in the Braunstone Town Library encouraged community participation and engagement and reduced isolation of vulnerable residents.

Art, Nature and Music workshops were organised along with engagement sessions with the public.



Over seven community volunteers came forward to restart the weekly Coffee Morning and Storytime sessions in the library.



### Your Views

Throughout the year we undertake a range of consultations and surveys to ascertain the views of residents on major projects, such as our improvement proposals, 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).



### **1. Protect and Enhance our Parks and Open Spaces**

**Aim:** To invest in and maintain high quality urban green spaces for sport, recreation and play, while enriching the natural environment.

- **Complete Shakespeare Park Refurbishment and Open the new Pavilion building.**
- **Carry out repairs to the Culvert and Bridge at Mossdale Meadows.**
- **Support existing Clubs at Shakespeare Park to grow while supporting new sporting activities, such as Tennis (Tap 4 Tennis) and Petanque;**
- **Continue to work with Blaby District Council to ensure improvements are made to the culvert at Thorpe Astley Park; and to the Culvert and Bridge at Mossdale Meadows.**



### **2. Provide Vibrant Community Facilities**

**Aim:** To provide vibrant, accessible and cost effective community facilities, which continue to be used by and respond to the needs of our community.

- **Carry out Improvements to the Braunstone Civic Centre: Refurbishment of toilets and a Changing places toilet to be added.**
- **Promote and attract new activities and hires to Thorpe Astley Community Centre**
- **Ensure Outreach services are available**
- **Expand the Bar Service at the Civic Centre**

### **3. Support and Connect the Local Community**

**Aim:** To both nurture and enhance the Town's community life and connect our communities to reduce isolation and build community cohesion.

- **Establish a Good Neighbour Scheme**
- **Develop Library events, initiatives and continue community engagement.**
- **Co-ordinate Community Events**
- **Support new and existing community activities and initiatives through our Community Grants Schemes and Programme of Events;**
- **Support the Local Area Co-ordination project.**



### **4. Respond to Climate Change and champion sustainable development**



**Aim:** To embed climate and environmental awareness in our decision making and actions and play our part in supporting the community to do the same.

- **Deliver actions with a view to the Council becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.**
- **Enhance nature and biodiversity on our urban green spaces.**
- **Support and facilitate initiatives to improve cycling and walking routes, also provide secure cycle lock up facilities at our centres to support this action.**
- **Work towards ensuring the development meets present needs to protect future generations.**

