

# BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

## Welcome to our Annual Report 2019-2021



By **Councillor Nick Brown**, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

Despite these challenging times, the Town Council continues to provide important services to the community and this Annual Report, which due to the pandemic covers two years, provides a summary of our achievements since May 2019 and looks ahead to our aspirations for the next 12 months.

A full list of our achievements are set out overleaf, however, I wish to reflect on three significant areas here.

In the summer of 2019, the Town and County Councils reached agreement to transfer the management of Braunstone Town Library to the Town Council, which took place in October 2019 with a successful launch event a month later. I am delighted that the agreement secures the Library's future along with the County Council's ongoing financial commitment, avoiding additional costs to the Town's taxpayers. I would like to thank the community for supporting our proposals. However, it doesn't end here, your Library is now managed locally and we want to provide a more responsive service to meet the needs of local residents. Therefore, as the Library reopens there will be many ways to get involved, such as volunteering for a new initiative or sharing your ideas through our Citizens' Advisory Panel.



Early in 2020 phase 1 of the works to deliver our ambitious plans to improve the facilities at Shakespeare Park commenced. The new multi-purpose Pavilion is due to open late Spring 2021 and supports lawn bowls, pétanque, football and tennis and provides for both sustaining and encouraging growth in sport participation. Phase 2 of the works to improve the tennis courts and play facilities is due to commence once funding has been secured.

Finally, the Council has continued to support the community during Covid-19 through our Community Response helping those in need, supporting a Community Foodbank at the Civic Centre, facilitating the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine at Thorpe Astley Community Centre and through additional grant funding to support community groups during and after the pandemic. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help and support their community and neighbours through these very difficult times.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the report sets out 10 key priorities for the Town Council. A new one this year sets out our commitment to addressing issues impacting on the climate.

Information on our services and the latest news 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

Councillor Nick Brown

### Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020		Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
£		£
<b>£236,782.01</b>	<b>Balances brought forward</b>	<b>TBC</b>
£604,817.00	(+) Annual Precept	TBC
£222,249.08	(+) Total other receipts	TBC
£479,395.64	(-) Staff costs	TBC
£60,765.04	(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	TBC
£278,347.15	(-) Total other payments	TBC
<b>£245,340.26</b>	<b>(=) Balances carried forward</b>	<b>TBC</b>
		TBC
£233,697.70	Total cash and short term investments	TBC
£4,555,704.79	Total fixed assets and long term assets	TBC
£242,997.99	Total borrowings	TBC

The Audit for 2019 was completed on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2019/2020

The Council believes in openness and transparency, therefore, each year we publish the amount paid to Town Councillors in allowances and the amounts claimed in expenses. Below are the allowances paid (gross) and expenses claimed.

	ALLOWANCE	EXPENSES	TOTAL
Cllr A Ambrose	£375	£0	£375
Cllr M S Aslam	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A S Basra	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P Basra	£375	£0	£375
Cllr B Lunn Scoppie	£108	£0	£108
Cllr M Waterton	£375	£0	£375
Cllr N J Brown	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A DeWinter	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Di Palma	£0	£0	£0
Cllr S Fox-Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr A Hack	£0	£0	£0
Cllr S Sangha	£375	£0	£375
Cllr P Kennedy	£375	£0	£375
Cllr S Johal	£375	£0	£375
Cllr S Maxwell	£0	£0	£0
Cllr P L Moitt	£375	£0	£375
Cllr T Shepherd	£375	£0	£375
Cllr D Singh	£375	£0	£375
Cllr R Waterton	£375	£0	£375
Cllr L Lee	£375	£0	£375
Cllr C Startin-Lorent	£375	£0	£375

### Our Mission Statement

*"We exist to ensure that local services and the environment reach the highest possible standards within the resources available, 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."*



### BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE CUSTOMER SERVICE SHOP

Monday – Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Kingsway, Braunstone Town, Leicester, LE3 2PP TEL: 0116 289 0045 FAX: 0116 282 4785

EMAIL: [enquiries@braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk) [www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk)



# About Braunstone Town Council

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.



The Council comprises 21 members who are elected every four years. Each year the Council elects from amongst its number the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader

The Full Council meets six times a year. The Council has three standing committees: Policy & Resources, Community Development and Plans & Environment Committee. The Planning & Environment Committee meets approximately twelve times a year. All Meetings are open to local residents and include a public participation session on the Agenda. Agendas for the Council and standing committees are available to the public a week before the meeting date. Meetings are held at the Braunstone Civic Centre, and online using Zoom video conferencing. Further information is available on request by telephoning the Council on 0116 2899270 and can also be found on the notice board at the Town Council Offices, Thorpe Astley Community Centre and on the Council's Website

## Our Achievements in 2019/2021

- Delivered **significant improvements** to the Sport and Pavilion facilities at **Shakespeare Park**, to ensure the facilities are fit for purpose and to increase participation and access to **Sport**.
- Appointed contractors to carry out phase 2 of the **Shakespeare Park** improvements to improve the **tennis and play facilities**.
- Completed the transfer of **Braunstone Town Library** from the County Council to the Town Council's Management on 1st October 2019 securing the future of the Library while retaining agreements to ensure that the County Council continued to meet its financial and legal obligations protecting the interests of the Town's taxpayers. A community opening event was held.
- Installed new **welcome signage** at **Thorpe Astley** to provide for a sense of place and to remind drivers that they are entering a residential area.
- Completed the **transfer of open spaces** at **Thorpe Astley** from David Wilson and Wilson Bowden homes to the Town Council's ownership.
- Established and provided coordination and support for a **Covid-19 Community Response Scheme** to bring together those who needed help with shopping, supplies and pet care during the pandemic with **volunteers** who wanted to help others in their neighbourhood.
- Introduced measures to ensure our services were **Covid-19 secure**, from **Parks, Play Areas and Sports Courts to our Community Centres and Library**. To ensure that we could maintain as many services as possible within the Covid-19 regulations and restrictions we adopted revised terms and conditions and prices for hirers using our community facilities and sports pitches; introduced **ring and collect** at the **Library** and provided access to **Council and Committee meetings** remotely through **video conferencing**.
- Supported local community volunteers establish a **Food Bank Service** at Braunstone Civic Centre to provide essential food supplies to those who are struggling particularly due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Provided **additional grant funding** for **community groups** to help the continue both during the pandemic and to recover afterwards.
- Converted **car park** and **footpath** lighting to **LED**

## Plans for 2021/2022

In addition to the continuing with the existing level of services, the Town Council aims to achieve the following during the forthcoming year:

- **Shakespeare Park** works have commenced and are due to be **completed** in **2021**. The Council has ambitions to **increase** community use and **sport participation** at the site;
- Improvements to our **community facilities** at both **Braunstone Civic Centre** and **Thorpe Astley Community Centre**; to include a **Changing Places toilet** at the Civic Centre;
- Positively and proactively **provide support** for re-establishing **community groups, events and activities** in 2021/22 to **reduce isolation** and build **community cohesion**;
- Meet the needs of Thorpe Astley residents by facilitating the delivery of **services and events** at **Thorpe Astley Community Centre**; to 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.
- Continue to work to keep **Braunstone Town Library** open; whilst **enhancing Library services** due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**
- Legal **transfer of open spaces** at Thorpe Astley to the Town Council has now been completed. Improvements to The **Culvert at Thorpe Astley Park**; to be completed and enhanced;
- The impact of **climate change** has become increasingly visible. The Town Council will develop a **Strategy** and an **Action Plan** to address the impact of its own activities on the climate, it will provide leadership, and partnership with the principal Councils, to respond to the climate change agenda.
- 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**.
- Provide and support important **quality of life** initiatives, such as **crime reduction**. 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.
- Continue to look to make efficiency savings while ensuring the existing **services are safeguarded and where appropriate improved**, the Town Council will seek to make £18,486 in ongoing savings over the next two financial years.

### Your Views

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

[www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk/index.php/town-council/town-consultations](http://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk/index.php/town-council/town-consultations)