



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7AD

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Blandford Forum Town Council makes a positive difference to communities in need of safe drinking water

Blandford Forum Town Council is pleased to announce that, as a result of its decision to invest in water boilers from AquAid, they will be supporting the installation of water wells (known as Elephant Pumps) in Africa. The Town Council has installed a water boiler in the newly refurbished Woodhouse Gardens pavilion and in the Corn Exchange kitchen. These Eco boilers reduce electricity consumption and are much better for the environment.

When an organisation purchases water dispensers from AquAid, a percentage of the sales revenue is donated to the Africa Trust, a charity which installs Elephant Pumps. Through this initiative AquAid have donated more than £7,000,000 to the Africa Trust resulting in more than 2,000,000 people being supplied with potable water.

Through their contributions to the Africa Trust, an Elephant Pump is being installed in Africa on behalf of Blandford Forum Town Council. The Elephant Pump is a modified version of a water pump based on an age old Chinese rope pulley system. The pump is built by an experienced member of the Africa Trust in collaboration with local people from the community who are then taught how it works and how to repair it using local materials and parts. This pump will bring much needed clean, fresh drinking water and improve the quality of life of those who will have access to the well.

To date AquAid has built more than 8,000 Elephant Pumps across parts of Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and donated in excess of £15 million to charity.

Public Hearing for the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan (B+NP)

The public hearing for the B+NP took place at the Crown Hotel on Tuesday 14th November. Accompanied by interested parties, the examiner, Mr Terrence Kemmann-Lane visited all potential development options around Blandford that were originally identified through the North Dorset District Council 'Issues & Options' Consultation held in 2017. Blandford is one of the four main service centres in North Dorset and, as such, is targeted to meet future growth and housing needs. The public consultation held in 2018 clearly showed that the people of Blandford want this future development to take place to the North of the Town rather than extending any further to the South and East. In response to this consultation, the B+NP is proposing that the new development should be sited outside the by-pass to the North and East of Blandford, and should consist of a new primary school, housing, community hub (including health facilities) and recreation areas. The examiner is now considering the plan and intends to publish his findings after the general election.

Website Accessibility

The purpose of the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations 2018 is to improve the accessibility of public sector websites/mobile apps so they can be used by as many people as possible. They build on existing obligations to disabled people under the Equality Act 2010 and the duty to make reasonable adjustments, so that most people can use the website without having to adapt it. Although the 2018 Regulations are now in force, the requirements to meet the accessibility standards do not apply for existing websites until 23rd September 2020. The Town Council has already made the following changes:

- Making use of the Navigation Pane in Word documents and Bookmarks in PDF versions, in all new documents, so users don't have to scroll but can click on a heading taking them directly to that section.
- Removed all *click here* text on the website and replaced it with a description.
- Included descriptive text for images.
- Approved an accessibility statement, which is available on the website. Please advise if you are having any difficulties with the website.



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FREE CHRISTMAS PARKING IN ALL CAR PARKS IN BLANDFORD FORUM

Marsh & Ham, Station Court, Church Lane, Eagle House Gardens, Langton Road,
Sheep Market Hill and Market Place



Saturday 7th December for Small Business Saturday

Wednesday 11th December for the Yuletide Festival,
please visit <https://blandford-yuletide-festival.org.uk/> for further information

Saturday 14th December and **Saturday 21st December**

PLEASE NOTE that time limits will still be enforced.



Christmas Tree Lighting and Civic Carol Service



The Town Council would like to invite you, your friends and family to attend this year's official lighting of the Christmas tree and Civic Carol Service. Please join us from **5.30pm** in the Corn Exchange on **Friday 6th December** for seasonal refreshments and a chance to see Father Christmas in his grotto. The Blandford Stour Valley Band will provide seasonal music and Krazy Kev will entertain the children while you are waiting to see Father Christmas. The Civic Carol Service will

commence at **7.00pm** in **St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church**.
Everyone is welcome!

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Family Christmas Show
at The Corn Exchange, Blandford Forum, DT11 7AF
Sunday 22nd December 2019
4pm - 8pm

Join us for two hours of family fun, with four acts from the Bournemouth Entertainers Network - Mr Merlin & Okey Dokey the Dragon, Jamie Jigsaw, Krazy Kev and DJ Phil from Get Up & Groove!
Festive refreshments will be available.

Tickets are £5 each from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/blandford-forum-town-council
or from the Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum

Thank you to our Sponsors

G&K Manson Ltd Heating & Plumbing	Richard Cummins Electrical
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December Events in the Corn Exchange

- Saturday 7th** Lions Christmas Fair, 9am-4pm
- Wednesday 11th** Yuletide Festival from 5pm
- Friday 13th** Beatles with Wings, 7pm-10.30pm
- Saturday 14th** Free Christmas Concert with The Stour Valley Band and ROKIT choir from 7pm
- Monday 16th** Strictly Come Tea Dancing, 2.30pm-4.30pm
- Friday 20th** Mayor's Charity Christmas Coffee Morning, 10am-1pm
- Sunday 22nd** Family Christmas Entertainment Show, 4pm-6pm, tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/
blandford-forum-town-council or the Town Clerk's Office



Save the Date



Friday 21st February 2020 at 11am in the Corn Exchange.

Free half term entertainment show with Mr Merlin and Okey Dokey the Dragon.

There are tricks to amaze, gags to amuse and even a few belly laughs thrown in for good measure.

Refreshments will be available.

*The Town Clerk's Office will close on Monday 23rd December 2019 at 12.30pm
and will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2020 at 9.30am.*

We would like to take this opportunity to wish residents a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!