



# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Town Councillors  
Members of the Public & Press

District & County Councillors

Dear Member

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Council which will be held in the **Corn Exchange**, Market Place, Blandford Forum on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00 pm** to consider the following items.

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## A G E N D A

Prior to consideration of the following Agenda, there will be a democratic quarter of an hour, which may be extended at the discretion of the Council, during which time members of the public may speak. During the course of the meeting, members of the public and our elected representatives from the County and District Councils may indicate they wish to speak, and, at the discretion of the Chairman, and with the approval of the Members, they may be allowed to do so on points of information only. The Council may on occasion invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where points of information or their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Council. Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights. Disabled access is available.

1. Public Session
2. Report from County Councillor
3. Reports from District Councillors
4. Apologies
5. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
6. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018
7. Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence
8. Civic Report
9. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
  - 9.1 Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018
    - 9.1.1 Recommendations
    - 9.1.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes (to follow)

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



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10. To receive feedback from a consultation with exhibitors for the Well & Connected Expo and consider the continuation of the event (paper attached)
11. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
  - 11.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +
  - 11.2 14-18 Working Group (First World War Centenary)
  - 11.3 Corn Exchange Working Group (paper attached)
12. Reports from Community and Local Organisations (Councillors are requested to advise the Chairman of Council or the Town Clerk if they wish to make a report under this heading)
13. Confidential
 

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

  - 13.1 Town Clerk's Report
  - 13.2 Minutes of the Confidential Meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018
  - 13.3 Confidential recommendation from the Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018
  - 13.4 To consider a joint approach to the district and county councils regarding the local government reorganisation

#### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> April | 10.45am Jack Counter VC Centenary (Town Pump)<br>6.30pm Annual Town Assembly (Corn Exchange)<br>7.30pm Planning Meeting |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April | Town Council Meeting (followed by Trust Meeting)  |

**Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are available from Blandford Library, the Town Clerk's Office and at [www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](http://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk)**

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LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY GOLD

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## **To receive feedback from a consultation with exhibitors for the Well & Connected Expo and consider the continuation of the event**

### **Background**

Following the demise of the DT11 Community Partnership in 2017, the Town Council took over full responsibility for organising the 'Well & Connected' (W&C) expo held in June 17. Posters were produced for local distribution and information about the event was included in the Council newsletter and Forum Focus. An invite and information pack were emailed to over 100 local organisations, and potential contributors that were not currently on the list were contacted by email, phone or in person (e.g. Holland & Barrett, Tescos, Boots, Marks & Spencer).

30 organisations originally accepted the invite to exhibit, but as the event drew nearer 3 could not be contacted, 7 cancelled at short notice, and 1 failed to turn up. On the day, scaffolding on the Façade made it difficult to encourage footfall into the Corn Exchange, so flyers were handed out to pedestrians at key points around the town. Despite this, attendance was disappointing.

In light of the above, the Assistant Town Clerk and Project Administrator met with key local health and wellbeing organisations on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to review the 2017 W&C expo and to discuss plans and engagement for 2018. External attendees included:

Keith Harrison	North & Mid Dorset CCG Community Health & Wellbeing Officer
Hazel Haigh	Whitecliff Mill PPG
John Imber	Representing Val, Eagle House PPG
Helen Spencer	Manager Blandford Community Centre
Carol Tilley	Practice Manager, Whitecliff Surgery
Kelly Cornick	Blandford Leisure Centre
Sara Stringer	Whitecliff Surgery

The consensus expressed at the meeting was that the Well & Connected Expo in its current format, where different organisations come together in the Corn Exchange for a day has run its course, and is no longer reaching the wider community.

It was felt that the community would be better served if organisations could work together to raise public awareness of 'health & wellbeing' services and activities, that are currently on offer within Blandford, and share information on new events and activities being organised. Another suggestion put forward was setting up a 'Health & Wellbeing' forum made up of local organisations supported by a website information page.

Following on from this meeting, an email and short survey were sent out to the Well & Connected mailing list outlining the situation above and asking organisations if they are intending to exhibit at the expo this year (if it is held). Only 22 of the 95 recipients on the mailing responded (23%) and, of the responses received, 11 voted 'Yes' and 11 voted 'No'. Results of the survey and comments received are attached for information.

### **Conclusion**

It is considered by the Project Administrator that the time and effort expended in organising the event, amending plans as exhibitors cancelled and manning the Corn Exchange (including Councillor time) is hard to justify for an event that appears to be no longer viable or in demand.

## Recommendations

Councillors are requested to:

- Review the results of the survey and comments received and consider whether or not they wish to continue with the event.
- Consider combining the 'Well & Connected' theme into the Community Expo held in September. There is capacity at the Community Expo to house the 11 organisations that are still keen to exhibit.
- Authorise the Project Administrator to feed back the results of the survey to the Well & Connected community, informing them that the expos will now be combined into one larger event in September. To recommend that the North & Mid Dorset CCG Community Health & Wellbeing Officer works with local health organisations to co-ordinate a new Well & Connected forum for Blandford, offering Town Council support wherever possible/appropriate.

Sally Gardner

Project Administrator

14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Well and Connected 2018 - Responses to Survey				
	Organisation	W&C in 2018?	Attendee 2017?	Comments
1	Blandford Integrated Rehab Team (Responded by email)	Y	N	We had a stand at the Well and Connected event last year and I would comment that it appeared very poorly attended by the public. I know there was work being done at the front of the building but I even went outside the try to drum up interest, to no avail. The number of people exhibiting seemed to outnumber visitors, so either the publicity did not reach the target audience or maybe it is not what people wish to attend. Based on experience last year, we would find it difficult to justify exhibiting on the same basis.
2	Bus2Go	Y	N	A web page for organisations is ok but as for the over 60 plus age group accessing it for info I doubt very much if they would. From my experience of Well and connected the public like a natter and a cuppa as well as browsing the stands and chatting to the people manning them
3	Cyclewise Cycle Training	Y	Y	I would prefer the Forum suggestion to a one day event.
4	Eagle House Surgery	Y	Y	I think this has been a useful event to promote organisations involved in Health & Wellbeing. It is unfortunate last year that the event was not very visibly because of the scaffolding outside the building and the late Friday evening was not as popular as expected. For any event inside the Corn Exchange, having people outside the venue promoting it is always helpful. Perhaps we should consider combining with the Rotary Club who hold an annual well-supported Stroke Awareness day
5	Everyone active Blandford Leisure Centre	Y	N	
6	Hambledon Health	Y	Y	I will support it if it runs, however I agree it is not reaching the wider audience as well as it did initially as an event.
7	Healthwatch Dorset	Y	Y	
8	Knees Up Healthy Living Ltd	Y	Y	We have discussed in committee & were quite happy to do a display for the event as last year as well as networking other organisations in & around Blandford.
9	North Dorset Trailway	Y	Y	
10	Relate Dorset & S Wilts	Y	N	

11	Sovereign Housing (Choices)	Y	Y	Whilst I appreciate the comments about a more virtual approach rather than an expo I feel there is still a place for physical events. I think that 2017 was blighted by the Corn Exchange works
12	Adult and Community Services (Dorset County Council)	N	N	
13	Blandford & District U3A	N	No. Referring to Community Expo?	We have participated three years but have not found that having a table has resulted in new members.
14	Blandford CC	N	Y	
15	Blandford RFC	N	N	The club is committed to other rugby related activities over that weekend
16	Cariad Wholefoods	N	N	Cancelled last minute - SG
17	Hoop On	N	Y	Not very well attended. Seems just passing interest from locals who happen to walk past the venue
18	Janet knight school of dancing	N	N	I didn't find the event very beneficial. A dedicated web page would probably work well.
19	JLK Fitness	N	N	
20	Skills & Learning	N	N	We are more than happy to be part of a 'Health & Wellbeing' forum and provide information for a supporting website
21	The Friendly Food Club Ltd (Responded by email)	N	No. Referring to Community Expo?	The last event was very disappointing compared to previous years as we only engaged about 10 people. In previous years we have made lots of useful contacts with referrals to our cookery and budgeting workshops, non at all last time. It seemed very lacking in publicity both before and during the show. Personally I'm not in favour of another Forum, even in Blandford, sorry! To get through to people we need to 'do something' highly visible, interesting and attractive, not talk about it.
22	West Dorset Diabetes UK	N	N	

## Corn Exchange Working Group Update

### Update

The Corn Exchange working group met on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to receive an update on:

- The lanterns, which are due back w/c 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- The architectural lighting, for which a contractor has been selected and planning permission is awaited
- The flagstones, which we are awaiting a quotation on

### Working Group Remit

Section 4(t) of the Town Council's Standing Orders covers the rules of a working group (below) for which a response was drafted and the working group approved:

- (a) The purpose of the working group:  
The mission statement of the working group was agreed as follows:  
*"To repair and regenerate the Corn Exchange complex to a high standard, protecting and enhancing the unique historic attributes of the building and creating multi-purpose spaces within the historic confines of a Grade 1 listed building to meet the needs of the Blandford community in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."*
- (b) A named convenor:  
Town Clerk
- (c) The members of the group:  
Councillors Carter, Lindsay, S Hitchings, Stevens, Clark and Robinson (although all Councillors are welcome to attend and will be notified of each meeting)
- (d) The date when the group should report back to Committee/full Council:  
It has been agreed that recommendations from the Corn Exchange working can be considered by Town Council or Planning meetings.
- (e) Whether delegated authority for expenditure within a committee's budget is permitted:  
Not applicable.
- (f) Whether non-members should be invited to form part of the working group but without voting rights, unless otherwise agreed by Committee/full Council:  
To be discussed and invited as the project is progressed.

### Recommendation

The working group recommends that council adopts this remit for the Corn Exchange working group.

Councillors will recall that it was resolved at the Town Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 that:

**The Town Council approves the recommendations by the working group and appoints Councillors Carter, Lindsay, S Hitchings, Stevens, Clark and Robinson to the working group and instructs officers to amend the Planning Remit accordingly.**

The working group felt that Town Council agendas are very lengthy and not necessarily the most appropriate meeting to be considering a project of this size. The Planning Remit will be amended to clarify this at the annual meeting in May, although any matters dealing with the Corn Exchange can still be considered at either Planning or Town Council meetings.

## **Procurement – Architect**

At the Town Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 it was resolved, unanimously, that in the matter of selecting an architect for the revised Corn Exchange project that:

**The Town Council delegates authority to the Working Group to review the proposals in full and for a recommendation to be brought back to a future Planning or Town Council meeting for a decision.**

The working group discussed the three quotations with officers and agreed to invite the architects to present to the working group (and any other interested Councillors). A date is currently being arranged with the working group, which will then be shared with all Councillors.

The working group will then make a recommendation to full council (or Planning) to appoint an architect for the revised scheme.

Jon Goodenough  
Operations Manager  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk