



Blandford Forum Parking Review Consultation 2017/18

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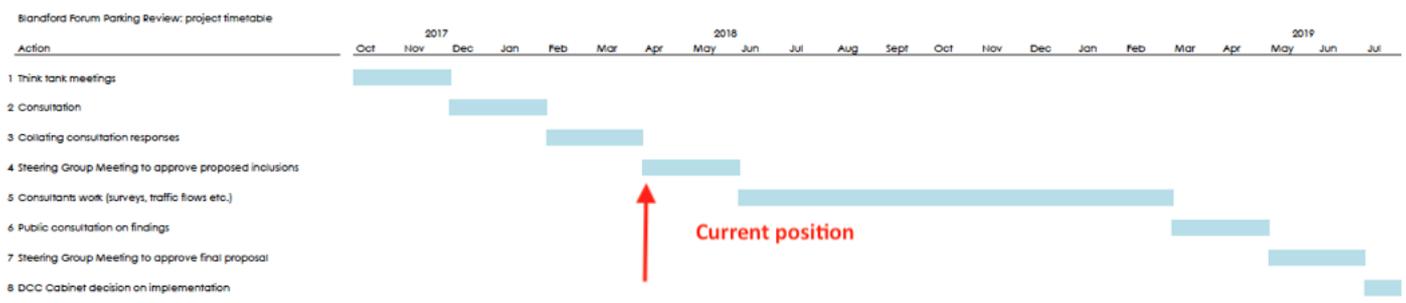
Report: Public Consultation between October 2017 – February 2018.
To: Dorset County Council
Date: 18/02/2018 **(Updated 05/03/2018)**

Background:

In July 2017 Dorset County Council approved the request by the County councillor for a parking review of Blandford Forum. It was stressed that this review would look at the town holistically to avoid moving parking problems from one area of the town to another. This parking review would therefore also need to include Blandford Forum Town Council and North Dorset District Council.

Following the approval, it was decided that Blandford Forum Town Council would host the review and carry out an initial public consultation. This would provide the parking review team from the County Council with a clear objective from the outset.

Project Plan



1. Think tank meeting

On the 27th October 2017 an initial meeting was held which was open to all councillors and local group representatives from Blandford Forum. Although this meeting was not the formal meeting of the Steering group, it was decided that this would be a good place to begin to develop a plan for the parking consultation.

Actions from Think Tank Meeting	
1	Invite businesses on industrial estates out of town for their input and comments
2	Add surrounding Parish Councils (especially Blandford St Mary and Bryanston) to the local residents group.
3	Add Public Sector as a subsection of large businesses (Library, Hospital, Schools, Blandford Camp etc).
4	Add bus companies and taxis (consult through NDDC licensing department) into Larger Businesses group.
5	Town Hall meeting to be held for local residents and surrounding parish residents e.g. Lidl consultation day in the Corn Exchange.
6	Treat each working group differently, i.e. inviting a large business to a Town Hall meeting would probably not secure a response. E.g. invite to rsvp to a meeting or ask questions to be answered in writing.
7	Dedicated web page and email address for the process.
8	Visit other towns with the same problems for possible solutions.
9	All areas within the bypass, including Blandford St Mary and Lower Bryanston to be included in the review subject to the consultation outcomes.
10	Use as many forms of advertising as possible.
11	Consultation period to be in January rather than December.
12	Any parking review must consider traffic flow and/or traffic remodelling.

2. Consultation

Following the Think tank meeting a number of actions were taken to encourage public participation in the initial consultation period. These included:

- Parking review link on the town councils web page.
- Advertising in the Forum Focus.
- Leaflets drop with the Black More Vale magazine in January 2018.
- Letters were sent to local Parish councils, businesses, Blandford camp, charities and all public organisations.
- Updates on social media via the town councils Facebook page.
- Updates on the Blandford Forum – Public forum site.
- Two public consultation meetings held in January 2018.

3. Steering Group Meeting (SG)

Held on the 27 February 2018 – Minutes attached.

Following the meeting the SG confirmed the area and scope for the Blandford Forum parking review. The area for the review is attached as **Item 1**.

4. Dorset County Council consultation work

TBC

5. Public consultation findings

TBC

6. Final Steering Group meeting

Approval of findings - TBC

7. Dorset County Council Cabinet

Decision and implementation - TBC

Point to note: Currently the parking review is ahead of the projected timeline.

Data Review

Between 27th October 2017 and 12th February 2018, the following information has been recorded.

Public Participation	
Letters, e-mails and surveys	335 +/-
Public Consultation meetings	65
Formal and informal meetings	50
Total responses	450 +/-
Social media post	100
Projected total	550 +/-

Percentage of Issues Identified				
1	70%	Parking by Blandford hospital including Jubilee Way and Heddington Drive.		
2	50%	Dorset and Orchard Street.		
3	65%	Resident parking in and around the following:		
		Alfred	Queens	Alexandra
		Edward	Albert	Victoria
		Kings	Damory Ct	Charles
		Bayfran Way	Barnes Cls	Fairfield
Oakfield	Nursery			
4	70%	Black Lane.		
5	50%	Parking in Damory Street.		
6	25%	New Road and Fair mile.		
7	75%	Parking in town.		
8	80%	General lack of resident parking.		

Conclusion

At the time of writing this report the Steering Group (SG) had formally met to discuss and set out the parameters of the parking review. The adjoining SG **Minutes** and **Area for consideration** are attached with recommendations to the parking review. It was felt that both District and County councils would need to be open to lower car park charges and positive traffic flow or traffic re-modelling.

Parking Review Steering Group Meeting Minutes
Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 11am

Attendees

Cllr Byron Quayle - Dorset County Councillor
Paul Hutton - Dorset County Council Parking Services Team Leader
Nicola Keyworth-Wright - Dorset Councils Partnership Parking Manager
Cllr Jackie Stayt - District Councillor and Town Councillor
Cllr Haydn White - Town Councillor
Noc Lacey-Clarke – Blandford Business Group
Nic Nicol - Blandford Town Team
Cllr Chris Gale - Bryanston Parish Council
Sybille Maddock – Blandford Forum Town Council, Facilitator

1. Apologies

Alison Moore - Blandford Business Group
Cllr Sherry Jespersion - North Dorset District Council Portfolio Holder

2. Introduction by Cllr Quayle

Cllr Quayle explained how the Parking Review got established and why. As this is not to be a replica of Sherborne's Parking Review, a Think Tank meeting was arranged, and a public consultation was set up. The Review is still in the data gathering stage. Once a clear steer has been reached, as to where the problem areas are, a pack will be sent to Paul Hutton and Simon Gledhill at Dorset County Council Parking Services.

Paul Hutton, invited Community Highways Manager who was unavailable to attend but requested to be kept informed.

3. Data Review and Areas to focus on

Cllr Quayle spoke about the main issues that have come out of the review so far and explained that we should focus on the areas in the red circle on the map provided.

It was discussed that Langton Road should be included in the review, not necessarily because of the parking but needing a traffic calming measure.

Mrs Keyworth-Wright confirmed that signage is key for car parks.

Cllr White noted that we need to see the difference between dangerous and inconvenience.

Cllr Gale expressed his dissatisfaction about the attractiveness of Blandford Forum. Cllr Quayle asked for him to send a report with the issues Bryanston Parish has raised, which then can be put in the pack. Other agencies should be made aware of the issues as they relate to tourism.

Through the CCG Cllr Quayle is working on purchasing another playing field which would enable the current underused playing field opposite Blandford hospital to be used as a car park.

Discussions were held about resident and car parking permits.

Cllr Quayle spoke about Kingston Close and Black Lane and the potential car parking spaces.

Cllr Quayle talked about Damory Street and the removal of the cycle lane. A one-way system for Dorset and Orchard Street as well as Bryanston Street was discussed.

Cllr Stayt talked about the one-way system through town and that Sheepmarket Hill and Church Lane used to be one way, in different directions.

Mrs Keyworth-Wright explained that NDDC are just procuring a new system, which includes a mobile app which can be used to extend the parking time whilst away from the car.

She also talked about the parking refund scheme and NDDC would support such a scheme if it is totally self-funding.

4. Any other business

Mr Nicol talked about disabled parking and that people won't park in the car parks as they can park for free on the roads.

Mrs Keyworth-Wright explained that car parks provide spaces for blue badge holders, which are spacious enough, at a level and close to the shops. This means they are kept free for genuine blue badge holders. Blue badge holders are given an additional hour in all car parks.

Cllr White brought up the loading issues. The larger vehicles are dangerous for the town as they double-park or not park properly. Mr Hutton mentioned that looking at the existing TRO might mean that timings can be looked at, however we need to be careful not to upset businesses.

Cllr Gale mentioned again that signage is very important, advising people where to park and where it is free to park.

5. Next meeting date

No date has been set.

Item 1

Area for Consideration – Steering Group Recommendation

Map Key:

1. Green area indicates area of chronic resident parking problems.
 - 1.1. Resident parking should be considered.
 - 1.2. One-ways roads (Queens Road/Kings Roads and the possibility of Edward Street).
 - 1.3. St Leonards Avenue has become a parking issues and this should also be considered within the green highlighted area.
2. Yellow area indicates parking related issues in the centre of Blandford.
 - 2.1. Loading times for stores and businesses should be taken into account in a parking review.
 - 2.2. A better devised one-way system in Sheep Market Hill and Church Lane should be considered.
3. Orange area indicates parking in Dorset and Orchard Streets should be considered with the inclusion of a one-way route in Dorset, Orchard, The Close, Bryanston St and The Plocks.
4. The pink area indicates the cycle lane on Damory Street. The SG recommends that the County Council remove the cycle lane to allow for resident parking.
 - 4.1. To join the existing cycle lane network up with Damory Ct Street.
5. Light blue indicates car parks and the possibility for increased car parks in Blandford.
 - 5.1. Blandford Hospital through the CCG.
 - 5.2. Wimborne Depot
6. Area in red indicates the extent in which the SG believes a parking review should cover in Blandford.
 - 6.1. Fairmile Road and New Road in Blandford St Mary should also come under this review.
7. The dark blue area of Langton road should be considered if there could be “overflow” from any parking measures imposed in the red area.

Point to note:

Further issues have been identified and are included in the general consultation notes (Blandford Forum Parking Review - Part 2), which are attached with this report.

