



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Town Councillors
Members of the Public & Press

Dorset Council Councillors

Dear Member

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Council which will be held **online** using Microsoft Teams on **Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.00 pm** to consider the following items.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
29th June 2020

A G E N D A

This meeting will be held in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came in to force on 4th April 2020. The 2020 Regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until May 2021. The 2020 Regulations apply to local council meetings, committee and sub-committee meetings in England.

Members of the public are invited to join the meeting by [clicking here](#). If, as a member of the public, you wish to speak in the Public Session, please notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting via admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk or 01258 489490.

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.

All in attendance should be aware that filming, recording, photography or otherwise may occur during the meeting.

1. Public Session
 - 1.1 Paul Rutter, Dorset Council Service Manager for Leisure Services, Environment and Wellbeing – Blandford Leisure Centre
2. Report from Dorset Council Councillors
3. Apologies
4. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
5. To respond to the information provided by Paul Rutter and consider future funding of the Blandford Leisure Centre (the current agreement for £50,000 a year expires on 31st March 2021. It may be that Councillors wish to form a working group to report back to the September/October meeting.)
6. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8th June 2020 ([accessible here](#), these will be signed at a later date)
7. Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence ([paper attached](#))
8. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes
 - 8.1 Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 15th June 2020
 - 8.1.1 No recommendations
 - 8.1.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes ([accessible here](#))

8.2 Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 29th June 2020

8.2.1 Minute No. 6.3 Market Manager's Report

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (6 in favour, 2 against) that a RECOMMENDATION is made to full council that

Delegated authority is given to the Chairman of Council, the Chairman of the R&A committee, Town Clerk and Market Manager to reduce the rents for the stallholders to increase take-up and support the traders after they have suffered losses over the last three months.

8.2.2 To RECEIVE the Minutes ([accessible here](#) w/e 3rd July 2020)

9. To consider a report regarding the Railway Arches opening times and arrangements ([paper attached](#))
10. Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC)
 - 10.1 To consider proposing motions for the DAPTC AGM ([paper attached](#) – the form and DAPTC newsletter were circulated to Councillors on 10th June 2020)
 - 10.2 To consider responding to the DAPTC Constitution Review and Consultation ([paper attached](#) – circulated to Councillors on 22nd June 2020)
11. To consider responding to the new model Code of Conduct consultation ([paper attached](#))
12. To receive an update and approve the Heads of Terms for the renewal of the skate park lease with the Dorset Council ([paper attached](#))
13. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
 - 13.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +
 - 13.2 Working Group to formulate a response to the Aster Group planning application to develop a site in Salisbury Road ([paper attached](#))
14. 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)
 - 14.1 To appoint a representative for the Georgian Fayre
 - 14.2 To consider a proposed statement and resolution from the Town Council's Diversity Representative, Cllr Mieville supported by Cllr Osborne ([paper attached](#))
15. To consider forming a working group to:
 - 15.1 Raise concerns over the (current and future) pharmaceutical provision in the town centre (raised at the Town & General Purposes committee meeting held on Monday 29th June 2020) with delegated authority to send a letter on behalf of the Town Council
 - 15.2 Respond to the Wyatt Home outline proposals for the land north of the bypass

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

27th July Planning Meeting

Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are available from the Town Clerk's Office and online at www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



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



Twinned with Mortain, France



Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk's Report

1. Meetings with the Dorset Council – Regular meetings have continued between town/parish councils and the Dorset Council every ten days on pandemic-related matters and weekly on town centre recovery. These have been incredibly useful.
2. Depot CCTV – A replacement camera and recorder have been ordered for the depot because the current one has been in place since the building was purchased and a recent service revealed that the night vision is no longer adequate. This has been purchased at £582.
3. Conference Equipment – The order has been placed and it is anticipated that the equipment should be with us at some point in August.
4. Cricket Club Agreement – A revised agreement was sent to the cricket club, with the addition of the loan and associated terms, and this has now been signed and returned.
5. Armed Forces Day – The flag was raised on Friday 26th June with the Garrison Sergeant Major, Terry Clarkson from the RBL and the Mayor in attendance with Geordie Thomson playing a fanfare. A fanfare was also recorded for the centenary of the Royal Corps of Signals, who were due to exercise the Freedom of the Town on Sunday 28th June 2020.
6. Proof of Life – There have been four requests for a ‘proof of life’ since lockdown started, and these have all been dealt with immediately.
7. Community Room – Two additional ports have been installed in the community room to assist with social distancing in the office and this will also be of use in the future for meetings held in the community room.
8. Skate Parks, Play Areas and Outdoor Gyms – Following the government announcement on 23rd June, these facilities will be reopened by staff on Saturday 4th July at 8am. This has taken a great deal of planning and consideration by the Town Clerk and Operations Manager since receipt of the relevant guidance on Friday 26th June. We have also offered to cover this for Persimmon play areas at Westbury Way and the outdoor gym at Stour Meadows, owned by Blandford St Mary parish council. Decision notices, posters and risk assessments have been carried out for all sites.
9. Public Art Update – The artist/designer has informed the ATC that the costs of the canopy has increased by £8,000 and he is therefore searching for other quotes.
10. Staffing – The grounds and caretaking staff start to revert back to normal shifts on Monday 29th June 2020. This means the toilets and Woodhouse Gardens are now back to normal opening times. Office staff are now offering appointments in the office to the public during the months of July and August.
11. Community Rest Centres – Dorset Council (DC) is responsible for assisting displaced residents involved in an emergency situation. They have been looking for additional capacity in the DC area and asked if our venues could become community rest centres to assist with DC’s community resilience. DC has asked about polling stations being used for this purpose however the Corn Exchange has been included due to its size and potential, along with Woodhouse Gardens and Larksmead pavilions and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed.

For information, the purpose of the rest centre is to:

- To provide an immediate place of safety for evacuees.
- To care for the health and wellbeing of evacuees during their time at the rest centre.
- To keep evacuees informed about the incident, the response to the incident and any longer-term alternative accommodation arrangements.

Some key points regarding the rest centre:

- The venue must have property insurance, which includes property owner's indemnity; this will cover the use of the venue for this purpose. Activities under the control and supervision of DC employees and DC employees whilst working are covered under the standard terms of DC's insurance policy. The venue can request a client information letter which will confirm DC's insurance cover in place.
- The venue is not required to open as a rest centre if doing so would prevent the venue from undertaking what it defines as its essential core business e.g. disruption to school classes.
- The venue may be required overnight or at weekends.
- Should a venue incur costs and/or loss of revenue as a direct result of operating as a rest centre, reasonable costs and loss of revenue for the operating period will be reimbursed by DC (unless agreed at the strategic level that another organisation will cover these costs).
- The venue management are not expected to provide any support or staff resource to the running of the rest centre for the emergency or to work directly with the people affected by the incident. The venue management may be asked to assist with the operation of any necessary services such as lighting, heating, water and sanitary installations.
- For the period of the emergency the Rest Centre will be staffed, coordinated and managed by DC staff

12. Corn Exchange – The working group is meeting on 15th July, with Ingham Pinnock Associates, to discuss the route map they have provided the Town Council with. A recommendation to proceed with the project will then be an agenda item at the Planning meeting scheduled for 27th July to avoid any delay. All councillors are welcome to attend the working group meeting on 15th July.

To consider a report regarding the Railway Arches opening times and arrangements

Background

At the Town Council meeting held on 24th February 2020 Councillors resolved that:

The Town Council approves expenditure of £4,793 + VAT for the required works to enable public access to the arches using funds from the Railway Arches budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 S1-8).

This work was slightly delayed, due to the pandemic, but carried out at the earliest opportunity and completed on 10th June 2020. An additional meeting was held on 16th June 2020 with the contractor and a structural surveyor to inspect the work carried out. The surveyor will now issue a certificate to confirm satisfactory completion. The opening times and arrangements still need to be considered and confirmed by council and the issues outlined below need to be resolved before this can happen.

Report

It is assumed that Councillors will expect Town Council staff to open and close the gate at the times agreed upon, which will be in addition to their existing duties.

Health and safety checks will also need to be carried out on a daily basis, as with other sites/responsibilities the Town Council has.

The closing time of 2.30pm has been chosen because the outside staff finish at 3pm and so it allows them to close the arches before they leave and prevents a lone caretaker doing it. Unfortunately, at weekends this will have to be done by a lone caretaker as they are the only employees working weekends, an alternative would be that volunteers close the arches at weekends.

Supervised visits arranged by BRAT can, of course, be carried out outside of these hours.

One of the issues is what staff are expected to do if people refuse to leave the arches when they go to close it, as this is an issue we have regularly at the Marsh & Ham toilets. Our insurance company has been asked what the comeback is on the council if staff feel they have no option but to leave the access open due to anti-social behaviour, and then an incident occurs, when we have been advised not to leave them open 24/7. The insurance company has responded to say:

The council will need to be able to show records that they have ensured that the arches are safe for the public and taken reasonable precautions to be covered for any potential accidents. In the event of any potential loss, accidents or damages, it would be good practise to record and evidence this for any potential claims. I am unable to comment whether you should leave the gates open or closed overnight but the council should also make use of risk assessments to identify potential risk and to mitigate them.

The proposed wording for signage has been drafted showing the opening hours and associated arrangements should staff be asked to take this on (see attached) and a quote has been sought for £32.

Additional information

Since meeting our H&S advisor in November 2019 and receiving her list of recommendations, previously reported to Council, the following work has taken place:

- A daytime opening risk assessment has been written, included below, which has all the recommendations made by our H&S advisor.
- Signage has been ordered and received stating 'Danger, Shallow Water', which will be installed on the Tesco side of the arches at the top.
- Incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour have been monitored (over the last few months this has mainly been graffiti, fires being lit, beer cans and broken glass).

- The stone ledge, adjacent to the staircase, is now protected to stop anyone climbing onto it which could result in a fall from height.
- Extra safety railings have been installed at either end of the arches to make it harder to climb over.

The Town Council's insurance company and H&S advisors have been approached, informed of the actions taken, and both have responded to confirm that they have no further requests but that this situation must be reviewed every six months.

Blandford Railway Arches Trust (BRAT)

BRAT was sent the same email as councillors on 19th June and responded with the following comments:

- *The 2.30pm closing seems fair enough and for good reasons – if WE want it to be open later we will just have to turn up ourselves.*
- *No objection raised to the signage proposed (and none to my suggestion that the small Leader sign can go on the top somewhere).*
- *Perhaps something needs to be done about providing a litterbin closer than the one up on the embankment going over to M&S. Just to encourage people not to leave a load of rubbish on the top. The thought was attaching one to the fence (i.e. above flood level) at the bottom of the stairs, rather than one at the top which would need someone with a key to go up to empty it (and I realise the problem with asking DWP to empty any more litterbins. Perhaps something those of us who regularly empty non-public bins in Nightingale Court (i.e. me) could do!*
- *We are also trying to get quotes for a frame to hold the mural if it is moved to the wing wall (which we know is our responsibility if we want to do it!) and for a strip to go above the wildlife interpretation board which is collecting drips from the stalagmites above.*
- *One of our members was very pleased to see that the contractor had done some weed removal while they were up there and we persuaded him that it was something that could be done on a continuing basis by us with a monthly clear-up. But he is also concerned about stuff emerging on the sides (buddleia, ivy and the like). What are the chances of the annual inspection including that and its removal?*
- *We also assured him that litter etc. found underneath (and perhaps above when it is opened?) is cleared (on a daily basis?) by town council staff when they do their rounds of all the premises under TC management.*
- *We are aware of an eagle-eyed PC who spotted individuals at the top the other day and discovered that they had climbed up the riverside wall. To be honest, and given that individuals have been doing this for the last 60 years, we don't think there is anything that can be done to stop them, apart from pointing out the obvious, that they are putting themselves at risk, which presumably is the object of the exercise.*
- *Hope all that is helpful – it's not intended as a list of things we'd like councillors to consider right now but more as a wish-list for the future!*

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider the contents of this report and who will be responsible for opening and closing the gates, expenditure authority for the purchase of signage, feedback from BRAT and to review this decision every six months.

Jon Goodenough
Operations Manager
16th June 2020

Railway Arches Project – Meet Me at the Arches **Blandford Forum Town Council & Blandford Railway Arches Trust**

Access to the top of the Railway Arches

We want you to be safe when you access the top of the arches. This gate will therefore be open for access to the top of the arches between the hours of 9:00am and 2:30pm, seven days a week.

Please take care on the staircase, which may be slippery when wet. This gate may be locked during severe weather conditions without prior notice.

Please take the time to view the interpretation panels underneath the arches.

This project was funded by LEADER and consisted of:

- Removal of soil and provision of drainage.
- Provision of a staircase to the track bed, along with barriers.
- Provision of information boards, explaining the history of the railway and the natural environment of the meadows.

It is part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



For more information, please contact:
Blandford Forum Town Council, Church Lane,
Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7AD
Tel: 01258 454500
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/016-town/leeches>

BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR UNSUPERVISED PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE TOP OF THE RAILWAY ARCHES

Public Access to Railway Arches Assessor: **J Goodenough** Position: **Operations Manager** Signed: Date: ****/**/2020**

The public access to the top of the arches is via a staircase, installed in 2019. The staircase is enclosed by a 6ft palisade fence and locked gate, opened during the hours of 9am to 2:30pm seven days a week, and closed during severe weather conditions (decision to be taken by the Town Council). The arches and the immediate surrounding area have no artificial lighting or CCTV coverage.

No	Hazard	Persons at Risk	Risk Factor	Existing Controls, Precautions, Arrangements, Procedures	Are existing controls adequate Yes/No	Further Action to be Taken	Date Action Taken
1	Injury to public from falling from arches.	Public	Low/Med	Railings are in place at either end at the top of the arches. The parapet wall is high enough to prevent accidental falling. The staircase is of a design which will prevent accidentally falling from it if used correctly.	Yes	Ensure that all railings and parapets are sound and are undamaged by carrying out regular inspections.	Ongoing weekly inspections of the arches to be recorded by Town Council staff.
2	Injury caused by jumping off arches into river.	Public	Low/Med	Railings and additional safety railings are in place to deter access to the end of the arches adjacent to the river. Signage in place advising of the fact that there is potentially shallow water in the river.	Yes	A further angled rail to further prevent leaning over existing railings has been installed. Ensure by regular inspections that all railings are sound and undamaged. Check all signage is in place.	Ongoing weekly inspections of the arches to be recorded by Town Council staff.
3	Injury from slipping or falling on stairs in bad weather.	Public and Staff	Med/High	Daily inspections carried out by Town Council staff. The gate to the staircase will be locked during severe weather conditions and will not be accessible to the public. The staircase treads have been dressed	Yes	Permanent signage installed to inform the public of slippery staircase when wet and the structure will be closed in severe weather conditions.	Ongoing weekly inspections of the arches to be recorded by Town Council

				with a non-slip surface.		Regular inspections are carried out to ensure gate is secure and working and to check the signage is in place.	staff.
4	Injury from drugs paraphernalia / broken glass at top of arches and underneath the arches.	Public and Staff	Med	Daily inspections carried out by Town Council staff.	Yes	Inspections carried out by Town Council staff will include the removal of drugs paraphernalia and broken glass using correct equipment. If hazards cannot be removed immediately then gate should be locked until hazards are removed.	Ongoing weekly inspections of the arches to be recorded by Town Council staff with report to Council on all items found.
5	Injury from stones kicked off the top of the arches	Public and staff	Low	If this becomes a problem, then consider adding a gravel board to the bottom of the railings to prevent stones falling down.	Yes	Monitor for evidence of stones found at the bottom of the arches and report.	Continue monitoring.
6	Physical and/or verbal abuse from members of the public. Drunks/drug users.	Mainly caretaking staff but could be any employee of the Town Council.	Med	This is anticipated when the staff are attempting to lock the gate when the public do not wish to leave the structure. Staff are instructed to avoid confrontation and to immediately report problems to their line manager or the Town Clerk or call the Police and to arrange for the structure to be locked at a later time.	Yes	Ensure staff are aware of the Town Council policy.	Continue to report all items found to the Town Council. Update and distribute policy to staff.
7	Danger from flooding	Public and Staff	Low	The stairs leading up to the arches will be locked if flooding is anticipated or is evident.	Yes	Ensure staff and volunteers are aware of this policy.	Ongoing

It is noted that the advice from the H&S advisor is not to install a life ring because it could encourage people to access the water, it is likely to get damaged and different sizes are required for different people. It is recommended by the H&S advisor that an annual structural survey is carried out of both the staircase/railings and the structure. Monitor arches and review risk assessment. BRAT who will be running events at, and visits to the arches have £5 million public liability insurance and the Town Council has £10 million. Any person carrying out supervised visits should be a responsible adult, take the padlock with them and then ensure the gate is securely locked after the visit and carry a mobile phone.

Approved by Town Council:

6th July 2020

To be reviewed:

January 2021 and July 2021 (and every six months thereafter)

FORM FOR PROPOSALS FOR DAPTC AGM

To be submitted by Wednesday 5 August 2020

NAME OF COUNCIL

Please note that NALC requests this information and careful completion of the form will increase the chances of a proposal being accepted by NALC

1. Please give the motion your Council would like considered at the DAPTC AGM
2. Please give the reason (as thoroughly as possible) why your Council is submitting this motion.
3. Please state how this issue is affecting parish and town councils in Dorset (with case study evidence please) and try not to duplicate answers from previous questions please.
4. If you have information on how this issue is affecting parish and town councils nationally and why this is a national issue please give this and try not to duplicate answers from earlier questions please.
5. If relevant, please tell us exactly what aspect of national parish policy your Council would like NALC to lobby Government on (with case study evidence please).
6. If you have the information, please tell us exactly which part of primary or secondary legislation (or secondary regulation/statutory instrument) your Council would like to be changed as a result of NALC/local lobbying.
7. If relevant, please state what other action your Council would like NALC and its Policy Committee to take is this motion is adopted.
8. If you have the information, please confirm the names of any other organisation or local council that formally support your Council's motion.

If you have any supporting documents to be jointly considered with your Council's motion – please e-mail them with this form to DAPTC.

To consider responding to the DAPTC Constitution Review and Consultation

Councillors were sent the draft revised constitution for DAPTC on 22nd June 2020.

The last review took place in 2011 and the document is due an overhaul at least to reflect the changes in local government across the county. It is envisaged that there may be further changes required and that these will be done in two phases, firstly to be discussed at the 14th November AGM and then again in 2021. The background section of the review document provides some context.

The pdf. document itself has been devised to make the review as easy as possible. There is a table so that the reviewer can read across left to right, the current constitution, then the redraft and finally accompanying notes to explain why the change has been suggested. Highlighted in yellow are the specific changes.

DAPTC has asked that all town and parish councils consider this matter, because member input and feedback is very important to the DAPTC.

Timeline:

22/6 – Draft issued for consultation

1/9 – Feedback from membership

12/9 – Review of feedback at Executive Committee

14/11 – AGM Proposed Draft Constitution

Councillors should consider if they wish to respond to the consultation by 1st September 2020.

Linda Scott-Giles

Town Clerk

22nd June 2020

To consider responding to the new model Code of Conduct consultation

The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a [consultation](#) on a new [model member code of conduct](#).

High standards of conduct and behaviour are of huge importance to the local (parish and town) council sector as they are needed to protect the integrity of decision making, maintain public confidence, and safeguard local democracy. NALC therefore strongly encourages local councils and county associations of local councils to consider the proposed new [model member code of conduct](#) and respond to the LGA [consultation](#) before the deadline of 17 August 2020.

This information was therefore sent to Councillors and staff on Thursday 11th June 2020 for completing but the links are available in the blue, underlined text in bold.

The Town Clerk wrote to the DAPTC Chief Executive, Neil Wedge asking if DAPTC would be responding as the county association and he confirmed that the DAPTC *'will be encouraging member councils in our next newsletter to ensure there is a significant response to the LGA consultation both from councils, elected members and officers alike.'*

The Town Clerk expressed concern that the new model code makes no fundamental changes and does nothing to tackle the bullying rife in our sector, gives no additional protections to staff, councillors or the public and provides no step change to councillors around the acceptable behaviours for an elected member. The DAPTC advised that they have already made these thoughts known to NALC.

Councillors are to decide if they wish to respond individually or form a working group to respond as a council.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
22nd June 2020

To receive an update and approve the Heads of Terms for the renewal of the skate park lease with the Dorset Council

Background

The current lease on the skate park with the Dorset Council expires in 2027 and, because the Town Council is looking at introducing new equipment, at the meeting held on 16th December 2019, Councillors made the following resolution:

The Town Council writes to the Dorset Council to request an extension of the lease. Cllrs Quayle and Lacey-Clarke will co-sign the letter to show support and suggested asking Cllr Kerby if he is also happy to support it.

Dorset Council Councillors Kerby, Lacey-Clarke and Quayle all supported this approach and the Town Clerk has therefore been working with the Dorset Council and the Town Council's solicitors.

Heads of Terms

A Heads of Terms document has been drafted and because it is a confidential document issued by the Dorset Council it has only been shared with the solicitor and Councillors at this stage, but it is very similar to the previous agreement and extends the lease for a term of 25 years. This would therefore cover the life of the new equipment.

The solicitor has noted that the Heads of Terms indicate that the Town Council can surrender the lease on giving 12 months' notice at any time and he therefore feels that the Town Council is adequately protected in relation to that particular aspect.

New Design/Equipment

In respect of the specifications on future plans, which DC has been made aware of, at this stage the following are our two options:

Option 1

To redesign the skate park using the same materials for the new ramps (metal structures/sheets) but no significant change to the general appearance apart from improving the look due to the equipment being new.

Option 2

Using concrete to form a new skate park within the existing fencing. Clearly this would change the appearance of the area and is not removable.

At the December meeting, it was agreed that the Town Council will go out to tender and then consult the users on the proposals received. When a decision is made, DC must then be made aware of the Town Council's intentions and the preferred materials (e.g. if it is concrete we will need to make good at the end of the lease/DC may not approve this option because of the type of material).

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors approve the Heads of Terms and authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council to sign the legal document¹ once it is finalised subject to there not being any major amendments to the current Heads of Terms, in addition to expenditure authority for the solicitor's fees (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
22nd June 2020

¹ As per the Town Council's Standing Order No. 23 Execution and sealing of legal deeds (see also standing orders 15(b)(xiii) and 10(a)(xviii)):

- a. A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b. Subject to standing order a. above, the council's common seal shall alone be used for sealing a deed required by law. It shall be applied by the Proper Officer in the presence of two councillors who shall sign the deed as witnesses.

Working group to formulate a response to the Aster Group planning application to develop a site in Salisbury Road

At the Planning meeting held on 22nd June 2020, it was agreed that a working group is formed to formulate a considered response to the Aster Group planning application (no. 2/2020/0726/REM (Nordon)). The group met on 25th June 2020 and propose the following response to be approved by the full council at its meeting on 6th July 2020:

At no point did Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan (NP) cite Nordon as a site to be included in the OAN figure for Blandford.

Nordon currently retains Conservation Area (CA) status and is therefore subject to policy B11 of the NP. B11(i) requires: consistently high standard of design and detailing reflecting the scale and character, including the layout of trees, development plots.....and building form; (iii) no harmful impact on the townscape and roofscape; and (iv) the retention and protection of trees...and other open areas which contribute to its character and appearance. Paragraph 2: 'All planning applications within the CA must demonstrate how the design proposals have sought to preserve and enhance the significance of the heritage assets and their setting in line with the recommendations of the Character Area Appraisal'.

The heritage assets are the Edwardian Villa and 26 mature trees, the removal of which contravenes these policies and would have an adverse impact on the CA.

BFTC therefore requests that:

- *The Edwardian Villa should be retained as a key feature of the CA and other uses explored.*
- *More of the mature trees are retained.*
- *It is essential both the density and balance of proposed dwellings be addressed to meet the need locally of rented accommodation. The pandemic has drastically altered the mortgage market with deposits of 15% required. Rented properties are needed more than ever (75% - 80% - see Mr Turnbull's submission). There is no evidence locally that shared equity is required.*
- *The number of dwellings is reduced to 30, which is still above the NPPF (sect 3) 2012 of 20 dwellings per hectare.*
- *A play area forms part of the development as the closest play area is ½ mile away across the busy Salisbury Road.*
- *Building design should at least reflect the character of other buildings in the area (in particular the Almshouses opposite and the predominantly eastern side of the Victorian/Edwardian Salisbury Road).*
- *They should be built to the highest modern & energy efficient specifications.*
- *The relocation of the entrance would bring it closer to the busy junction of Salisbury Road and Kings Road - one of the main thoroughfares to Blandford centre. The opening of the current hub entrance to vehicles and pedestrians has already increased the volume of traffic and parking congestion in this area. As a result the position has already witnessed several near-miss accidents. Retaining the current main entrance, would also diminish the necessity to remove several substantial trees.*
- *With any form of development, if approved, BFTC requests that Dorset Council, at the earliest opportunity, engages with BFTC on the developer's contributions, ensuring there is sufficient funding to meet local needs.*
- *BFTC is consulted on naming roads and parts of the development.*

**To consider a proposed statement and resolution from the Town Council's
Diversity Representative, Cllr Mieville supported by Cllr Osborne**

Subject to council approval, Cllr Hugo Mieville would like to submit the following to the Forum Focus:

In the light of recent events in this country and elsewhere, I am pleased to say that I have been instructed, as the Blandford Forum Town Council Diversity Representative, to share with you the resolution which was passed at the recent Town Council meeting.

The resolution reads:

Blandford Forum Town Council acknowledges the current strength of international public feeling towards inequalities and injustices that exist within society, and reaffirms its continued support for legislation - including the UK 2010 Equality Act - and better ways of working, that protect all people from direct, indirect and systemic discrimination, harassment or victimisation. The Council instructs its Diversity Representative to share this reaffirmation with local media outlets.

This statement reflects the strength of feeling amongst councillors that, as a public body, we would like to show our support for those who - in a legal manner - stand up for equality and justice for all, and who fight against the intolerance and discrimination faced by people of all kinds, both in this country and internationally.

Cllr Hugo Mieville and Cllr Pat Osborne
25th June 2020