



## NEWSLETTER

### Chairman of Blandford Forum Town Council Annual Report 2020/21

Cllr Lynn Lindsay, the outgoing Chairman and Mayor of Blandford Forum, delivered her annual report at the Town Assembly meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021, which has been summarised in this newsletter.

I look back on this year and, despite all the unknown elements we have been facing, I have been continuously proud of this town and how it's community quickly – and kindly – pulled together to keep each other safe. It must be a very difficult time for younger people and I praise the work of the organisations such as Treads and the Youth Centre who have continued to support them as they navigate their way through this period. The Food Bank has been under increasing pressure and like my chosen charity, The Community Kitchen, they have continued to support those in need. As a Town Council, we have worked hard to continue to provide services this year, support local businesses, our hirer's and residents and we have continued to work on projects too.

#### May 2020

- The annual meeting of the Town Council was postponed until May 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions and it was agreed to carry town councillor positions over until that time. I agreed to continue as Mayor for 2020/21 with The Community Kitchen remaining as my charity for the year.
- VE Day events were cancelled but we were able to compile a fitting virtual celebration with the help of some wonderful people.
- The custom designed bench to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both VE and VJ Day was installed in the Tabernacle, located next to the WWI bench.



#### June 2020

- Tree photography competition launched for its second year.
- A new conference system was purchased to use for the council meetings in the Corn Exchange.
- We marked Armed Forces Day, but we were disappointed we were not able to go ahead with the Royal Corps of Signals Freedom Parade to mark the Regiment's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- A small ceremony was held in the Market Place in lieu of the parade when we would have stood shoulder to shoulder, waving our flags and lining the streets in support of the troops.



## July 2020

- Two additional internet ports were 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.
- Skate Park, play areas and outdoor gyms were re-opened following the government advice and the relevant safety procedures and signage put in place.
- Regular stall holders on the market were offered a temporary rent reduction for the month.
- Street dressing items (bollard sleeves, bench stickers, floor stickers) to encourage social distancing and hand sanitising stations were installed.
- Payments relief from July – September given at 50% for the sports pavilions.



## August 2020

- We were honoured to be joined by the High Sheriff of Dorset for the presentation of community awards to some of those who had gone above and beyond during the first lock down.
- Planning permission and Listed Building Consent were granted to replace the lantern light between the Town Hall lobby and the Corn Exchange.



## September 2020

- A Covid secure Community Expo was held.
- A grant of £1,470 was approved for In Jolly Good Company.
- Work started preparing the budgets for the 2021/22 financial year.
- We worked with soldiers from Blandford Camp who cleaned memorials of those who served in the Armed Forces but do not have a Commonwealth War Grave in Blandford Cemetery, following research carried out by Town Council Staff. We also replaced the information board at the cemetery, which lists all casualties of war buried there.
- Access to the top of the railway arches was opened to the public.
- The Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan was expanded and updated.
- We have now switched to 100% renewable energy for our electricity supply and have a timeline in place with achievable aims.



## October 2020

- BFTC was awarded three annual DAPTC Star Awards for training for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running.
- Expenditure authorised for the demolition of the toilet block at Park Road recreation ground.
- Grant of £2,000 awarded for the introduction of a community fridge.
- The Town Pump was restored and is looking stunning, especially with the Blandford Fire bench now located next to it, which was moved earlier in the summer.





## **November 2020**

- We held an Act of Remembrance on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November prior to the second lockdown. It was a significantly reduced service, to avoid creating a gathering and wreaths were laid privately.
- I am very grateful to our local garrison, parish church and Royal British Legion for their contribution and support to ensure we were able to commemorate both Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.
- Architectural Technician appointed to complete the Town Hall façade project.
- Payment relief of 50% given to sports clubs during October and December and 100% payment relief for November 2020 due to the lockdown.
- Expenditure approval given for the introduction of three raised beds for wildflower areas at Jubilee Way. These are due to be installed in May.
- Woodhouse Gardens was lit up (almost a month earlier than planned due to the lockdown) and it looked beautiful. It is always a peaceful haven away from the bustle of the market town and added an extra touch of magic.
- 2021 Calendars sold out!



## **December 2020**

- Small Christmas tree and lighting columns lit up through town.
- Shops and businesses of Blandford Forum contributed to the small Christmas Trees again this year. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this!
- The Christmas Window Competition was held.
- Grants awarded to Blandford Opportunity Group, Panda Pre-school and Blandford Railway Club.



## **January 2021**

- Five laptops were gifted to The Blandford School.
- Water Refill point installed in the Market Place, in collaboration with Wessex Water and the Dorset Council.
- Historic England approved a grant of £4,000 towards the replacement of the lobby glazing between the Town Hall and the Corn Exchange.



## **February 2021**

- Venue charges were frozen for the 2021/2022 period.
- The Town Council agrees that 100% payment relief is to be extended for the period January to March 2021 due to the national lockdown for use of the sports pavilions.
- The Town Council agrees to waiver the utilities charges for the sports clubs, and sending a zero-charge invoice, for the period October 2020 to March 2021.
- Expenditure of £2,885.40+ VAT approved for the planters and bedding around the town.
- Toilet cleaning contract renewed with a local contractor.
- Expenditure approved for works to lime trees at Cemetery.
- Public Art installation at Persimmon Estate completed.



## **March 2021**

- Expenditure of £1,552.78 approved for lighting up Woodhouse Gardens in the month of December due to last year's success.
- Commonwealth Day flag raised at the Corn Exchange.

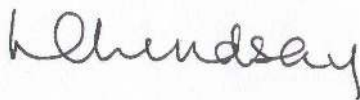


## **April 2021**

- Works have started at Park Road Recreation Ground car park to extend the car park, demolish the toilet block and introduce two new electric vehicle charging points.
- Works completed on the lobby glazing between the Town Hall and the Corn Exchange,
- A total of 78 planning applications were considered by the Town Council between May 2020 and April 2021, which are dealt with by the Planning department at the Dorset Council.



I would like to thank residents, businesses, volunteers, community groups, Town Council staff and Councillors for all their support to our wonderful town throughout a challenging, and unprecedented, time.



Councillor Lynn Lindsay  
Chairman of Council and Town Mayor 2020/21

*Cllr Lindsay raised £3,324 for her chosen charity; The Blandford Community Kitchen, during her two Mayoral years (2019/2020 and 2020/2021).*



The incoming Chairman of Council and Mayor of Blandford Forum for the year 2021/2022 is Cllr Lee Hitchings (pictured). The Mayor's chosen charity for the year is The Blandford Forum Gymnastic Club and his Chaplains are Dale and Emma Carmichael from the Blandford Evangelical Church. The Vice Chairman of Council and Deputy Mayor of Blandford Forum is Cllr Colin Stevens.

**The following feedback is from just some of the organisations in receipt of a Town Council Grant during the financial year 2020/2021, explaining how it has helped their work, especially during these difficult times:**

### **Blandford Forum Railway Club**

The officers, committee and members of the club express sincere thanks to Blandford Forum Town Council for a grant of £951 paid in January 2021 to defray the costs of club rent and insurance last year. The club has not been able to meet since March 2020, but are now hoping to re-open at the Scout Hut in summer 2021 as soon as government restrictions allow. This year to date the club has paid the insurance fee for the year and the balance of the grant money has helped the club to remain financially secure. Members have continued to work at home on pieces for a large model of Bailey Gate (Sturminster Marshall) cheese factory and station and they hope to be able to exhibit this 22 foot long fully scenic model railway before the end of the year. When the club has re-convened the committee will also reinstate a series of weekly workshop meetings, talks, film shows and visits for members and guests.

### **Blandford Fashion Museum**

Blandford Fashion Museum have been fortunate to be in receipt of the Blandford Town Council grant of £2000 per annum since 2015. The grant was renewed in 2019 for another three years, for which the Museum expresses its sincere thanks.

In 2020 the grant contributed towards the following:

- Enabling the Museum to spend more on the restoration and conservation of various historical costumes. This includes contributing towards the professional services of a costume historian and a costume conservator.
- Disabled toilet refurbishment
- Enabling the re-opening of the Museum post the various Covid-19 lockdowns with items such as hand sanitiser, sanitising wipes, masks, gloves etc.

Displays:

The Museum changes a number of exhibitions every year

In 2020 new displays included:

Make Do and Mend (post WWII exhibition)

Land Girls

Georgian Day wear

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Blandford Fashion Museum opened its doors to visitors in May 1996, so 2021 is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Covid restrictions permitting there will be some form of celebrations later in the year.

### **Panda Pre-School**

Panda Pre-school has benefitted from the grant awarded by purchasing some weather shield curtains for our outdoor veranda. This has allowed the staff and children to use this area when the weather is poor, especially when it is raining, as before they were installed the rain would come across half the veranda limiting the amount of activities we could do with the children. This additional space has been so valuable for the children to be outdoors where, particularly with COVID restrictions, they can learn and play enabling our environment to be safer as the children can spread out and be in the fresh air.

### **In Jolly Good Company**

The group helps to alleviate isolation for older people. Usually, they meet in the countryside but have adapted during Covid. The group is thankful for the Town Council funding, which they have match funded thanks to Dementia Action Alliance and it will be used for meetings in Woodhouse Gardens, for a 6-month pilot. In Jolly Good Company supports everyone with dementia, it is not aimed at older people. They will be recruiting a local volunteer group and hoping to replace the Alzheimer's society and singing group.



## FREE Virtual Fraud Safety Presentation

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7pm

Ashley Jones MBE (pictured) is the Regional Fraud Protect Advisor employed by the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SWROCU), that being a Home Office funded, Law Enforcement body serving all the police force areas of the South West of England.



As part of his mission to help protect people from fraud, Mr Jones is able to give an official fraud prevention presentation to raise awareness of the dangers of economic crime, highlight typical case studies of previous offences and offer advice and tips to help keep the audience members safe, as well as signposting people to resources that will help keep them safe in the future.

The online session will take 35-45 minutes with additional time for questions and answers. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please get in touch for the link to the Microsoft Teams meeting or find it on the Town Council's Facebook page under Events.

## Tree Photography Competition

### Celebrating trees in and around Blandford Forum

You are invited to take part in our annual tree photography competition, to celebrate the trees in our area. Please e-mail a picture of your favourite, or a particularly interesting, tree within the DT11 postal code area to [admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk) including your full name and a phone number by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Three entries can be submitted per person. Councillors will pick the winning photo and the winner will be presented with the trophy, sponsored by Cllr Lacey-Clarke. The winning photograph from 2020 (pictured) was taken by resident, Robyn Milverton.



## Blandford Forum Calendar 2022

For the fifth year running, the Town Council is creating a calendar to raise money for the Mayor's charity. The theme for the 2022 calendar is 'Historical Buildings in Blandford Forum' to showcase some of the fantastic Georgian architecture and hidden gems Blandford Forum has to offer. We would love to receive your photos to be included in the calendar. Please email them to [admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The calendars will be available to purchase from the Town Clerk's Office at £5 each later in the year. The calendar from 2021 with the theme 'Wildlife in Blandford Forum' is pictured.



## Lighting up of the Town Hall Façade - Public Consultation

The Town Council is pleased to announce that we will soon be able to light up the Town Hall façade in various colours. Please let us know by 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 if there are certain dates/events you would like to see acknowledged, which will then be considered by Councillors. This could be a specific colour in honour of a local or national charity, or a special event. The link to the survey is below, but please do get in touch with the office if you would rather call or email your suggestions.

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/r/YUPbdHygqn>

## Contact Your Councillors

The Town Clerk for Blandford Forum Town Council is Mrs Linda Scott-Giles, who can be contacted using the details overleaf.

<b>WARD</b>	<b>TOWN COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TEL NO</b>	<b>DORSET CLLR TEL NO</b>
<b>CENTRAL</b>	Roger Carter	2 Greenhill, DT11 7TX	07805 242691	Nocturin Lacey-Clarke 07815 951095  Byron Quayle 07843 616343
	Steve G Hitchings	27 Kings Road, DT11 7LD	01258 455840	
	Lynn Lindsay	31 Barnes Close, DT11 7NG	01258 456209	
	Rosemary Holmes	16 Liddington Crescent, DT11 7RP	01258 480451	
	Pat Osborne	3 Sharp Close, DT11 7FY	07917 831009	
	Byron Quayle	16 Alexandra Street, DT11 7QP	07843 616343	
	Alan Cross	15 Manor Farm Close, Pimperne, DT11 8XL	01258 452849	
<b>HILLTOP</b>	Haydn White	79 Salisbury Road, DT11 7LP	01258 453666	
	Hugo Mieville	4 Albert Street, DT11 7HY	01258 480366	
<b>LANGTON ST LEONARDS</b>	Cathy Jacques	64 Diamond Way, DT11 7WD	07756 856018	
	Colin R Stevens	16 Andrew Close, DT11 7PG	01258 453955	
	VACANCY			
	Peter Clark	7 River Mews, DT11 7AX	01258 480303	
<b>OLD TOWN</b>	Nocturin Lacey-Clarke	5 Dorset Street, DT11 7RG	07815 951095	
	John Stayt	29 Damory Street, DT11 7EU	01258 456999	
<b>BADBURY HEIGHTS</b>	Lee S Hitchings	9 Willow Park, Pimperne, DT11 8UB	07917 863531	



# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

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## Councillor Attendance at Online Meetings May 2020 – April 2021

Occasionally, Councillors are required to attend other events/meetings on behalf of the Town Council in place of council

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Expected Attendance	Councillor	Meetings Attended	Expected Attendance
Lynn Lindsay	40	40	Colin Stevens	37	36
Haydn White	38	36	Noc Lacey-Clarke	32	32
Steve Hitchings	40	36	Pat Osborne	32	36
Roger Carter	32	36	Byron Quayle	31	32
Hugo Mieville	35	36	Alan Cross	37	36
Peter Clark	31	32	Rosemary Holmes	31	32
John Stayt	28	32	Cathy Jacques	27	32
Lee Hitchings	39	40	Doro Russell (left in September 2020)	11	10

### TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL RETURN (ACCOUNTS) 2020/21

The Internal Auditor to the Town Council has confirmed the accounts as correct.

		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
		£	
1	Balances Brought Forward	2,414,290	2,433,430
2	(+) Annual Precept	794,744	801,180
3	(+) Total Receipts (income)	414,429	163,777
4	Staff Costs	414,146	428,271
5	Loan Interest Repayments	0	0
6	(-) Total Other Payments	775,887	671,540
7	(=) Balance Carried Forward*	2,433,430	2,298,576
8	Total Cash & Investments	2,411,245	2,328,423
9	Total Fixed Assets**	4,407,320	4,692,610
10	Total Borrowing	Nil	Nil
11	Acts as sole Trustee For Managing Trust Funds	Yes	Yes

\* Of the balances held at 31 March 2021 over £916,221 was held for Capital projects, which includes £897,342 for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange.

\*\* Fixed assets of £4,692,610 is the value of the properties and equipment owned by the Council at approximate cost value (for example the Corn Exchange and the Skate Park). This also includes £676,831 Long Term Asset which for smaller bodies accounting purposes should and has been excluded from box 7 and is instead shown as part of box 9.

**The Town Council confirms the precept for 2021/22 at £792,183, which equates to a decrease of -0.48% on the Band D figure, which now amounts to £226.04.**

The Town Council will continue to send an annual newsletter to Blandford Forum households in June each year. However, the rest of the year, we will be using the Forum Focus to publicise news and events, which not only cuts down on the amount of paper we use but also supports the local community magazine. If you would like to receive updates from the Town Council in your inbox, please complete the form at: <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/contact>



### TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

Local groups, charitable and voluntary organisations can apply for a grant (including a green grant), subject to meeting the criteria.

The forms are available from the office or our website.

