



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7AD
Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432
admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk • www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk



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NEWSLETTER

Councillor Attendance at Online Meetings May 2021 – April 2022

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

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Expected Attendance	Councillor	Meetings Attended	Expected Attendance
Haydn White	34	37	Noc Lacey-Clarke	31	33
Lynn Lindsay	37	37	Pat Osborne	25	39
Steve Hitchings	37	37	Byron Quayle	30	35
Roger Carter	35	37	Alan Cross	34	39
Hugo Mieville	37	37	Rosemary Holmes	34	35
Peter Clark	31	35	Cathy Jacques	19	33
Lee Hitchings	41	41	Kaylee Herbert	19	23
Colin Stevens	41	41	Emily Bray	9	10

Chairman of Blandford Forum Town Council

Annual Report 2021/22

Cllr Lee Hitchings, the outgoing Chairman and Mayor of Blandford Forum, delivered his annual report at the Town Assembly meeting held in the Corn Exchange on 25th April 2022, which has been summarised in this newsletter.

May 2021

- I was elected as Mayor for 2021/2022 at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 4th May 2021. I nominated The Blandford Forum Gymnastics Club as my charity for the year and Reverends Dale and Emma Carmichael from Blandford Evangelical Church as my Chaplains.
- Cllr Colin Stevens was elected as Deputy Mayor.
- The Public Art installation on Badbury Heights was officially opened by Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Osborne (pictured).
- A grant of £150 approved for the RBL for Armed Forces Day celebrations.
- The Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan passed the referendum.



June 2021

- The Armed Forces Day flag was raised at the Corn Exchange for Armed Forces Day and the Armed Forces Covenant was signed.
- Face to face meetings resumed in the Corn Exchange with social distancing in place.
- A grant of £1,500 was approved for Blandford Snooker Club for plaster work.
- A grant of £430 was approved for Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley.
- Fees of £9,500.00 for the architect, surveyor & quantity surveyor and £25,850 for the consultants were approved to progress the Corn Exchange project.
- Rent relief was given to the sports clubs for use of the pavilions due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

July 2021

- The tower unit at Larksmead play area was replaced at a cost of £11,310, which was covered by developer contributions from the new development on Salisbury Road. In addition, £4,465.00 was approved for the table tennis table at Larksmead recreation ground, which received a contribution of grant funding from Dorset Council.
- Two finger posts were replaced at Langton Road and Marsh & Ham car parks.
- A card machine was purchased for Mayoral events.
- The Town Council approved to light up the Town Hall façade in white light every evening and, following a public consultation, it will be lit for approved dates/events throughout the year.
- Councillors approved expenditure of £1,000 for the Mayor's Fun Day event.



August 2021

- The Town Council held the Skatefest event and Jamie Jigsaw summer holiday entertainment.

September 2021

- The Community Expo event was held in the Corn Exchange.
- Free hire grant to the value of £320 was awarded to 'In Jolly Good Company'.
- Expenditure of £3,047.20 was approved for works to the Cross of Sacrifice at Blandford Cemetery to mark the centenary of the structure.
- Expenditure of £22,046.65 was approved for Phase Two of the renovations to the Skate Park equipment.

TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL RETURN (ACCOUNTS) 2021/22

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

		31 st March 2021	31 st March 2022
		£	
1	Balances Brought Forward	2,433,430	2,298,576
2	(+) Annual Precept	801,180	792,183
3	(+) Total Receipts (income)	163,777	170,587
4	Staff Costs	428,271	461,022
5	Loan Interest Repayments	0	0
6	(-) Total Other Payments	671,540	337,850
7	(=) Balance Carried Forward*	2,298,576	2,462,474
8	Total Cash & Investments	2,328,423	2,490,258
9	Total Fixed Assets**	4,682,849	4,642,602
10	Total Borrowing	Nil	Nil
11	Acts as sole Trustee For Managing Trust Funds	Yes	Yes

* Includes reserves for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange.

** Fixed assets of £4,642,602 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 £682,985 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 has confirmed the precept for 2022/23 is £803,241.

The Town Council will continue to send an annual newsletter to Blandford Forum households in June each year. The rest of the year, we will be using the Around Blandford Forum publication to inform residents of news/events, which not only reduces the amount of paper we use but also supports a 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.



October 2021

- A clear External Audit was received.

November 2021

- Various Acts of Remembrance were held including a special centenary event rededicating the war memorial tablets on the Town Hall façade, attended by Peter Snow CBE (pictured).
- The Town Council contributed towards the CCTV system at the Football Club.
- The Mayor held a charity 'Last Night of The Proms' event in the Corn Exchange.
- Expenditure was approved for the purchase of Jack Counter VC replica medals, that have since been received and mounted for display purposes.



December 2021

- Small Christmas trees and lighting columns were lit up throughout the town centre and shops and businesses contributed to the costs.
- The Christmas Window Competition was held and Woodhouse Gardens was lit up for the second time!
- The following three year service level agreements were approved for 2022-2025:
 - Citizens Advice Dorset at £5,000 a year
 - Blandford Food Bank at £5,000 a year
 - Blandford Boxing Club at £15,000 in year one, £2,500 in years two and three
 - Fashion Museum at £2,500 a year
 - Information Centre at £2,000 a year
 - Town Museum continued at £2,000 a year
 - TREADS at £2,000 a year
 - Blandford Stour Valley Band at £1,500 a year (service provision agreement)
- A Green Grant of £345 was approved for Blandford Environmental Trust.
- Expenditure was approved for a bespoke design and purchase of a memorial bench, at the Marsh & Ham, to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This was match funded by National Lottery funding.



January 2022

- The Town Council contributes £1,500 to the Orienteering Project.
- A grant of £250 was approved for Creative Expression.

February 2022

- Expenditure of £3,819.20 was approved for the summer bedding around the town.
- The toilet cleaning contract was renewed for the Marsh & Ham toilets.
- Expenditure of £1,750 was approved for the Skatefest scheduled for 21st August 2022.
- A defibrillator has been purchased for the Corn Exchange Lobby at a cost of £1,215.

March 2022

- The Commonwealth Day flag was raised at the Corn Exchange.
- A tree was planted in Woodhouse Gardens as part of The Queen's Green Canopy scheme for the Platinum Jubilee year.
- Grants were approved for Blandford Cricket Club (£833), Blandford & District Branch, RBL (£150), Blandford Literary Festival (£100) and Knees Up Healthy Living (£1,500)
- Insurance costs of £13,622.28 were approved for 2022/23.
- £100 was spent on wildflower seeds to be given out to residents in return for photos of their blooms, to encourage more wildflower areas to be created.



April 2022

- The council agreed to purchase 50 x hedgehog highways (pictured) to give out to residents.

Contact Your Councillors

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

WARD	TOWN COUNCILLOR	ADDRESS	TEL NO	DORSET CLLR TEL NO
CENTRAL	Roger Carter	2 Greenhill, DT11 7TX	07805 242691	Nocturin Lacey-Clarke 07815 951095
	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	
HILLTOP	Byron Quayle	16 Alexandra Street, DT11 7QP	07843 616343	Byron Quayle 07843 616343
	Alan Cross	15 Manor Farm Close, Pimperne, DT11 8XL	01258 452849	
	Haydn White	79 Salisbury Road, DT11 7LP	01258 453666	
LANGTON ST LEONARDS	Hugo Mieville	4 Albert Street, DT11 7HY	01258 480366	Byron Quayle 07843 616343
	Cathy Jacques	64 Diamond Way, DT11 7WD	07756 856018	
	Colin R Stevens	16 Andrew Close, DT11 7PG	01258 453955	
OLD TOWN	Kaylee Herbert	5 Signals Avenue, DT11 7XR	07745 673631	Byron Quayle 07843 616343
	Peter Clark	7 River Mews, DT11 7AX	01258 480303	
BADBURY HEIGHTS	Nocturin Lacey-Clarke	5 Dorset Street, DT11 7RG	07815 951095	Byron Quayle 07843 616343
	Emily Bray	Delwood, Stour Road, DT11 7ER	07930 271440	
	Lee S Hitchings	9 Willow Park, Pimperne, DT11 8UB	07917 863531	

Rare glimpse into the original Corn Exchange interior

As more detailed work takes place on proposals to repair and improve the Corn Exchange, some of the low-level modern plywood panelling has been removed and offered a rare glimpse of the original decorative scheme.

As part of the project, emerging proposals seek to repair and restore some of the original historic features of the building and bring back some of the original beauty of this fantastic building. As part of this, the team behind the project were keen to understand what was behind the plywood panelling that runs all the way around the walls of the Corn Exchange, how much of the original tiled scheme remains and what condition it is in having only seen tantalising glimpses behind the radiator vents and two historic photographs.

The maintenance team at the Town Council carefully removed a series of demountable panels and the design team visited a few weeks ago to inspect. Everyone was thrilled to see that the majority of the Victorian Faience Tiling was still in place and mostly in very good condition. The tiles were a beautiful combination of earthy greens, browns and reds with repeating patterns and panels. The uncovering also revealed two large fireplaces either side of the hall though sadly the surrounds have been removed and the fireplaces blocked up. Perhaps most exciting and intriguing is a repeating tile showing a female portrait in relief which we hope to find out more about in the future.

The conclusion of the exercise suggests that there is a high-quality interior scheme behind the panelling and that it is largely in-tact. Whilst uncovering will bring back some of the history and beauty of the space it could also create challenges with acoustics that will need to be carefully considered and addressed to make sure the Corn Exchange is fully fit for purpose.

Building on this exercise, the Town Council is keen to collate any historic images of the interior of the Corn Exchange and other parts of the building that people may have. The team behind the project want to understand more about previous decorative schemes and, in particular, the design of the fireplaces which were removed many years ago. If you have any images from parties, pantos, events or any other activity within the Corn Exchange from pre-1973 we would love to hear from you, so please get in touch via admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk.



I look back on this year and, despite all the challenges of learning how to live with Covid, I have been immensely proud of this town and how its community has pulled together to get businesses and local groups back open and flourishing. It has been a difficult time for all over the last two years, however our younger people have suffered the greatest and I praise the work of the organisations such as Treads, the Scouts, Guides, Brownies, St John Ambulance youth and the Youth Centre who have continued to support our young people.

Citizen's Advice and Blandford Food Bank have been under increasing pressure and have supported the most in need of our community and, as the cost of living crisis deepens, their support is going to be more crucial than ever before.

As a Town Council, we have worked hard to continue to provide services this year, support local businesses, our hirers and residents and we have continued to work on our projects too.



L. Hitchings

Councillor Lee Hitchings
Chairman of Council and Town Mayor 2021/22

Cllr L Hitchings raised £3,000 for his chosen charity; The Blandford Gymnastic Club, during his Mayoral year.

The incoming Chairman of Council and Mayor of Blandford Forum for the year 2022/2023 is Cllr Colin Stevens. The Mayor's chosen charities for the year are The Blandford Opportunity Group and Marie Curie. The Mayor's Chaplain is Reverend Chris Beaumont from the Blandford Forum Parish Church.

The Vice Chairman of Council and Deputy Mayor of Blandford Forum is Cllr Hugo Mieville (pictured right in the adjacent photograph, with Cllr Colin Stevens on the left in the Mayor's Chair).



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 including your full name and a phone number by 31st August 2022. 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 2021 (pictured right) was taken by resident, Rob Young.



Blandford Forum Calendar 2023

For the fifth year running, the Town Council is creating a calendar to raise money for the Mayor's charity. The theme for the 2023 calendar is 'Photos of Blandford through the eyes of a young person' to showcase some of the fantastic young photographers out there! We would love to receive photos from **young people under the age of 18** to be included in the calendar. Please email them to admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk by 31st August 2022. The calendars will be available to purchase from the Town Clerk's Office at £5 each later in the year. The calendar from 2022 with the theme 'Historical Buildings in Blandford Forum' is pictured.

