



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Motion for the Ocean

This Town Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery. Members of the council recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

We also recognise that inland communities, like our own, have an important role to play in ocean recovery through acting as the custodians of the rivers, waterways and tributaries that run through our towns and villages on their way to the sea.

The Town Council therefore pledges to:

1. Report to Full Council within 6-12 months on the actions and projects that will contribute to protection and recovery of the River Stour and its tributaries and the nature and wildlife that they support within the Blandford Forum Town Council area. Please note that tributaries are included in the actions even if not stated in the subsequent pledges.
2. Embed protection and recovery of the River Stour in all strategic decisions, plans, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning and regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements, and considering ocean-based and river-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Ensure that local planning recommendations support ocean recovery by embedding the protection and recovery of the River Stour in the Neighbourhood Plan at the earliest opportunity.
4. Ensure that the Town Council's Climate Change and Biodiversity Plan strives to support ocean recovery through a focus on the protection and recovery of the River Stour.
5. Work in partnership with other Town and Parish Councils along the Stour and local community groups, clubs and other organisations that have a recreational, economic or other interest in its protection and recovery.
6. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in Blandford Forum, including:
 - a) Ensuring primary school aged children in Blandford Forum are encouraged to engage with the River Stour first-hand - striving to include home-schooled children;
 - b) Promote sustainable and equitable access to the River Stour through physical and digital experiences for all residents.
 - c) Through these actions, embed understanding of the 'source to sea' approach and how all people, wherever they live, impact and are impacted by ocean health.

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

7. Use the Town Council website and other communications channels to update on the River Stour recovery progress and signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities and marine citizenship pledges.
8. Encourage Dorset Council to introduce filters to their drains, to prevent items from polluting the county's rivers and tributaries.
9. Lobby the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
 - a) Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
 - b) Work with coastal communities to co-develop marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.
 - c) Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
 - d) Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
 - e) And by listening to marine and social scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
 - i. Enable the recovery of marine and river ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine and river conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean and river recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

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