



# 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 in the **Corn Exchange**, Market Place, Blandford Forum on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00 pm** to consider the following items. This meeting will also be available to view online using Microsoft Teams [using this link](#).

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## **A G E N D A**

Prior to consideration of the following Agenda, there will be a democratic quarter of an hour, which may be extended at the discretion of the Council, during which time members of the public may speak. During the course of the meeting, members of the public and our elected representatives from the Dorset Council may indicate they wish to speak, and, at the discretion of the Chairman, and with the approval of the Members, they may be allowed to do so on points of information only. The Council may on occasion invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where points of information or their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Council.

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. Disabled access is available.

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

1. Public Session
2. Report from Dorset Council Councillors
3. Apologies
4. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
5. [Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023](#)
6. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)
7. Civic Report (to follow)
8. Recommendations and Receipt of Minutes  
None
9. [To approve expenditure for the planters and bedding](#)

10. [To approve expenditure for the toilet cleaning contract for 2023/2024](#)
11. [To consider expenditure authority for IT proposals](#)
12. [To consider adding two more CCTV camera locations in the town](#)
13. [To consider a proposal for a memorial bench for Freeman, Dr Michael Le Bas](#)
14. [To consider responding to the DLUHC National Planning Policy Framework Consultation](#)
15. [To consider a submission to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Deer Park Planning Application Appeal](#)
16. To receive an update on the Town Council's Plan (sent separately to Councillors)
17. To receive an update and consider any requests from the:
  - 17.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +
  - 17.2 BFTC Commemoration Group
  - 17.3 Climate Change & Biodiversity
  - 17.4 Dorset Council Grant to support the Market Area Enhancement Project
  - 17.5 [The King's Coronation Working Group](#)
18. 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)

### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

27 <sup>th</sup> February	Corn Exchange Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Planning Meeting
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Town & General Purposes Committee Meeting
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Town Council Meeting

**Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are available from Blandford Library, the Town Clerk's Office and at [www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk](http://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk)**

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



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Dorset DT11 7AD



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## Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence

**Market Transfer from Dorset Council** – An email was received from a senior solicitor at Dorset Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 to advise that their senior colleague is now looking at the document as amended and they hope to have a draft to send out to the Town Council in the next few weeks. The Town Council has been awaiting, and pursuing, the transfer of the market from NDDC/DC since taking on the service in 2016.

**Planter Sponsorship** – The Mayor's Assistant has distributed renewal letters to everyone who sponsored a planter last year.

**Remembrance Road Closure** – The Mayor's Assistant has submitted the road closure application, which includes consultation with local organisations.

**Dorset Armed Forces Covenant Conference** – The Town Clerk will be attending the first Dorset Armed Forces Covenant Conference, which is being held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the Bovington Tank Museum from 6pm to 10pm. There will be talks and a facilitated session, as well as an update on the Armed Forces Covenant legislation and work of the Dorset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership. The focus of the facilitated session will be to look at future shared or individual actions to embed the Covenant locally and ensure the Armed Forces community is supported. There will also be a number of exhibitors. As numbers are limited to 100 attendees, they have invited just a few parish/town councils that have an obvious connection to the Armed Forces (Weymouth, Wareham, Swanage, Wool and Blandford Forum) as well as Neil Wedge at the DAPTC. Other invitees include Blandford Garrison, Dorset Council, Ministry of Defence, Dorset Healthcare, Op Courage, several Armed Forces charities, other community organisations, and welfare officers.

**Residents with IT Issues** – An 80-year-old housebound resident called the office seeking help with sending an image to his pharmacist. Unable to resolve the issues over the phone, the Town Clerk and Operations Manager visited the resident and were able to help him. As a result, the Town Clerk has spoken with the Digital Dorset team, who recommended the charity Ability Net. Should Councillors be aware of vulnerable residents, requiring IT guidance, the Digital Hotline for enquiries or to book a Volunteer Digital Champion session is 01305 221048.

**App for Town Trail** – Following the Chairman raising the trail app at a meeting with other councils in North Dorset and Visit Dorset, the Town Clerk has arranged a meeting with the Chairman, Visit Dorset Tourism Manager, the Business Support Officer, and representatives from the Information Centre and Town Museum. The Tourism Manager has suggested partnership working to create an online platform for Blandford Forum, which would be free of charge. It isn't an app, but will be available online for people to view and use, with photographs, history, town trail and a map.

## To approve expenditure for the planters and bedding

### **Background**

Last year quotes were sought from several companies for the summer bedding and planters and those proved to be substantially higher than our current supplier. In addition, the quality of the plants we receive is excellent.

### **Report**

A quote has been sought from our current supplier for this year's requirements and although this is approximately £600.00 higher than last year, we have increased the size of the order due to the new planters. In addition to this it appears that there has been a large percentage increase nationally in the cost of the plants and compost and the heating costs of the greenhouses.

### **Financial Implications**

The quote for this year's planters and bedding is £4422.40 +VAT, (last year it was £3,819.20+VAT).

As mentioned earlier in the report this is due to rising prices and the fact that we have increased the overall order because of the larger planters.

### **Additional Information**

There is no proposed increase in planter sponsorship this year, because of an increase last year.

In 2022, as part of the Welcome Back Fund, we received eight hanging baskets, half barrel and full barrel planters.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Councillors approve the expenditure for the planters and bedding of £4422.40 + VAT using funds from the Planters budget line (6200) (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

Jon Goodenough  
Operations Manager  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

## **To approve expenditure for the toilet cleaning contract for 2023/2024**

The lease for the Marsh & Ham toilet block (including the Information Centre) with, originally, North Dorset District Council (now the Dorset Council) expired in 2016.

Since that time the toilet cleaning contract has only been offered on a one-year basis until such time as the future of the public toilets in the Marsh and Ham car park is confirmed.

The toilet cleaning contract expires on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and the current contractor has quoted for £8347.68, which represents a 2% increase from 22/23.

The financial regulations state that for expenditure below £25,000 but above £5,000 three quotations will be obtained, where possible. As we know from previous experience on tenders for this facility this local company provides a very competitive quote and a good service and have always been flexible with extra cleans etc.

Despite the ongoing issue with the uncertainty of the future of the toilet block, officers felt that other quotes should regularly be sought to ensure we are getting value for money and this was carried out last year which showed that the current cleaners were £5000.00 cheaper than their nearest competitor.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Town Council renews the cleaning contract with the existing contractor for a period of one year only, using funds of £8347.68 from budget line 6650 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

Jon Goodenough  
Operations Manager  
26th January 2023

## To consider expenditure authority for IT proposals

A health check was carried out by the Town Council's IT contractor on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and a report followed with a number of recommendations. Due to the high volume of recommendations, the Town Clerk held a meeting with the contractor and the Mayor's Assistant. The list was subsequently reduced to the following items, which are considered important to the health of the council's IT systems.

### Cloud/Server

Migration of cloud and disposal of the server due to Microsoft making the server end of life:  
Sage 50 - This will need to move onto a master PC with Cloudberry to back this up or you move to Sage Cloud

Sage Payroll data can be moved to SharePoint

PCs - 13 devices to be migrated to Azure AD

24 Users

Setup Multifactor Authentication

273GB data

Google Chrome accounts would need to be migrated.

Total days estimated for work is 7 days engineering time.

£700 x 7 days = £4900

This is required by October 2023, and will be ideal timing for the relocation to the Legion.

### Monthly Costs

Office 365 backup is £3.50 per user per month

Backup Sage shared out from a master PC via Cloudberry – 20p per GB per month

### Hardware Support on Server

The hardware support on our server is due for renewal next month and the contractor is asking if the council would like this renewed. It is for the server referred to above, but as the migration won't happen until later on this year, the contractor has advised that it would be a good idea to keep the additional coverage going until that happens.

ML150 G9 Server Hardware Support - M-F 9-5 8-hr response for 1 year £365

### Support against email compromise/phishing/spoofing

DKIM/DMARC takes half a day of time for installation and testing.

### Spam Emails

Anti-spam is £4.50 per user per month and takes a half a day to install. This is recommended due to the amount of spam received.

For project work, like DKIM/DMARC and Anti-spam, it needs to be billed separately and cannot come from our pre-paid time.

In addition, a HP Laptop with Core i5, 8GB RAM and 256GB SSD, 15.6" screen and Win 11 Pro was purchased at a cost of £635 for the Bookings Receptionist because this wasn't replaced during 2020/22 when the other laptops were purchased.

It is recommended that the Town Council approves the recommended works to the IT systems, using funds from budget line 4040, which excludes the monthly costs (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## To consider adding two more CCTV camera locations in the town

### Report

The Town Council has received a request from the Police to add to the existing CCTV cameras in the town. They would like to have two more cameras fitted to enhance the coverage to the centre of the town. This is in part due to an increase in anti-social behaviour and a break in at a local cycling shop, particularly in areas not currently covered by CCTV.

The Police would like the cameras in the following locations:

The King's Arms – looking down towards the Iceland camera and up Whitecliff Mill Street

Badger Cross – looking down towards Salisbury Street/town centre.

If Councillors approve the two new cameras then we will need to approach the owners of the buildings to seek authority to install them.

### Financial Implications

We have asked for a quote from the contractor who installed and maintains the current cameras. Their quote is detailed below:

3 pairs Genie data bridges (6 units) & POE injectors  
3 x external enclosures & pole clamps, leads and plugs.  
2 x Hik Vision IP PTZ domes & pole clamps  
Labour  
Access equipment

For the sum of £ 4,420.00 + VAT

There will also be an extra cost of £200.00 each for the three power points we would need to have installed: Total £600.00

There is the possibility of approaching different contractors, however this would take a lot longer to manage due to the complexity of switching contractors with a system like ours and may require starting from scratch.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider the request and if approved, authorise expenditure authority of £5100.00 using funds from the CCTV new equipment budget line 1175 which has a balance of £14,161.40 (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

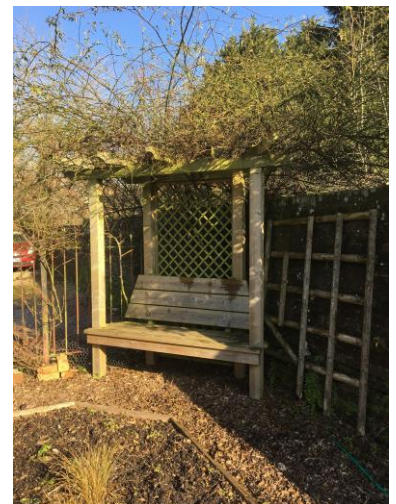
Jon Goodenough  
Operations Manager  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

## To consider a proposal for a memorial bench for Freeman, Dr Michael Le Bas

At the last council meeting, the following was resolved:

**The Town Council purchases one of the bench designs at approximately £950 + VAT + delivery and approves the proposed location of the Victorian Garden, awaiting confirmation from the Town Museum, using funds from budget line 1042 New Benches (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).**

The Victorian Garden group has welcomed the addition of a bench and thanked *'the Town Councillors for this marvellous offer and wonderful way of remembering Michael, who actually loved the garden and came to most events! He was very supportive of our activities and loved the home made produce. Whilst we appreciate your research and ideas of benches, we wonder if it is at all possible to use a local craftsman who, as you can see from the photos has made an arbour for us. We have asked him to construct a similar one to match on the other side of the garden, but with a boxed seat that has storage. The maker is a local man is based in Spetisbury. He would produce a bench in keeping with our other wooden constructions and sympathetic to our environment. A plaque could then be attached to it. We were also wondering about the paving stones that have been lifted from the town centre and whether there are any available for it to stand on? That would give a really nice touch to that corner as Michael was an ardent and active member of the Civic Society.'*



The quote is as follows:

Garden seat: Construct a 2–3 seater garden corner bench to match existing bench previously supplied. Bench to have the addition of a lockable storage box underneath the seat, bench to be constructed using smooth treated timber and secured into the ground with concrete. Built with 4 main support posts with a pergola style top and a diamond trellis back. Materials & labour Total: £595.00

The volunteers have been directed to the Dorset Council Councillors regarding the request for the paving stones.

It is recommended that the Town Council approves the proposed design using funds of £595, plus the cost of the plaque, from budget line 1042 New Benches (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence Localism Act 2011 s1-8).

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2023



## To consider responding to the DLUHC National Planning Policy Framework Consultation

Both NALC and the DAPTC are encouraging councils to consider responding to the NPPF consultation: [DLUHC National Planning Policy Framework Consultation](#). The deadline for responding online is 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. NALC has provided a copy of its draft response, below, which may help parishes and town councils finalise their submissions.

### PR2-23 | LEVELLING UP AND REGENERATION BILL REFORMS TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

#### Introduction

We are writing in response to the government's consultation on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is the national membership body that works with the 43 county associations of local councils to represent and support England's 10,000 local (parish and town) councils. Local councils and their 100,000 councillors are the first tier of local government, closest to the people, and play an essential part in delivering hyper local services, building strong communities, and strengthening social fabric. Local councils cover two thirds of England and a third of the population and invest over £3 billion per year to improve and strengthen communities.

#### Summary

NALC concurs with the position of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in its expressed hopes in respect of reforms to the planning system. In updating the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) the government's priorities should include:

- Climate/Environment: Providing a suitable framework to meet the UK's climate and environmental commitments, including through design codes, local environment improvement plans and other mechanisms to check that net zero targets are being met with appropriate action.
- Plans: Giving more weight to land allocation in Local Plans\* when taking decisions.
- Devolution: Devolving accountability for planning with greater freedoms in areas that want to innovate and experiment with planning policy to find out what works for them;
- Infrastructure: Better integration of plan making with energy, transport and other infrastructure provision to support better connected / more sustainable development.

\* We would also add the rider to that second bullet point 'and Neighbourhood Plans'.

- In addition, NALC endorses the thrust of 'Mission Zero', the independent review of the government's approach to delivering its net zero target which was led by the Rt. Hon Chris Skidmore MP and published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in January 2023. Although we do not support the specific recommendations in relation to onshore wind energy and solar energy, (many local [parish and town] councils are opposed to onshore wind turbines and we would prefer to see solar panels largely confined to rooftops), we endorse the report's proposal that there should be a 'net zero test' to ensure that planning is fully aligned with a net zero future. We also support Skidmore's call for greater clarity on when areas can exceed national standards, for guidance on local area energy planning and the creation of 'net zero' neighbourhood plans, plus the following recommendations:

- Backing local action, including reforming the planning system to put net zero at its heart nationally and locally, and backing at least one Trailblazer Net Zero City (ideally led by a local council), local authority and community that can work towards reaching net zero by 2030.

- Delivering energy efficient homes, including legislating for the Future Homes Standard so that no new homes will be built with a gas boiler from 2025, adopting a 10-year mission to make heat pumps a widespread technology in the UK.
- Using infrastructure to unlock net zero, including developing a cross-sectoral infrastructure strategy by 2025 to support the building and adaptation of new green energy sources such as hydrogen to support the green economy.
- NALC is arguing for the complete removal of the whole concept of Neighbourhood Development Management Policies (NDMPs) which are seen as a Trojan Horse phenomenon to unjustly trump any local or neighbourhood plan.
- NALC supports the whole concept of neighbourhood plans and thinks that they provide an excellent bridge between local councils, planning authorities and developers. We believe that neighbourhood planning should be strengthened for greater funding and powers for local councils as 90% or so of neighbourhood plans are managed by local councils.
- In October 2020 NALC included the below overarching planning policy statement in its response to the three main Planning White Paper consultations launched that summer – these positions still hold true in response to this consultation:
  1. NALC has signed up to the proposition that there is a climate emergency and will therefore, as a general principle, promote and support moves and policies which help to mitigate it. For instance, NALC supports the need for Local Plans and large developments to be subject to environmental appraisals and it supports energy efficient homes and more trees.
  2. NALC will support a planning system which incorporates a significant role for local (parish and town) councils. It will not support any diminution of local councils' statutory right to comment on planning issues at all stages of their evolution, whether they be development planning matters or spatial planning policies.
  3. NALC will support a soundly based planning system which represents the most reliable tool for the sustainable allocation of land and which represents the three pillars of sustainability equally, i.e. social, economic and environmental factors.
  4. NALC will support changes to the planning system which it perceives will strengthen the system and the voice of democracy and lead to better quality, appropriately sited developments. It will not support planning changes which it perceives will work in the opposite direction.
  5. NALC would support a very much strengthened version of the 'duty to co-operate' between neighbouring local authorities or an alternative policy which made it compulsory for neighbouring LAs to work in close co-operation with each other on spatial planning.
  6. NALC does not support an across-the-board extension of permitted development rights in the planning system. Policies on permitted development rights should be the prerogative of LAs in their Local Plans or Neighbourhood Planning Groups.
  7. NALC supports the recommendations of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission.
  8. NALC recognises the need for more affordable housing and would welcome initiatives that would enable LAs and local councils to deliver some. In addition, NALC would like to see more housing delivered that is suitable for the disabled and those with mobility impairments and also a range of different types of tenures facilitated.
  9. NALC wants to see a fair infrastructure levy system which gives local councils a voice and benefits them financially so that they in turn can deliver more for their local communities.
  10. NALC has concerns about housing tests based on standard methodologies/ algorithms. It wants to see a planning system which recognises that every planning application and every location is different.

## To consider a submission to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Deer Park Planning Application Appeal

The Town Council made the following resolution at the Town Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022:

### Minute No. 48. PLANNING MATTERS – New Planning Applications

P/FUL/2022/03963 – 11th July – Bryanston (RFE) Ltd and The Rothermere Foundation – Land at E3882210 N106645 Deer Park Road

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Holmes and AGREED unanimously that

### **The Town Council objects to the application and submits the following statement:**

1. From Blandford CA appraisal 2019 (NDDC/DC)

3.8.3. *'The Crown Meadows (and Bryanston Park) are of vital importance in preserving the undeveloped setting of the town of Blandford and for enabling understanding its historic development. It forms part of the green undeveloped edge to the west of the town and lies within the Blandford, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston Conservation Area. It has two levels of interest; the first is its historical development and interest in its own right, the second in terms of its quality and role in providing a setting for the adjacent historic town of Blandford, Blandford St. Mary and a series of other grouped and individual heritage assets.'*

From Heritage assessment (NDDC 2014 concerning an application extant at that time but still, we believe, relevant in this case)

7.200'....., *although 20th century development has left the group less isolated than when constructed during the 19th century, the buildings still maintain a degree of isolation from the historic town and depict the 19th century development of the Deer Park and town generally. The group still relies upon the open Deer Park landscape for their setting and reinforcement of their role within the landscape and town's history.*

BFTC also refers to policies 7.202 and 7.205, which further expand on this.

From the NPPF 2021: the following policies have relevance in this case:

189. *'Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance... These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.'*<sup>7</sup>

190. *Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.*

The NPPF encourages good design as part of the wider remit for sustainable development. It states that the creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve (paragraph 126) and seeks to ensure that developments are sympathetic to local character and are visually attractive (paragraphs 127). Paragraph 127 seeks to ensure that developments, among others: *"are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping; and are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change"*.

Paragraph 130 further discusses the importance of developments being visually attractive:

*"Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:*

a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; (BFTC notes that there is no reference to the longevity or otherwise of the developments in question, relevant in this case)

b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, (and) layout

*NDDC LP 2016 Policy 24 Design: [states that] ‘...all developments improve the character and quality of the area in which they are located’ and... A place with character exhibits positive, special and unique qualities that people can easily appreciate, giving it its own identity. In places that already have a positive image or character, the design of new development should respond to and reinforce locally distinctive patterns of development, landscape and culture. In places where positive elements are lacking, proposals should seek to create a distinctive and coherent sense of place through the use of intelligent and imaginative design solutions.*

These national and county policies are reflected locally in the B+ NP (2021)

Policy B14 – (The River Stour Meadows) States that:

*‘...development proposals will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that they will sustain and enhance the character and appearance of the River Stour Meadow and they will secure an opportunity for public access and enjoyment to the River Stour Meadows or where they are intended to replace a detrimental feature.*

*‘Proposals including proposed changes of use that are likely to have an adverse impact on the character or appearance of the meadows or harm views towards or from Blandford Forum or ‘The Cliff’ will not be supported.’*

The site is within the Bryanston and Blandford St. Mary conservation areas and in very close proximity to the Blandford Conservation area, therefore the design policies of B+ NP (2021) B11, B12 and B13 also apply. Relevant elements of these are:

*‘Proposals within or affecting the setting of the Conservation Area, must sustain and enhance its character and appearance and should demonstrate:*

*i. consistently high standard of design and detailing reflecting the scale and character, [of the area]*

*ii. the use of building materials and finishes which are sympathetic to the area, (B12)*

*iii. no harmful impact on the townscape and roofscape’* (again, the longevity of the development is not in question).

BFTC does not accept the applicant’s contention from the *Planning statement* (4.2 and 4.3) that the permission given in 2/2016/0892/OUT for two partially subterranean eco homes to the east of the proposed site is relevant to the current application. In particular BFTC does not agree that: [the] *‘guiding principle [for these two buildings] has been recognised in the design process of the proposed development at Deer Park Farm, with the design ensuring the proposal’s scale, siting and location minimises its effect on the landscape.’* There is little comparison to be made between 40 mobile homes and two eco houses in a less visible part of the site.

In summary, the proposed placement of up to 40 mobile homes would form an unsightly and unwelcome intrusion in this environmentally and historically sensitive site, even on a temporary, basis and would do significant harm to the setting and character of all three conservation areas, and therefore runs contrary to all of the above policies.

2. BFTC is also opposed to the application on grounds of exception to meet an urgent National and Local need.

The site is outside of the settlement boundary of Blandford Forum, and is therefore classed as the *‘countryside’*, defined in the adopted Local Plan as: *“Land outside of the settlement boundaries for the towns and larger villages identified in Local Plan Part 1”*. (NDDC LP 2016)

The relevant Local Plan Policy is *‘20. Countryside’*; the overriding thrust of which is restraint. *Policy 20 states: Development in the countryside outside defined settlement boundaries will only be permitted if:*

*a. it is of a type appropriate in the countryside, as set out in the relevant policies of the Local Plan, summarised in Figure 8.5; or*

*b. for any other type of development, it can be demonstrated that there is an ‘overriding need’ for it to be located in the countryside.*

Other than quoting national refugee statistics, supposition and at best, and anecdotal evidence of need for this type of development, the applicant has not demonstrated that there is an ‘overriding need’ locally, nor does this application demonstrate a local need for rural exception affordable housing; in any event, it is not applicable on this site adjacent to Blandford Forum’s settlement boundary (Policy 9 of the adopted Local Plan is engaged and applies).

It is therefore the contention of BFTC that none of these types of development are relevant to this application and therefore the test of exception is not met with this proposal.

3. Another NP policy engaged and of relevance and concern to BFTC and local residents is Policy B7 Health and the applicant has not demonstrated how this will be achieved:





*‘all residential proposals will only be permitted where they provide...the delivery of essential health and or wellbeing facilities and services required to serve the scale of the development proposed’.*

4. Finally, whilst accepting the possible need for more temporary accommodation for refugees in the local area, BFTC is opposed to the development on the grounds of appropriateness of this type of development, which we believe is a material consideration in this, for the identified group of refugees, or indeed any refugees. The applicant offers no evidence other than, again, supposition or anecdotal, that this type of development would be acceptable to the identified group. Whilst we welcome the desire of the applicant to provide accommodation for refugees, the creation of a semi-isolated and self-contained mobile home park on the fringe of Blandford, would possibly lead to an increased sense of isolation and alienation of the identified group.

Furthermore, as confirmed by the Leader of Dorset Council and the portfolio holder for Culture, Customer & Community on 14th July 2022, stated that such a policy supporting this kind of development does not exist within Dorset Council and is not part of the government’s plan to bring Ukrainians into communities.

## The King's Coronation Working Group

The first working group meeting was held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, with a further meeting taking place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. The list of events is shown below for information and Councillors are asked to approve the inclusion of a treasure hunt and window competition, determining if expenditure should come from the original budget of £2,500. As the working group has discussed members of the Yuletide Festival Committee holding a larger live music event with stalls at a location in the town, this will also incur additional costs. A grant application has been made to Awards for All for the Sunday Big Lunch event.

HM KING CHARLES III - CORONATION EVENTS - 5-8 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023				
DATE	EVENT	VENUE	DETAILS	ACTIONS
February / March 2023	School involvement with designs for decorations	Corn Exchange / banners for barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per Jubilee events (when paper plates decorated the Corn Exchange, designed by children across the local schools)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff to approach school network with details and deadline</li> <li>Suggest each child designs a bunting triangle (pictured)</li> </ul> 
	Dedicated website page	Town Council website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include all events, as well as other groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff to set up ASAP</li> </ul>
April 2023	Newsletter	Town-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a newsletter for all properties detailing events and include activities from other groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff to collate and send for printing</li> <li>Book collection and distribution through Royal Mail</li> <li>Royal Mail require 4-6 weeks notice of collection/distribution date</li> </ul>
	Window Competition	Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per Christmas and QPJ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek council authority for expenditure approval</li> <li>Staff to create newsletter for all shops/businesses in town centre</li> </ul>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	King's Concert – Proms Night	Corn Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doors 7pm</li> <li>Starts 7:30pm</li> <li>Ends at 9:30pm-10pm</li> <li>Free entry</li> <li>Tickets available online or office</li> <li>Traditional Proms Night</li> <li>Mayor's Charity run kitchen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSVB already confirmed</li> <li>Possibly source singers as performance acts but liaise with BSVB (needs to be different to previous events, most recently February 11<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>Create tickets/source event for link, Facebook event, posters</li> <li>Risk assessment</li> <li>Mayor's Charity to confirm kitchen cover</li> <li>Discuss with caretakers</li> <li>Staff or cllrs to coordinate on the evening</li> <li>Purchase Union flags (should have plenty because of Tour of Britain)</li> <li>Decorate Corn Exchange with bunting and slide show of King for TV screen</li> <li>Staff to liaise with BSVB and Sam James after the 11<sup>th</sup> February event</li> </ul>
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 National event	Coronation of HM King Charles III	n/a	Televised	n/a
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	<p>Coronation Big Lunch Community Event</p> <p><i>Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches on Sunday 7th May 2023, in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship. From a cup of tea with a neighbour to a street party, a Coronation Big Lunch brings the celebrations to your neighbourhood and is a great way to get to know your community a little better.</i></p>	Corn Exchange and market area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doors at 12pm</li> <li>Ends at 5pm</li> <li>Community event inside the Corn Exchange</li> <li>Tables/chairs within barrier area outside Town Hall</li> <li>Encourage people to bring a picnic</li> <li>Layout hall with two long rows with seating</li> <li>Suggested activities arranged for the day are:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music that people can sing along to</li> <li>Fancy dress competition</li> <li>Crafts for children</li> <li>Royal themed quiz</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email Anita at Dorset Council re free parking days</li> <li>Seek permission from Dorset Council to close the Market Place car park and barrier off the area.</li> <li>Risk assessment</li> <li>Advertise event on social media, posters, Around Blandford guide, paid promotion.</li> <li>Requires staffing for clearing parking area, barrier off area, set up and coordination throughout the day.</li> <li>Inform insurance company</li> <li>Ask Bethelbridge to run the kitchen (cream teas, sandwiches, etc.)</li> <li>Invite In Jolly Good Company group, WI, residential homes, etc.</li> <li>Purchase craft items (pictured)</li> </ul>  
<b>Other Related Events:</b>	Live Music Event	Outdoors (town centre or Arches or Marsh & Ham)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food stalls</li> <li>Stage for live music</li> <li>Toilets</li> <li>Barriers</li> <li>Road closure / marshalls</li> <li>Locations being considered but if held in town centre, the road closure will be as per the following rough layout:</li> </ul> 	To be organised by the Yuletide Festival Committee
	Fair / Fairground rides	Crown Meadows	n/a	Cllr Stevens to arrange
	National event – Coronation Concert	Windsor Castle	Televised	n/a
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	The Big Help Out <a href="https://thebighelpout.org.uk/">https://thebighelpout.org.uk/</a>	Corn Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank Holiday</li> <li>Free parking</li> <li>Expo-style event with a focus on volunteering in line with the theme from Buckingham Palace – The Big Help Out</li> <li>Doors at 9am for stallholders</li> <li>Event starts at 10am</li> <li>Event ends at 1pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email Dorset Council re free parking days</li> <li>Target volunteer organisations asking if they would like a table to promote their organisation and aim to recruit volunteers.</li> <li>Community Fridge, Food Bank, Museums, charity shops, Health Champions (surgery) and other local groups and organisations – please submit suggestions to Julie (<a href="mailto:cc@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk">cc@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk</a>)</li> <li>Register the event here: <a href="https://bighelpout.typeform.com/Formonprofits?typeform-source=thebighelpout.org.uk">https://bighelpout.typeform.com/Formonprofits?typeform-source=thebighelpout.org.uk</a></li> <li>Promote event as above</li> <li>Mayor's Charity to run the kitchen</li> </ul>
Treasure Hunt & Face Painting	Woodhouse Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per QPJ treasure hunt</li> <li>Free to enter</li> <li>Possibility of free gift if House of Sarunds will support or source suitable prize</li> <li>Event starts at 10am</li> <li>Event ends at 1pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer local group the opportunity to run the kitchen (e.g. Community Kitchen)</li> <li>Ask players to visit the Corn Exchange to receive their prize, to encourage people into the venue</li> <li>Staff to contact House of Sarunds for possible sponsorship of event</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Related Events:</b>	Town Museum Volunteering Drive	Town Museum	Coffee and cakes, a white elephant stall and a show and tell stall for coronation souvenirs, as well as telling the public about the myriad of opportunities to volunteer at the museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include in publicity for The Big Help Out</li> </ul>
	Clean-Up Blandford Campaign Litter Pick	Town Centre	Organised by Yvonne and Hugo Mieville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include in publicity for The Big Help Out</li> </ul>
Inform local groups of the opportunity to submit their activities for inclusion in website and newsletter.				



## Window Competition

A window competition was run for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend and the following draft poster is based on the same format. Councillors are asked to consider expenditure for this competition and to confirm the judging panel.



**BLANDFORD FORUM  
TOWN COUNCIL**

*The Coronation  
of His Majesty The King  
Window Competition*



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £150**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £100**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £50**

**Charity/not for profit organisation - £50 to the charity**

**The judging will take place over the  
weekend of 5th - 8th May 2023. The judging panel will consist of ??????**

## Treasure Hunt

Staff can edit the files from the Platinum Jubilee celebrations to create a new treasure hunt to be held at Woodhouse Gardens on the Monday.

Linda Scott-Giles  
Town Clerk  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2023