



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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Councillor Attendance at Meetings (May 2018 – April 2019)

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
Roger Carter	42	43	Lynn Lindsay	37	39
Steve Hitchings	42	39	Byron Quayle	38	36
Dianne Robinson	32	40	Hugo Mieville	33	40
Peter Clark	35	36	Pat Osborne	32	40
Harold Galpin	25	35	Lee Hitchings	29	40
Haydn White	41	39	Jackie Stayt	26	36
John Stayt	38	35	Noc Lacey-Clarke	43	42
Colin Stevens	34	35	Vacancy		

Town Council Annual Return (Accounts) 2018/19

The Internal Auditors to the Town Council have confirmed the accounts as correct. Copies of the full accounts are available by using the contact details above and are available to view on the Town Council's website.

		31 st March 2018	31 st March 2019
1	Balances Brought Forward	£1,262,839	£2,297,572
2	(+) Annual Precept	£703,891	£757,881
3	(+) Total Receipts (income)	£1,297,797	£263,334
4	Staff Costs	£373,420	£392,767
5	Loan Interest Repayments	0	0
6	(-) Total Other Payments	£593,535	£511,730
7	(=) Balance Carried Forward*	£2,297,572	£2,414,290
8	Total Cash & Investments	£2,324,074	£2,433,168
9	Total Fixed Assets**	£4,357,833	£4,377,419
10	Total Borrowing	Nil	Nil
11	Acts as sole Trustee For Managing Trust Funds	Yes	Yes

*Of the balances held at 31st March 2019 over £895,312 was held for Capital projects, which includes £874,812 for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange.

**Fixed assets of £4,377,419 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).

The Town Council confirms the precept for 2019/2020 at £794,744, which equates to an increase of 2.21% on the Band D figure, which now amounts to £224.64 (an increase of 0.09p a week).

DOG FOULING

Please report any breaches to the Dorset Council:
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/environmental-health/dog-warden-service.aspx. If breaches are occurring regularly please provide an indication of time of day/which day and a description of the offenders.

TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS £££

Local groups, charitable and voluntary organisations can apply for a grant, subject to meeting the criteria. Application forms are available from the office or our website: www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/town-council-grants

Chairman of Blandford Forum Town Council

Annual Report 2018/19



At the Town Assembly held on Monday 15th April 2019, in the Corn Exchange, the Chairman of Council, Cllr Roger Carter reported on some of the activities of the Town Council throughout 2018/19. Cllr Carter spoke about the precept, which is the amount of local tax residents pay to maintain the range of services and facilities the

Town Council offers. For 2019/20 the Town Council has confirmed the precept at £794,744, which equates to an increase of 2.21 % on the previous precept. This is a below inflation rate figure and, for the average Band D property, this amounts to 0.09p per week. The precept, along with some revenue, maintains the properties and services the Town Council is responsible for (notably the Corn Exchange complex, the cemetery and its two chapels, Woodhouse Gardens and Pavilion, the majority of play areas around Blandford, the skate park, insurances and public toilets, just to name a few). The Town Council resolved to extend the service level agreements with the Blandford-based groups and organisations that enhance the lives of the residents of the town for a further three years as follows: the Fashion Museum (£2,000 a year); the Town Museum (£2,000 a year); the Information Centre (£2,000 a year); Treads (£4,000 a year); the Youth & Community Centre (£15,000 a year). It also has a service provision agreement with the Stour Valley Band of £1,500 a year. The Town Council continues to support the Leisure Centre at £50,000 a year and numerous smaller grants have been awarded throughout 2018/19.

Progress has been made with the Blandford Plus Neighbourhood Plan 2, working with Blandford St Mary and Bryanston Parish Councils. Consultations have been completed and the examination of the plan is expected to take place in Summer 2019.

In May 2018, Councillors appointed a new, local architect to formulate a plan for the repair and regeneration of the Corn Exchange, in close partnership with the Town Council, for which plans are currently being drawn up. The aims are not only to maintain a beautiful Grade I listed building for future generations, but to enhance its appeal as a venue for various activities. The Council has continued with day to day running of repairs and enhancements, following the cleaning and repair of the facade. A new AV screen and speaker system were introduced as well as replacement/repair of some of the flagstones in the Shambles and a new kitchen has been installed.

Following the tender procedure, carried out in March 2019, the Town Council approved expenditure authority for a company to proceed with an extension to Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, which is due for completion in late Summer. The Town Council will be funding the majority of improvements but would like to thank the National Lottery's Awards for All Fund for the grant of £10,000, helping to make this project possible. Users will have larger and fully accessible toilets, a bigger kitchen area with facilities for hot and cold food production and storage space for regular users to lock away their equipment. The build will take approximately 14 weeks. During this time, the whole of Woodhouse Gardens will be closed to the public for safety reasons and we apologise for any inconvenience caused by this.

The Council believes in supporting a thriving local community and has committed funds for the repair and replacement of ramps at the skate park and also agreed to engage with a company to provide a skate fest on 28th July 2019. Staff have continued to organise events for families in the Corn Exchange and Woodhouse Gardens and the Council has supported local groups with venue hire to put on additional events for the benefit of the town.

As in previous years the Town Council ran the Christmas Window Competition in 2018, which is always well received by businesses, residents and visitors to the town. The new Christmas lights scheme on the lighting columns introduced in 2018 will be extended this year and further improvements will continue to be made.

Once developer funding became available for Public Art within the Badbury Heights housing development, the Town Council created a Public Art Plan to give clear direction on collecting and collating ideas from the public through to installation and ongoing maintenance. I am hopeful that the Public Art will be installed in the Spring of 2020. Balmer Road play area has been open for some time now and four more play areas are due to be installed once the land is transferred to the Town Council.

The Town Council agreed expenditure to plaster and paint the Football pavilion changing rooms and to support BUFC in its bid to create an accessible path to the clubhouse, as well as a spectator stand. The beautiful bike racks and bench have been installed at M&S and funding is secured to create an access to the top of the railway arches, which is due to take place this Summer. The Council continued to assist Dorset Police with the installation of two additional ANPR cameras and the relocation of an existing one in Salisbury Road, so that all entrances to the town are covered. In November 2018 the Council's promotional video was launched and this has been followed by three other videos on different aspects of Blandford. November also saw the final WW1 commemoration exhibition first started by the Council in 2014.

Following the Town Council's objection to the Nordon development, but approval by the District Council's planning committee, I wrote to the Secretary of State asking for the decision to be called in. The outcome is awaited and an update will be provided in due course.



Councillor Roger Carter
Chairman of Council and Town Mayor 2018/19

At the Mayor Making ceremony held on Friday 24th May 2019, the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Roger Carter presented Dr Michael Le Bas with the Freedom Scroll (pictured right). In addition, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to members of the community who have worked tirelessly for the town and its residents. Certificates were awarded to Alan Hunt (for his voluntary work for the Police), Sara & Barry Jones (for organising the carnival), Jan Boyd (for her fundraising efforts), Sam Elliott (for her efforts with the Scout Group), and John Tanner and Harold Galpin (for their long term service as local Councillors).



Cllr Carter also presented cheques totalling £6,200 to his two charities; Blandford Food Bank and Blandford Opportunity Group.



Cllr Lynn Lindsay (pictured left) then became Mayor of Blandford Forum for 2019/2020, with Cllr Lee Hitchings (pictured right) as her Deputy. The Mayor's chosen charity for the year is The Community Kitchen and her Chaplain is the Reverend Canon Jonathan Triffitt. The Mayor will also be assisted by a Mayor's Scout and a Mayor's Guide.

Contact Your Councillors (following the local elections held on Thursday 2nd May 2019)

The Town Clerk for Blandford Forum Town Council is Mrs 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 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	
	Haydn White	79 Salisbury Road, DT11 7LP	01258 453666	
	Hugo Mieveille	4 Albert Street, DT11 7HY	01258 480366	
	Cathy Jacques	64 Diamond Way, DT11 7WD	07756 856018	
LANGTON ST LEONARDS	Colin R Stevens	16 Andrew Close, DT11 7PG	01258 453955	
	Doro Russell	Ty Yr Wyddfa, 15 Salisbury Road, DT11 7AU	07842 145442	
OLD TOWN	Peter Clark	7 River Mews, DT11 7AX	01258 480303	
	Nocturin Lacey-Clarke	5 Dorset Street, DT11 7RG	07815 951095	
BADBURY HEIGHTS	John Stait	29 Damory Street, DT11 7EU	01258 456999	
	Lee S Hitchings	9 Willow Park, Pimperne, DT11 8UB	01258 269077	