



Funded by
UK Government

Town Hall & Corn Exchange Project

The council meeting on Monday 12 February 2024 ended with a round of applause, with the Town Council's senior Councillors - Haydn White and Lynn Lindsay - proposing and seconding the appointment of a contractor and submission of a loan application to the government's Public Works Loan Board, which was agreed unanimously by the Councillors in attendance.

The Town Council has been working for several years on a proposal to restore and reinvigorate the Grade I Listed Town Hall and Corn Exchange building. The works will repair and revive the entire building through a combination of works that will help to increase the usage, generate footfall and vibrancy that will provide an anchor for the town centre and ensure that Blandford Forum's spectacular heart survives and thrives in the future.

Specifically, the project will deliver a comprehensive programme of conservation repairs, which include heating, cooling and acoustic improvements in the Corn Exchange that will make the space more usable for community events and activities. A priority is installing a new lift and staircase to the historic first floor Town Hall and Council Chamber, making these rooms fully accessible for the first time in the building's 300-year history.

The council is also keen to improve the stage/back-stage facilities for arts and cultural users, including the reinstatement of the late-Victorian proscenium arch. Other priorities include repairing and reinstating some of the fine original interiors (including the tiles, shown above centre) and removing some of the poor quality more modern interventions, helping to make the interior of the building beautiful again and boosting a local sense of civic pride. Planning permission and Listed Building Consent has been granted by the Dorset Council.

The loan application has been submitted and an outcome is awaited.

In the meantime, the Town Hall, Council Chamber and Corn Exchange are still in use until the end of March. This usage may be extended, depending on contractor availability.

We will continue to keep residents updated with progress made on the project. In the meantime, for further information, please do not hesitate to contact us or visit: <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/corn-exchange>



Town Council Elections

2 May 2024

The deadlines are fast approaching to...

- 1. Register to vote, or to vote by post or proxy - don't leave it to the last minute.**
- 2. Make sure you have the appropriate photo ID for the polling station, as this is a new requirement and you cannot vote without it.**
- 3. Consider if you would like to become a Town Councillor.**

You are welcome to come along to our council meetings to find out more.

Please follow the link for more information:

<https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/town-council/elections>

Events (for council meeting dates, please check our website)

March

- Friday 1 - Dorset SK8 Jam (over 18s) Roller Disco, Corn Exchange, 8pm
- Saturday 9 - Mayor's Charity Night at The Crown Hotel (see poster right)
- Saturday 16 - Cats Protection Coffee Morning, Woodhouse Gardens, 9am-1pm
- Saturday 16 - Blandford Guides Fayre, Corn Exchange, 9:30am-12pm
- Friday 22 - Nikki Kitt, Psychic Medium, Corn Exchange, 7:30pm
- Saturday 23 - Town Council turns 50! Corn Exchange, 2pm-5pm (see poster below)



April

- Friday 5 - Egg Hunt (requires FREE registration), Woodhouse Gardens (see poster)
- Monday 15 - Town Assembly, Woodhouse Gardens, 6pm
- Wednesday 17 - Mayor's Thanksgiving Service, Parish Church at 7pm



May

- Thursday 2 - Local Elections
- Friday 24 - Mayor Making Ceremony (venue to be confirmed)

June

- Thursday 6 - D-Day 80 Service in the churchyard of the Parish Church, 12pm
- Thursday 6 - D-Day 80 Beacon Lighting Ceremony, Woodhouse Gardens, 8pm
- Friday 7 - National Fish & Chip Day at Forum Frier's and Long John's (recognised as part of D-Day 80 events, because this food wasn't rationed)
- Saturday 8 - Armed Forces Expo, Legion House, 10am-1pm
- Thursday 6 - Saturday 9 - D-Day 80 Exhibition, Woodhouse Gardens

Plastic Free Community

We would like Blandford Forum to work towards becoming a plastic free community and working with Blandford War on Waste to help achieve this. Please commit to the cause and pledge to make a change! If you are interested, please visit our website for more information: <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/the-town/climatechangebiodiversity>



D-Day 80 Events in Blandford Forum

Blandford Forum Town Council staff have been working with the Chairman of the Blandford & District Branch of the Royal British Legion on the events listed above. The Town Council's Commemoration working group is busy preparing the exhibition and everyone is welcome to attend all the events we have planned. In addition, there will be a window competition for shops and businesses.