



# BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

## Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Group Meeting

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7pm

Held online via Teams

## NOTES

### In Attendance

Cllr H Mieville	Pat Osborne (Chair)
Cllr Y Mieville	Janet Tyson
Cllr S Chapman	Nicci Brown
Cllr T Clarkson	Linda Scott-Giles

Pat Osborne offered to continue to chair the meetings, which was welcomed by everyone in attendance.

### 1. Apologies

Cllr Clarkson	Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews
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### 2. Feedback from the Green Fair held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Yvonne and Hugo informed attendees that the Fair went well and there were more stalls this year compared to previous years, but general feedback was that the event should be relocated to the Marsh & Ham to be in a better position for more footfall.

### 3. Update on 'Plastic Free Community' status

We need the following to achieve Plastic Free Community status:

- Engage the local council.
- Work with businesses to help them reduce at least three single-use plastic items.
- Inspire the wider community to spread the plastic-free message, including sports clubs, youth groups, schools, churches, local groups and organisations.
- Run at least two community events to raise awareness of the campaign locally (e.g. Clean-Up Blandford litter picks).
- Form a group of local stakeholders. We have a working group established, but we would love to have more members.

Now Hugo is no longer Mayor, Yvonne has said she has more time to speak to groups and Pat, Yvonne, Sheila and Hugo will meet to agree who they will approach.

### 4. Update from Blandford War on Waste/Clean up Blandford

A litter pick was held at The Milldown and Persimmon, although there wasn't a big response, so the next litter pick will be held back at the Marsh & Ham. The majority of attendees seem to prefer this location.

The canoe club has been involved and there was a lot less litter in the river. Yvonne noted that there is a lot less litter in general and she is aware that lots of people litter pick on a regular basis.

Although there is a lot less litter, there are still a lot of cigarette butts, which are difficult to pick up.

Yvonne said someone had complained about the weeds in the town and, since this has been reported to one of the Dorset Council cllrs, one of the Rangers has been around spraying the weeds. Unfortunately, this has caused upset with the Blandford Hedgehog Group.

Janet suggested strimming and sweeping instead of spraying weeds, which end up looking worse because they die off and remain there for a period.

5. Update from Blandford + NP group

The meeting discussed the land north of the bypass, with the B+ position compared to Pimperne's stance, and touched on the new government's views on developments.

It was noted that the Crown Meadows is a more sensitive site and it is hoped that this will remain protected.

6. Dog Waste

Pat raised the matter of dog waste being bagged and thrown into trees or dropped. He mentioned the environmentally friendly / water soluble blue spray that can be used to highlight dog waste. Linda will get in touch with Litter Free Dorset to find out if they have any existing or tried/tested campaigns.

7. Any other updates

- The Climate Change & Biodiversity Action Plan has been updated.
- With regards to biodiversity, it was wonderful to see a juvenile peregrine falcon at the Marsh & Ham this week.
- The Community Fridge collections have reduced significantly.

8. To agree next steps

The plastic-free working group will arrange to meet in August.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.