



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Climate, Biodiversity & Nature Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 7pm

Held online via Teams

NOTES

In Attendance

Cllr Y Miéville (chair)
Cllr H Miéville
Cllr J Dallison
Nicci Brown

Cllr G Del-Pinto
Cllr T Clarkson
Cllr M Putt
Becci Brady

1. Apologies

Cllr B Quayle

Cllr S Chapman

2. Discuss the proposed Community Orchard

Gail Del-Pinto presented to the group the principles of what has been proposed and the aim of the project. The key benefits identified are as follows:-

- To provide Fruit itself
- Community engagement
- Chance for individuals to be involved in a project in so many different levels
- Vulnerable families who could benefit from learning skills
- Environmental- we can talk to experts about how to safeguard species

Finding the right **location** was discussed. Possible sites-

- The Blandford School
- Milldown Primary School
- Tim Hoskinson from Wyatts Homes has shown some interest in possibly incorporating an orchard on the new housing state North of the Bypass at some point in the future.

It is un-clear who owns the land adjacent toe Milldown Primary School, this would need to be investigated , however the school seems very keen to come on board with the project.

The climate group agree that they are happy to endorse and run with this project.

It was suggested that a working group is created for this project, named 'The Community Orchard Group'. Members will include; Yvonne Miéville, Gail Del-Pinto, Hugo Miéville, John Dallison, Terry Clarkson and Maggie Putt.

It was requested that Blandford Forum Town Council advertise this group on their social media page to recruit other members of the working group. A request was also made for this group, as well as the working group to have more face-to-face meetings in the Council Chamber, and to have the hire charges waived. Monthly meetings will resume from September.

Possible sources of **funding and resources** for the project-

- Dorset wildlife trust
- Blandford Environmental
- SGN Housing

3. Any other updates

Nicci Brown raised an issue regarding rubbish and debris at the Milldown Nature Reserve which seems to be coming from the waste company located on tinpot Lane. The Rangers and the Environment Agency are now aware and will take the matter further. Yvonne Miéville will contact the Rangers about this matter.

The group will like Blandford Forum Town Council to write to the Rangers to congratulate them on the Green Flag status they have recently received for the Milldown Nature Reserve.

4. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 6.30pm in the Council chamber, upstairs in the Corn Exchange.