BLANDFORD FORUM
TOWN COUNCIL

To Planning Cllrs; N Lacey-Clarke (Vice-Chairman), S Hitchings, H Mièville, L Hitchings, C Stevens, B Quayle, R Holmes, S Chapman, T Clarkson, Y Mièville, M Putt, G Del-Pinto, S Morgan, M Spruce: All other recipients for information only.

Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Dear Member

Summons

You are summoned to a meeting of the **Planning Committee** of Blandford Forum Town Council for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below. To be held at 7 pm on **Monday, 02 November 2026** in the Corn Exchange. The quorum for the Planning Committee is 9.

Public Participation and Democratic Quarter Hour

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 Committee, during which time members of the public may speak. During 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 Committee may invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Committee.
Join: Teams Link

General Duties of 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.

Recording of Meetings

All attendees should be aware that filming, recording, photography or similar activity may take place during the meeting.

Date of next Planning Committee Meeting: Monday, 07 December 2026

Yours sincerely

Claire Commons BA (Hons), Town Clerk

Twinned with Preetz, Germany

Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD

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Planning Committee of Blandford Forum Town Council, **Monday, 02 November 2026, 7pm** Corn Exchange.

Agenda

P6.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 3

(7:00 pm) To allow the public to make representations to the Council. .....(up to 15 mins)
Receive and note

P6.2 APOLOGIES 4

(7:20 pm) To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence from Councillors summoned to attend .....(1 min)
Decision Item

P6.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 5

(7:21 pm) To declare interests relating to the business of the meeting. .....(2 min)
Receive and note

P6.4 MINUTES 7

(7:23 pm) To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Committee. .....(2 min)
Decision Item

P6.5 REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE 8

7:25PM To receive reports pertaining to the Planning Committee.....(5 min)
Receive and note

P6.6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS 10

7:30pm To consider responses to (but not limited to) the following planning applications ..... (20 mins)
Decision Item

a) Wessex Court Blandford Forum DT11 7RH
b) 1 Milldown Road Blandford Forum DT11 7DB

P6.7 LGBCE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DORSET COUNCIL 12

7:50pm To consider the LGBCE draft recommendations for Dorset Council and decide whether to respond to the consultation. ..... (10 mins)
Decision Item

Anticipated meeting end time 8pm

Timings given on this agenda are for guidance only. The order of business may be changed at the Chair's discretion, and items may be taken earlier or later than indicated. (Standing Order 1a)

P6.1 Public Participation

(7:00 pm) To allow the public to make representations to the Council. (up to 15 mins)

Receive and note

Report Author: Committee Clerk

Background

The Standing Orders of the Council (specifically Standing Order 3) provide for a designated Public Participation session at each meeting of the Council and its Committees.

During Public Participation, members of the public are invited to address the meeting regarding matters on the published agenda or within the Council's powers.

Public Participation is distinct from the formal business of the meeting. Once the session concludes, the public are observers only and must not participate further unless invited by a resolution of the Council.

The Council's commitment to openness, transparency, and community engagement supports the inclusion of Public Participation within the formal structure of the meeting.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council, Public Participation shall only commence after the election of the Chair, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 and Standing Orders.

Members of the public registered to speak

None at the point of issuing papers.

Conduct of Public Participation

Public Participation will occur at the start of the meeting.

Each speaker may address the meeting for a maximum of three minutes, subject to the Chair's discretion to extend or reduce this time if necessary.

The maximum total duration for Public Participation shall normally be 20 minutes unless the Council resolves otherwise.

Speakers are asked to address the meeting courteously, and must not make offensive, defamatory, or irrelevant comments. Speakers do not have a right to expect debate or immediate responses.

Recording of Public Participation

The minutes of the meeting shall record that Public Participation took place and will summarise the general topics raised, but shall not record the names of individual speakers.

Recommendation

That the public comments are received, and any points of note are identified for consideration at future meetings of the Council or its committees or for action by officers of the Council

Reason for Recommendation

To acknowledge public engagement in accordance with Standing Orders and ensure that matters raised are appropriately considered without committing the Council to immediate decisions.

P6.2 Apologies

(7:20 pm) To receive and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence from Councillors summoned to attend (1 min)

Decision Item

Report Author: Committee Clerk

Background

Councillors are holders of public office and are summoned to attend meetings of the Council and its committees.

In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council must consider and decide whether to accept the reason for absence provided by any Councillor who is unable to attend a meeting.

If a councillor fails to attend any meeting of the Council (or its committees) for a period of six consecutive months, without having obtained formal acceptance of their apologies by the Council (or the relevant committee), they are automatically disqualified from office.

Apologies received and reason

No apologies have been received.

Recommendation

That the Council considers and either accepts or rejects each apology for absence received.

Reason for Recommendation

Accepting apologies resets the six-month period for continuous attendance, ensuring compliance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(End)

P6.3 Declarations of Interest

(7:21 pm) To declare interests relating to the business of the meeting. (2 min)

Receive and note

Report Author: Committee Clerk

Background

All Councillors and Officers are reminded of their obligations under the Blandford Forum Town Council Code of Conduct to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests, or Non-Registerable Interests relating to matters on the agenda.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest, it is the individual Councillor's responsibility to declare that interest at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

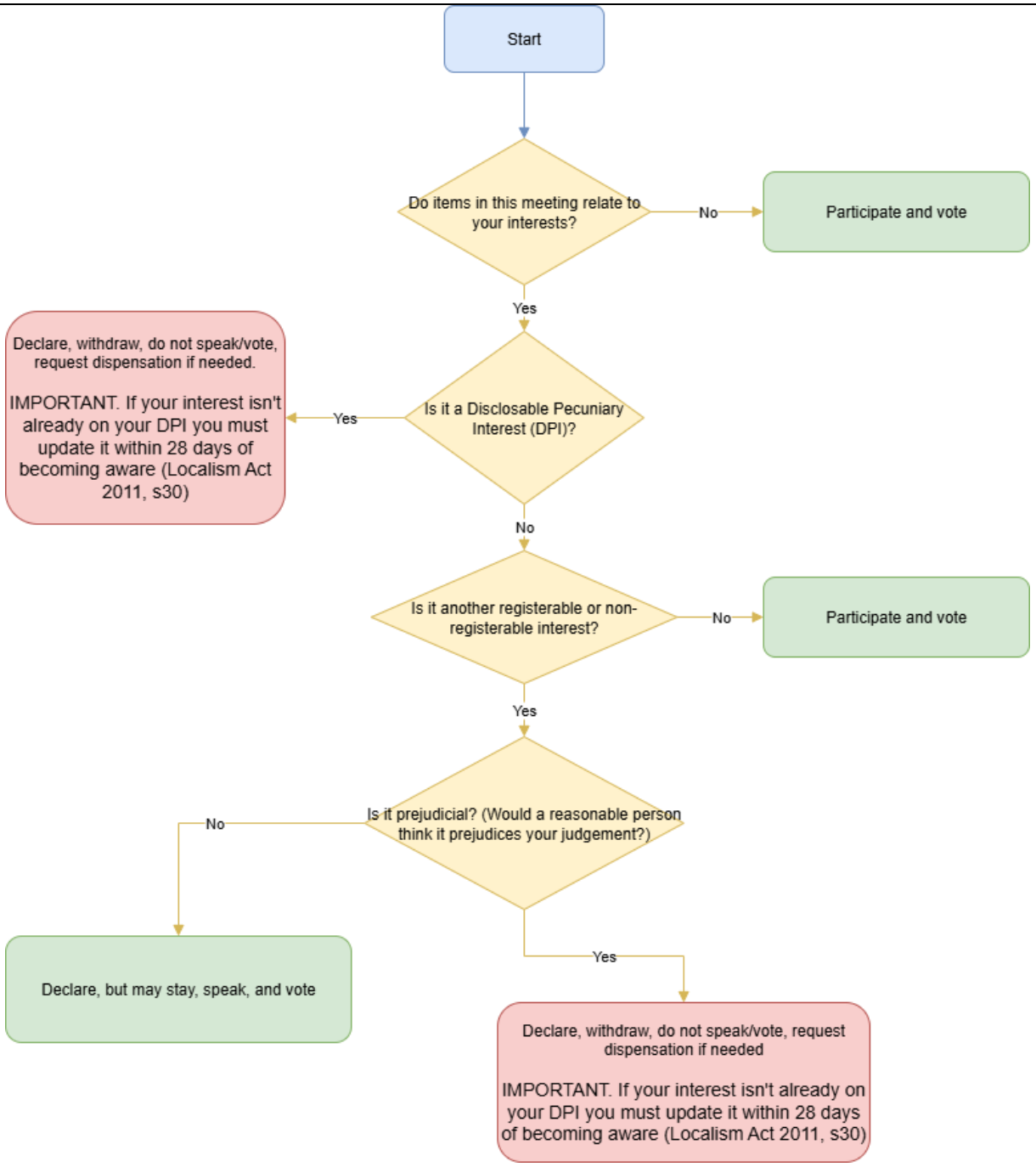
The Clerk will report any dispensations granted prior to the meeting.

Refer to Tables 1 and 2 in the Code of Conduct for further details about the types of interests which may apply.

If you think you need to request a dispensation, the process is included within the Dispensation Request Form.

The table below provides a summary of what your responsibilities are depending on the type of interest declared.

Type of Interest	Declare at Meeting?	Stay for Debate?	Vote?	Withdraw?	Notes
DPI (registered or not)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Must declare and withdraw, unless dispensation granted
Other/Non-Registerable (not prejudicial)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Declare, but may participate fully
Other/Non-Registerable (prejudicial)	Yes	No (except to speak if public can)	No	Yes	Declare, may speak if public can, then withdraw
With Dispensation	Yes	As specified	As specified	As specified	Dispensation may allow limited participation



Recommendation

That the Council notes the declarations made in relation to the business of the meeting.

Reason for Recommendation

Recording declarations at the meeting ensures transparency, compliance with the Council's adopted Code of Conduct, and adherence to statutory obligations.

(End)

P6.4 Minutes

(7:23 pm) To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Committee. (2 min)

Decision Item

Report Author: Committee Clerk

Background

In approving draft minutes, the Council is concerned solely with whether the minutes accurately record the proceedings and resolutions of the relevant meeting.

It is immaterial whether individual Councillors were present at the meeting to which the minutes relate.

If any corrections are necessary due to inaccuracies, amendments must be approved by formal resolution before the minutes are signed.

Recommendation

That the minutes of 12th October 2026 be approved for signing as a true record of the decisions taken.

(End)

P6.5 Report to the Committee

7:25PM To receive reports pertaining to the Planning Committee. (5 min)

Receive and note

Report Author: Committee Clerk

Local Plan Scoping Consultation

The Dorset Council's new Local Plan Scoping Consultation has begun, Councillors are meeting on Wednesday 7th October to hold a workshop in the Community Room to discuss this and to formulate an official response. This response will be heard at the Planning Committee Meeting on Monday 12th October.

Applications Decided/ Awaiting Decision

Appendix B circulated prior to the meeting

Applications Notification only

Application No.	Address	Application Detail	Date Received
P/TRC/2026/05757	Harewood Place Blandford Forum DT11 7BB	T38627 - Amelanchier - Fell T38632 - Japanese Maple - Prune to create 1m clearance from building T38633 - Oak - Reduce by 1.5m to balance crown and create 1m clearance from washing line T38634 - Amelanchier - Prune to create 1m clearance from washing line T38639 - Buddleia - Prune to create 2m clearance from BT lines T38640 - Cypress - Fell T38642 - Buddleia - Prune to create 1m clearance from building	18th October 2026
P/NMA/2026/05597	Signpost House 15 Sunrise Business Park Blandford Forum DT11 8SA	Non material amendment - Replace the screen to the ground floor of the south elevation with a roller shutter door to planning permission P/FUL/2025/01921 (Replace all windows & doors and install new entrance opening to rear. Install new mechanical cowls & louvers. Install EV chargers, accessible access ramp, vape/smoking & Bike Shelter)	22nd October 2026
P/TRC/2026/05760	55 East Street Blandford Forum DT11 7DX	G1 - Apple x3 - Reduce all trees to historic pruning points, a maximum of 1m. T1 - Thuja Plicata - Raise the crown to 5m from ground level via the removal of the low pendulous branches which finish at the first union. T2 - Sycamore - Fell.	26th October 2026

Recommendation

That the reports are received and noted and any actions arising identified for future meetings of the Council or its Committees

Reason for Recommendation

To keep members updated on committee actions and information.

P6.6 Planning Applications

7:30pm To consider responses to (but not limited to) the following planning applications (20 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author:

Summary and Background information

Planning applications listed below have been received and require comments to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Prior to the meeting, members are urged to view the planning application using the link below and to visit the site to understand local context.

As part of the town council's response to planning proposals it should provide material planning reasons for its comments, be they of support or objection. Simply stating 'no objection' is insufficient as there is a requirement to give reasons for that decision.

Material Planning Reasons

Biodiversity	Design
Economic Benefits	Effect on the Appearance of the Area
Flooding Issues	Height
Heritage	Impact on Access
Impact on Light	Landscape
Local or Government Policy	Noise/Disturbance
Other	Overlooking/Loss of Privacy
Parking	Residential Amenity
Road Safety	Traffic or Highways

To assist, here are a few examples as to how you might word something to give material planning reason for your thoughts.

Examples

House Extension	No Objection as limited impact on amenity of neighbouring property Or Objection as will have detrimental impact on neighbouring property
New dwelling	Support, design is in keeping with locality Or Objection as design is not in keeping with local area
Vehicular Access	Support, will have no impact ono road safety given proposed visibility splays Or Objection as visibility is poor in this location and traffic speeds are high.

Planning Applications for response

Application No & Deadline	Address	Application Detail	B+ Policies
P/FUL/2026/05600 Deadline: 9th November 2026	a) Wessex Court Blandford Forum DT11 7RH	Erection of Pole-Mounted ANPR Camera	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Design Code: CA2 Built Form Code: 6
P/HOU/2026/05646 Deadline: 10th November 2026	b) 1 Milldown Road Blandford Forum DT11 7DB	Erect a single storey side extension. Remove first floor rear windows and replace with larger window, and replace side window glazing with obscure glass.	Blandford + NP Policies: B10 Design Code: CA2 Built Form Codes: 11, 15, 16

Legal Authority and Implication

The Town Council is a consultee but does not have the authority to determine planning applications. The Council has the power to be notified of planning applications affecting the Council's area and to comment (Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 sch 1 para8)

Recommendation

That the Committee provides its response on the listed planning applications and considers responses to applications received without notice, in the form of Support or Objection with supporting reasons.

Reason for Recommendation

To fulfil the Council's responsibilities and exercise its views as a statutory consultee.

(End)

P6.7 LGBCE Electoral Review of Dorset Council

7:50pm To consider the LGBCE draft recommendations for Dorset Council and decide whether to respond to the consultation. (10 mins)

Decision Item

Report Author: Town Clerk

Summary and Background information

The LGBCE is undertaking an Electoral Review of Dorset Council. The purpose of the review is to ensure that Dorset Council wards provide fair and effective representation across the Dorset Council area.

The review considers:

- The number of Dorset Councillors;
- Dorset Council ward boundaries;
- The number of councillors elected for each ward; and
- Ward names.

The review does not consider parish boundaries and cannot alter the boundaries of Blandford Forum Town Council or neighbouring parish councils. Any changes to parish boundaries would require a separate Community Governance Review.

The Council previously considered the first stage of the review during 2026. Following consideration by a working group, the Planning Committee resolved on 18 May 2026 that the current arrangements were adequate at the present time whilst noting that future development north of the bypass may justify future consideration of separate northern and southern wards within Blandford.

The Commission has now published draft recommendations and is undertaking a further consultation before preparing its final recommendations. See additional information: Dorset | LGBCE

Draft Recommendations Affecting Blandford

The Commission has considered a number of options for representation in the Blandford area.

Dorset Council proposed:

- A two-member Blandford ward comprising Blandford Forum parish; and
- A separate single-member ward comprising Blandford St Mary, Bryanston, Charlton Marshall and Spetisbury.

The Commission has not adopted that proposal.

Instead, the Commission is proposing the creation of a three-member Dorset Council ward named "Blandford" comprising:

- Blandford Forum;
- Blandford St Mary;
- Bryanston; and
- Charlton Marshall.

Spetisbury would not form part of the proposed Blandford ward and would instead be included within the proposed Stour & Holt ward.

The Commission's reasoning is that the proposed arrangement reflects the close relationship between Blandford Forum and the neighbouring communities immediately adjoining the town. The Commission has also concluded that the proposal provides a satisfactory level of electoral equality.

Implications for Blandford Forum

The proposals do not alter the boundary of Blandford Forum Town Council, they also do not incorporate Blandford St Mary into Blandford Forum parish; change the Town Council's area; change the number of

Town Councillors; change ownership of assets or responsibilities; or affect the Town Council precept.

The proposal affects only representation at Dorset Council level. Should the recommendations be adopted, residents of Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary, Bryanston and Charlton Marshall would form part of the same Dorset Council electoral ward represented by three Dorset Councillors.

Northern Urban Extension

The Commission found insufficient evidence to change the Northern Urban Extension or adjoining parts of Pimperne, but has invited further evidence during consultation.

Members may consider whether the Council's previous comments on development north of the bypass remain appropriate.

Officer Observation

The draft recommendations do not affect the boundary of Blandford Forum Town Council and broadly recognise the functional relationship between Blandford Forum and neighbouring settlements. Members may therefore wish to reaffirm the Council's previous submission unless they consider further comments necessary.

Recommendation

Members consider the draft recommendations and determine whether the Town Council supports the draft recommendations; the Town Council wishes to reaffirm its previous position that the current arrangements are adequate at the present time whilst noting that future development north of the bypass may justify further consideration of electoral arrangements; or the Town Council wishes to submit alternative comments to the Commission.

(End)

