

Blandford + Meeting

Wednesday 22nd February at 2:00pm
The Corn Exchange, Blandford Forum
Notes from the Meeting

Attendees

Sara Loch – Chairman of Blandford +

Cllr D Addison – Blandford St Mary Parish Council

Cllr B Church – Bryanston Parish Council

Cllr E Butler – Blandford Forum Town Council

Cllr John Stayt – Blandford St Mary Parish Council

Cllr M Albery – Blandford St Mary Parish Council

Cllr H White – Blandford Forum Town Council

Cllr C Tompsett – Bryanston Parish Council

Neil Homer - RCOH (via Facetime / Skype)

Linda Scott Giles (LS-G) – Town Clerk, Blandford Forum Town Council

Leani Haim – Assistant Town Clerk, Blandford Forum Town Council (Currently on Maternity Leave)

Sally Gardner (SG) – Project/Clerical Administrator, Blandford Forum Town Council

Apologies

Cllr R Carter – Blandford Forum Town Council

Nic Nicol – DT11 Forum Community Partnership

1. Notes from the Previous Meeting

Accepted.

2. Actions Outstanding from the Previous Meeting

2.1 **ACTION:** ‘ATC to consider alerting the examiner that the next NDDC meeting where a referendum could be decided is in December, otherwise there would be a delay until March 2017.’

- Action no longer applicable as examination delayed. SG to obtain 2017 meeting dates from NDDC.

2.2 **ACTION:** ‘ATC to ask NDDC whether their Statement of Community Involvement has been updated to include Blandford + as a specific consultation body.’

- NDDC responded that they are not making any commitment to change their SCI as they are waiting to

see if the Neighbourhood Planning Bill is enacted.

2.3 **ACTION:** ‘Blandford + Contingency Plan to be circulated for agreement.’

- Updated (Feb 17) and attached for agreement.

2.4 **ACTION:** ‘Blandford + Publicity Plan to be updated for meeting.’

- Updated (Feb 17) and attached for agreement.

2.5 **ACTION:** ‘B+ to send formal response to Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan.’

- Letter sent 15/10/16

3. Project Update

3.1 Key dates/actions since previous meeting (for the record):

3/01/17	Examiner appointment with Jeremy Edge terminated (due to ill health)
10/01/17	Application for replacement Examiner sent to NPIERS
18/01/17	2 Examiners nominated by NPIERS, Andrew Ashcroft & Deborah McCann (DM). NDDC supported DM.
20/01/17	B+ email supporting Ashcroft sent to NDDC
23/01/17	Ashcroft rejected by NDDC
02/02/17	B+ email reluctantly accepting DM sent to NDDC
02/02/17	NDDC email to NPIERS selecting DM
10/02/17	NDDC offer sent to DM and accepted
16/02/17	Late Reps accepted by examiner and published on ‘Dorset For You’ website: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Clemdell Ltd.- Davies Coates Families.- Historic England.
21/02/17	Email from DM flagging up a possible Hearing, so no questions were supplied to the Steering Group meeting.

3.2 Update on policies:

LS-G updated the meeting on two policies:

Policy 1: Land North & East of Blandford Forum

An updated plan was received from Savills on 6 Feb 17 detailing changes to the proposed allotment site. The plan has been forwarded to the chairman of the allotment committee with a request for feedback to be supplied for the Town Council meeting on 27/02/17.

The group re-emphasized that the B+ NP is not justifying Policy 1 on the grounds of additional housing supply. It is justifying Policy 1 on the basis of essential infrastructure (new school, surgery etc.), with housing as a resulting benefit.

ACTION SG To confirm that the examiner has been made aware of the Dorset CC Blandford Town Pupil Place Planning Statement (2016).

Post Meeting note: The Pupil Place Planning Statement is clearly hyper-linked as one of the ‘Submission Documents’ on the dorsetforyou website.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/article/423350/Blandford-Neighbourhood-Plan-2015-2031>

Policy 2: Land at Shaftesbury Lane, Blandford Forum

The Lidl development is proceeding as planned. Lidl are starting to recruit ready for a July/August opening..

4. Examination Progress & Issues Arising

The group asked Neil’s advice on the format that a hearing might take. In his experience a hearing usually takes ½ day with the examiner deciding who will be called to question. There is no set format. Questions are not usually issued before the hearing, but an agenda may be sent outlining the areas that the examiner wishes to explore. It is very useful to have pre-prepared notes covering any areas that are likely to arise.

5. Late Representations

Late submissions from the Davies Coates family, Clemdell Ltd and Historic England were accepted by the examiner and published on 16/01/17. The group asked Neil’s advice, and it appears there is nothing new of concern in the Reps, all issues were covered in the original statement.

6. Update on / Feedback from proposed meeting with Savills / Matt Prosser

Nothing to report. Savills are now meeting with Stephen Hill on 23/02/17.

7. White Paper ‘Fixing Our Broken Housing Market’- Public Consultation (email sent 20 Feb 17)

The group decided they would like to take part in the DCLG consultation on new planning proposals, amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework and regulations, and wider changes to national planning policy for sustainable development and the environment. The closure date for submissions is 02/05/17

ACTION SG To include on agenda for next meeting (late March / early April)

8. Blandford + Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The MOU is due for renewal on 17/02/17. The group reviewed the current MOU and agreed to renew for one more year, or when the NP is adopted (whichever is sooner!).

ACTION SG To send out new version for parishes to review and agree via email, ready for signature at the next meeting.

9. Financial update

Grant monies were fully spent prior to the closing date on 04/12/16. The invoice for hosting the Blandford + website (due in Feb 17) was paid early to utilise the grant monies. RCOH have invoiced BFTC for one day consultancy (£575 + vat). There are 4 days consultancy (@ £575 per day) + 2 days travelling (@ £75) left in the budget to cover the examination process.

ACTION SG To ask the RFO to proportion the RCOH costs out to parishes and invoice accordingly.

Points from the floor

Cllr Carol Tompsett (Bryanston Parish Council) asked who is responsible for enforcing the Local Plan when developments that are happening are in breach of the plan. Policy 16 (protecting bats) is being ignored, but NDDC are not responding to concerns raised.

Neil (RCOH) advised that the Parish Council has discretionary power to approach The National Planning Casework Unit in Birmingham requesting that Secretary of State calls in the policy to recover authority from NDDC. The group also advised that the Parish should raise the issue with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for North Dorset, stating that the objection will also go to the Secretary of State.

Cllr Haydn White (Blandford Forum Town Council) suggested that now was an opportune time to contact senior District Councillors at NDDC (i.e. elected members) to ensure that Blandford + concerns are included in the NDDC Local Plan review.

10. Next meeting dates

ACTION SG to send out a Doodle Poll with possible dates at the end March / beginning April.

11. Meeting Closed