



2011 – 2033

## CONSULTATION STATEMENT



Published by Blandford Forum Town Council, Blandford St Mary Parish Council and Bryanston Parish Council for consultation under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

January 2019

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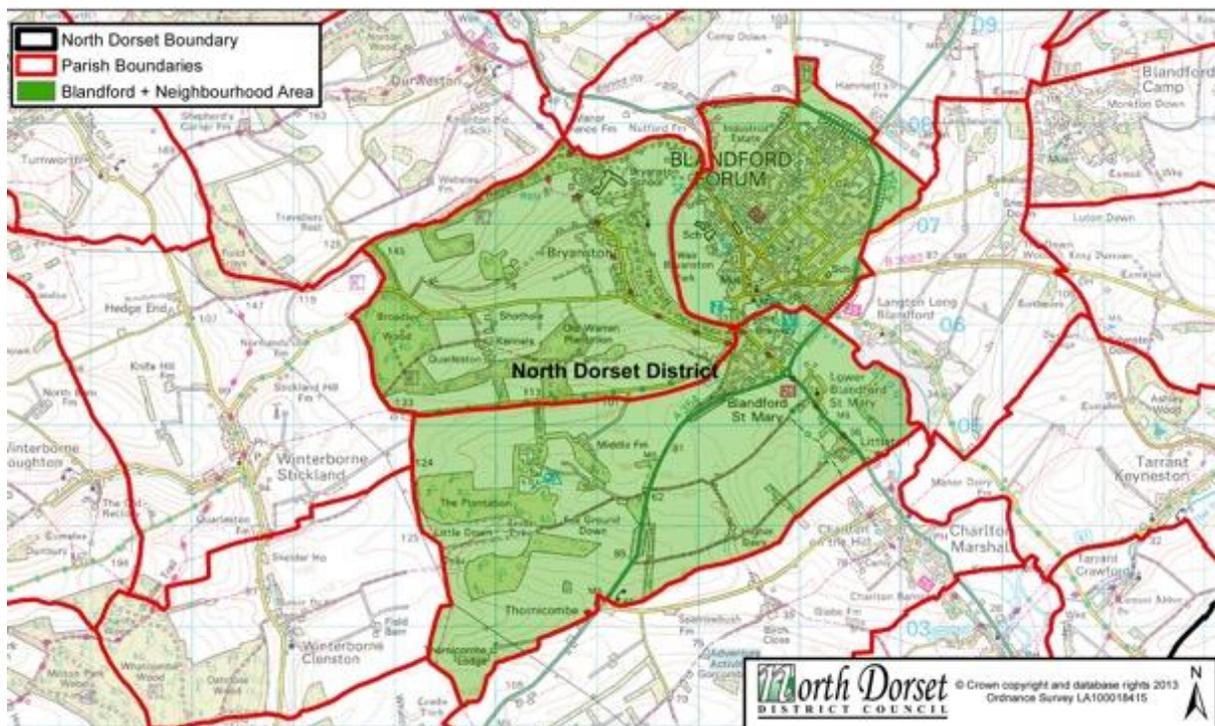
## 1. Introduction

1.1 This consultation statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) in respect of the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011 - 2033. The legal basis of this Statement is provided by Section 15 (2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, which requires that a consultation statement should:

- i. Contain details of the persons and bodies that were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- ii. Explain how they were consulted;
- iii. Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- iv. Describe how those issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

### Neighbourhood Area Designation

1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan Area was designated by the Local Planning Authority, North Dorset District Council (NDDC) on 17 February 2014. NDDC published the area application as required by regulations and no adverse comments that would not allow adoption was received. Plan A below shows the Neighbourhood Area that was designated.



*Plan A: Designated Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Area*

## **2. The Consultation Process**

### **Dateline of Events**

2.1 The Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2033 (B+NP 2033) is a project that has evolved from the preparation of the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2015 – 2031 (B+NP 2031). The B+NP 2031 was prepared and examined. Following its examination, the plan was withdrawn. The B+NP 2031 Consultation Statement, see Appendix 1, details the consultation process up until March 2016. The dateline of events below continues this process and demonstrates the B+NP 2033 evolution.

### **2016**

#### **July**

The B+ NP 2031 is submitted to NDDC.

Note: The unusual amount of time from submission to examination was due to the appointment of an examiner who could no longer carry out their committed duties and a new examiner had to be appointed.

### **2017**

#### **February to April**

The B+NP 2031 examination.

#### **July**

The examiner's report was published on 19 July 2017 (see Appendix 2).

NDDC announced 3.42 years housing land supply.

#### **September**

B+ request Secretary of State intervention.

#### **November**

Report commissioned by Locality under instruction of Secretary of State. Community informed of next steps (see Appendix 3).

#### **December**

The Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Options for Moving Forward report published (see Appendix 4) and decision made to move forward with Options 4,5 and 6.

### **2018**

#### **January to April**

Review of the B+NP 2031 and specification for B+ NP 2033 developed with NDDC.

## **May**

B+NP 2031 statement of withdrawal published on NDDC and B+ websites and sent to the local press (see Appendix 5).

Sharing evidence and information with NDDC.

Land availability established with landowners (see Appendix 6).

## **June**

July 2018 informal consultations announced in local press (see Appendix 7). A leaflet was delivered to households and businesses in Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston. The information was launched on the B+ website, NDDC website and on the Blandford Forum Town Council Facebook page. A formal email (see Appendix 8) was sent to key stakeholders, local groups, press and media (see Appendix 9).

## **July**

Joint Blandford St Mary and Bryanston Informal Public Consultation Exhibition held at Hall and Woodhouse Centre and same Exhibition held in Blandford Forum at the Corn Exchange.

Online survey launched as part of Informal Consultations (see Appendix 10). Comments were also encouraged by email, by post or in person at the Exhibition events.

## **August**

Outcome of the Informal Consultations July 2018 published online (see Appendices 11-12), and an email update was sent to key stakeholders, local groups, press and media (see Appendix 13). An Outcome of Informal Consultations 2018 article was also published in the Town Council newsletter (see Appendix 14).

## **September to October**

Meetings held with AONB Partnerships (see Appendix 15) and Dorset CCG (see Appendix 16).

## **November to December**

SG meeting to approve Pre-Submission Plan.

Town and Parish Council meetings to approve Pre-Submission Plan.

Publication of Pre-Submission Plan Consultation (Regulation 14) (see Appendix 17 and 18).

Note: Throughout the process regular updates have been provided at Town and Parish Council meetings. Minutes of these meetings can be viewed online at <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/> and <http://www.blandfordstmary-pc.org.uk/> and <https://bryanstonvillage.com/information/parish-council>.

Additionally throughout the process regular update meetings have been held with NDDC, and these and steering group meeting minutes are published on the B+ website and can be found at <http://blandfordplus.org.uk/about-blandford/minutes/>

## Public and Stakeholder Consultation

- 2.2 Following the examination of the B+2031, the Steering Group were conscious that the recommendations from the examiner was to delete two policies that the local community felt strongly should be pursued, namely the provision of infrastructure in the northern part of the town and protecting the Crown Meadows from harmful development. With the addition of a major change in local planning circumstances, the loss of the 5YHLS in the district, the Steering Group did not consider that the remainder of the policies in the B+2031 was sufficient in giving the community security in terms of planning decisions that may lie ahead. The Steering Group therefore decided to pursue the matter further and informed the community of its next steps by distributing a leaflet to all households and businesses in a popular local magazine.
- 2.3 The Steering Group then informed the community of their intention to withdraw the B+2031 to pursue the preparation of the B+2033 to address the two main concerns that had been highlighted in community consultation through the preparation of the B+2031, the lack of infrastructure in the northern part of the town and the protection of the Crown Meadows from harmful development.
- 2.4 In order to establish the possibility of the B+2033 to address these matters, following agreement of the specification for the B+2033 with NDDC, it was necessary to contact landowners to establish land availability in the neighbourhood area. Once this had been established it was possible to seek the community's view on the direction of the B+2033.
- 2.5 The Informal Consultation in July 2018 was intended to seek the community's views on the approach of the B+2033 in light of the change in planning circumstances locally. The joint Blandford St Mary and Bryanston Informal Public Consultation Exhibition held at Hall and Woodhouse Centre and the same Exhibition held in Blandford Forum at the Corn Exchange (pictured to the right) was published by circulating an invitation through the following channels:



- Local Schools
- Care homes and Blandford Hospital
- Blandford Camp Garrison Staff Officer
- Blandford Camp Community Information Officer
- Local sports, recreational and other community organisations
- Local radio stations
- Local newspapers
- Local magazines
- Press Officers at the District and County Council and the Dorset Waste Partnership

- Local Councillors
  - Youth Advisors to the Town Council
  - Facebook
  - Websites
  - Town and Parish Council notice boards installed throughout each area
  - Each household, business and organisation in the three parishes
- 2.6 Information was displayed on boards and attendees were invited to walk around the displays. Members of the Steering Group were on hand to engage with attendees and answer their questions.
- 2.7 It was also intended to seek the feedback of key stakeholders and statutory consultees and an invitation to comment was sent to the list attached at Appendix 9.
- 2.8 As a result of these notifications the Dorset Race Equality Council highlighted to the Steering Group that the last census identified that 5.9% of the population of Blandford Forum was from an ethnic minority background. The Steering Group used the consultation procedures of the Town Council that was designed to reach all members of the community, as set out in their Community Engagement Policy (see Appendix 19) and was therefore confident that all members of the community were provided with an opportunity to comment and would continue to do so in future consultation events.
- 2.9 Following a full analysis of the consultation responses (see Appendix 11-12), it was clear that the majority of the community supported the direction of the B+2033. The headline findings were that residents favoured the approach of the plan in defining its settlement boundaries and favoured Option 1 (Land to the North and North East of Blandford) to accommodate the specification that has been agreed with NDDC.
- 2.10 The consultation analysis also demonstrates that the majority of residents supported the direction of the plan in terms of its Town Centre, Employment, Infrastructure, Community Facilities, Green Infrastructure and Design Management Policies.
- 2.11 It also highlighted that further discussions were necessary with the Dorset and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnerships and the Dorset CCG and local surgeries and the outcome of these meetings have been reflected in the Plan and supporting documents as far as is possible.

### **Consultation with NDDC**

- 2.12 Throughout the process of the B+2033 the Steering Group has engaged with NDDC via email, phone and face-to-face meetings to seek advice and guidance. Minutes of regular process meetings with NDDC are published on

the B+ Neighbourhood Plan website at <http://blandfordplus.org.uk/about-blandford/minutes/>.

### **Pre-Submission Consultation Process**

- 2.13 The Pre-Submission Plan was published and an invitation to comment was published as well as a comment slip, as per the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 5 (a), through the channels listed in 2.5 above, those set out in the Town Councils' Community Engagement Strategy, and to the list of organisations (see Appendix 9), as per Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 5 (b). Copies of the Pre-Submission Plan was sent to the Local Planning Authority as per Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 5 (c) (see Appendix 20).
- 2.14 The consultation period lasted for 6 weeks, following which copies of the Pre-Submission Plan comments were uploaded to the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan website and a Regulation 14 report was prepared (see Appendix 21).

### 3. Pre-Submission Feedback Summary

3.1 As a consequence of the comments received during the Regulation 14 period, numerous minor amendments were made to the Plan, all of which are identified in the aforementioned Regulation 14 report and has been detailed below:

- **The title of the plan** is amended;
- **The Foreword, and Section 1, 2 and 3 of the Plan** is updated to strengthen the emphasis on the purpose of the Plan to address infrastructure weaknesses in the northern part of the town;
- **Section 3 of the Plan** is updated in relation to removing references to the 2012 NPPF, the Waste Plan update received, and an update on the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan is inserted;
- **Point k of the Vision** is clarified;
- **Policy B2 is amended** to ensure there are no adverse effects from adjoining uses with the Waste Plan proposal, **criterion (i) is amended** in relation to housing types and this is reflected in the **supporting text**, measures to minimise the harm to designated heritage assets are included, references to the examiner's report of the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan is removed from **paragraph 5.24** of the Pre-Submission Plan, and the policy removes the restriction of an application to be solely outline;
- **Policy B3 (c) is amended** to ensure there are no adverse effects from adjoining uses with the Waste Plan proposal and minimising light spill in the AONB are included. **The supporting text** to be updated to reflect the landowner's commitment to providing the land at Sunrise Business Park for employment uses;
- **Policies B11 – B13 are amended** to remove unnecessary references to sub areas;
- **Supporting text for Policy B14** is updated to reflect information in the Draft Conservation Area Appraisal;
- **Section 6 is amended** to clarify the position of CIL and S106 contributions; and
- **An Inset Map is created** by transferring the proposed Local Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure Network from existing maps;
- **References to the Site Selection Background Paper** is strengthened throughout the plan.

#### **4. Index to Appendices**

Appendix 1	Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031 Consultation Statement
Appendix 2	Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031 Examiner's Report
Appendix 3	Leaflet/article following B+NP1 examination
Appendix 4	The Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Options for Moving Forward report
Appendix 5	Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031 Withdrawal Statement
Appendix 6	Letter to landowners
Appendix 7	Leaflet announcing July 2018 informal consultations
Appendix 8	Formal email to key stakeholders, local groups, press and media
Appendix 9	List of key stakeholders, local groups, press and media
Appendix 10	Informal Consultations July 2018 Online Survey
Appendix 11	Informal Consultations July 2018 Report
Appendix 12	Informal Consultations July 2018 Feedback Analysis Report
Appendix 13	Email update to key stakeholders, local groups, press and media
Appendix 14	Outcome of Informal Consultations 2018 article
Appendix 15	AONB Meeting Note
Appendix 16	CCG and local surgeries Meeting Note
Appendix 17	Pre-Submission Plan Invitation to Comment
Appendix 18	Pre-Submission Plan Comment Slip
Appendix 19	Community Engagement Policy
Appendix 20	Local Planning Authority Notification
Appendix 21	Regulation 14 Report