

# **Blandford + Monitoring Group Meeting Notes**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10am**

## In Attendance

Cllr Carter – Chairman, BFTC  
Leani Haim, O'Neill Homer

Cllr Tompsett, BPC  
Linda Scott-Giles, BFTC

## In Attendance via Microsoft Teams

Cllr McKay, BSMPC  
Brendan O'Neill, O'Neill Homer

Cllr Albery, BSMPC

## Apologies

Cllr Stocks, BPC  
Cllr Herbert, BFTC

Cllr White, BFTC  
Cllr Cross, BFTC

## **1. Town Centre Vision**

This item was added to the agenda and Leani explained to attendees that an online meeting was held last week with the BFTC working group for the market area with O'Neill Homer. The working group had been gifted a grant of £70,000 by NDDC, and tasked with introducing improvements to the market area, and the main aim of the members is to part-pedestrianise the area. The town centre vision will take more time and not meet the deadlines of the modifications project meeting, hence it is running along a separate line.

Brendan spoke about the expansion of the town centre, focusing on the Stour/Langton meadows, providing an experience for residents/visitors rather than just directing people to town centre shops and then going home. Brendan explained about the economic resilience of town centres and the move away from them being a high street, looking at other ways of generating economic prosperity. Brendan talked through the plans that were shown to the working group, connecting the town to surrounding parishes and strengthening links, and suggested the three parishes discussing the area prior to involving external organisations. This would increase economic/social functions across the river for residents/visitors. There is a lot that can be done with the river and cycle tracks to make the area more attractive and easier to spend time in the area.

Carol said it would be good for Bryanston to be involved with The Old Powerhouse. Malcolm pointed out that the river is the boundary and raised concern over the identity of Bryanston and Blandford St Mary parishes due to recent issues with regards to the community governance review. Carol agreed that it is important to retain the independence of the parishes.

Leani will share Brendan's presentation with the three parishes, once he has added a narrative, for the respective councils to consider – by the end of September – prior to him spending any more time on it. The councils will then report back to this group.

## **2. Receive and review first draft reports from Task Groups**

Comms – Leani reiterated that the comms strategy is the priority and it needs to list who is going to be consulted, how and when. Linda will ask Nicci how this is going and provide a draft if necessary. Linda confirmed that the BFTC Community Expo on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 10am-1pm is going to be BFTC's face to face consultation, along with social media and the Around Blandford publication if we meet the 15<sup>th</sup> August deadline. It was agreed that Bryanston and Blandford St Mary should have their own face to face consultation to retain their identity.

Infrastructure – Malcolm has actioned this.

Design Code – Roger is waiting to hear from AECOM and will be chased next week (w/c 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022). Leani confirmed that she is happy to be involved in those meetings.

A discussion was held on the design code for Blandford St Mary to highlight areas of significant style/design such as the area by The Stour Inn and the church. Ian will find out if there is anyone at Blandford St Mary wishing to join the group focusing on Blandford.

Health – Carol and Roger are meeting online with Matt Lee from The Blandford Group Practice on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022, and an update on the surgery is anticipated.

Listed Buildings – needs chasing.

Linda will email Ed to check the validity of the BVM article.

**3. Receive and review a draft Consultation Statement**

Linda has started work on this and will continue to update the document.

**4. Project Plan Review**

Project/Plan Review – this is behind at present due to a lack of volunteers and resources.

Leani asked for the final drafts from the respective groups for the next meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> August and ONH will then finalise the documents so there is time to create content for the September consultations.

The meeting closed at 12 pm.