

Blandford + Monitoring Group Meeting Notes

16th January 2024

In attendance in person

Cllr C Tompsett Chairman BPC
Cllr J Dallison BSM PC
Cllr R Carter BFTC
Cllr A Cross BFTC
Julie Wigg Committee Clerk

In attendance Via Teams

Cllr F Stocks BPC
Cllr I MacKay BSM PC

1. Apologies

No apologies.

2. NP Infrastructure priorities/Blandford St Mary Community Hall

An error has been discovered in the B+ NP Design & Guidance Codes in section CA3. Looking at the Design Code and taking the map on page 25 as correct, then the map on page 30 for CA3 is incorrect. The description in the second paragraph seems to be incorrect too.

Action: JW to email AECOM to ask them to liaise with Cllr Tompsett to make the amendments. Once the amendments are agreed JW will email Ed Gerry to confirm if they would be considered as non-material changes (minor). If this is the case then, with Cabinet approval, the corrections can be made. JW will also ask Ed Gerry if, whilst the other amendments are being made, Blandford St Mary Community Hall can be put back on the list of infrastructure priorities for S106 funding.

Action: JW to ask Robert Lennis if medical infrastructure is included in S106 allocation for the Ward's Drove planning application as it is not clear, and also ask for assurance that it will be allocated to the Blandford Group Practice.

3. Update from ONH and NPPF

Cllr Tompsett was pleased that the recent changes in the NPPF will now extend the protection of the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plans from two to five years. The fact that the NP has agreed development also helps to give strength to the B+NP In the revised NPPF, there is greater emphasis on preserving agricultural land. The Monitoring Group now needs to think more about green infrastructure.

Action: JW to email ONH to thank them for the briefing and ask what, in their opinion, the group should be focusing on moving forward.

Cllr MacKay asked the MG to ensure the Trailway is included going forwards as it needs to be earmarked as a linkway. It is important there is a properly defined route, with clear signage, through the Bellway Estate as this will take the route away from the main road. It was agreed that the monitoring group will submit a formal application to Definitive Maps, Dorchester for the reinstatement of a public byway (route along the old railway).

Action: Cllr Tompsett, Cllr MacKay and Cllr Cross will form a working group and submit an application.

4. Ward's Drove Update

All Councils have objected to this planning application. CPRE have also objected. Cllr MacKay queried why the MG extended the settlement boundary to include the Ward's Drove site in our NP. Cllr Carter said that it was a previous allocation by Dorset Council but reminded the MG it now has more say, particularly from the new Design & Guidance Code.

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6. Future Foci

The group agreed the following:

- Canopy cover
- Green infrastructure – where? What improvements?
- Monitor the national picture to see where NPs are going next.
- Our policies must reflect a more urgent view towards climate change.
- To monitor and ensure delivery of B+NP infrastructure policies.

Cllr MacKay felt that all new developments in the Blandford + area should have a degree of futureproofing. Cllr Carter suggested that the Design & Guidance codes could be tweaked to ensure that this is covered.

Cllr Dallison said he'd seen a new housing development in another area being built with solar panels and expressed his disappointment that the same isn't happening in the B+ area.

It was agreed that the B+ Neighbourhood Plan policies now need to reflect a more urgent view towards climate change. Last year the Committee Clerk attended the Dorset Council Planning Engagement session, and this was very much centred around future proofing new developments. It was agreed that we extend an invite to a Dorset Council Officer to come and brief the group.

The meeting, as agreed at the last meeting, between Wyatts and The Blandford Group Practice is yet to go ahead.

Action: JW to send details of the Planning Policy and Building Control presentations to the Blandford + Group and extend an invite to Dorset Council.

Action: Cllr Carter to email Tim from Wyatts to arrange a meeting with the Blandford Group Practice.

7. Ongoing monitoring.

Cllr Tompsett believes that monitoring of planning applications is already working well. The three B+ councils are using the B+ Design & Guidance Codes in considering new planning applications and refer more difficult applications to the B+ Group for discussion and advice.

Action: JW to draft a monitoring form for the group to approve at the next meeting.

8. AOB

Cllr Tompsett asked the group to consider inviting Nicci Brown to join the MG as she would be a great asset. As per the MOU, there must be two (equal number) of voting representatives from each B+ council in the group. This means that, although Nicci can join the group, she would not be able to vote.

Everyone agreed and asked Cllr Tompsett to extend the invite.

Action: Cllr Tompsett to invite Nicci Brown to be co-opted to the group.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 20th February at 10am Blandford Forum Town Council Community Room and Via Teams.