Blandford + NP Monitoring Group Meeting
Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 10.00am
Corn Exchange

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Carol Tompsett (Chair)	Roger Carter
Mark Aldis	Cllr Maggie Putt
Cllr Gail Del-Pinto	Nicci Brown
Cllr Sheila Chapman	Becci Brady
Cllr Frank Stocks (TEAMs)	

2. Apologies

Cllr Catherine Moxham	Cllr Ian Mackay
Cllr Terry Clarkson	Cllr John Dallison

3. Memorandum of Understanding - update and signing

BSM are currently the only council to have signed it. Blandford Forum Town Council resolved not to sign it at their last Town Council Meeting in July, it is tabled to be on the agenda for their September Town Council meeting.

Carol will speak to councillors from Blandford Forum Town Council that raised queried and had concerns.

4. Update on progress with NDHA List for Blandford St Mary and amalgamation of all B+ NDHA lists with Dorset Council's

We submitted 5 examples of our NDHA to Cass Worman at Dorset Council. The feedback received from their peer review was that the group had done a fantastic job. They would like to revisit the grading that we have submitted. They would like us to look at source material that would back-up our claims. It was mentioned that 'Invisible assets', assets that Planning officers might not understand, also need to be highlighted and looked at further. It was suggested that we re-look at the Design Code and see if this could help with supporting these assets.

NDHA Working Group will meet to go through this feedback and add the information required Mondays or Fridays in late October. Becci will send out a poll to get members availability.

5. Report from Dorset Council Planning and Building Control Town and Parish Council Forum meeting on 8th September

Carol and Catherine attended, Becci attended virtually. They updated us on changes to the NPPF, the future of NP's and changes to the Local Plan. A new NPPF came in on 17th August 2026. It does mean that there is a presumption in favour of development due to the government not meeting its housing targets. Neighbourhood Plans are mentioned heavily in the new NPPF but it is unclear whether or not it strengthens our position.

6. DCLP publication update

Dorset Council have re-set the new Local Plan timetable which will take no more than 30 months, the deadline is February 2029. Our NP expires in October 2028 which makes it seem important to renew our Neighbourhood Plan before this comes into action. Carol spoke with Ed Gerry at the Dorset Council forum regarding the effect of removing B+NP policies that no longer conform to National Policies, at the next review process. Ed Gerry thought this would still probably be viewed as a 'light touch'.
All new NP must be in a digital format going forward, this is something we will have to look at in terms of costs.
It was discussed that when scoping different sites under this new Local Plan for new housing, that infrastructure and particularly employment land must be looked at with high importance.

Becci to ask ONH the cost of using their online tool for when we renew in a digital format to get an idea of costs.

Going forward, at each meeting the group will discuss three policies to see how they relate to the new NPPF and NDMP's (3 at a time).

Becci to send out the timetable for the Local Plan to all members

Carol will ask Ed Gerry if he knows what our housing figures are for the B+NP area.

7. Local Boundary Commission Consultation – possible implications

Carol informed the group that Bryanston feels strongly that it is a rural parish and would be better served by being grouped with other rural parishes, possibly the Milton and Winterborne Ward.

8. Christmas Get-together with MP on Thursday 19th November. Confirm agenda, invitees and refreshments.

This year we will be organising an event to bring local parish councils together on Thursday 19th November at the Old Powerhouse in Bryanston. Meet at 6pm, Q&A 6.30pm until 8.30pm.
Mince pies and crisps, teas, coffees, juice, water will be provided. The bar might be open for anyone else who wants to purchase a drink.

The same list attendees from last year will be used.

We will ask councils to table questions in advance to give to Simon Hoare and let him work his way through this on the night, possibly with a time limit in order to get through as many questions as possible.

Attendees will be reminded that this is not a political event and to be time sensitive.

Carol to send out invitations and ask Catherine if the bar will be in operation.

9. Town centre and Market Area Enhancement Group (*R Carter*) for B+ liaison and update of monitoring sheet

No updates at present.

10. Conformity of current planning applications with B+NP policies and update of Monitoring Sheet

Carol and Becci to update.

11. All other Business

The Community Orchard project now comes under the local Climate, Nature & Biodiversity working group, this will be discussed at their next meeting on Wednesday 16th September.

Gail will report back.

The Sale of Bastard House – Dorset Council have agreed to it being Asset of Community value which puts restrictions on it being sold. Negotiations with the Williams Williams charity are progressing well.

12. Date of next meeting

Becci will send out a poll to see which Monday or Tuesday's members are available in mid-late October, location tbc.

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