Blandford + NP Monitoring Group Meeting
Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 10.00am
Corn Exchange

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Carol Tompsett (Chair)
Cllr Gail Del-Pinto
Cllr Catherine Moxham
Becci Brady
Mark Aldis
Nicci Brown
Claire Commons

Members welcomed Claire Commons, the new Town Clerk of Blandford Forum Town Council .

2. Apologies

Cllr Ian Mackay
Cllr Terry Clarkson
Roger Carter
Cllr Alan Cross
Cllr Maggie Putt
Cllr Sheila Chapman
Cllr Frank Stocks
Cllr John Dallison

3. Memorandum of Understanding

The document was emailed to all councils prior to the meeting. Bryanston had raised concerns regarding the 'cost of renewing' due to the amount of funds required. Their concern is that with the removal of government funding, if Blandford St Mary and Blandford Forum councils agree to renew the NP and there are costs involved, as Bryanston may not have sufficient funds available to meet their proportion of the costs. In light of this, Bryanston council would like the group to agree that if the other councils wish to go ahead and renew the NP, at some point in the future, they would like maximum costs agreed before going ahead.

Email revised MOU for agreement and member council vote
Becci will speak to O'Neil Homer to find out any approximate costs that would be involved.

4. Update on progress with NDHA List for Blandford St Mary and next steps for amalgamation of the 3 B+ NDHA lists with Dorset Council's

All work has been completed, and the information is ready to submit. Tobias has left his role at Dorset Council, and a new Senior Conservation Officer, Cass Worman, has taken on the role. Carol has emailed Ms Worman to ask if we need a definitive map, given that all properties can be found on Dorset Explorer, and to double check that they will be sending letters to Blandford St Mary owners of proposed NDHA properties.

5. Update from Ed Gerry and implications for B+NP, post October 2028

Ed Gerry wrote to the Chair regarding the concerns that were raised about the future of Neighbourhood Plans in general. Ed explained that there is no sign that Dorset Council intend to ignore NPs. He also stated that emerging DCLP policies will take precedence over policies in current NPs. He also explained that the Local Plan will give NP groups clearer direction of where to go from in the future. He indicated that a 'light touch' renewal of our NP, i.e. correcting errors, would be possible without being too costly and would not require a public referendum.

The group will discuss this further at the next meeting.

6. DCLP publication update & role of B+NPMG in any wider community engagement (including invitation to other parish councils) with B+NPMG

It is understood that the DC Local Plan should be out for the next round of public consultation in August 2026. When the next consultation dates come through, we will speak with Charlton Marshall to see if they are interested in discussing this with us. The group has also expressed a desire to engage with the wider community to engage the wider community in formulating responses to the consultation as Blandford is the hub town.
The group will discuss this further at the next meeting.

7. Local Boundary Commission Consultation – any further information

Not heard anymore. Bryanston and Blandford Forum have responded.

Becci will ask BSM if they have responded

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

Awaiting updates from Dorset Council.

Becci will add this to the Monitoring Sheet

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

Carol and Becci updated the Monitoring Sheet on 8th June. Questions were raised over the status of Wards Drove land.

Becci will investigate

10. Discuss a possible Get-together with Simon Hoare MP

It was decided that due to a positive response form the last event, (November 2025), we will hold a similar event this year.
Catherine suggested we hold it at the Old Powerhouse on a Monday evening.

Catherine will be able to provide us with available dates at the end of August.

Becci will contact Simon Hoare MP

11. All other Business

a. Suggestion of the purchase of Crown Meadows

A resident has expressed their desire for the community to buy this land as an asset for the community and to prevent it from behind developed in the future. The group discussed the possibility of it being an ACV or the land by the Crown Hotel being classed as a village green.

Claire will do some research on this and report back to us.

b. Barber shop issues in Blandford Forum *(B Brady)*

The Enforcement Officer at Dorset Council contacted BFTC to update the team on the issue with the illuminated sign on the Pro Barber Shop. He has issued a letter asking for a meeting with them and is awaiting a reply.

c. Update regarding BSM Community centre and play area *(I Mackay)*

Meeting scheduled in July 2026 with Hammonds. Plan is to build a shell until funds are available to start the internal works.

d. Possible Sale of Bere's Yard

The Town Museum is keen to have a long lease on the building which they are trying to establish with the William Williams Trust who own it. If it is sold the museum may have to decrease their offering which could affect their future funding.

e. Community Apple Orchard

Gail explained she is working on a possible Community Apple Orchard and will give more details as she has them.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th September 2026 ,in the council Chamber (upstairs in the Corn Exchange) at 10am.