



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7AD
Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432 • admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk • www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk



CHAIRMAN OF BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Blandford Forum Town Council comprises of 16 members who all sit on Full Council and the Planning committee. The Town & General Purposes, Recreation & Amenities, and Finance & Staffing committees all have seven members with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council as ex-officio members of these committees. Meetings are held on most Mondays and the public are able to attend and address the committees during the public session which is prior to the official agenda. Agendas are published and displayed on the Town Council notice boards, a list of all councillors and their contact details are also posted on the boards and if any member of the public has concerns or issues that they wish to discuss then please contact the members of your ward. Information and a calendar of meetings are available on the Town Council website.

FULL COUNCIL Three councillors resigned this year and elections were called to fill these vacancies. Cllr West joined in July 2009 for Old Town Ward, and in November 2009 Cllr Brannigan filled the seat for Langton and St. Leonard's Ward, and Cllr Lawson filled the seat for Damory Down Ward. As a Quality Council the council does not encourage co-option and always prefers to follow the election process. We are now going into the final year of administration and this time next year a new council will be formed for the next 4 years. If any of you are interested in serving your community then now is the time to think seriously about it. If you require any information then please visit the Town Clerk's Office or visit the website. The Tabernacle Toilets recently closed are now in the ownership of the Town Council and a unisex disability compliant toilet will be provided as a charged facility in line with the Marsh and Hams public toilets. A design and quotations are being sought. The council has responded to many consultations including North Dorset District Council's (NDDC) New Plan and Housing Strategy, DCC bus routes, transport plans, and the Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre has been secured for 3 years with Blandford Forum Town Council having taken the lead, support has come from some of the parishes but more is needed to ensure that this facility is retained. To increase revenue a new gym is needed which would increase the size and the number of stations available which could increase membership. NDDC is in the process of selecting an operator and the Town Clerk will be part of the selection process. The Town Council has now taken over the responsibility for the amenity areas in the town and the staff will continue to maintain all areas to the high standard which the community has seen at our existing open spaces. The staff are continually praised for the attention to detail at the cemetery, Larksmead, Woodhouse Gardens and the recreation ground. In conjunction with the Blandford School Community Award Scheme the Town Council now has representatives on committees and it is hoped that as Youth Advisors their contribution to the discussions will be an asset to the council.

RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE This committee is responsible for all the open space and venues owned by the Town Council. The skate park at Stour Meadows is a very well used facility and is visited by young people from all over the county. This year saw a section on one of the ramps removed by the users of the skate park using an angle grinder. The riders have been requesting since 2005 that this section of fence is removed. The suppliers of the skate park have been on site to suggest alternatives and other changes that would improve the skate park to retain and enhance this prestigious facility and the Town Clerk met with the users to discuss the proposals. The annual ROSPA Play Inspection Report commended the council on the high standard of maintenance and cleanliness of the skate park with some low risk items that require attention. They also commended the considerable resources invested in Larksmead play area, which has resulted in a much higher standard of provision. The committee reconsidered allowing memorial kerbing at the cemetery, this was a matter raised by the public. A working group met and thoroughly debated the request and recommended to the committee that the request was approved and the cemetery regulations were changed to reflect the decision. The committee purchased a stair climber which can be used in the Corn Exchange to allow the Town Hall and Council Chamber to be accessed by the disabled until the renovation takes place. Hire charges and the rents for the sports clubs were increased by 1.5% this year. Our venues continue to give good value and are regularly used by the public. The Corn Exchange crockery has been replaced due to breakages which had depleted the stock and as storage is limited it had to be changed. The remainder of the existing crockery has been distributed to our other venues. A memorial bench was approved for Woodhouse Gardens is child-sized and a welcome addition to the many others around this beautiful garden.



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7AD
Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432 • admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk • www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk



TOWN AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE This committee looks after the town and provides it with beautiful floral displays throughout the year, for which we receive many congratulatory letters. The committee received letters asking for the provision of grit bins to aid highway access, eight of the ten suggested locations have been agreed by Dorset County Council (DCC) and should be installed in October 2010. Town Council staff have designed a new updated leaflet for the town and are paying for the printing. This leaflet will be available to visitors and residents of the town. The Police have identified two new locations for further CCTV cameras to be installed and the Town Council is in discussion with the Conservation team at NDDC. Quotations have been sought. Another issue raised by the Police at the meetings was the resulting problems caused by alcohol related incidents and the committee agreed to request Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) at selected areas in the town and this will give the police the power to seize all alcohol being consumed in these designated areas. Traffic Management was discussed with DCC and the possible Highway Developer contributions and future of the Market Place being the main focus of the discussion. It is hoped that an update will be received soon. The committee donated two flower beds at Woodhouse Gardens for the summer to the Girl Guides who are celebrating their centenary. The committee also supports the proposed review of waiting restrictions by DCC for Damory St, Nursery Rd, Oakfield St, Alexandra St, Salisbury St and White Cliff Mill St. Representatives of our twin town Preetz visited the town to celebrate their 30th anniversary in May and joined the new Town Mayor and councillors for the Mayor Making ceremony and luncheon. The Town Council also presented them with a print of the town mural which is in the Old Bath House as a gift from the townspeople.

PLANNING COMMITTEE Although the District Council is the authority for development control, the local knowledge of the Town Council is utilised as it is consulted on planning applications in the parish. The Town Council has considered 100 planning applications this year. The Chairman and Vice Chairmen of this committee meet and review the plans and visit the properties if necessary and bring this information to the committee meeting so that thorough discussions and decisions can be made. If letters are received from the public these are also sent with the agenda. Objectors normally attend the meeting and are given the opportunity to address the committee in the public session. This committee is also consulted on any tree work in the town, our tree officer visits the sites and reports to the committee and gives his recommendations. The committee put forward two proposals for a street name at the recently named Glenmore Business Park. The developers selected Wend-al Road, which was the old isolation hospital on the Higher Shaftesbury Road opposite the new development. It was bought shortly after WWII by the founder of Wend-al Toys. Town Council staff have registered all land and property in the Town Council's ownership.

FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE The working group of Cllrs Butler, Lindsay, Hixson Andrews, and Russell met with officers several times over recent months and formulated the People Projects in the Strategic Plan and developed a comprehensive Employee Manual. The Town Clerk consulted the staff and following the committee's approval the Employee Manual was implemented from 1 April 2010. The committee agreed a budget which reflected the necessary increases for the year 2010/11 and this budget was then referred to full Council where it was fully debated and an overall budget set at £544,942 which is a total of £150.34 for a Band D property, a total increase of 1.30%. £50,000 of this sum is committed to the Leisure Centre which the Town Council is supporting. Grants have been made to Blandford Amateur Dramatics and Blandford Environment Trust. Jon Goodenough has been appointed as Grounds & Property Manager and Jack Chandler as a Caretaker and is our youngest employee at 18 years.

As my year as Chairman has drawn to a close I would like to thank the staff and my fellow councillors for their support and the hard work that has taken place this year. If all the hours spent by councillors at meetings and working group were added up it would be staggering. The new Chairman for 2010/11 is Cllr Butler and the Vice Chairman is Cllr Holmes who will both lead the Town Council and ensure that the good work continues.

Cllr Lynn Lindsay, Chairman of Council and Town Mayor (May 2009 – May 2010)



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7AD
Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432 • admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk • www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public are welcome to attend council and committee meetings and can make comment via the public sessions held at 7.00pm at the beginning of meetings, which are held on most Monday evenings in the Community Room at the address above. The public can also contact councillors or officers through correspondence/email, by telephone, or in person at the Town Clerk's Office, which is open Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Forthcoming meetings in June and July are listed below.

Monday 14 June	Planning Committee
Monday 21 June	Town & General Purposes Committee
Monday 5 July	Town Council (full council meeting)
Monday 12 July	Recreation & Amenities Committee
Monday 19 July	Planning Committee

Town Clerk – Trevor Savage

Assistant Town Clerk – Linda Scott-Giles

tsavage@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

linda@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL RETURN (ACCOUNTS) 2009/10

The Internal Auditors to the Town Council have confirmed the accounts as correct. Copies of the full accounts are available by using the contact details above and are available to view on the Town Council's website.

		31 st March 2009	31 st March 2010
		£	
1	Balances Brought Forward	1,130,202	1,252,227
2	(+) Annual Precept	493,456	519,301
3	(+) Total Receipts (income)	146,794	319,556
4	Staff Costs	315,135	320,469
5	Loan Interest Repayments	5,366	0
6	(-) Total Other Payments	197,724	213,633
7	(=) Balance Carried Forward*	1,252,227	1,556,982
8	Total Cash & Investments	1,432,595	1,688,348
9	Total Fixed Assets**	3,932,844	4,180,194
10	Total Borrowing	Nil	Nil
11	Acts as sole Trustee For Managing Trust Funds	YES	YES

* Of the balances held at 31 March 2010 over £980,000 was held for Capital projects, which includes £588,000 for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange.

** Fixed assets of £4,180,194 is the value of the properties and equipment owned by the Council (for example the Corn Exchange and the Skate Park).

INDOOR MARKET

The Town Council operates an Indoor Market in the Corn Exchange every other Thursday with stalls selling a variety of goods including jewellery, books, crafts, antiques, and bedding, and there is also a small café area. There is currently stall space available, so if you are interested in joining this lively market then please contact Rachael on 01258 454500 or Email bookings@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk.



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7AD
Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432 • admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk • www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk



COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS (MAY 2009 – APRIL 2010)

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Expected Attendance
Bob Brannigan	9	11
Esme Butler	30	30
Harold Galpin	33	36
Steve Hitchings	31	27
Sylvia Hixson Andrews	24	31
Rosemary J Holmes	23	26
Hilary Lawson	11	11
Lynn Lindsay	36	36
Sara Loch	27	31
Mike Owen	24	31
Andrew Pemberton	26	30
Peter Randall	16	26
Isabel C Rose	28	30
Malcolm Russell	10	11
Jackie Stayt	25	26
Frances West	14	19
Haydn White	29	31
Tom Xavier	1	8

Occasionally Councillors must attend other meetings, conferences and civic events on behalf of the Town Council and are therefore unable to attend Town Council meetings.

CONTACT YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

COUNCILLOR	WARD	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Robert Brannigan	Langton St Leonards	1 Hambledon Gardens DT11 7SE	459452
Esme Butler	Langton St Leonards	7 Staverton Walk, DT11 7TN	480756
Harold F Galpin	Damory Down	Russell House, Durweston DT11 OQA	454294
Steve G Hitchings	Hilltop	27 Kings Road, DT11 7LD	455840
Sylvia Hixson Andrews	Old Town	15 Bryanston Street, DT11 7AZ	458911
Rosemary J Holmes	Damory Down	16 Liddington Crescent, DT11 7RP	480451
Hilary Lawson	Damory Down	10 Avebury Court, Medbourne Close DT11 7UA	450935
Lynn Lindsay	Station	31 Barnes Close, DT11 7NG	456209
Sara Loch	Old Town	The Old House, The Close DT11 7HA	450278
Mike Owen	Station	63 Damory Street, DT11 7HD	459170
Andrew Pemberton	Old Town	The Rectory, The Tabernacle DT11 7DW	459672
Peter Randall	Hilltop	11 Shottesford Avenue, DT11 7XU	450525
Isabel C Rose	Langton St Leonards	Endellion, St Leonards Av, DT11 7NY	451557
Jackie Stayt	Hilltop	29 Damory Street, DT11 7EU	456999
Frances West	Old Town	Langham House, 81 Salisbury Street, DT11 7PY	458055
Haydn White	Station	79 Salisbury Road, DT11 7LP	453666

TO RECEIVE THIS NEWS UPDATE IN LARGE PRINT PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01258 454500