



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



Local Elections in May 2011

If you have been considering spending your spare time representing the interests of your local community the role of Town Councillor may be for you and the Local Elections will be held on Thursday 5 May 2011. The Town Council is responsible for many things that you may come into contact with on a daily basis like the Corn Exchange, Larksmead and Park Road recreation grounds, the allotments, the cemetery, the Marsh & Ham toilets and Woodhouse Gardens to name but a few. Furthermore, North Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council consult the Town Council on various issues such as planning applications, highway improvements, street signs, and projects that affect where you live and what facilities your community has or receives. So, if you would like to be one of Blandford Forum's sixteen Town Councillors, nomination forms will be available from early March and can be obtained by telephoning and requesting one from North Dorset District Council's Democratic Services (01258 454111) or Blandford Forum Town Council in Church Lane (01258 454500). Your completed nomination papers must be delivered to the Returning Officer at North Dorset District Council by no later than Noon on Monday 4 April 2011.

2011 Census: 27 March 2011 – Help tomorrow take shape

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out a census to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales and about the make-up of local neighbourhoods. The next census will take place on 27 March 2011 and the answers will be turned into statistics used to build a picture of today's society. The census needs everyone to take part in helping tomorrow take shape – and this will be your chance to make a difference. **For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk.**



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012

Members of the public are invited to attend the first public meeting to discuss how Blandford Forum can celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The meeting will be held at Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion (next to the Post Office) on Thursday 24 February 2011 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend!

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
Tony Harrocks	Hilltop	1 Mortain Close, DT11 7XA	480062
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
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



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Although it is not responsible for gritting or the provision of grit bins, as a result of public demand, the Town Council introduced nine **grit bins** across the town in 2010 and is now considering purchasing more grit bins subject to Dorset County Council approving the locations and committing to keeping them topped up.

Advice from the Government to householders on clearing snow and ice yourself

There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the snow code - tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces.

Prevent slips – Pay extra attention clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas. If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

Clear the snow or ice early in the day – It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

Use salt or sand - not water – If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery. You can prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Don't use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear. Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may cause them damage. If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.

Take care where you move the snow – When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

Offer to clear your neighbours' paths – If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather.

Town Council Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend council and committee meetings and can make comments 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. The Town Clerk is Tim Woolford and he can be contacted using the details above or at twoolford@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk. Forthcoming meetings are listed below:

21 February 2011	Planning	14 March 2011	Town Council
28 February 2011	Recreation & Amenities	16 March 2011	Finance & Staffing

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

Blandford Leisure Centre

The Blandford Leisure Centre was officially handed over from North Dorset District Council to SLM Everyone Active on Tuesday 1 February, to manage for the benefit of the community. SLM will be increasing the time the pool is available to swimmers and will be encouraging more people to take part in swimming lessons. The Council will be funding an all new fitness suite with state-of-the-art equipment and a huge TV wall to keep the motivation pumping. There are also plans to improve the café area at the centre with more healthy eating options.

Car parking review for North Dorset

Car parking across North Dorset is being looked at to ensure it generates the right level of income to support local economic growth. Cllr Croney, of North Dorset District Council, said: “The income generated from car parks directly supports council services and we must balance the need for income and the possible effects of attracting trade to our towns and the impact on our residents.” One proposal is to introduce Sunday charging now that Sunday is a ‘normal’ trading day for many retailers.

Overnight charges are also to be considered. New ways to pay are under consideration, such as mobile phone pay and park. This will be trialled in five car parks. Mobile phone payments make it easier for some users to pay while reducing wear and tear of ticket machines. Another improvement could be to introduce a linear scale of charges, whereby a user only pays for the time they require rather than a set 30 minute or hourly rate. Other ways of covering the cost of running car parks are to be studied such as the introduction of advertising boards which could be rented out with the income earmarked specifically for car park maintenance and improvements. There are many hidden costs associated with car parks. For example, car parks are subject to Business Rates. North Dorset pays more than £90,000 in Business Rates to the Treasury for its car parks every year.

Are you registered to vote in May?

There will be District, Town and Parish Council elections on Thursday 5 May. Make sure you are registered to vote otherwise you will not be able to exercise your democratic right of choosing who represents you and your local community. The last day to register is 14 April. If you want to stand as a candidate you need to register with the District Council between 25 March and 4 April. Find out everything you need to know about the election on the website www.dorsetforyou.com or call North Dorset District Council on 01258 454111.

Good news for Council Tax payers

The news coming from central government and local councils about funding seems to be one tale of woe after another. However, for Council Tax payers there is some good news hidden among the doom and gloom. Council Tax will not go up this year in North Dorset. The average Council Tax bill from North Dorset District Council, for a Band D property, in 2010/11 was £104.78. It will be exactly the same for the 2011/12 financial year. District Councillors will vote on the budget in February and are determined that local tax payers should not be asked to shoulder the burden of central government funding cut-backs any further. Council Tax in North Dorset is one of the lowest in the country and everyone wants to keep it that way.

Council makes savings and protects services

The District Council has identified £1.2m of savings it has to make to balance the budget for 2011/12. It is going to achieve this by sharing services, wherever it is beneficial to North Dorset residents, and by making cost savings at senior management level. We now share our Revenues and Benefits Service with Christchurch and East Dorset in the Stour Valley Revenues and Benefits Partnership. In April we will see the inception of the Dorset Waste Partnership. And we are now part of the dorsetforyou.com website. We also share a number of other functions such as the audit team with East Dorset and Christchurch and a shared procurement arrangement with Dorset County Council. We will continue to seek other areas where we can provide the same or better quality of services for local people at reduced cost.

North Dorset helps parliament to define ‘localism’

North Dorset community representatives helped the government to define the Localism Bill in January when they gave evidence to a House of Commons Select Committee on the matter. Cllr David Milsted, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group at the District Council, and Mark Hebditch, Chairman of the Community Partnerships Executive for North Dorset, were invited to answer questions from the Select Committee. Cllr Milsted said: “It was an interesting and useful experience, though I think some of the MPs were quite shocked to realise just how much real control local people now have over the services that matter to them.” North Dorset District Council has stolen a march on much of the country in terms of localism by devolving leisure centres, street cleaning and public conveniences to community groups and Town and Parish Councils. Mark Hebditch said: “As far as the Localism Bill itself is concerned, I think nearly all the ‘new things’ it proposes are things we are doing here in North Dorset – and actually doing in a better way than the government has in mind.”

Silton Wind Farm

Those interested in alternative energy sources may be interested in the Silton Wind Farm planning application which will be determined at a special meeting of the Development Control Committee in Gillingham on Tuesday 1 March. The debate sets those in favour of alternative energy against those who do not want to see such large structures built in a beautiful corner of rural North Dorset.

Contact Your District Councillors

Councillor	Ward	Phone	Email
Angus Campbell	Hill Forts	01747 811219	i.a.campbell@dorsetcc.gov.uk
Barrie Cooper	Langton St Leonards	01258 450420	b.g.cooper@dorsetcc.gov.uk
Deborah Croney	Hill Forts	01747 812469	hillfortsward@hotmail.co.uk
Joe Hickish	Blandford Old Town	01258 453647	joehickish@hotmail.com
Nessa Hickish	Blandford Damory Down	01258 453647	nessahickish@hotmail.com
Steve Hitchings	Blandford Hilltop	01258 455840	shitchings@north-dorset.gov.uk
Richard Moyle	Riversdale	01929 459459	remoyle@aol.com
Michael Oliver	Cranborne Chase	01258 454203	mdo@nmsigrp.com
John Tanner	Blandford Station	01258 455173	jjtanners@hotmail.com
Chris Tomlinson	Portman	01258 480199	chris.tomlinson@btopenworld.com

North Dorset District Council’s Contact Details:

Address: Customer Services Team
 North Dorset District Council
 Nordon
 Salisbury Road
 Blandford Forum
 Dorset
 DT11 7LL

Telephone: 01258 454111

Email: customerservices@north-dorset.gov.uk

PACT Meeting

The next Partners and Communities Together (PACT) public meeting will be held in Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion on Tuesday 5 April 2011 at 7pm. If you are unable to attend but wish to raise an issue you can complete a PACT postcard and post it in one of the PACT community post boxes, located at Blandford Police Station, and North Dorset District Council and Blandford Forum Town Council receptions.

This News Update has been compiled by both Blandford Forum Town Council and North Dorset District Council, which saves money and gives you all the essential news on your area in one document.