

Blandford Town Team (Town Centre) Action Plan

V11 dated 10 Oct 14

1. **Blandford Background.** Blandford, comprising of Blandford Forum and Blandford St Mary, is a market town in North Dorset located some 100 miles SW of London. Blandford enjoys the twin benefits of being located within forty minutes' drive of the Salisbury, Bournemouth and Poole conurbations while retaining its traditional market town character, embellished by its magnificent Georgian town centre. The town is the administrative centre of North Dorset and provides a range of shopping, health, education and sporting facilities. Blandford is a nominated Dorset Growth Town and a designated Northern Dorset Hub Town. As a result, the Town Centre is vital to the overall viability and vitality of the Town and supporting the surrounding villages. A summary of Blandford as a place to work, live, shop and visit is at Annex A.

2. **Policy Context, Drivers, Partners and the Need for a Town Team Plan.**

a. There are a number of drivers for the development of the *Town Team Action Plan* at the National (EU)/ Dorset and local level; full details are at Annex B. The drivers are:

- i. **Economic Growth.** There are number of economic growth strategies and associated funding streams. It is key that any *Town Team* initiative supports the aims of one or more of these strategies in order to stand any chance of obtaining funding.
- ii. **Town Centres Decline and How to Improve Them.** There have been a number of reports charting the decline Town Centres and possible solutions, some requiring national, regional input but others where local self-help is possible to improve the situation.
- iii. **Localism & Neighbourhood Planning.** There are a number of Community and Land Use Plans associated with Blandford.

b. **Accountable Councils and Bodies that Impact on the Town Centre.**

- i. **Dorset County Council (DCC)** has statutory responsibility for the condition of the roads and pavements, traffic flow, signage undertaken by the Highways Department.
- ii. **North Dorset District Council (NDDC)** has statutory responsibility for the cleanliness through the agreement with Dorset Waste Partnership. The Community support officer is a key post.
- iii. **Blandford Forum Town Council (TC)**, consisting of elected Councillors and supporting staff, is responsible for a number of functions within the town that relate to and influence the function of the Town Centre, which include the Corn Exchange (and indoor/Shambles markets), Town Pump, churchyard, fingerposts, seating, planters, notice boards, public conveniences,

Woodhouse Gardens, the Old Bath House and CCTV. Additional responsibilities within the Town but beyond the Town Centre include: allotments, the skate park, a memorial garden, the cemetery, amenity areas, play areas, recreation grounds, sports pitches, grit bins, redundant railway arches, along with trees, venues and property at Town Council owned sites (including dog waste bins at Badbury Heights).

iv. **DT11 Forum Partnership (DT11)** has access to community funds that are not available to local government, such as the LEADER programme through the Northern Dorset Local Action Group (LAG). DT11 has a Community Resource Worker who is employed by NDDC to support the delivery of community projects, including Town Team projects. The Town Team is able to use the DT11 Office as its base in the town.

v. **Blandford Plus (B+)** has a role in raising concerns and issues over local land use and development planning issues.

c. **Special Interest Groups.** There are a number of local special interest groups that have an interest and able to carry out activity or influence other stakeholders in the Town Centre such as: the Civic Society, Chamber of Trade Steering Group (CoT) and Market stall holders, Blandford Information Centre (BIC).

d. **The Need for a Town Team Action Plan.**

i. As a result, there has been identified a need for a *Town Team Action Plan* to cover the Blandford Forum Town Centre and High Street used by those living in Blandford Forum and Blandford St Mary and surrounding villages to shop and take part in activities and for tourists to visit its historic buildings.

ii. The intent of this Blandford *Town Team Action Plan* is to put it into context to the wider initiatives, ensure the limited volunteers and NDDC staff and financial resources available are focused on the priority issues that will have the greatest impact on the Town Centre. It is important that the *Town Team Action Plan* is complimentary, and not competing, with these other plans. The *Town Team Action Plan* is at Annex C.

3. **The Town Team Purpose.**

a. **Purpose.** Working in partnership with other stakeholders, to support the development and enhancement of a vibrant town centre with its unique Georgian heritage, supported by our community spirit, profitable and attractive businesses and interesting tourist attractions in and around the Town, the River Stour and the wonderful local countryside. The benefit will be for those who live, shop, work, have local businesses and visit Blandford.

b. **The Objectives of the Town Team Objectives.** The objectives of the Town Team can be seen at Annex D.

c. **The Town Team Contact Details.** The Town Team contact details are at Annex E.

d. **Partners.** The Town Team partners/ stakeholders can be identified in the Town Team Action Plan at Annex B.

4. **The Town Team Plan** at Annex B.

a. **Plan Focus:**

- i. Geographically on the Blandford Forum Town Centre, although there is deliberately no defined boundary.
- ii. Complimenting other community and land use plans.
- iii. Supporting economic growth strategies.
- iv. Partnership with stakeholders.

b. **Vision:** by 2019, a Town Centre where we want to socialise, shop and sightsee. This includes:

- i. a high quality market, which will have a covered outside market (The Main Effort - the critical piece of work where most effort and resource will be applied);
- ii. community activities and events taking place in the market square, which can be easily pedestrianized if required;
- iii. vibrant shops, providing an excellent service;
- iv. clean and well maintained roads and pavements;
- v. well maintained and accessible historic buildings;
- vi. developing initiatives for Dementia and Disability access and a networked High Street;
- vii. supported by a funded Town Manager.

c. **How we will achieve this.** The Town Team Action Plan will be achieved by:

- i. **Delivery methodology.** There are a variety of delivery methods in order to achieve the vision these are summarised by:

(a) **Direct delivery.**

- i. The Town Team is accountable and responsible for delivery. For example, the conduct of the Town Survey.
- ii. Having costed and agreed business cases in place to obtain funding.

(b) **Working in partnership to deliver.** The Town Team works with other stakeholders to deliver. For example, the improvements to the current market.

(c) **Influence key accountable stakeholders to deliver.** The Town Team holds to account and influences stakeholders who are accountable for the delivery. For example, amending the traffic flow within Blandford to allow a pedestrianized Town Centre for designated events, which is the responsibility of Dorset County Council and the Highways Department.

ii. **Updates.** The *Town Team Action Plan* will be updated annually (Sep) or more frequently as required.

iii. **Key issues from consultation.** In Mar 14 an independent Town survey run and funded by the Town Team was conducted. A follow-up briefing was held in Sep 14. A summary of the findings can be found at Annex F.

d. **Performance Indicators.**

- i. Has the projects funding delivered to scope: time, quality, function?
- ii. How satisfied are the public with the progress of the Town Team responsible activities?

Blandford Background

1. The Town.

- a. **Location.** Blandford, comprising of Blandford forum and Blandford St Mary, is a market town in North Dorset located some 100 miles SW of London. Blandford enjoys the twin benefits of being located within forty minutes' drive of the Salisbury, Bournemouth and Poole conurbations while retaining its traditional market town character, embellished by its magnificent Georgian town centre. The town is the administrative centre of North Dorset and provides a range of shopping, health, education and sporting facilities, (Dorset data)". The town is ideally located in the heart of Hardy country for the New Forest, Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral and the UNESCO Jurassic coastline, money Work and the Bovington Tank Museum and the Great Dorset Steam Fair in nearby Tarrant Hinton is Europe's largest open air event attracting some 250,000 people from around the world annually.
- b. **Live.**
 - i. **Housing Costs.** Compared to the rest of Dorset, Blandford has some of the most affordable housing costs.
 - ii. **Environment.** The town itself is located in stunning scenery with the River Stour running along the edge, and a selection of Green Flag meadows open to all.
- c. **Shop.**
 - i. **Shopping Catchment Area.** The shopping catchment for Blandford (major food shopping) extends around 8 miles in a NE & SW direction, and 5 miles NW & SE. The population within the catchment is around 24,200 (Mid 2001).
 - ii. **Retail Profile.** The town has a wonderful selection of independent shops and few national chains. This includes places selling amazing local produce, local arts and crafts, high end lifestyle stores of the type you'd expect to find in London. There are a number of vacant shops. 110 shops/105,000 sq.ft. (2005) (excludes 'out of town shops'). The Town Centre has mainly local shops but includes nationals such as Argos, Boots, Morrisons, Tesco, Somerfield, Co-Op, W H Smiths and Homebase and a limited but twice weekly market.
 - iii. **Eat and Drink.** The Hall and Woodhouse Brewery is in Blandford St Mary with its associated Crown Hotel and four pubs in the town, alongside a selection of free-house pubs, coffee shops and restaurants, including national chains,.
- d. **Work.** Blandford has a number of industrial estates: Blandford Heights Industrial Estate, Clump Farm Industrial Estate, Holland Way Industrial Estate, Sunrise Business Park, St Patricks Industrial Estate, Uplands Industrial Park all within easy walking distance of the town and its housing. In 2009, the total number of people working in the town: 4,200 with some 370 firms (excluding self-employed). Despite a total unemployment rate of 1.8% (Jul 2010) only 57% of those employed are in full-time work, the socio-economic classifications, see below.

- e. **Visit.** Day visitors and tourists have plenty to do:
 - i. **Architecture.** Rebuilt in 1731 after a fire, Blandford Forum’s centre comprises “the most exquisite example of small-town Georgian architecture” (Nicholas Roe – in the Times 2013), including the Grade 1 listed Georgian St Peters & Paul Parish Church with its unique Cupola. This is the jewel of Blandford.
 - ii. **Places to Visit.** Alongside all the above including the Fashion Museum, Town Museum and the Signal Museum in the nearby Signals Camp, , the Brewery visitor centre and some wonderful annual events including our Yuletide Festival which attracts almost 5000 people in one evening.

- f. **Schools.** The imposing Bryanston School, formerly the home of the Portman family, is on the outskirts and there are a number of major independent schools close by. These provide employment opportunities and bring in visitors.

2. **Age Structure.** The age structure (**bold**) is comparable with the rest of Dorset.

Age Structure (%): 2010 v Dorset		
0-15	17.0	19.4
16-17	2.7	2.7
18-44	25.4	29.0
45-59	20.9	21.0
60-84	25.0	25.0
85+	2.9	2.9

3. **Socio-economic Classifications.** Blandford (**bold**), when compared to the average of Dorset, has a significantly higher level of moderate means and hard pressed than would be expected.

Socio-economic classifications:		
2010 ACORN v Dorset		
% Wealthy Achievers	40.1	19.6
% Urban Prosperity	7.1	6.9
% Comfortably Off	33.2	35.9
% Moderate Means	9.2	14.4
% Hard Pressed	10.2	23.2
% unclassified	0.2	0.1

Annex B

Community and Land Use Plans Associated with Blandford

1. It is important that the *Town Team Action Plan* is complimentary, and not competing with these other plans.

Area	Community plans In principle, cover all economic, community and environment issues	Land use plans Cover land use issues, such as where development can happen, different types of development, infrastructure
National	<p>LEP Strategic Economic Plan</p> <p>Community reports:</p> <p>Mary Portas Review ‘Why our High Streets still Matter’ http://www.portasagency.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/WhyOurHighStreetsStillMatter_MaryPortas.pdf</p> <p>Grimsey Report http://www.vanishinghighstreet.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/GrimseyReview04.092.pdf</p> <p>Deloitte Report at http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedKingdom/Local%20Assets/Documents/Industries/Consumer%20Business/uk-cb-consumer-review-edition-6.pdf</p> <p>English Heritage at http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/changing-face-high-street-decline-revival/773_130604_final_retail_and_town_centre.pdf</p>	
Dorset wide	<p>Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=157580&filetype=pdf</p> <p>SEP Talented Dorset, SEP Competitive Dorset, Growth Towns, SEP Talented Dorset, Business Growth Hub, SEP Responsive Dorset, Unlocking Potential, SEP Connected Dorset, Local Loyalty</p>	Specific plans, e.g. for Transport, waste, etc

	and Promotion	
North Dorset District wide	NDDC Growth fund Northern Dorset Hub Towns with LEADER funding	North Dorset Local Plan (Draft) 2011-26 https://www.dorsetforyou.com/northdorsetdraftlocalplan
Market town & hinterland areas	Community Strategies http://www.dorsetforyou.com/397854	
Town & Parish	Blandford Forum Town Council Strategic Plan http://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/Town%20Council/The%20Strategic%20Plan.html Relevant issues: PR13 – Town Plan and Design Plan To work together with residents, business, community partnerships to develop a Town Plan for Blandford Forum. Action: This project will be started linked to the Strategic Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. IN07 - S106 developer contributions To monitor efficient and effective use of s106 developer contributions. Action – in particular the employment of a Town Manager. IN10 - NDDC Local Delivery Programme – Markets To review the feasibility of taking back the markets from the NDDC. Action: BFTC to create a business case/feasibility study to present to councillors for approval prior to entering into discussions with NDDC. and Blandford St Mary Parish Plan. https://www.dorsetforyou.com/398135	Neighbourhood Plan - Blandford +
Specific local issues	<i>Town Team Action Plan</i> with a focus on the Town Centre Open Spaces Plan	Some aspects of the <i>Town Team Action Plan</i> could become part of a Neighbourhood Plan, e.g. redevelopment of an area

2. There are number of economic growth strategies and associated funding steams. It is key that any Town Team initiative supports the aims of one or more of these strategies.

- a. The key ones are:
 - i. Dorset LEP Strategic Economic Plan – Strengthening our Rural Economies – Modern Market Town Pilots.
 - ii. Dorset European Structural Investment Funds Strategy 2014-20 – Driving business Growth and supporting and Improving the Labour Market and Workforce.
 - iii. SEP Programmes.

- b. The key funding streams The key funding streams linked to delivering economic outcomes are:
 - i. Skills and Training
 - 1. Creating jobs.
 - 2. Training for young people.
 - SEP Talented Dorset, SEP Competitive Dorset, Growth Towns
 - ii. Business support- supporting local businesses.
 - SEP Talented Dorset,
 - Business Growth Hub,
 - SEP Competitive Dorset,
 - Growth Towns
 - iii. Sites and Premises.
 - SEP Responsive Dorset,
 - SEP Competitive Dorset,
 - Growth Towns
 - iv. Infrastructure.
 - SEP Responsive Dorset,
 - Unlocking Potential
 - v. Access
 - SEP Connected Dorset
 - vi. Broadband.
 - SEP Connected Dorset
 - vii. Public Realm.
 - SEP Competitive Dorset,
 - Growth Towns
 - viii. Promotion and Marketing.

- SEP Competitive Dorset,
 - Growth Towns,
 - Grimsey Report,
 - Local Loyalty and Promotion
- ix. Other Growth initiatives
- NDDC Growth fund.
 - NDDC LAG. The LAGs' Local Delivery Strategy (LDS) describes how funding will be used. Within this the four LEADER priorities relevant to Blandford are:
 - o Support for micro and small enterprises and farm diversification;
 - o Support for rural tourism;
 - o Support for culture and heritage activity; and
 - o Provision of rural services.
 - o Funds are limited, and it is estimated that 56 Project in Northern Dorset would get £2,800 each

Annex C

The Town Team (TT) Action Plan

Priority	Area	Sub-Group	Key Partners	1 Year Tgt (Sep 15)	2 Year Tgt (Sep 16)	5 Year Tgt (Sep 19)	Funding Required	Economic Outcomes Area	Remarks
1.	Market Performance	Market	NDDC Town Council (TC)	- Lobby NDDC, express dissatisfaction about current situation, for TC management and enquire what NDDC is going to do about it - Lobby for Joint agreement between NDDC/ TC/ Stall holder rep on way forward for the market management.	- Market under TC management - If considered worth it in Years 2-4 re-engage English Heritage engagement on revised proposition and develop awning proposals	If developed and consent agreed, revamped and semi-permanent covered market (Weekday/ Sat) with excellent stalls and managed by the TC	- Awnings initial - English Heritage report	Creating jobs Business support	Town survey back brief view was that the TC should run the market.
2.	Market Activity	Market	Market reps TC NDDC	- Issue Xmas labels for shops/ market owners - support the Corn Exchange regeneration project. - Support new market initiatives			Printing labels		
3.	First Impressions	Activities/ Facilities	TC Chamber of trade (CoT) Members of the Public (Pu) NDDC DCC	- Monthly audit of “things that need attention” and report to those who are accountable and responsible in particular: TC, NDDC – Dorset Waste Partnership, DCC – Highways, CofT			Nil but any funding requirements by the TT will be allocated to the responsible TT sub-Group	-	
4.	Events	Activities/ Facilities	TC Chamber of trade (CoT) Other Activity Groups	- support Events coordinators. - support annual events that impact on Town Centre: -- Georgian Fair (May, even years) -- Big Blandford Clean Up (May) -- Blandford Clean Up (Sep) -- Remembrance Day (Nov) -- Yuletide Festival (Dec)				-	
5.	Communicating	Town Team/ Marketing		- Set up Facebook site - Publish full events list with Forum Focus, TC,	- Set up funded Web-site - support	- Electronic screen in Town Centre	Web-site from Financial	Promotion and Marketing	- Needs TM post to be established

Priority	Area	Sub-Group	Key Partners	1 Year Tgt (Sep 15)	2 Year Tgt (Sep 16)	5 Year Tgt (Sep 19)	Funding Required	Economic Outcomes Area	Remarks
				and TT Facebook - Identify Web-site interim manager - Link page through DT11 Web-site - Identify the best option for a Web-site	development of Town Guide (hard and soft copy), with businesses	showing events - Web-site managed by Town Manager (TM)	Year (FY) 15/16		- TH lead on Facebook
6.	Ring road Signage	Highways / Signage	DCC/ Highways, NDDC - Cllr B Cooper	- Engage with DCC for enhanced parking/ market direction signs for Blandford from the by-pass. - Develop business case and costings from NDDC	Parking direction signs in place		DCC funded?	Promotion and Marketing	
7.	Town Centre Manager (TCM)	Town Team	NDDC TC	- monitor the debate over who (NDDC or TC) should manage the TCM on a day-to-day-basis. NDDC and Town Council to publically state their position. - Provide suggestions for the Town Centre manager job requirements/ framework for post to support TT initiatives - Present findings to NDDC/ TC		Town Centre Manager running many of the activities the Town Team has identified as a priority		Business Support Sites & Premises	Funding through NDDC Town Survey back-brief view was that TCM should be managed by the TC
8.	Traffic Flow around town centre for events	Highways / Signage	DCC Highways NDDC TC DT11	- survey why do people travel through Blandford Town Centre - Engage with DCC/ Highways to run modelling (too expensive) - Develop alternative ways to get modelling work done. (DT11 lead) - work out what is legally allowed in respect of road closures - Work out periods when		Traffic flow easily altered – eg gates in place/ permanent road closures for events at designated dates/ times	Funding for modelling – up to £100k from DCC.	Business support -Infrastructure	Intent: Block of Market Square for events with less bureaucracy than currently takes place. Key issue is the traffic flow when there are major events in the Market Square.

Priority	Area	Sub-Group	Key Partners	1 Year Tgt (Sep 15)	2 Year Tgt (Sep 16)	5 Year Tgt (Sep 19)	Funding Required	Economic Outcomes Area	Remarks	
				closures required - Agree line with TC on what is wanted/ needed and achievable						
9.	Facilities	Activities/ Facilities	Fund raising Committees	Support Town Centre Regeneration Projects: Corn Exchange/ Parish Church - Cupola/ Museum				Sites and Premises		
10.	Heritage	Heritage	English Heritage DCC NDDC	- Engage with the Civic Society	- Discussions with NDDC/ DCC/ English Heritage on way ahead - Complete review of heritage buildings	- Visible progress on owners dealing with their backlog of repairs on Heritage buildings - Updated Blandford Building Heritage report	Heritage Report production	Sites and Premises		
11.	Litter	Litter	NDDC Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) TC CUBC	- Support CUBC clean ups in the Town Centre (May/ Sep/ Dec – Yuletide Festival) - Report with CUBC to DWP/NDDC/ TC any lapses in cleaning responsibilities			Nil	Nil	Pressure to DWP to maintain their agreed service levels	
				The Town Council reconsider managing the Town Centre street cleaning (Monitor)						Blandford forum is the only town in North Dorset which does not have responsibility for the Market Square street cleaning.
				A map of the ownership of alleyways to be produced by DWP and published by TC. (Monitor)						
12.	Branding	Marketing	TC Blandford Information	Develop an outline Blandford Brand	Develop and present a Blandford Brand	Blandford Brand on most	Branding plan	Promotion and Marketing	FY 14/15 - Only if a free Branding	

Priority	Area	Sub-Group	Key Partners	1 Year Tgt (Sep 15)	2 Year Tgt (Sep 16)	5 Year Tgt (Sep 19)	Funding Required	Economic Outcomes Area	Remarks
			Centre			Blandford product			specialist can support To include history, buildings etc
13.	Town Requirements Survey	Marketing	Forum Focus	- Back brief Town on 2014 Survey results (Completed)		Carry out a revised survey FY 18 to see if achieved Vision	Survey - £500	Promotion and Marketing	
14.	Disabled, including dementia, access friendly Town Centre	Activities/Facilities	DCC NDDC TC Dementia Care Chamber of Trade	- Set up Dementia sub-group - NDDC to publish best town practice - Request NDDC and Town Council to state what plans they have to support this initiative (Jun 15) - press DCC highways for additional disabled parking in the Plocks	- Carry out a Dementia survey of the need and requirement	Facilities, agreements and protocols in place	Survey - £500	Sites and Premises access	
15.	Future Proofing the Town Centre and High St	Town Team	NDDC TC		Awareness of the possibilities of a Networked High Street	Be in a position to consider putting in a Networked High Street proposal	TBC		
16.	Business Improvement District (BID)	Town Team	NDDC	Awareness	Develop awareness of the requirement	Be in a position to consider putting in a BID proposal	TBC	Business Support Sites and Premises Infrastructure Public Realm	5 year + implementation
17.	Illegal and mass disabled parking in the	Not Town Team Business		Monitor					Address illegal and mass disabled parking in the Market

Priority	Area	Sub-Group	Key Partners	1 Year Tgt (Sep 15)	2 Year Tgt (Sep 16)	5 Year Tgt (Sep 19)	Funding Required	Economic Outcomes Area	Remarks
	Market Square								Square to prevent disruption to traffic flow by better: - physical enforcement. road markings enforcement.
18.	The Market Square bus stops are not in a good place	Not Town Team Business		Monitor					Consideration is being given to move the bus stops to a better location
19.	The condition and maintenance of the pavements	Not Town Team Business		Monitor					NDDC/ DCC Highways have developed a plan to address the issue.
20.	Parking issues around Blandford	Not Town Team Business		NDDC (Kevin Morris) to review the findings and report back					

Funding. External funding must deliver value for money, and so projects need to be clear on what difference they will make. For this, it is essential to be able to monitor change, so need a baseline and ability to measure 'before' and 'after'.

Funding Profile	Year 1 FY 15/16	Year 2 FY 16/17	Year 3 FY 17/18	Year 4 FY 18/19	Year 5 FY 19/20	Year 6+
Running Cost						
Assessments		- Traffic Flow report £? - Dementia and disability Access survey - £500 - electronic Screen showing future events		- Blandford Building Heritage report £? - Market Awnings English Heritage £? - BID - Networked High St	- TT follow-up Survey - £500 - BID - Networked High Street	
Planning/ Development		Web-site £? Blandford Brand £?		Dementia & Disability Access Report		- BID - Networked High Street
Delivery						- BID - Networked High Street
Running	Printing Xmas labels	Printing Xmas labels	Printing Xmas labels Web-site £? Blandford Brand £?	Printing Xmas labels Web-site £? Blandford Brand £?	Printing Xmas labels Web-site £? Blandford Brand £?	- BID - Networked High Street
Review						
Running Total						
Capital Cost						
Assessments			Electronic Screen £?			Networked High Street
Planning			Electronic screen £?			Networked High Street
Delivery				Electronic screen £?	- Dementia & Disability Access	Networked High Street
Review						Networked High Street
Capital Total						
Funding						
Date given						
Matched						

Funding Profile	Year 1 FY 15/16	Year 2 FY 16/17	Year 3 FY 17/18	Year 4 FY 18/19	Year 5 FY 19/20	Year 6+
funding						
Donation						
Funding Total						

Annex D

The Objectives of the Town Team

The Town Team will:

- build on existing Town strengths and prioritising by need (Accountable Councils), demand (those who live, work, shop and visit) and funding (Accountable Councils, Community Groups) develop sub-groups plans, and an Action Plan for the Town Centre. Also involve Stakeholders in these Plans.
- monitor the activities of the Town Team sub groups, requiring periodic updates and ensuring Town Team members or sub-groups do not commence activities under the Town Team umbrella without formal consent from the Town Team.
- develop project and funding plans to secure funding for agreed and endorsed proposals and input into the appropriate Accountable Councils and other organisation's plans. Also support them in their work.
- work within the constraints of the need to consult with Accountable Councils to ensure all consents are obtained before any actions carried out
- monitor the activities of the Accountable Councils in relation to the progress of endorsed Town Team projects, and hold to account where appropriate.
- where agreed, support Accountable Councils and Community Groups initiatives and policies.
- work and coordinate with Accountable Councils, other local Groups and sub-groups where there are areas of mutual interest and benefit and ensure there is no duplication of effort or funding.
- communicate regularly with stakeholders and the wider community about progress.
- ensure open debate so that local people can input their views & ideas, and can get involved. And be open to new ideas and proposals
- seek best practice from local and national Town Team initiatives.
- The Town Team should as an entity not run specific Projects, these should be delegated to designated Town Team sub-groups.

Annex E

Town Team Contacts

Town Team		blandfordtownteam@outlook.com
Name	TT Role	e-mail
Traci Handford	TT Chair/ Market Chair	tracihandford@hotmail.co.uk
Hugh de Longh	NDDC Representative	Hdelongh@north-dorset.gov.uk
Tony Harracks	Town Council representative	
David Rose	TT Deputy Chair Marketing/ Litter	rosedihme.t21@btinternet.com
David Rake	Activities & Facilities	dbrsaintsfan@aol.com
Julie Wigg	Highways & Signage	Julie@dt11forum.org.uk
Ros Nelms	Heritage	rosnelms@hotmail.com
Adam Fordey	Tourism	Not a TT member but information to be passed to him. adam@royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk

Annex F

Town Team Survey and Key conclusions of Blandford as a Place to Live

1. Good aspects
 - a. Quality of life
 - b. Architecture
 - c. Involvement in local activities
2. Bad aspects
 - a. Parking
 - b. Cleanliness
 - c. Selection of shops
 - d. Market stalls
 - e. Public transport
 - f. Web-based information
3. Top Specific Issues for Improvement:
 - a. Litter – Streets dirty - 16%
 - b. Parking - free first 30 mins. - 12%
 - c. Parking – free 10%
 - d. Traffic Flow - 9%
 - e. Insufficient Clothes shops - 9%
4. Blandford as a place to live
 - a. 73% - Excellent/ Very Good/ Good
 - b. 19% - Fair
 - c. 8% - Poor/ Very Poor
5. Summary from the Town Team Civic Backbrief – 23 Sep 14:
 - A poor attendance, with a complete absence of Town Centre traders.
 - A good and mature discussion over a wide range of issues.
 - Need to keep exchanging views and engage in a constructive manner.
 - People are not clear who is accountable for what. This subject needs to be made clearer to the public by the accountable Councils.
 - There is a requirement for day-to-day management of Town Centre (local) related issues (market, street cleaning and Town Centre manager [TCM]) to be delegated to the Town Council and not held at NDDC level. Neither the Town Council nor NDDC should pick and choose; it should be all or nothing.
 - There needs to be a continued dialogue between all Groups.

- Actions On:
 - The Town Team has no authority to compel stakeholders to carry out actions, only ensure that it holds the accountable councils (DCC, NDDC and Town Council) to account, bearing in mind the constraints in terms of policy and funding.
 - There is a need to work together in partnership in order, “to support the development and enhancement of a vibrant town centre with its unique Georgian heritage, supported by our community spirit, profitable and attractive businesses and interesting tourist attractions in and around the Town, the River Stour and the wonderful local countryside.”

- Issues raised:
 - How to make Blandford Town Centre Dementia friendly.
 - The Market Square bus stops are not in a good place.
 - There are problems with wheelchair access, particularly in the Plocks and around bus stops.
 - Illegal and mass disabled parking in the Market Square.
 - The condition and maintenance of the pavements.
 - Blandford parking signs from the By-pass.
 - Parking issues in Blandford.
 - The Traffic Flow needs improving, particularly when there are town events which use the Market Square.
 - Who is responsible for Litter in alleyways, as not clear?
 - Who should run the Town Centre street cleaning?
 - Who should run the Market?
 - Who should manage the Town Centre Manager?