



**Blandford Town Team  
Record of Decisions and Actions**

Meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015

At 6 pm in the Community Room, Town Council offices, Blandford Forum

**Present:** Nic Nicol (Chair), David Rose, Nicci Brown, Jean Longley, Mike Burt, David Rake, Sylvia Hixson Andrews, Cllr Colin Stevens, Julie Newall

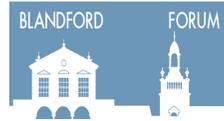
**In attendance:** Hugh de Iongh

**Apologies:** Charlotte Bentley, Kat Clark, Chris Curtis, Della Jones, Julie Wigg

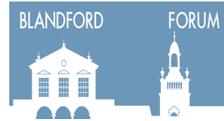
<b>Agenda Item</b>		<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Minutes of Last meeting</b>	<p>Agreed correct</p> <p>DVAMP project (art on the Trailway) The project needs to submit a business case by the end of November. DR to help NN where possible</p>	David Rose
<b>2. Town Team open Meeting, review</b>	<p>Heritage Group was set up. Ros Nelmes to lead the group working on the Conservation Area appraisal and Management Plan. HdeI has set up a meeting with Ros Nelmes, David Stuart from Historic England and Kevin Morris NDDC to develop a work programme which Ros Nelmes can then bring to the wider Heritage Group for discussion.</p> <p>Sylvia Hixson Andrews &amp; the Museum will continue to cover the archiving aspects of Blandford's heritage.</p> <p>Traffic flow &amp; pedestrianisation. There was a lively debate and a range of feedback. There was also a discussion about the cleanliness of the town, and also on the issue of the paving slabs.</p> <p>Agreed to have another similar Open Meeting in the spring, to include feedback on the business survey: possible dates suggested, agreed to go for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016. HdeI to book Council Chamber at Nordon as venue. (Post meeting note – Police Commissioner elections on 28<sup>th</sup> – Open Meeting moved to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.)</p>	Hugh de Iongh



<p><b>3. Project Updates &amp; sub-groups</b></p>	<p><b>Signage</b>  <u>Tourist Brown and Gateway signs on ring road</u>          NN's priority is to make sure this scheme has the full support of the Town, District &amp; County Councillors before meeting with DCC Highways design team.</p> <p><u>Themed Roundabouts</u>          There are ideas from the school, but NN needs to find a business which can make the roundabout features. NN to discuss with Deanne Tremlett (DVAMP PM)</p>	<p>Nic Nicol</p> <p>''</p>
	<p><b>Heritage</b>          Update re Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as above item Town Team Open Meeting review.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage week          Good visitor numbers on Saturday, not so many on the Sunday. Overall view that it is worth doing, but better for visitors (&amp; volunteers) if everything open on one or two days rather than throughout the week. NN to advise Ros Nelmes</p> <p>Enforcement letters. Circa 10 letters sent to the District Council, with a response to be provided. Kevin Morris to take this issue to Committee in North Dorset.</p> <p>Town Team &amp; Heritage Group. Agreed it is important that heritage issues which come up at the Town Team be taken up through the Heritage Group</p>	<p>Nic Nicol</p>
	<p><b>Tourism</b>          Town Centre Signage. Town Council did not approve any of the Town centre signage proposals, except the PO sign, but could consider some if funding were available. Illustrated Map at Langton Road short stay car park, would be supported if on a wall, not freestanding. JL to follow up with Esme Butler and update the next meeting. Nicci Brown suggested using the Blandford Creative group (Facebook page of people who do creative work) when looking for an artist to do an illustrated map</p>	<p>Jean Longley</p>



	<p>Art on the Trailway. The DVAMP project will use art from nationally known and local artists. Opportunity to be made known to the Blandford Creative group, NN to give SHA and NB some text to put on the Blandford Creative Facebook page.</p>	<p>Nicci Brown Sylvia Hixson Andrews Nic Nicol</p>
	<p><b>Markets</b> Better markets, idea of Pop-up shops in a van raised by Ros Nelmes (RN) to be pursued – should suit the situation in the Market Place well – boutique in a van etc as used in Pimperne &amp; Wimborne. Traci Handford agreed to take this forward with input from RN and NN.</p> <p>BFTC is keen that Morrisons Head Office be asked to reinstate refund of parking on the Marsh and Ham car park to negate Tesco’s advantage and therefore bring more people into the town. JN offered to take this on and write to Morrisons and M &amp; S. NN to draft something as a starter for JN.</p> <p>Retail survey. David Rose was thanked for his swift staff work in producing the survey questionnaire and capturing volunteers to deliver and speak to retailers in the town. Aim is to recover all questionnaires as they are completed, and have them all in before Christmas to enable Susan Sullivan to do the analysis in timely fashion. Sylvia Hixson Andrews raised that the survey did not include any disability access issues, David Rose said he knew Sylvia had done a disability access survey of the town centre shops &amp; facilities.</p>	<p>Traci Handford</p> <p>Julie Newall Nic Nicol</p> <p>David Rose</p>
	<p><b>Litter &amp; cleanliness</b> Some businesses are cleaning up in front of their premises, to be noted and supported with recognition. Also good feedback from some businesses on the efficiency of the current street cleaner.</p> <p>Alleyways, David Rose now has a better understanding of which alleyways DWP does</p>	



	<p>clean and the privately owned alleyways it doesn't clean. There has been some discussion about whether DWP could take on some small areas.</p> <p>Bins, more bins needed, but the problem is the ongoing cost of emptying. Can cost of bin + emptying be sponsored? Possible in short term, but unlikely to work in long term.</p>	
	<p><b>Traffic Flow</b>          NN asked whether a proper traffic management study is needed?</p> <p>Sylvia Hixson Andrews suggested a simple survey initially to assess the quantity, as there are some views that there is not a traffic problem in the first place.</p> <p>There was a general view that nothing will progress unless there is a professional traffic study, but this needs funding (costs suggested by DCC Highways circa £50k). Would there be the opportunity to do this through a University with a planning dept? NN to speak with Julie Wigg re fundraising and outsourcing.</p>	<p>Nic Nicol</p>
	<p><b>Road &amp; Pavement repairs.</b>          Peter Newall has submitted a good letter to DCC, copied in widely. Awaiting a response. All to think about how to keep the pressure on DCC Highways, ideas to NN. Mike Burt suggests use of the 'Fix my Street' website, which is about potholes, can this be used for applying pressure?</p> <p>Pavements, how to replace paving stones? Jean Longley agreed to look at possible funding sources, and to find out from Barrie Cooper &amp; Historic England (via Ros Nelmes) what the original agreement was for the provision of slabs over the long term. Sylvia Hixson Andrews suggested that support for/funds for provision of replacement paving stones could be part of a wider package of improvements, e.g. to shop fronts and crossing points in the town, as an overall package. This was supported.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Jean Longley</p>



<p><b>Town Council consultation</b></p>	<p>The Town Council was consulting on two questions: Should Old Bath House be converted into holiday accommodation? Town Team supported. Should the Marsh &amp; Ham public conveniences remain free? This free trial has worked well, so the Town Team supported</p> <p>CS &amp; NN to inform Town Council</p>	<p>Cllr Colin Stevens</p>
<p><b>6. Finance</b></p>	<p>Post meeting update – balance is £452.76.</p>	
<p><b>7. Communications &amp; Publicity</b></p>	<p>Town Team page is on the DT11 website and includes project updates, meeting details, retail survey etc.</p>	<p>Julie Wigg</p>
<p><b>8. Events</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov</li> <li>• Armistice Day, 11 Nov, Corn Exchange</li> <li>• Yuletide Festival 9 Dec</li> <li>• Georgian Fayre, 2 May 2016</li> <li>• Shakespeare’s 400 23 Apr or 23 May-4 June</li> <li>Queen’s Birthday / Civic Weekend 11-12 June</li> </ul> <p>Events planning tool. Chris Curtis is developing an events planning tool to better coordinate event organisation and planning by all interest groups in the town. The Town Team would link into this through the DT11 website, Julie Wigg to help make the link.</p>	<p>Julie Wigg</p>
<p><b>9. AOB</b></p>	<p>Sturminster Newton Town Team. CS said that vacant shops had notices in them encouraging people to set up businesses, with support from Town Team contacts e.g. for legal and financial advice. HdeI to find out more.</p> <p>Marsh &amp; Ham outdoor play area, NN has previously looked at potential for a childrens’ outdoor play area and exercise circuit on the meadows. Town Council is looking at a boat play equipment, + adult outdoor gyms. NN to talk to Leani Haim at the Town Council.</p>	<p>Hugh de Iongh</p> <p>Nic Nicol Leani Haim</p>



<p><b>10. Summary of Actions</b></p>	<p>Support for DVAMP Business Case          Book Council Chamber for Town Team Open Civic Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.          Architectural Heritage Week, better if all events on same one or two days, NN to advise Ros Nelmes          Illustrated Map at Langton short stay car park, JL to follow up with Esme Butler and update at next meeting.          Art on Trailway, NN to give S H A some text for Blandford Creative facebook          M&amp;S and Morrisons, contacting Head Offices re parking discounts for shoppers, NN to draft, JN to follow up          Town Centre Business survey, update at next meeting          Traffic Management study, NN to ask Julie Wigg re funding</p> <p>Ideas on follow up re road repairs to NN          Find out about original English Heritage agreement re paving slabs          Inform BFTC re support for Bath House conversion &amp; free toilets in Marsh &amp; Ham          New Events Planning tool by Chris Curtis, link to DT11 website          Sturminster Newton Town Team support for vacant shops to follow up, + possible sources of support          Marsh &amp; Ham outdoor play equipment, NN to follow up with Leani Haim</p>	<p>David Rose          Hugh de Iongh</p> <p>Nic Nicol</p> <p>Jean Longley          Nicci Brown          Nic Nicol          Julie Newell          David Rose          Nic Nicol / Julie Wigg          All          Jean Longley          Colin Stevens          Julie Wigg          Hugh de Iongh</p> <p>Nic Nicol</p>
<p><b>11. Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 6:00pm, Community Room, BFTC offices          HdeI to book</p>	<p>Hugh de Iongh</p>