

From: **Chairs Blandford Business Group and Town Team**

To:

**Town Clerk BFTC
DT11 Area Parish Councils
NDDC Portfolio Holder Community & Regeneration
Station Staff Officer HQ Blandford Garrison Support Unit
Chair Civic Society
Curator Blandford Town Museum
Regeneration Group
Tourist Information Centre
Blandford Forum Business Group
Blandford Forum Town Team**

7th February 2017

BLANDFORD AREA DEVELOPMENT TRUST CIC – INITIAL PROPOSAL

WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish an overarching civic organisation – a Blandford Area Development Trust - that can support, develop and promote the activities of businesses and community groups in the town and in the DT11 post code area.
WHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blandford Forum and the DT11 area lacks a single organisation able to represent and champion civic groups and business in the town and surrounding area (including home-run businesses on Blandford Camp). Internally, there is a public perception of duplication of effort and a lack of coordination. Externally, there is a need for a single focus and point of contact for government and other agencies to refer issues and initiatives that impact on the area.• Reorganisation and budget cuts are likely to leave local government less able to support the needs of civic groups and businesses.• Current government agenda is to devolve responsibility to the locality for services and this structure could make it easier for the Blandford area to benefit from such plans.• There's a requirement for an economic development plan to better support local businesses and civic groups.• The budget for Community Partnerships in North Dorset may be cut from April 2017. The significant impact on the DT11 community will be the loss of the Community Resource Worker (CRW), who administers the organisation and provides support – including grant applications – for community projects. A CIC (or similar structure) Trust provides the facility to employ people in this and other roles.
BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A unique opportunity to form a commercially orientated trust that can advance and represent the area's community, business and civic activities and objectives.• Support for civic projects, including campaigning and fund raising.• Lobby and collaborate with local government to improve local services and promote initiatives that support businesses, community and civic groups.• Production of economic and civic strategic plans that focus on the town and surrounding area, including follow on action from the town's recent Retail Survey.
WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint launch by the Blandford Business Group and the Town Team.• Maximum involvement from business and community groups, including business start-ups in the Blandford area.• Steering Group to establish objectives, identify directors and set-up a Development CIC (or similar structure.)

WHERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a case for retaining the DT11 Forum office in Nightingale Court, at least until the CIC is set-up. If so, office lease and infrastructure funding will be required from Apr 17.
WHEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch proposal at an exploratory meeting upstairs in the Kings Arms at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 7th February 2017. Civic groups, businesses, community representatives and local government to be invited. • Set-up Steering Group by end Feb 17. • Appoint directors by early Mar 17 • Establish CIC (or similar structure) by end Apr 17.
HOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain support to proceed as proposed from management membership of BBG, Town Team and DT11 Forum Community Partnership by end January 2017. • Obtain support in principle from CE NDDC by mid-February, including loan funding to employ CRW, operate the DT11 office and set-up CIC.
FUNDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to the outcome of NDDC's Community Development Service budget options decision on 22nd February 2017, put forward a funding request to NDDC (copy to BFTC) to deliver the initial proposal.
APPROVAL RECORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBG – agreement in principle required by first meeting in February. • Town Team meeting 10th January 2017 gave agreement in principle. • DT11 Community Partnership meeting 18th January 2017 gave agreement in principle, provided communities in the DT11 area are included. (DT11 Management Group and NDDC Community and Regeneration approval required for any funding transfer.) • Exploratory meeting on 7th February to determine support or otherwise to proceed with the initial proposal.