



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Your Ref:

Our Ref: B+NP2Draft 2018

Date: Friday 6th July 2018

Dear Stakeholder

New Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan (B+NP2) – Informal Consultations

I am writing to you regarding the creation of the new Neighbourhood Plan for the Blandford + area (comprising Blandford Forum Town Council, Blandford St. Mary Parish Council and Bryanston Parish Council).

As you may be aware, the original Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan was examined in 2017 and was found to meet 'Basic Conditions' subject to two major modifications; these being the deletion of Policy 1 - Land to the North & East of Blandford Forum, comprising proposals for 400 houses, a new primary school, a community hub, and new business space; and deletion of Policy 10.4 – The designation of Crown Meadows as a 'Local Green Space'.

B+ Steering Group strongly disagreed with the examiners findings, and were further dismayed when North Dorset District Council (NDDC) announced the shortfall in the 5 Year Housing Land Supply soon after. Concerned about the impact that the shortfall could have for Blandford, not least of which was to render the Local Plan 'Out of Date', the Steering Group wrote to the Secretary of State asking him to intervene.

Following subsequent discussions with NDDC, the original B+ NP was withdrawn in May 2018. We are now pleased to tell you that NDDC and Blandford+ have agreed to increase the scope of the new B+NP2 so it can pick up the work from NDDC's Local Plan 'Issues and Options' Consultation and move forward with planning options for the Blandford + area. We hope to have the new plan in place in early 2019, much sooner than the Local Plan Review would be able to achieve.

I am writing to you now as you may have an interest in the content of the new Draft Neighbourhood Plan (B+NP2) and may therefore wish to make comment or to show your support.

We appreciate that it has been a long and slow process to get this far, and that you may be thinking 'Not again, you've asked me this before, just get on with it!'. With no Local Plan in place, Blandford could miss out on much needed infrastructure such as a new school, or worse still, become vulnerable to unwanted and unplanned development. It's more important than ever for local people to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure we get the development we need, when and where we want it!

We still need your support...so tell us if we've got it right!

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD



Twinned with Mortain, France



Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

An electronic copy of the new plan will be available from 13th July to view or distribute to other members of your organisation on our website at www.blandfordplus.org.uk. A comments form will be available to you to download.

You can respond to the consultation in writing by emailing your form to admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk or by posting a copy to The Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7AD.

Alternatively, if you want to talk to us or respond in person, Blandford + will be holding two informal public consultations on:

Friday 13th July 6pm to 8pm
Hall & Woodhouse Visitor Centre

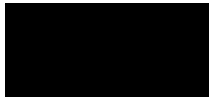
Saturday 14th July 10am to 12pm
Blandford Corn Exchange

You will also be able to make comments from 13th July on our on-line poll at www.surveymonkey.com/blandford+.

Even if you have no strong feelings either way or simply just agree with us, we still need you to let us know! Please ensure that your response is submitted by Friday 27th July 2018.

If you have any enquiries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Sara Loch
Chairman of Blandford +



Twinned with Preetz, Germany



Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD



Twinned with Mortain, France



Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk