

FORM FOR PROPOSALS FOR DAPTC AGM

NAME OF COUNCIL: BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL & BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Please note that NALC requests this information and careful completion of the form will increase the chances of a proposal being accepted by NALC

1. Please give the motion your Council would like considered at the DAPTC AGM

Beaminster and Bridport Town Councils would like DAPTC to request NALC to lobby Government to act with due urgency to update both the NPPF and Supplementary Planning Guidance, to assist all councils to deliver their respective Climate and Environmental Change strategies.

We believe that Planning will be a key driver to enable local authorities to deliver their climate mitigation obligations, and once appropriately updated, NPPF and supplementary guidance, will be a powerful tool to reduce our carbon footprint and also facilitate local communities to be effective through their Neighbourhood Plans.

Legislation is required:-

1. To ensure that energy efficiency and sustainable building materials are included as standard requirements within both private and business development. They should not necessarily be vetoed automatically in Listed Building and Conservation Areas as so often happens currently.
2. To ensure that the default policy of Planning Authorities should be for renewable energy generation from wind, water and solar to be accepted as a positive contribution of the community's desire to de-carbonise their built environment.
3. To ensure that Listed Buildings, whether in Conservation Areas and AONBs or not, should be equally entitled to benefit from the addition of energy conservation and generation assets.

2. Please give the reason (as thoroughly as possible) why your Council is submitting this motion.

Currently the NPPF from Central Government makes it almost impossible for Planning Authority Councils, or Local Councils which have declared a Climate Emergency from implementing mitigation plans as the NPPF on Listed Buildings and AONBs is more concerned with appearance than reversing the catastrophic impacts of Climate Change.

Bridport contains over 600 listed buildings and Beaminster has about 230 that are currently in effect subject to a blanket prohibition on installation of energy saving measures such as double glazing and solar panels. Even for properties that are not listed, there are significant obstacles for those in conservation areas.

This is in part a consequence of a Local Plan that requires updating to meet the challenge of climate change, but is also in part due to the lack of consideration of climate change in NPPF section 16.

Given the acceptance by central government of the need to address climate change, and with councils declaring climate emergencies, it is vital that this situation is reviewed urgently. We recognise the need to protect our heritage, but this aim will be without purpose if we do not prioritise the climate crisis which, if unaddressed, threatens the very existence of that heritage.

3. Please state how this issue is affecting parish and town councils in Dorset (with case study evidence please) and try not to duplicate answers from previous questions please.

According to the Local Plan, Beaminster is to have future development of approximately 450 dwellings. So far we have received planning applications for 200+. Not one of these houses has any carbon neutral gain attached. There are no solar panels, no under floor heating or water retention schemes, no planting of trees, no cycle paths, etc. nor are there any business opportunities planned for any one coming to live here (although there were 4+ hectares originally planned).

Bridport is due to have around 900 houses on its boundary the outline planning does not state any climate mitigation features which along with the promised affordable houses will probably be reduced by the developer for financial reasons.

4. If you have information on how this issue is affecting parish and town councils nationally and why this is a national issue please give this and try not to duplicate answers from earlier questions please.

Falmouth Town Council has expressed concerns in relation to proposals for solar panels on its listed Town Hall - <https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/18347269.solar-panels-listed-building-help-climate-emergency/>.

Rampisham Station, with its masts, stood for over 70 years and was a landmark for the neighbourhood. Residents were expecting the masts to be replaced by wind turbines as the station is linked to the National Grid but it wasn't to be.

Many water mills in the West Dorset area were preparing to join together to generate power until told by the Water Companies that they would have to pay for the privilege of using the water (a charge for abstraction!).

5. If relevant, please tell us exactly what aspect of national parish policy your Council would like NALC to lobby Government on (with case study evidence please).

N/A

6. If you have the information, please tell us exactly which part of primary or secondary legislation (or secondary regulation/statutory instrument) your Council would like to be changed as a result of NALC/local lobbying.

NPPF Section 16 – “Conserving and enhancing the historic environment”.

7. If relevant, please state what other action your Council would like NALC and its Policy Committee to take is this motion is adopted.

Lobby government for appropriate changes to the NPPF as an urgent priority.

8. If you have the information, please confirm the names of any other organisation or local council that formally support your Council's motion.

The Town Councils have received informal expressions of support from other town and parish councils and bodies but has not sought formal support.

If you have any supporting documents to be jointly considered with your Council's motion – please e-mail them with this form to DAPTC.