

# FORUM FOCUS

For Blandford and surrounding villages

Issue No. 3

June 2012



## Floods highlight the homes debate

THE issue of where and whether to build new houses in Blandford continues to dominate the planning agenda.

Hot on the heels of a leaflet distributed by the Bryanston Park Preservation Group opposing development on the Crown Meadows and deer park came a returning volley from the Crown Estates posted to every household.

Both focus heavily on the

*by Nicci Brown*

potential for flooding of the site, and both were probably drafted before heavy rainfall at the end of April twice broke the banks of the Stour, rendering the site unusable for the Georgian Fayre a few days later.

Chairman of the Bryanston Park Preservation Group John Cook said: "The flood was timely to say the least. God moves in mysterious ways!

"It doesn't seem sensible to build so close to the flood plain when other sites are readily available. Flood reports are all very well, but nature constantly confounds our best efforts.

"We collected 1,538 signatures on our petition against the scheme at the Georgian Fayre, which is a good start on our way to our target of 3,000 to 5,000 through our door-to-door campaign."

He added: "I am optimistic because the sentiment at the fair was very hostile to the Crown Estate plan."

The revised core strategy, in which the district council will reveal which sites across the district are to be put forward as having potential for housing development post-2016, is expected to be published for consultation shortly.

The renewed consultation on the Crown Estates proposal for up to 200 houses on Bryanston Park in the draft core strategy coincided with a Dorset County Council consultation which enraged the green space group The



The view from the Blandford bridge over Bryanston Park at the height of the flood raises questions over whether homes should be built close by.

2

### Homes issue highlighted by flooding

**From Page 1**

Milldowners, who had entertained hopes of an environmental centre, rather than up to 43 houses on the site of the former Milldown First School.

The DT11 Forum community partnership has also been in discussion with the county for the past two years on the potential for a Trailway/environment centre on land close to the Milldown and North Dorset Trailway.

The county council, through its Dorset Development Partnership, is also consulting on new housing plans for the site of the former Beeches in Fairfield Bungalows/Heddington Drive, and on the county council depot off Wimborne Road.

To Page 2