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MEETING WITH BUSINESSES TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

THE Council has begun discussions with town and parish councils to look at ways to continue the District's tourist information service following the capping of the Council.

Closure of North Dorset's two tourist information centres has been proposed as part of measures to save around £350,000 from the Budget for 2006-07.

There is no guarantee that an agreement with town councils can be reached which would mean that Blandford TIC, in particular, could cease to be in operation by Easter.

The Council has arranged a meeting with local businesses to gauge the amount of support for the TICs and look at possible solutions to the current situation.

Cllr Michael Cox, Member for Rural Regeneration, said: "The centres are run for the good of the local economy and community. Businesses and individuals who either use or benefit from this service need to become a part of the move to save it.

"If anyone has ideas about how we can work together to run the service, please call us before the meeting to talk them through. We are hoping that support from the local community can make a real difference."

Businesses with an interest in the future of the TICs are welcome to attend the meeting at the Crown Hotel at 11am on Thursday 15 December 2005 and should confirm their attendance with Alice Gugan on (01258) 484072.

The meeting will be chaired by Steve Adamson, Chair of the Rural Dorset Tourism Association, with whom the Council is working very closely.

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For more information contact Alice Gugan on (01258) 484072

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