

Belford Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Monday 18th January 2016 in Bell View Resource Centre West Street Belford 2 pm

Attendees : Chairman County Councillor J Woodman

Vice-Chairman Mrs. B Stanton

I Graham Steering Group member

Mrs T Bell Parish Council representative

G O'Connell Press Officer

D Holness Northumberland County Council (Link Officer)

Mrs I Hunter Parish Clerk

Minutes: The meeting agreed the minutes from the meeting held on 23rd November 2015.

Website: The Vice-Chairman updated the meeting that there needs to be another page added to the website for the public meeting information. Also the Steering Group (SG) is now in a position to draw up a timeline for the plan.

Vision: Members considered all the paragraphs submitted by SG members. Mrs T Bell suggested businesses should be encouraged back into the centre of Belford to bring High Street shops back into use i.e. pop up shops. Members asked Duncan Holness to draft a paragraph from all the submissions. The SG agreed the notes prepared by I Graham could be used as an introduction to the plan.

Mrs T Bell left the meeting at this point

Housing Survey: The Chairman asked G O'Connell if he had prepared a draft for members to consider. G O'Connell replied not so far but he would prepare a draft. It was agreed the survey needs to ask basic facts and cover the whole of the Parish. The questions should include the following:

- Tenure
- How many in the house
- Future plan
- Are you looking to downsize
- Are you looking to upsize

The Chairman agreed to circulate the coastal survey. The meeting agreed members need to consider ways to encourage residents to complete the surveys. One option could be using facebook. The meeting agreed a statistician is required to collate the data from the completed surveys: it was agreed to ask Mrs. T Bell to put a request on the Belford facebook page to see if there is a volunteer who will undertake this work.

Business Surveys: The meeting agreed a survey needs to be prepared for businesses within the Parish to ascertain their needs and if they have any issues. The Chairman agreed to

circulate the coastal survey as a starting point. The SG agreed the Head Teachers of Berwick Academy and Alnwick Duchess schools should also be contacted to get the youngsters opinion. It was also agreed B & B's and holiday cottage owners may need a different survey as they may have different needs & issues: Some Parish Councillors may be able to help with these surveys

Next meeting: To consider the draft surveys
To consider how to share the vision with the public

Date of next meeting 15th February 2016 2pm in Bell View Belford