

## **Belford Neighbourhood Plan Meeting**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015 in Bell View Resource Centre West Street Belford 2 pm

**Attendees :** Chairman County Councillor J Woodman

Vice-Chairman Mrs. B Stanton

Ian Graham Steering Group member

Charlotte Colver Northumberland County Council

Ian Stanners Northumberland County Council

Kirsty Gilmartin Northumberland County Council

Mrs B Jackson – Potential housing Landowner

Ms. H Frank Strutt & Parker

Mrs I Hunter Parish Clerk

**Minutes:** The meeting agreed the minutes from the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

**Housing Needs:** The Chairman welcomed Ian Stanners to the meeting:

Ian informed the meeting that Homefinder does not give full information like where to people wish to live, explaining there are currently 8500 people registered on homefinder in Northumberland, which covers bands P, 1, 2, 2R & 3.

Ian advised the meeting that it is his opinion that the 1300 affordable new houses in Northumberland is ambitious, and the Registered Providers do not feel there is an exceptional need for additional affordable housing in Belford, but there is a need for some affordable 2-3 bed bungalows.

Ian informed the meeting from July 2014- July 2015 there were 15 Belford properties on Homefinder, which received 93 bids, this equates to 6.2 bids per property: however there are 46 Belford residents registered on Homefinder, of which 32 are registered in Band 3: 7 of the remaining 14 residents are looking for 1 bed properties.

The meeting agreed there is a need for identified employment land as well as housing land to encourage people to stay in Belford or relocate to Belford and stop the migration south by young residents.

**Plan:** The meeting agreed that the following should be considered:

- Dark sky approach to attract visitors
- Attract additional employment and businesses to Belford, which will create additional jobs.
- Growing a village- Additional employment will require additional housing
- High Street- Commercial v's housing in the future
- A cycling hub – aspiration.

**Vision:** The meeting agreed the Plan needs to have objectives and Planning Policies.

**Website:** The Vice-Chairman informed the meeting that there is now a website and an e-mail address [bpc@belfordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](mailto:bpc@belfordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk), and suggested the home page could have a photo display showing Belford through the ages.

**Next meeting:** To review all comments received from the 2 public meetings, looking to see if they are Parish Council issues, County Council issues or if they can fit Planning Policies in a Neighbourhood Plan. The Vice-Chairman agreed to circulate the information to all members present.

Date of next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 2pm in Bell View Belford