

Belford Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Monday 23rd May 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
G O'Connell Press Officer
Duncan Holness Link Officer Northumberland County Council
David English Northumberland County Council
Peter Rutherford Northumberland County Council
Mrs I Hunter Parish Clerk

Apologies: Parish Councillor Mrs T Bell

Minutes: The meeting agreed the minutes from the meeting held on 11th April 2016.

Road Layout: The meeting thanked Ian Graham for the information he had supplied in regard to the changes in the road layout to encourage drivers to reduce their speed. It was also agreed to encourage a facelift to the buildings in the High Street. The meeting agreed this should be considered by the Parish Council and the Parish Council consider to undertake a review of the current situation linking in the information which was gathered of the NHP public consultation events. The Vice-Chairman agreed to take this to a Parish Council meeting and the Chairman suggested he could use some of his County Council Small Grants Funding to commission some work, or to implement some of the agreed changes. The meeting agreed this can be an aspiration within the NHP.

Meetings with High Schools: The Clerk tabled copies of Q & A 's from the Vice-Chairman and her meeting with Steve Wilks of Berwick Academy. The Vice-Chairman gave a verbal update. The meeting agreed the Chairman investigate the use of Leader funding to employ an Apprentice Co-ordinator for the Belford and surrounding rural area which could include the Coastal NHP Group area.

Website: The Vice-Chairman advised the meeting that she will update the website

Housing Survey: David English informed the meeting that the Housing Department at Northumberland County Council feel the current draft survey will not gather informative information that they will be able to use. The meeting debated the matter and agreed to go ahead with the current survey as an initial survey. G O'Connell to prepare the draft survey which will include a map to be supplied by Duncan Holness. G O'Connell to organise the printing of the survey which will be delivered to every house within Belford Parish. The Vice-Chairman agreed to contact the deliverers of the Village Newsletter to see if they will help with the delivery of the survey. All surveys to be returned to boxes located in the following locations:

The Farm Shop
Newsagent on High Street

Belford Middle School
Belford Medical Centre
All responses will need to be collated

Business Surveys: The meeting received the following updates:

- The Chairman advised the meeting that he thought the Coastal Group would support the idea of rural apprenticeships. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Norham & Islandshire Group are interested in receiving more information when it is available.
- The Vice-Chairman advised the meeting that Parish Councillor S White has agreed to amend the Business survey which she used for the High Street businesses (she agreed to circulate this survey to all members) to suit the Tourism Businesses and then deliver it the Tourism Businesses in Belford Parish.
- The Vice-Chairman reported back from her survey with the small businesses on the High Street and the Caravan Park at the south end of the village. The points the respondents made were:
 - *Too few businesses on the High Street.*
 - *Belford is a drive through village.*
 - *New residents not always using Belford shops.*
 - *A need for local employment and affordable housing.*

Belford Neighbourhood Plan: David English asked the members to consider the following questions:

- Where they are in the process of a NHP?
- What are you going to do with the plan?
- Can you identify a few issues?
- Have you got aspirational issues you would like to add to the plan?

The members agreed:

- They would like to support the right housing development in the right locations
- Promote land use for employment in the right location.
- Design guide for Conservation Areas
- Promote connectivity
- Look in depth at themes in the Core Strategy and prepare policies to suit the Belford area.

The Chairman asked David English how can the group move to the next stage as they have undertaken public consultations which has provided information and they have a brief vision. David English replied that the surveys may raise issues, which need to be considered when preparing a plan and the group needs to set objectives for a plan. The Chairman suggested drawing down some funding from DCLG to help the group move to the next stage. The meeting agreed the Chairman contact DCLG and see if they can provide a package the group can use which will pay for a consultant to collate the information already received, help with the vision and advice how to move to the next stage.

Next meeting: To receive any updates.

Date of next meeting 20th June 2016 2pm in Bell View Belford

