

Belford Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Monday 23rd November 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

Geoff O'Connell Press Officer

Duncan Holness Northumberland County Council (Link Officer)

Mrs I Hunter Parish Clerk

Minutes: The meeting agreed the minutes from the meeting held on 26th October 2015.

Website: The Vice-Chairman informed the meeting that she has along with helpers undertaken the setting up work for the website, which included uploading photos & minutes: going on to say there needs to be a drop down page for the information gathered at the public meetings. The members agreed the website should go live: asking the Press Officer to prepare a press release to be agreed by the Chairman & Vice Chairman. Finally it was agreed the Belford facebook page should also be used to advertise the website. The Vice Chairman agreed to contact the Middle School for an update in regard to the logo and the preparation of an A-Z for things for children to do in Belford.

NCC Core Strategy Policies: The meeting agreed the Policies in the Core Strategy do cover Belford well, and that there was a discussion about whether there was actually a need for a neighbourhood plan, and it was concluded there were areas where the Steering Group could usefully provide more detail. The meeting went on to agree a Neighbourhood Plan will re-enforce the needs for Belford i.e. Affordable Housing, employment, & Conservation guidance for the High Street.

AONB Policies: The meeting considered the information previously circulated by the Chairman and agreed as part of Belford Parish is within the AONB some of the ANOB's policies can be adapted for Belford's Neighbourhood Plan.

Feedback from NHP display- The members present on 19th November felt the public were appreciative, positive, welcoming development, looking for a sustainable village with a local distinctiveness, housing to support shops and the schools, concerns were raised about the Middle School now the Alnwick Partnership is moving to 2 tier. The Press Officer tabled his comments from 19th November: the meeting agreed with the Press Officers comments about promoting the extension of the Belford Industrial Estate. The meeting agreed the press release should include feedback from the 19th November, the Vice Chairman agreed to supply information to the Press Officer: the press release to be agreed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Next Steps- The meeting agreed a housing needs survey should be undertaken to inform the plan as to what types of housing is needed within the Parish, as well as contacting local large employers to see if there are housing issues which are hindering their recruitment. The Press Officer agreed to draft a survey which will be circulated to the Steering Group as well as Ian Stanners at Northumberland County Council. The Chairman suggested a local Estate Agent should be contacted to see if they have information about the current Belford housing market. The Steering Group need to develop a vision and objectives for the plan, the Chairman asked all members to submit 2 sentences each of what they wish to be used as the vision statement before 23rd December, so a vision can be considered at the January meeting. The Chairman suggested a questionnaire should be prepared to be used to give a presentation to all businesses and members to visit all businesses with questionnaires to get an understanding of the needs of all businesses within the Parish: the Chairman agreed to circulate a draft questionnaire. The Chairman suggested free wi-fi for Belford similar to the Rothbury model could be an option.

Next meeting: To consider a plan to communicate with businesses
To consider the vision for the plan

Date of next meeting 18th January 2015 2pm in Bell View Belford