

EXAMINER'S QUESTIONS

BELFORD PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Responses from Belford Parish Council, 5 July 2023

Belford Parish Councillors agreed paragraphs 5.6, 5.9, 5.10 & 6.3 in the Belford Neighbourhood Plan document support the reasons for the settlement boundary.

However, Belford Parish Council does support the full planning application which includes affordable housing which is on land adjacent to the settlement boundary at Rogerson Road in accordance with paragraph 2.1 of the Plan.

In simple terms, a 'settlement boundary' is a dividing line, or boundary between built-up areas (the settlement) and the land beyond built-up areas. Although a settlement boundary does not preclude all development beyond the boundary, it does give clarity as to where new development should be directed and where it is likely to be acceptable in planning terms.

A number of exceptions are defined in the National Planning Policy Framework including 'rural exceptions' housing sites, some business and employment related activities and some tourist development in the countryside.

Therefore, not including the site within the settlement boundary does not automatically stop development, rather it restricts it to only the most beneficial development to the community.