



Press Release

22 June 2015

No embargo

Views sought on proposed neighbourhood plan area

The first steps have been taken to designate a neighbourhood planning area which will cover the parish of Berwick-upon Tweed.

Formal consultation on whether the local community supports this as a suitable area for neighbourhood planning is taking place from 29th June to 27th July 2015.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council has applied for the area to be designated as the qualifying body for neighbourhood planning purposes.

The town council feels that it would be appropriate to prepare local planning policies that can address the needs and wishes of the local community.

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act in 2011 and gives local communities the opportunity to shape and define how their area should grow and change in the future.

In Northumberland, neighbourhood planning must be led by parish and town councils, and through the plan they can use powers to shape where new homes, shops, offices and other businesses should be built and say what those new buildings should look like.

Plans must also take into account national planning policy and the policies set out in the Northumberland Local Plan.

Northumberland County Council has a statutory role to play in neighbourhood planning and supports groups involved in neighbourhood planning by providing advice on processes to be followed and gives them practical and technical support.

Details of this application by Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council can be found on Northumberland County Council's website at northumberland.gov.uk/ourplan.

Those who want to make comments on the proposed neighbourhood area can email PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk or write to the Strategic Planning and Housing team, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF.

Representations must be received by Northumberland County Council on or before 27th July 2015.

ENDS

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