

AFULA

Panel Discussion Highlights Viability Of *Aliyah* to Out-Of-Town *Kehillos*

Thanks in part to coverage by *Hamodia*, the *chareidi kehillah* of Afula's Givat HaMoreh neighborhood has welcomed one family of *olim* from America, and another is set to leave America straight for Afula in the coming weeks. The viability of Afula as a destination for Anglo *chareidim* is coming to light, thanks in great part to the energetic work of former resident Yoel Berman, who recently held a panel discussion in Yerushalayim to raise awareness of what this town has to offer.

About 15 potential apartment seekers took part, along with another 20 or so via Zoom, and many others who watched the recording afterward.

Rabbi Berman, joined by two Anglo residents of the *kehillah*, spoke about life in an out-of-town community in Eretz Yisrael. The speeches and lively question-and-answer session covered a range of topics, from the different *kehillos* there, the makeup of the general populace, the Rabbanim, sense of community, local English speakers, range of ages,



Rabbi Yoel Berman of the Avira D'Eretz Yisroel project (C) and Rabbi Baruch Harris, 15-year resident of Afula Illit, local *marbitz Torah* and expert *mohel* (R), addressing the participants in-house and on Zoom.

relationship with the local Arabs, proximity and transportation to *chareidi* and other population centers, quality of life, the level of the local *cheder* and other *mosdos*, local *chareidi* population growth, *kollel* opportunities, the local job market, *frum* shopping, and medical services all the way to pizza shops, their *hechsheirim* and whether they deliver.

An expert on the local real estate market who is himself a member of the small but growing Litvish

kehillah of Afula Illit discussed both purchase and rental options, various housing styles and new construction going on in Afula Illit.

The event was addressed via Zoom by Harav Nesanel Cadle, Rav in Yardley, Pennsylvania, and a *talmid* of the Telshe yeshivah, who is planning on moving with other members of his *kehillah* over the next few years and creating an American-style out-of-town *kehillah* in the area, together with all the relevant *mosdos*.

"For English speakers seeking affordable housing and a relaxed out-of-town community, but with all the amenities a vibrant and growing *frum* community can offer, the information presented tonight was eye-opening and invaluable," said one participant.

The event was organized by Yoel Berman of Avira D'Eretz Yisroel, with assistance from Naava Kodesh, an organization promoting American *chareidi aliyah*.