

NOTES OF THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 3PM **IN THE CORN EXCHANGE OF MORPETH TOWN HALL**

1. Present

Councillor Nic Best
Councillor Bob Robertson
Councillor Joan Tebbutt
Ian Campbell
Councillor David Cowans
David Rowlinson
Emma Thomas
Peter Fuller
Simon Cox
Councillor Mike Sharp
Councillor Andrew Kelly
Councillor Ken Reed
Councillor Peter Stonell
Roger Vaughan
David Lodge
Councillor Karen Carins

Representing

Morpeth Town Council – Vice Chairman
Morpeth Town Council
Morpeth Town Council (arrived at 3.07pm)
Project Coordinator
Heritage Topic Group
Northumberland County Council
Northumberland County Council
Transport Topic Group
Sports & Leisure Group
Mitford Parish Council
Hebron Parish Council (left at 4.25pm)
Hepscott Parish Council
Pegswood Parish Council
Education Topic Group
Greater Morpeth Development Trust
Stannington Parish Council - Observer

Clerk

Ms Gillian Turner Morpeth Town Council
Mrs Dee Cota Morpeth Town Council
Miss Louise Davey Morpeth Town Council

Apologies for absence were received from Angela Logan (MTC), David English (NCC), Cllrs Parker and Brown [Chairman] (MTC), Cllr Ashmore (Hepscott PC), Graeme Trotter (Sports, Arts & Leisure) and Colin Pearson (Education).

Cllr Best took the Chair in the absence of Cllr Brown. The Vice Chairman welcomed all members present and those attending on behalf of others. Louise Davey was introduced as the new Project Administrator to replace Dee Cota and was to be the main point of contact going forward.

2. Notes of the meeting held on 12th August 2013

The notes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

Cllr Kelly advised that Hebron Parish Council have not been given a full response on the Greenbelt issue and a letter has been sent to David Rowlinson at NCC as they would like to look at the NCC recommendations.

3. Issues and options consultation

(a) Verbal report on the progress of the Editorial Board

Counsellor Best gave a verbal report on the progress of the Editorial Board. A short questionnaire/ leaflet summarising options is to be delivered to 8000 households week commencing the 19 September 2013. 2000 were to be stored in the Town Hall for distribution as requested. The leaflets were not being delivered to business addresses but could still be completed on-line, in fact it is preferable that on-line responses are completed as this will help with the speed of analysis.

- The short questionnaire is 8 pages in total – 7 pages of information and 1 page of questions.
- The longer questionnaire has 43 questions. Respondents can complete just one section if selected.
- The main consolidated report is available to download from TMNP website and a PDF version will be emailed to all Key & Statutory consultees.

Extra copies are available on request from the Town Council office.

(b) Consultation Exhibitions

Members were advised that a drop-in event is to be held in Morpeth Town Hall on the 18th September at 2pm in the Corn Exchange. The formal launch is at 6pm to which all key stakeholders, statutory consultees and topic group members will be invited. A thank you e mail has been sent to all volunteers for their contribution to the project. An exhibition will also take place on Morpeth Market Place on Saturday 21st September, 10am to 1pm.

Action - The number of voluntary hours contributed so far be calculated to emphasise the commitment of the neighbourhood and the community.

- Mitford Parish requested 6 A3 posters and hard copies of both the short and main questionnaires to be kept in the Village Hall.
- The dates for the Pegswood launch are yet to be confirmed but it is likely to be the evening of the 9th October and the morning of the 12th October 2013.
- Hebron Parish requested 2/3 posters and will display one on the Parish noticeboard outside the Church. They also requested 10-20 extra short questionnaires. No special event is planned.
- Hepscoth Parish requested 2/3 posters and a copy of the main questionnaire. It is to be reliant on the more general information pack that is to go out to households.

(c) Media coverage

There has been a press release to the Journal, Herald and Radio Newcastle. “Inside Morpeth” is to include an update of the progress of the plan in the October edition and will also contain interviews with specific volunteers involved in the process. Members were requested to send suggestions of volunteers to approach for this to the Operations Group for consideration.

Photographs of the volunteers will be taken, if possible, at the evening launch event on the 18th September 2013.

Members were advised that they may have to look at ways to fill demographic gaps in the responses received in early October 2013.

4. Resources and support

Members were advised that the Locality Bid has been successful. This is made up of a grant of £4600.00 which will largely fund the Issues and Options Consultation including design and printing of exhibition materials, delivery and venue hire. There is also direct support available through Planning Aid, throughout and after the Issues and Options consultation over the next 12 months.

Pegswood Parish Council requested a contribution to their artwork costs of about £500.

Gillian Turner also advised that a letter has gone to CABE to ascertain what other principal authorities across the country are doing in respect of the grant they are receiving from central government i.e. are they passporting some of the grant on to the local council carrying out the work. No response has yet been received.

5. Northumberland County Council

David Rowlinson advised members of the upcoming Core Strategy – Housing, Employment and Green Belt Preferred Options consultation. This will be a 6 week consultation period commencing on the 30th October 2013 and will be sent out to all Parish Clerks on this date.

There will be Open Days held, with one planned in Morpeth Town Hall, along with other workshops.

Agreed Each Parish would respond directly to this consultation and the Neighbourhood Plan group may also put forward a paper of agreed points.

6. Consultation analysis process

(a) Resources and capacity

- Louise Davey has been recruited to provide additional administrative resources to the Neighbourhood planning project.
- Planning Aid to provide support and guidance in interpreting the responses received.

(b) Timetables for reporting back

- Initial feedback will be provided to the Steering Group on the 11th November followed by a full analysis report on the 9th December 2013.

(c) Structures for policy drafting

Members were asked to think about what structures should be in place for the next steps after the Issues and Options Consultation. This will be discussed at the next Steering group meeting on 14th October 2013. Ian Campbell noted that there was the potential for externally facilitated workshops.

7. Correspondence

(a) St Georges Hospital

There was a request for a meeting with the Council by “Remarkable” a company working on behalf of Galliford Try and Linden Homes about developing the St Georges site. There was discussion whether it was appropriate to meet with only one developer without engaging with others. It was noted that “Remarkable” have booked the Corn Exchange on the 23rd October 2013 for a public exhibition of the development of the area.

Agreed To advise ‘Remarkable’ that the Steering Group are not talking directly to developers at this stage but have noted the upcoming exhibition in the Town Hall.

To pass this request to the Morpeth Town Council Planning & Transport Committee on Wednesday 18th September 2013 for consideration.

(b) Northumbrian Water

Members received a copy of a blog article about of NWA’s intent to invest £1bn in services to its customers in the North East between 2015 and 2020 for information. David Rowlinson (NCC) advised that he had met with Northumbrian Water and that the sewerage treatment works expansion are now complete providing capacity for 750 units. It was questioned whether the Steering Group or the Town Council should communicate the Neighbourhood Plan to the water authority but was agreed that no direct action was required.

8. Any other business

Pegswood Parish Council asked if there were likely to be any additional costs involved in the neighbourhood plan process for the Parishes as they are required for their budget setting, commencing October 2013. Action: To bring a budget for the NP process for the coming financial year to the Oct NP SG meeting

There was no other urgent business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 4.26pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th October 2013 at 3pm in the Corn Exchange at Morpeth Town Hall.