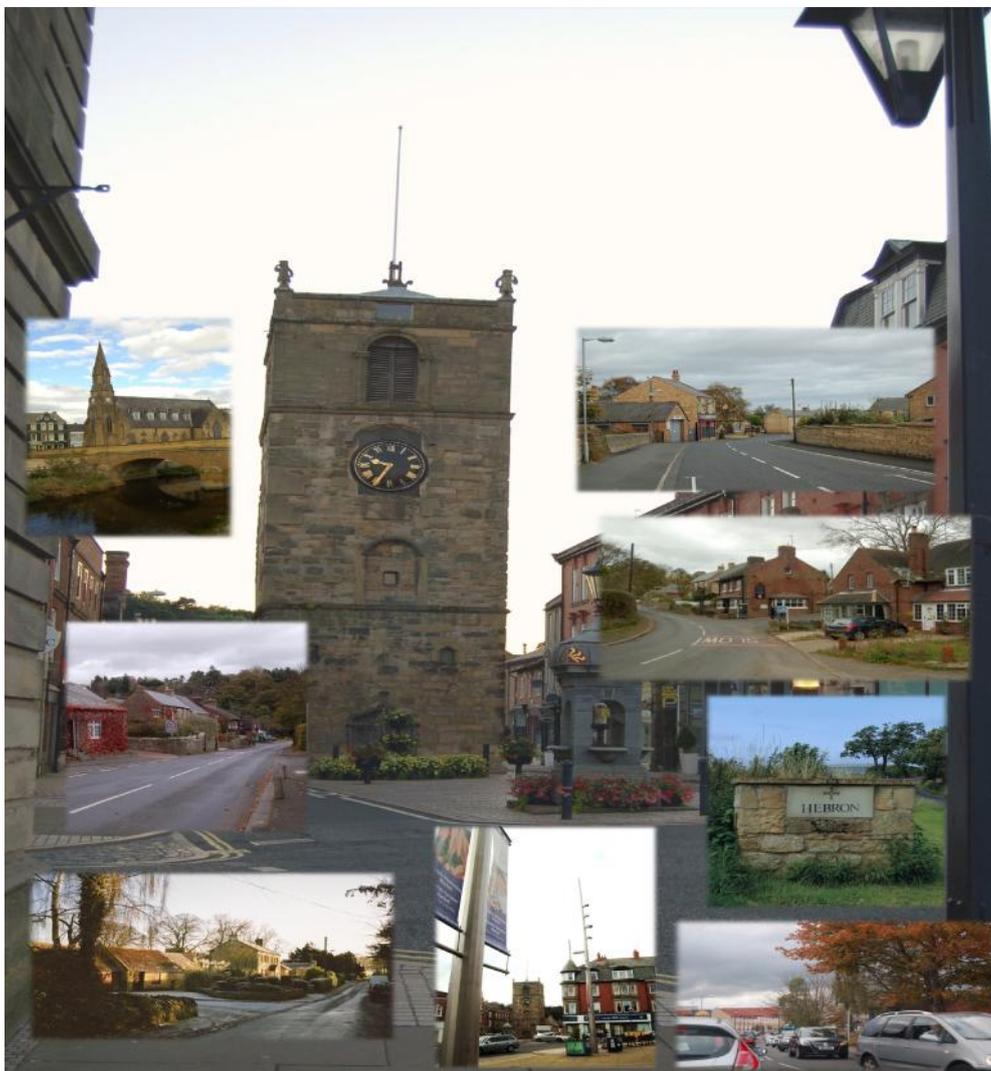




# **The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan**

**Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford, Pegswood**

## **CONSULTATION STATEMENT**



**May 2015**

**[www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](http://www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk)**

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# 1. Introduction

1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil legal obligations set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. These require that when a qualifying body submits a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority it must also provide a Consultation Statement. Regulation 15(2) describes what is required in a Consultation Statement. This indicates that a Consultation Statement must:

- contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- explain how they were consulted;
- summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- describe how those issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

1.2 This Consultation Statement sets out:

- the background to preparation of the neighbourhood development plan for Morpeth and the parishes of Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford, and Pegswood;
- a summary of the publicity, engagement and consultation that has helped to shape and inform preparation of the Plan;
- details of those consulted about the Plan at the various stages of plan preparation and the extent to which efforts were made to ensure the Plan was prepared with support and input from the local community; and
- a description of the changes made to policies as the Plan emerged in response to consultation, engagement and critical review.

1.3 The process and techniques involved in seeking community engagement and preparing the Submission Draft Plan were appropriate to the purpose of the Plan. The extent of engagement is considered by the Steering Group to fulfil the obligations set out in the Regulations. The Consultation Statement supports and describes the process of plan making as envisaged through the Localism Act 2011 and the associated Regulations, and sets out how it has been applied in Morpeth and its surrounding parishes. This has resulted in the submission of a better plan that, in the opinion of the Steering Group, best meets community expectations expressed during plan preparation, and the aspirations of Morpeth Town Council and the 4 Parish Councils within the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Area.

1.4 The Statement includes information on why a Plan has been prepared; how the Draft Plan was prepared; how engagement with the community resulted in modifications to the Plan; and describes the extent of those modifications which are apparent through a review of successive versions of the Plan and its policies. The Statement also describes the roles of the various parties involved in the inception of the Plan, and seeks to explain why the Plan has been prepared in the manner adopted with substantial support from the local planning authority. This is intended to help the Independent Examiner review the process of plan preparation and make any appropriate recommendations.

## 2. Background to the Plan

**2.1 Leading the Neighbourhood Plan:** Morpeth Town Council is the Qualifying Body for the purposes of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Council expressed an interest in entering the government's Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners Programme, and encouraged Northumberland County Council (NCC) to submit a bid for entry. NCC submitted a bid to the Front Runners programme on 9 November 2011. Confirmation that the bid secured successful entry into the fifth wave of Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners was provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 5 March 2012.

Consequently the Town Council invited the neighbouring Parish Councils of Hebron, Hepscoth, Mitford, and Pegswood to include their parishes in the Plan area and become participants in the plan-making process. Representatives from the parish councils of Mitford, and Pegswood joined the Steering Group in June 2012; from Hepscoth in July 2012; and from Hebron Parish Council in September 2012.

This Group by resolution of Morpeth Town Council on 28 March 2012 is constituted thus: (resolved)

- To establish a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with delegated powers to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan for endorsement by Full Council and,
- Governance of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to be via the Planning and Transport Committee, with any policy recommendations to be endorsed by Full Council, and that Northumberland County Council (NCC) Councillors attend, when appropriate.

After the public launch in October 2012, the Steering Group was supplemented by the Chairs of Topic Groups, formed to study various aspects of the Plan.

Detailed conduct of the plan making process is carried out by the Plan Preparation Group, which is made up of elected members of the Parish Councils and local volunteers recruited on the basis of both skills and willingness to devote the time, and is chaired by a Morpeth Town councillor. This group has no decision-making powers but reports to the Steering Group.

There is no Neighbourhood Forum and no proposed Neighbourhood Development Order.

**2.2** On 09 January 2013 Morpeth Town Council applied to NCC as Local Planning Authority (LPA) to designate the Plan area as a Neighbourhood Area in compliance with regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). It was considered appropriate that the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Area should coincide with existing parish boundaries, as this made sense in planning terms and because this arrangement reinforced democratic legitimacy and credibility.

As required, NCC publicised the application with the period for consultation from 11 February to 25 March 2013. This timetable met the two requirements of prompt action and a consultation period of six weeks. There were no objections and the decision to approve was taken by the Corporate Director of Local Services exercising his delegated authority in consultation with the appropriate elected member on 28 June 2013, this being also the publication date of the decision notice.

The area designation approval documents are on the NCC website:  
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=10909>

There are nine relevant documents including the area designation application, the publicity materials, the approval letters from the four consenting parish councils, and the council's approval decision notice and the approval report signed off by the NCC lead member and the relevant chief officer.

2.3 All of the documents approved as part of the governance arrangements for the project are listed in Appendix A of this Consultation Statement alongside relevant reports and other consultation materials relevant to the purpose of the Statement. The documents and monthly Steering Group minutes were published for ongoing community inspection throughout the plan preparation period, via a specific Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan website: [www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](http://www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk)

2.4 The Steering Group authorised the formation of 8 separately chaired Topic Groups to investigate, gather information and report back under each of the following key subject areas: Education, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Infrastructure, Local Economy, Sports Arts & Leisure, and Transport. Each Topic Group attracted a number of local community volunteers, held regular meetings, the minutes for which were also published on the website, and was tasked with writing an evidence based summary Technical Report by 31 May 2013.

2.5 The Steering Group then delegated to a newly formed 'Editorial Board', the task of reviewing the 8 Topic Group Technical Reports and preparing appropriate documentation for the first public 'Issues and Options' consultation which took place over six weeks from 18 September to 30 October 2013. Responses were also sought from statutory consultees, developers, and other interested bodies.

2.6 In early 2014, after the Issues & Options consultation responses had been analysed and reviewed, the Steering Group requested the Topic Groups to reform and consider the feedback for their subject area, liaising with other Topic Groups as appropriate on any cross cutting themes. Each Topic Group Chair was tasked with writing a summary review eg. new Issues highlighted, Options confirmed, Options to no longer be progressed, policies and actions recommended.

2.7 Consequently in Spring 2014 various workstreams were initiated to carry out the following agreed actions: main Plan Preparation Group established to write the Draft Plan including an initial full day 'Where are we now?' workshop; Developer Engagement Group established to liaise with interested housebuilders and host workshop; Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) workshop; SHLAA housing sites assessment and analysis.

2.8 The Steering Group delegated to the newly formed 'Plan Preparation Group', the task of progressing all work done to date and authoring the Consultation Draft Plan complete with preferred options, land use Planning Policies (PP), and other Community Actions (CA). In addition, it was tasked with preparing appropriate documentation for the second public 'Draft Plan' consultation which took place over six weeks from 14 January to 25 February 2015. Responses were also sought from statutory consultees, developers, and other interested bodies.

2.9 Post consultation the Plan Preparation Group has continued its work, consultation responses have been analysed and reviewed, with a change control process established and documented via Topic Area proformas. This has enabled rapid progress to author the Submission Draft Plan by target date 31 March 2015.

2.10 Close liaison between plan participants has resulted in a quality document that supports future development, in accordance with the priorities expressed by the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Area communities. This is evidenced in the supporting documents, and by the several iterations of Planning Policies and Community Actions which have been debated, challenged, amended and ultimately endorsed by the Plan Preparation Group; prior to respective sign offs by Steering Group / Morpeth Town Council; and prior to subsequent delivery of the formal Submission Draft Plan to Northumberland County Council.

### **3. Consultation and Engagement**

3.1 Engagement with local communities across the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Area has played a significant part in preparing the Plan, and in shaping the scope and content of Planning Policies and Community Actions eventually included in the final Submission Draft Plan. The materials used throughout the plan making process, along with the various iterations of policies, and the reports associated with engagement events, are identified in Appendix A. The reports, which are published separately following the several stages of consultation and engagement, are intended to be read alongside and be seen as part of this Consultation Statement. It is not considered necessary to repeat in their entirety each of the relevant reports as part of this Statement since they stand alone and demonstrate a clear journey through the plan making process. This section of the Consultation Statement will provide a general summary of the publicity, consultation and engagement activity undertaken and will highlight key outcomes.

3.2 Following the Plan launch, the process of mapping an appropriate route for plan preparation commenced. Having regard to the Localism Bill legislation, and from discussions with DCLG / NCC officers, it was clear that a methodical approach recording our engagement activities and consultation outcomes would be particularly helpful in demonstrating Plan compliance with the anticipated legal requirements. Primarily, in relation to consultation, this meant ensuring that an adequate delivery system existed to allow consultation and publicity to take place with people who live and work in the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Area. A confidential Excel database of public responses received during each consultation has been stored in our Plan archive as part of our evidence base.

3.3 Morpeth Town Council administration team identified local businesses and community and voluntary organisations active in the Town and Parishes, together with statutory consultees and interested developers. This database has been maintained and updated as necessary during plan preparation, and has been used to generate consultation letters to all of the relevant consultation bodies defined through the Regulations. This has allowed the Steering Group to consult with all necessary consultees, and to keep those who have made representations at the various stages of plan preparation aware of progress. It would not be appropriate to make this database available to the public through publication of this Consultation Statement due to data protection obligations. However, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, details of publicity undertaken about the plan are described in this Statement and details of all consultation bodies consulted during plan preparation are identified in Appendix B. In addition, the letters sent to consultees are included in Appendix C.

### 3.4 Initial Visioning Workshops (Colin Haylock)

In early 2013, planning consultant Colin Haylock lead three separate early evening 'Visioning Workshops' at Morpeth Town Hall. Colin assisted us through Planning Aid England, and is a Past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute. These public open events marked the start of the project encouraging interested individuals and local businesses to attend; make their views known about matters important to life in the Town and its Parishes; and identify the future needs, aspirations, and priorities of our communities. These events were well attended and proved a fertile ground attracting motivated community volunteers for our subject Topic Groups.

### 3.5 'Issues & Options' Consultation (18 Sept 2013 > 30 Oct 2013)

**857 public responses: 487 Short Questionnaires & 370 Main Questionnaires**

**9.85% response rate from 8,700 MNP Area households**

This 6 weeks consultation made it clear that the MNP will shape development in our area over the next 20 years (2011 > 2031). It confirmed neighbourhood plans are part of the Government's reforms to devolve greater power to local communities to manage development in their area and have the potential to become part of the statutory development plan, which must be taken account of in planning decisions. It also confirmed that the MNP is a proactive approach to manage change on the basis of the local community's priorities rather than relying on a reactive approach, often in the form of resisting change, in response to developer pressure.

The consultation with local communities and stakeholders made it clear that we were not setting out preferred options or any detailed proposals at this stage, but more a check that we had identified the issues that need to be addressed and to get feedback on options or initial ideas.

The Editorial Board produced a high quality 8 page A4 size colour leaflet 'Issues and Options Short Questionnaire' in a 10,000 print run which was hand delivered via the Inside Morpeth magazine distribution network to the 8,700 households in the MNP Area. This leaflet set out a table for each of the eight subject Topic Areas plus two additional parish specific Topic Areas: Pegswood; Hebron Hepscott and Mitford. Each table highlighted the key issues about what needs to be addressed, and options about what might be done to deal with the issues.

[http://www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/40062\\_The-Morpeth-Neighbourhood-plan.pdf](http://www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/40062_The-Morpeth-Neighbourhood-plan.pdf)

Residents were requested to complete the Short Questionnaire at the end of the leaflet, preferably online via the Survey Monkey link we had created on our MNP website homepage. This asked respondents to indicate how they felt in general terms about the work done so far on each of the 10 Topic Areas: Very Satisfied, Satisfied, Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied.

There was also a free text comments box included to tell us if there were: any issues that you think have been missed or not properly covered; any options that you feel particularly strongly about (whether in favour or not in favour). For authentication purposes we also asked for: First Name, Surname, House Number / Name, Postcode, and Age Range u20 / 20-39 / 40-59 / 60+.

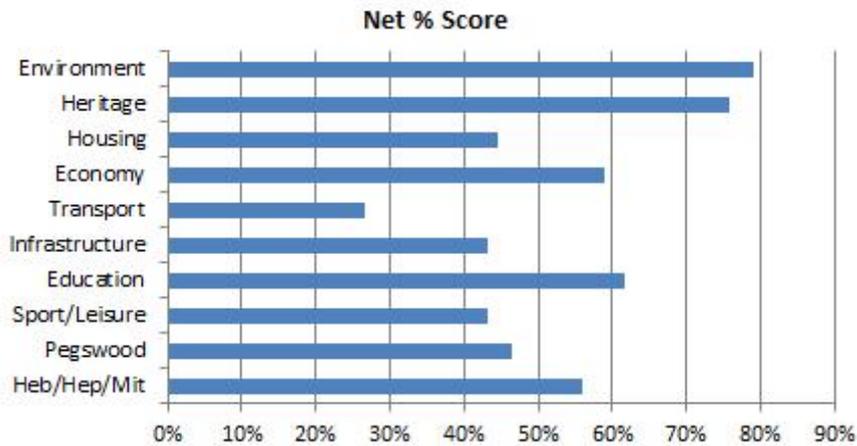
We highlighted that the issues and options raised in this brief leaflet only gave an overview. A more detailed 43 topic related questions 'Main Questionnaire', the main 'Issues and Options Consultation Report' and the technical Topic Group reports were all made available online via the MNP website homepage. It was noted that these were also available in paper form to view on request at Morpeth Town Hall. The summary leaflet stressed this is a crucial stage in the MNP process and residents views are vital, requesting if they can to please take time to look at the main Consultation Report and answer the Main Questionnaire.

We created a Daily Tracker spreadsheet to record daily and cumulative running totals of Short Questionnaire (SQ) and Main Questionnaire (MQ) online responses, and hand returned / postal responses were keyed into Survey Monkey daily by the Morpeth Town Council administration team. This spreadsheet also captured details and dates of our key promotional activities: leaflet distribution completed by Mon 30 Sept, Morpeth Herald press coverage, Inside Morpeth magazine article, promotional events held in Market Square / Sanderson Arcade / Pegswood, attend KEVI School Council to encourage more u20 responses.

A full response database was created as a flexible analysis tool, to provide all MNP work groups with a detailed summary and topic feedback for their next stage work. This was stripped of personal individual identifiers, with data given an alternate unique identifier code instead eg. MQ1, MQ2 etc.

A summary Headline Analysis Powerpoint presentation was also prepared for Steering Group and key slides are reproduced below:

## MNP SQ Net Score: to Wed 30/10 (477 max)



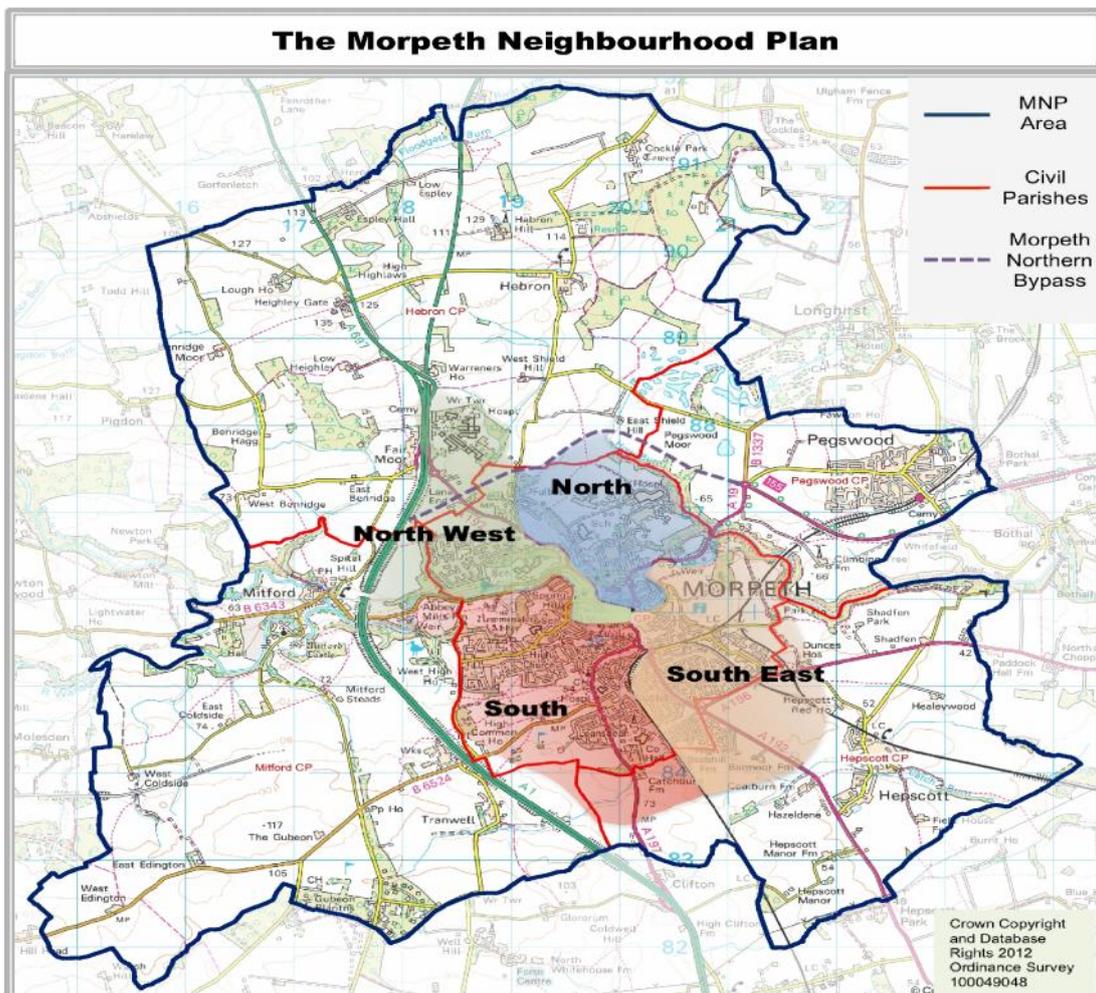
## MNP SQ / MQ Responses: Age Range

Age Range	SQ Nos	MQ Nos	Total Nos	2011 Census	% Nos
< 20	38	6	44	3,861	1.14%
20 – 39	35	48	83	3,445	2.41%
40 – 59	127	142	269	5,828	4.62%
60 +	287	174	461	6,102	7.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>19,236</b>	<b>4.46%</b>



## Selected MQ Responses (Nos in favour)

- 94% agree with broad MNP Vision (273)
- 94% agree green approach roads important (272)
- 82% agree with Housing's 13 Guiding Principles (226)
- 89% want only NCC's specified housing volumes (279)
- 90% favour avoid town coalescence > Heb/Hep/Mit (177)
- 92% want brownfield land prioritised (256)
- 85% favour new housing concentrated N of town (239)
- Location rank: 1<sup>st</sup> N (1.38) 2<sup>nd</sup> NW (2.03) 3<sup>rd</sup> SE (3.21) 4<sup>th</sup> S (3.38)



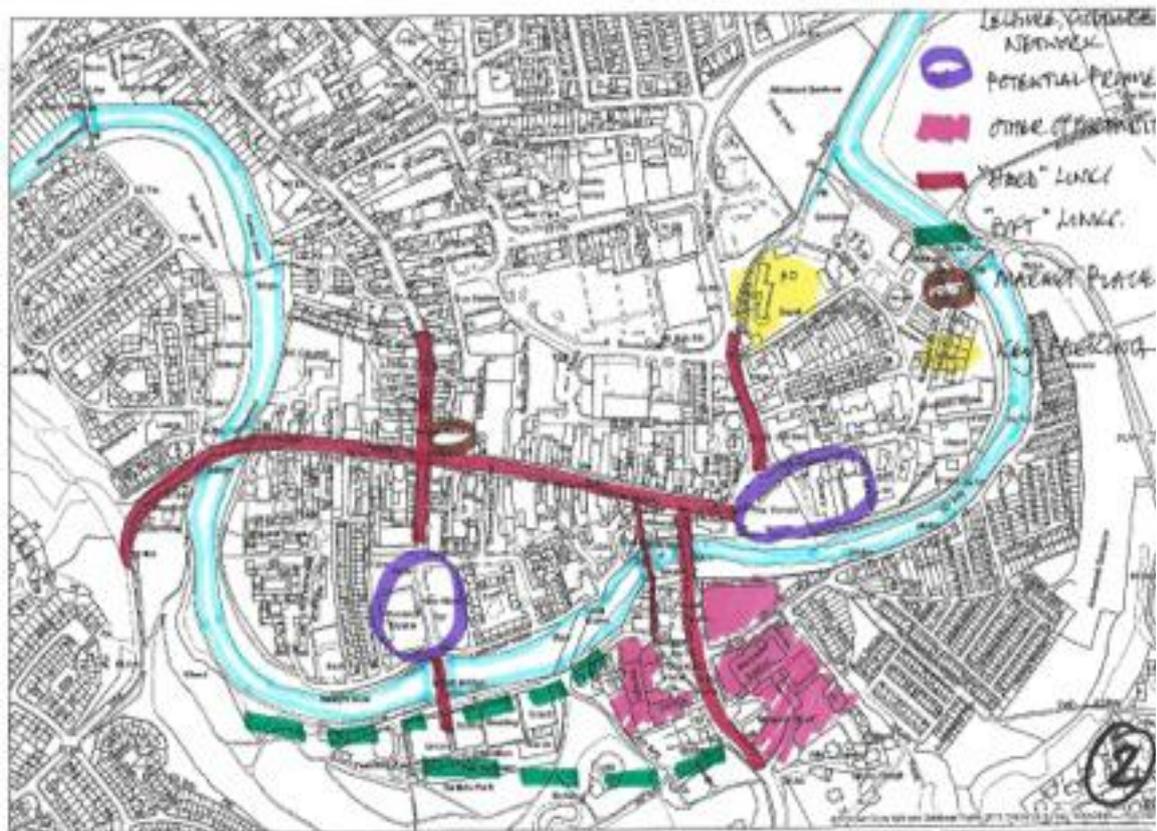
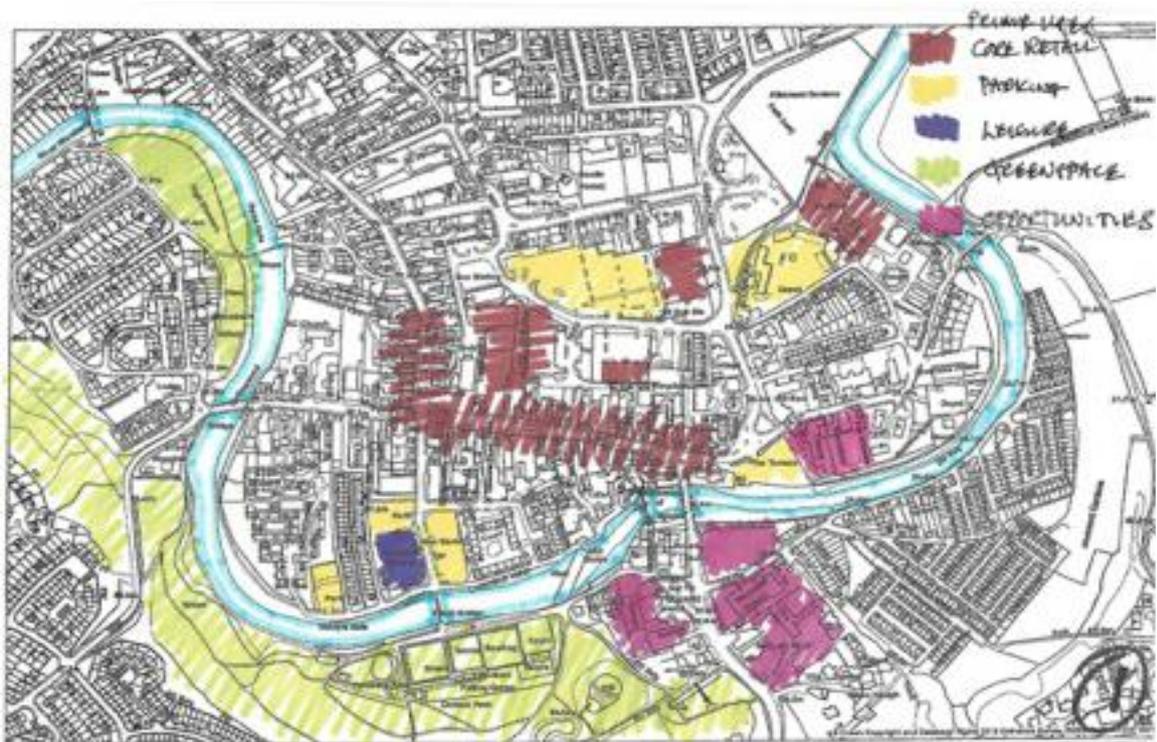
## Selected MQ Responses (opposite view)

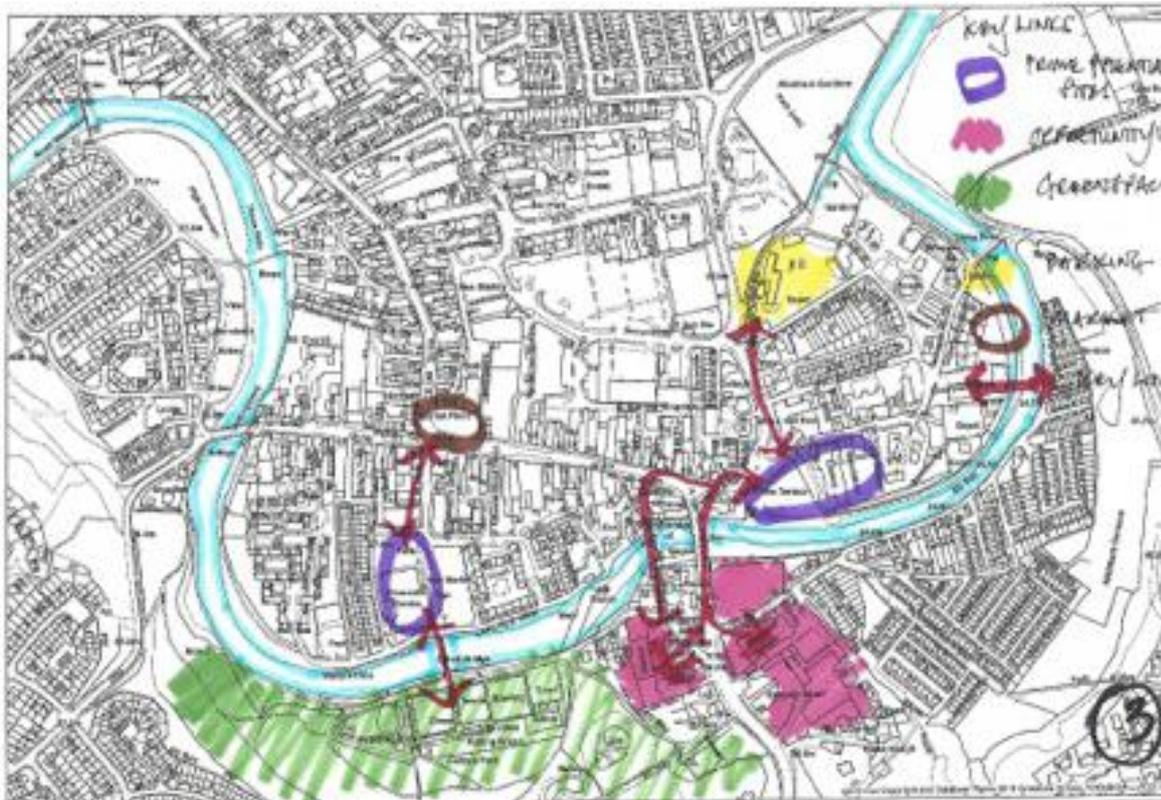
- 47% support full/part pedestrianisation Bridge St (46%)
- 53% think Morpeth schools should max pupil nos (37%)
- 60% want Pegswood 1<sup>st</sup> school > Morpeth pyramid (13%)
- 81% want additional Pegswood employment (5%)
- 44% consider sports/leisure facilities inadequate (33%)
- 79% want community theatre/arts centre (11%)
- 66% want social heritage museum (8%)

### 3.6 'Morpeth River Corridor' Visioning Workshop (Colin Haylock)

In early 2014, planning consultant Colin Haylock returned to Morpeth to host a further 'Visioning Workshop' at Morpeth Town Hall. This public open discussion event was held after the Issues & Options Consultation, to solicit further feedback on and test our headline Vision and Plan Objectives. The consultation also highlighted the need to improve the number and range of visitor attractions, and the range and choice of visitor accommodation. The latter being particularly important if Morpeth is to become a Northumberland tourism hub. A concept emerged from this MNP workshop of potential developments around the river corridor in keeping with the ambience of the town and its heritage assets, that would improve facilities, further develop the riverside environment, and enhance the visitor economy. It would also take advantage of key development opportunities. This concept and the potential impact of such developments in the town centre, including an improved 'Sports and Leisure Centre' and a new 'Arts, Performance and Heritage Centre', led to the subsequent series of three sketches by Colin which are reproduced below:

### 3 Sketches of Potential Town Centre Development 'Morpeth River Corridor'





### 3.7 'Draft Plan' Consultation (14 Jan 2015 > 20 Mar 2015)

**596 public responses**

**6.85% response rate from 8,700 MNP Area households**

This 6 weeks consultation made it clear that the MNP is our plan for land use in our area, and that it was prepared by volunteers and local residents, not planners, in line with public wishes expressed through the earlier Issues & Options Consultation carried out in Oct 2013. We made it clear that this Draft Plan Consultation was the public's opportunity to let us know if we had got it right. We also highlighted that the Plan had to be aligned with national planning policy, and the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy, but we believed its specific and detailed planning policies and community actions would enable us to shape the development of our communities over the next two decades without loss of their special and distinctive character.

The Plan Preparation Group produced a high quality 12 page A4 size colour leaflet 'Consultation Draft Summary and Questionnaire' in a 10,000 print run which was hand delivered via the Inside Morpeth magazine distribution network to the 8,700 households in the MNP Area. This leaflet replicated the table for each of the eight core Topic Areas as an accurate reminder of the original 'Issues and Options' put forward in our previous Autumn 2013 consultation, and noted that a few 'options shown in a different colour are not currently being progressed'. On the opposite page, we confirmed most of the original options had been taken forward and were now proposed and set out as either land use draft Planning Policies (PP) or other Community Actions (CA).

<http://www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Consultation-Draft-Plan-Summary-Leaflet.pdf>

We advised that whilst community actions are important, in legal terms only the planning policies of the neighbourhood plan have 'statutory weight', and that the local planning authority will only have regard to the adopted planning policies of the MNP when determining planning applications.

The consultation with local communities and stakeholders made it clear that their responses and comments would help us to finalise the MNP for submission to Northumberland County Council. We asked the community to let us have their views on the MNP, highlighting anything they thought needed to be changed. We explained that, after review by an Independent Examiner, NCC would then organise a referendum asking residents whether they wish to approve the Plan.

Residents were requested to complete the Consultation Draft Plan Questionnaire at the end of the leaflet, preferably online via the Survey Monkey link we had created on our MNP website homepage. This asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the Planning Policies and Community Actions for each of the 8 Topic Areas: Very Satisfied, Satisfied, Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied. We also asked 2 additional questions specifically regarding: Arts Performance & Heritage Centre; Overall Draft Plan.

There was also a free text comments box included to tell us if there were: any issues that they thought had been missed or not properly covered; any Draft Planning Policies or Community Actions that they felt particularly strongly about (either FOR or AGAINST). For authentication purposes we also asked for: First Name, Surname, House Number / Name, Postcode, and Age Range u20 / 20-39 / 40-59 / 60+.

We highlighted that the planning policies and community actions set out in this leaflet only gave a summary overview. The main 'MNP Draft Plan' document, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report, and other technical documents were all made available online via the MNP website homepage.

It was also noted that these were also available in paper form to view on request at Morpeth Town Hall. The leaflet stressed this is another crucial stage in the MNP process and residents views are vital, requesting if they can to please take time to look at the main Draft Plan document and answer the Consultation Questionnaire.

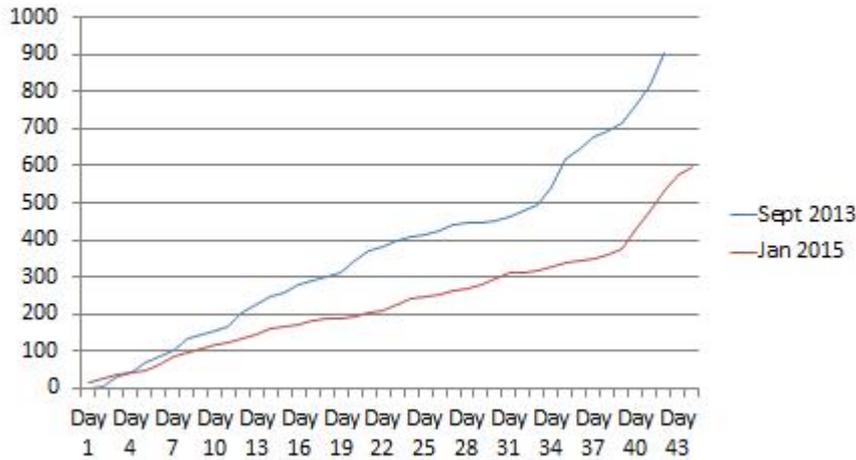
We created a Daily Tracker spreadsheet to record daily and cumulative running totals of online responses, and hand returned / postal responses were keyed into Survey Monkey daily by the Morpeth Town Council administration team. This spreadsheet also captured details and dates of our key promotional activities: leaflet distribution completed by Wed 21 Jan, Morpeth Herald press coverage, Inside Morpeth magazine article, promotional events held in Market Square / Sanderson Arcade / Pegswood, attending KEVI school 'World Café' to encourage more u20 responses.

A full response database was created as a flexible analysis tool, to provide the Steering and Plan Preparation Groups with detailed summary and topic feedback for fast review and change identification for final version Submission Draft Plan work. This was stripped of personal individual identifiers, with data given an alternate unique identifier code instead eg. DP1, DP2 etc.

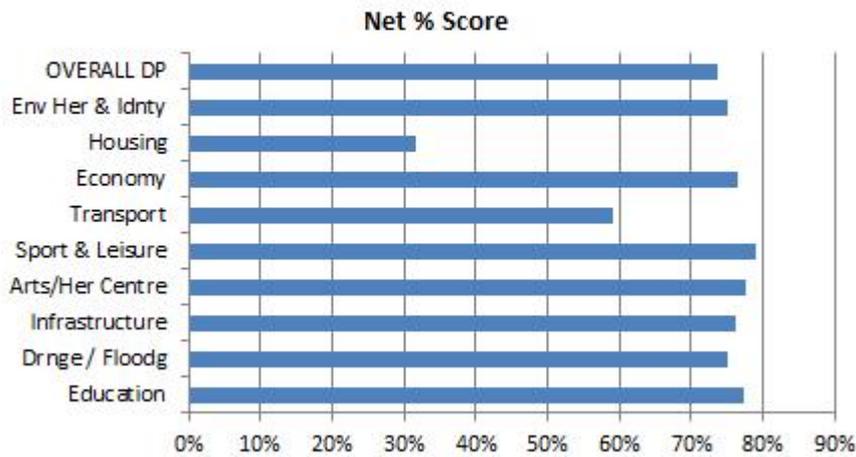
The overall consultation period was extended from 25 Feb 2015 until 20 Mar 2015 as there had been a partial delay in sending out notification letters to all statutory consultees. This mailing exercise was completed on 2 Feb 2015, the extension ensuring all key stakeholders and consultees also received a full 6 week consultation period. Their responses were collated into our evidence base, for review and consideration by the Steering and Plan Preparation Groups in their final version Submission Draft Plan work.

A summary Headline Analysis Powerpoint presentation was prepared and key slides are reproduced below:

### DP2015 RuT Responses: 596 (Wed 4/3)



### DP2015 Net Score: to Wed 4/3 (596 max)



## DP2015 Responses: % Community

Age Range	DP2015 Nos	2011 Census	% Nos
< 20	32	3,861	0.83%
20 – 39	32	3,445	0.93%
40 – 59	171	5,828	2.93%
60 +	323	6,102	5.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>19,236</b>	<b>3.10%</b>



( NB. Total includes 'Age Not Given': 38 )

... or alternatively **6.85% response rate** by MNP Area households (8,700)

Date: Wed 25 Feb	OK: 44	RuT: 578			
Topic Area	V Satis	Satis	Neither	Dissatis	V Dissatis
Envt Her & Village Identity	174	250	53	47	16
Housing	113	192	74	87	71
Local Economy	115	240	121	42	7
Getting Around	112	236	99	58	32
Sports & Leisure	143	234	110	34	11
Arts Centre	152	230	99	38	12
Community Infrastructure	113	245	113	37	13
Drainage / Flooding	140	260	75	41	18
Education	126	230	124	34	10
<b>OVERALL PLAN</b>	111	229	184	39	15
Age Group	u20	20-39	40-59	60+	Not Given
Respondents	14	32	171	323	38

NB. Top 3 'Satisfied' Topic Areas highlighted green.

NB. Top 3 'Dissatisfied' Topic Areas highlighted red.

<b>Date: Wed 4 Mar KEVI</b>	<b>OK: 18</b>	<b>RuT: 596</b>			
<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>V Satis</b>	<b>Satis</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Dissatis</b>	<b>V Dissatis</b>
Envt Her & Village Identity	2	14	2	0	0
Housing	1	8	4	5	0
Local Economy	1	11	6	0	0
Getting Around	1	10	5	2	0
Sports & Leisure	5	10	1	1	0
Arts Centre	9	6	3	0	0
Community Infrastructure	0	11	7	0	0
Drainage / Flooding	6	7	5	0	0
Education	3	10	2	3	0
<b>OVERALL PLAN</b>	1	14	3	0	0
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>u20</b>	<b>20-39</b>	<b>40-59</b>	<b>60+</b>	<b>Not Given</b>
Respondents	18				

A total of 480 respondents (81%) provided additional free text comments, across a wide variety of multiple topics, and averaging 3 topics per respondent:-

<b>Public &amp; KEVI Comments</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Arts Centre	61	4.22%
Consultation	77	5.33%
Crime	3	0.21%
Economy	115	7.96%
Education	79	5.47%
Environment	133	9.20%
Flooding	70	4.84%
Healthcare	11	0.76%
Heritage	33	2.28%
Housing	294	20.35%
Infrastructure	62	4.29%
NCC	36	2.49%
Settlement Boundaries	45	3.11%
Sport & Leisure	63	4.36%
Technology	1	0.07%
Town Identity	57	3.94%
Transport	242	16.75%
Village Identity	58	4.01%
Vision	5	0.35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### **3.8 Post Draft Plan Consultation**

All Draft Plan responses received from the public, KEVI school students, statutory consultees, and developers were reviewed and segregated into topic areas, by completing separate topic area proformas. As a sample, the first page of the Housing proforma is included in this Consultation Statement / Appendix D.

In addition to the 596 questionnaire responses from the public and KEVI students, there were 31 letter responses received. The individuals, statutory consultees, and developers who sent these letters are listed in this Consultation Statement / Appendix E. Their collective responses have been aggregated into a single document as a further part of our evidence base.

Specific responses to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report from English Heritage, Environment Agency, and Natural England have been added to that SEA document.

These topic area proformas were used by our Steering and Plan Preparation Groups to critically review, challenge, and where considered appropriate, update the Consultation Draft Plan into the final version Submission Draft Plan. The following section provides a schedule of the main changes agreed, detailing the topic area / origin of change / summary of issues raised / and summary of change.

As a final step we employed the services of an independent planning consultant, Rosemary Kidd MRTPI, during May 2015 to carry out a final health check on our Submission Draft Plan – in particular ensuring that it was fit for purpose for formal examination, compliant with latest planning legislation and neighbourhood plan guidance, and that its Planning Policies and Community Actions were well drafted and robust.

## 4. Changes to the Plan

### Schedule of Main Changes from Consultation Draft Plan to Submission Draft Plan

Topic Area	Origin of Change	Summary of Issues Raised	Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)
Vision Statement	Plan Preparation Group (PPG)	n/a	A minor modification to the Vision statement and editing of the supporting text including removal of the paragraph relating to Pegswood (see below)
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	n/a	Insertion of new section 'Planning Context'
Objectives/Development Principles	Northumberland County Council (NCC), Environment Agency, Mitford Estates, Residents	Advice that Development Principles would better fit within the Plan as a policy with emphasis on sustainability	Insertion of new policy – Sustainable Development Principles which embodies and replaces Development Principles
Objectives	Various	Suggestions about improvements that could be made to the text	Minor modifications to the text and additional text to cover issues raised by a range of consultation responses
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Reorganisation of objectives with some minor amendments to the text
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Insertion of new section 'The Strategy to Deliver a Sustainable Community'

Topic Area	Origin of Change	Summary of Issues Raised	Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)
Settlement Boundaries	NCC and other consultation responses	Policy wording needs to be improved including setting criteria for development in the smaller villages	Policy wording amended and new supporting policies inserted for Hebron, Hepscoth and Mitford (settlement boundaries and an 'open countryside' elements are intended to give protection until the Green Belt is defined in the Core Strategy with associated policies)
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Revisions to the text and policy wording

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Sense of Place and Local Identity (Environment)	NCC, Alan Davison, Resident	Policy wording needs to be improved	Landscape Corridor and Wildlife Corridor policies combined and revised wording of supporting text
	England & Lyle on behalf of Taylor Wimpey	Promoting land north of Barmoor Farm (SHLAA Site 6743) and south of High Stobhill Farm (not in SHLAA) - consider their two sites could support landscape corridor policy	Noted in revising policies and text
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Text for the Landscape Corridor and Wildlife Corridor policy edited including addition of text previously in the Vision section
	David Holden, Alan Davison, Andrew Tebbutt, Resident, PPG	Sites meriting designation missing from the proposed listings	Designated Green and Open policies, supporting text and Appendix substantially reviewed (on the basis of further evidence gathering and analysis) and amended
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Text and policy wordings for Local Green Space, Protected Open Space and Allotments amended and, following advice, assignment of 'green space' sites as LGS and POS further reviewed and amended
	Wildlife Trust and LWS Partnership evidence base	Plan should be modified to give statutory protection to Local Wildlife Sites	Wording of PPEnv4 amended
	Environment Agency	The Plan needs to refer to and make provision for the maintenance of watercourses	Addition of a Community Action

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Sense of Place and Local Identity (Heritage)	Resident	Policy wordings of PPHer1 and PPHer4 could be improved	Wordings of these policies slightly amended
	Northumberland Low Vision Action Group	Policy CAHer5 needs to be amended to refer to	Wording of policy amended to include the NCC strategy relating to pavement advertising
	Residents	Newminster Abbey is an important heritage asset and this merits inclusion	Text amended to refer to Newminster Abbey as an important heritage asset
	NCC	Suggested improvement by inclusion of heritage assets at risk policy and referencing English Heritage	Insertion of policy and supporting text to cover heritage assets at risk of harm (previously included in CAHer2) and modification of CAHer2 to specifically include English Heritage.
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Amendments and additions to text and policy wordings. Design Principles moved into new 'Sustainable Development Principles' section

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Local Economy and Town Centre	Resident (MRTPI), Dransfield Properties	PPEmp1 and supporting text needs to be improved making reference to the NCC Core Strategy and clarifying that development opportunities are considered sufficient to meet new retail development over the Plan period	PPEmp1 split to include a separate policy for Morpeth and Pegswood centres and a policy covering Primary Shopping Area and frontage. A 'Heart of the Village' development in Pegswood section has been included. Policy wordings made more precise and supporting text modified with additional text to refer to the emerging NCC Core Strategy; and, a 'definitions' section has been added to support this policy.
	Dransfield Properties	Text relating to the former Morrison's supermarket site is out of date	Time related text deleted and supporting text for PPEmp1 amended
	Royal Mail Group	Morpeth Delivery Office should not be shown as a development site	PSA boundary in Map 10 amended to exclude the Morpeth Delivery Office. PPEmp2 modified to include "in the event of potential opportunity sites becoming available"
	PPG, Dransfield Properties, Resident (MRTPI)	PPEmp4 wording needs to better reflect the policy intention in relation to the Coopies Lane employment site	PPEmp4 wording amended to make it more precise to better reflect policy intention and to link with the revised wording of PPEmp1
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Section re-structured with text and policy wordings amended, with separate policies for Morpeth Town Centre and Pegswood Village Centre

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Housing	Resident	Need to refer to three NPPF elements sustainability	Addition to the text to include NPPF requirement for three elements of sustainability
	NCC, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, Chamber of Trade	PPHou1 needs substantial amendment	Policy thoroughly reviewed and amended with appropriate modifications to and updating of the supporting text.
	David Holden, Resident	n/a	Table 1 and Appendix D amended to reflect latest analysis of housing numbers
	PPG	n/a	Removal of 'holding text' included to deal with revised NCC Core Strategy housing targets
	Coal Authority	The issue of unstable land or mineral sterilization needs to be recognised in relation to housing sites	Inclusion of a footnote to the table in Appendix D (now to be included in supporting document) regarding unstable land or mineral sterilisation
	Alan Davison, Resident	New developments should contribute to green environment of Morpeth	CAHou5 wording augmented to include this
	PPG	n/a	Addition of a Community Action regarding the St George's Hospital Site Masterplan
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Text and policy wordings amended throughout, with some Community Actions converted to policies

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Getting Around (Transport)	Resident	n/a	Additions to PPTr1 and PPTr8 to cover compliance with other policies
	Highways Agency, NCC, Resident	There should not be a policy for 4-way junctions on the A1	Removal of policy and recognition that the junction at Clifton is outside the MNP area CATra2 amended to develop case and evidence base for improved junction
	Resident, Mitford Estates (Signet Planning)	Improvement to pedestrian and cycling routes needs to be included	Amendment of PPTr1 to include this and slight amendment of PPTr8
			Addition of "as appropriate" to PPTr9
	Residents	CATra10 (Car Parking) should refer to "car and cycle"	Addition to the CA wording of "car and cycle"
	Chamber of Trade, NCC, Residents	The Plan should include the need for key junction improvements and an assessment of a new river crossing	Addition of specified junction improvements and assessment of a river crossing to CATra2
	Chamber of Trade	There should be recognition that the Stobhill-Loansdean link road would help to ease congestion and would help the revitalisation of the Coopies Lane Industrial Estate	Addition to text for CATra2 and PPTr3 to reflect this
	PPG in response to Plan 'Healthcheck'	Changes recommended	Amendments to text and policy wordings

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Sports and Leisure / Arts Performance and Heritage Centre	NCC, PPG	n/a	Amalgamation of CASpo1 with CAArt1 and PPSpo2 with PPArt1; associated rationalisation/amendments to text; and, addition to include reference to Recent National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) regarding a sequential test.
Drainage Infrastructure and Resilience Against Flooding	NCC (as LPA and Lead Local Flood Authority) Northumbrian Water, Environment Agency	The flood related policies could be reduced from 5 to one comprehensive policy that integrates all the key messages	Wording used that is adapted from NCC's published Draft Core Strategy to consolidate and simplify the policies as requested.
	NCC (as LPA and Lead Local Flood Authority) Northumbrian Water, Environment Agency.	The MNP should be particularly robust in its flood policy in relation to the NPPF	The special case made for the MNP to be particularly robust in its flood policy in relation to the NPPF has been clarified in the supporting text
	The communities across the MNP area in the consultation.	Strong concerns of the community that the plans for sustainable drainage systems should be particularly robust in their design and maintenance schedules, for the lifetime of a development	Changes to the text in response to these concerns
Pegswood	PPG	n/a	Some supporting text in relation to Pegswood removed to a Second Pegswood Technical Report

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Education	Resident	CAEdu1 should be modified to cover siblings	Addition to text
	NCC	The linking of Pegswood to the Morpeth Pyramid is incorrect	Removal of text linking Pegswood to the Morpeth Pyramid
	PPG, Residents	n/a	Rationalisation of text
		n/a	Amendments to CAEdu1 to cover school places in advance of demand; minor adjustments to PPEdu2; and, PPedu3 to cover condition of buildings or lack of space for expansion and to include provision for waiting school buses to park
Community Actions and related text	PPG	n/a	Reviewed and amended in the light of amendments made in response to 'Healthcheck'
Document as a whole	PPG	n/a	Correction of typos and errors
		n/a	Removal of references to the Issues and Options Consultation
		n/a	Updating to reflect current circumstances and information (31st March 2015)
Document as a whole	NCC, PPG	n/a	Consolidation of separate maps into a Proposals Map (included in revised Plan as a separate document) and mapping modifications to correct inaccuracies, to reflect consultation comments and to reflect policy revisions.

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Origin of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Issues Raised</b>	<b>Summary of Change (refers to Consultation Draft Plan)</b>
Document structure	NCC, PPG	n/a	Document restructured with Part A – Policies (previously Planning Policies) and Part B – Community Actions (Policies and Community Actions also re-numbered)
Paragraph numbering	NCC, PPG	n/a	Paragraph numbering reduced from four to two levels

In addition to this ‘Schedule of Main Changes’ it is important to note that various developers (or their planning agents) raised objections in their written responses, where their own SHLAA site had been considered surplus to the housing supply needs of the Plan Area within the Plan period up to 2031. Whilst noting their points of view, we are satisfied that: a comprehensive housing site assessment exercise was carried out of all SHLAA sites; major housing alternatives were considered as part of our SEA reasonable alternatives assessment; and our key housing Planning Policy PPHou1 makes provision for at least 1,700 new dwellings within the Plan period up to 2031. We are also satisfied that the allocation of the principal and sustainable St George’s Hospital site will allow for the provision of housing beyond the Plan period.

## 5. Conclusions

5.1 The Submission Plan is the outcome of over two years of continuous community engagement in various forms. It comprises a set of locally specific planning policies intended to guide development management decisions on planning applications, so that they better reflect the communities' expectations concerning controls and support for development in the MNP Area.

5.2 We have received considerable support and guidance from many sources during the plan-making process. We are satisfied that the outcome from that support, and the manner in which community aspirations have been captured through the proposed planning policies, creates a neighbourhood plan which lends sufficient support to appropriate sustainable development proposals as they arise.

5.3 The Plan provides a set of planning policies that seek to support and guide decisions on sustainable development proposals. We believe that the Submission Plan is a fair reflection of the views expressed by the local community throughout the various stages of plan preparation.

5.4 All legal obligations regarding the preparation of neighbourhood plans have been adhered to by the MNP Steering Group. The Submission Plan is supported by a Basic Conditions Report and by this Consultation Statement both of which adequately cover the requirements set out in the Regulations. Morpeth Town Council and the 4 Parish Councils of Hebron, Hepscoth, Mitford, and Pegswood have no hesitation in presenting the Plan as a policy document that has the support of the majority of the local community who have been engaged in its preparation.

**5.5 This Consultation Statement completes the range of tasks undertaken to demonstrate that publicity, consultation and engagement on the Plan has been meaningful, effective, proportionate and valuable in shaping the Plan which will benefit communities across the MNP Area by promoting sustainable development.**

# **APPENDICES**

## **Appendix A:**

**Documents prepared to support the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan**

## **Appendix B:**

**Details of people, businesses and organisations consulted during plan preparation**

## **Appendix C:**

**Letters sent to consultees**

## **Appendix D:**

**Sample of Housing topic area proforma (post Draft Plan consultation)**

## **Appendix E:**

**List of letter respondents to Draft Plan**

# **Appendix A:**

## **List of all relevant reports and documents prepared to support the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Governance Arrangements**

Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference (June 2012)  
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Governance Arrangements (Sept 2012)  
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Community Engagement Strategy (Sept 2012)  
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Scoping Report  
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Project Plan

### **Local and Regional Planning Documents**

Castle Morpeth Local Plan (Feb 2003)  
Castle Morpeth Local Plan Saved Policies (Aug 2007)  
Northumberland County Structure Plan Saved Policy (Feb 2005)  
Northumberland Core Strategy Issues & Options Consultation Document (May 2012)  
Northumberland Core Strategy Preferred Options Part 1 Consultation (Feb 2013)  
Northumberland Core Strategy Preferred Options Part 2 Consultation (Oct 2013)  
Northumberland Core Strategy Full Draft Plan Consultation (Dec 2014)

### **Project Background and Evidence Base**

Destination Planning for Morpeth (2009) [Northumberland Tourism & GMDT]  
Northumberland CC Employment Land Review (2011) & Update (2013)  
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Audit (Jan 2013)  
Pegswood First Technical Report (June 2013)  
Education Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
Heritage Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
Infrastructure Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
Housing Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
    Housing Site Assessments v5 (Jan 2015)  
    Housing Site Allocation – Outline Methodology and Potential Sites (Jan 2015)  
Local Economy Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
Local Environment Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
    Local Wildlife Site Designation: Bothal Burn & Woods  
    Local Wildlife Site Designation: Cotting Woods  
    Local Wildlife Site Designation: Howburn Woods  
    Local Wildlife Site Designation: Wansbeck & Hartburn Woods  
    Local Wildlife Site Designation: Wansbeck Chapel Woods  
    Local Green Space Assessment  
Sports, Arts & Leisure Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
Transport Technical Report (Sept 2013)  
    Managing Morpeth's Transport: Assessment of Telford Bridge Junction  
    Options (Sept 2013) [NCC commissioned from Phil Jones Associates]  
Northumberland CC Interim SHLAA Report (Dec 2014)  
Northumberland CC Green Belt Settlement Assessments (Dec 2014)  
Pegswood Second Technical Report (Mar 2015)

## **Consultation and Engagement**

CABE First Visioning Workshop Notes (Feb 2013)  
CABE Second Workshop Notes (Mar 2013)  
CABE Third Workshop Notes (Mar 2013)  
CABE Third Workshop Presentation (Mar 2013)  
Issues & Options Consultation Main Report (Sept 2013)  
Issues & Options Consultation Summary Leaflet (Sept 2013)  
Issues & Options Responses Daily Tracker (Nov 2013)  
Issues & Options Headline Analysis Slides (Nov 2013)  
Issues & Options MQ Database v2 (Nov 2013)  
Issues & Options MQ Database v3 / Topic Groups (Nov 2013)  
Issues & Options Consultees Responses aggregated (Nov 2013)  
Town Centre Workshop Notes (Jan 2014)  
Developer Engagement Workshop Notes (Mar 2014)  
Culture Centre Workshop Notes (Apr 2014)  
Consultation Draft Plan (Jan 2015)  
Consultation Draft Plan Summary Leaflet (Jan 2015)  
Draft Plan Responses Daily Tracker (Mar 2015)  
Draft Plan Responses Data by Topic Area (Mar 2015)  
Draft Plan Headline Analysis Slides (Mar 2015)  
Draft Plan Public Responses Database v2 (Mar 2015)  
Draft Plan Public Responses Database v3 / Steering & PPG Groups (Mar 2015)  
Draft Plan Consultees Responses aggregated (Mar 2015)

## **Neighbourhood Area Designation**

Application to DCLG for Neighbourhood Plan Front Runner Status (Nov 2011)  
Application to designate a neighbourhood area for Morpeth and surrounding parishes (Jan 2013)  
Local Planning Authority decision notice on area designation (June 2013)

Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report (Feb 2014)  
Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report  
Strategic Environmental Assessment Sustainability Appraisal

Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan - Submission Plan for Independent Examination  
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan - Basic Conditions Report  
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation Statement

# **Appendix B:**

## **Details of people, businesses and organisations consulted during plan preparation**

The names of all consultation bodies and others consulted during plan preparation are provided below. The bodies identified include those to whom the requirements on pre-submission consultation and publicity set out in Regulation 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 apply. These are divided into types of organisation or consultee, and have been separated into national bodies and local bodies by reference to Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 of The Regulations. The details given here do not include any confidential or sensitive information, and they do not include names and addresses of individuals and residents of the parishes who made written representations. Contact details for those individuals along with the addresses of the consultation bodies are held separately to allow Morpeth Town Council to keep all people who have expressed an interest in the Plan informed about its progress. Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are also listed, as are the volunteers of the Plan Preparation Group who actually drafted the Plan. The full database of volunteers and residents who signed up following the launch, during the Issues & Options consultation, and through the website is held by Morpeth Town Council.

### **The Local Planning Authority - Northumberland County Council:**

David English	Principal Planning Officer
JoAnne Garrick	Head of Strategic Planning
Penny Gough	Morpeth TIC
Daljit Lally	Executive Director of Wellbeing & Community Health Services
Karen Ledger	Head of Development Services
Rob Naples	Planning Officer
Dick Phillips	Network Manager (Highways) (till Sept 2014)
Barry Rowland	Corporate Director of Local Services
David Rowlinson	Planning Officer
Lynn Ryan	Parking Services Manager (Highways)
Cameron Scott	North East Regional Growth Network
Mike Scott	Head of Sustainable Transport (till Dec 2012)

Steve Stewart      Chief Executive (till Nov 2013)

Alex Thompson      Programme Officer (Highways)

**Parish & Town Councils in the Plan Area:**

Hebron Parish Council

Hepscott Parish Council

Mitford Parish Council

Morpeth Town Council

Pegswood Parish Council

**Adjoining Town Parish Councils**

Ashington Town Council

Choppington Parish Council

Longhirst Parish Council

Meldon Parish Council

Netherwitton Parish Council

Stannington Parish Council

Tritlington and West Chevington

Ulgham Parish Council

West Bedlington Town Council

Whalton Parish Council

**Northumberland County Councillors:**

Cllr David Bawn      Councillor, Morpeth North (from May 2013)

Cllr Grant Davey      Council Leader (from May 2013)

Cllr Ian Lindley      Councillor, Morpeth Stobhill

Cllr David Moore	Councillor, Morpeth North (till May 2013)
Cllr Jeff Reid	Council Leader (till May 2013)
Cllr Alan Sambrook	Councillor, Pegswood (from May 2013)
Cllr Glen Sanderson	Councillor, Longhorsley
Cllr Andrew Tebbutt	Councillor, Morpeth Kirkhill
Cllr David Woodard	Councillor, Pegswood (till May 2013)

### **National & Regional Consultation Bodies:**

British Telecommunications Plc

Coal Authority

Diocese of Newcastle

Disability North

English Heritage

Environment Agency

Highways Agency

Homes and Communities Agency

Marine Management Organisation

Mono Consulting (represents EE, O2, Vodafone, and 3)

National Grid

National Trust

Natural England

Network Rail

North East Chamber of Commerce

Northern Gas Networks

Northern Power Grid

Northumberland Tourism

Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust  
Northumbria Police  
Northumbrian Water Ltd  
Post Office plc  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
Royal Mail Group  
United Utilities Plc

### **Local Consultation Bodies**

Abbeyfield School  
Action for a Better Morpeth  
Age UK  
All Saints School  
Alzheimer's Society (Morpeth Branch)  
AMEC (on behalf of National Grid)  
Barnabas Safe & Sound  
Federation of Northumberland Development Trusts  
Blagdon Estate  
BVal  
Castle Morpeth Disability Association  
Chantry Middle School  
Collingwood School  
Community Action Northumberland  
Contact Morpeth  
Cookswell Garage  
Dransfield Properties

George F White  
King Edward VI High School  
Mitford Estates  
Mitford Historical Society  
Mitford Parish Church  
Morpeth & District Chamber of Trade  
Morpeth Antiquarian Society  
Morpeth Baptist Church  
Morpeth First School (Goosehill)  
Morpeth Harriers  
Morpeth Herald  
Morpeth Methodist Church  
Morpeth RFC  
New Life Christian Centre  
Newminster Middle School  
Northumberland Wildlife Trust  
Rickards  
Sanders Plant & Waste  
St Roberts First School  
Stobhillgate First School  
Turning Point

**Volunteers involved in Issues & Options and draft Plan consultation preparation**

Philip Ashmore (Hepscott PC)  
Nic Best (Morpeth TC)  
Ken Brown (Morpeth TC) [until May 2014]

Ed Campbell

Simon Cox

Alan Jones

Peter Scott

Joan Tebbutt (Morpeth TC) [from May 2014]

Graeme Trotter

### **Volunteers involved in Developer Engagement Group discussions**

David Cowans (Hepscott PC)

David Holden

David Lodge (GMDT)

Keith Raine

Bob Robertson (Morpeth TC)

Peter Scott

Leslie Starkie (Chair)

David Woodard (Pegswood PC)

### **13/03/2014: Plenary Workshop Multiple Developers (Consultant Representatives)**

Barratt Homes – Neil Milburn

Gary Featherstone – Gary Featherstone, Richard Wharton

Galliford Try – Craig Taylor; Tobin Byers, Jennifer Winyard (Remarkable)

Homes & Communities Agency – Alan Sears

Mitford Estates – John Wyatt

Northumbrian Healthcare NHS Trust – Nathaniel Litchfield

Persimmon Homes – Stuart Grimes, David Abercrombie (Fairhurst)

Story Homes – Gerry Choat; Stephanie Linnell (George F White)

Wimpey Homes – Ian Lyle (England & Lyle)

30/04/2014: **Persimmon Homes** – Lee Crawford, Peter Jordan

17/09/2014: **Mitford Estates** – Nick Elliott; Cathy Russell, Alistair Willis (Signet)

09/12/2014: **Taylor Wimpey** – Steve Wilcock

**Other Developer Contacts / Written Engagement Only:**

Bellway Homes – Stephen Litherland

Cussins Homes – via GVA

CWP – via Holder Planning

Dransfield Properties – via Planning Prospects Ltd

Fabrick (Tees Valley Homes) – Louise Ellis

Northumberland Mental Health Trust – Ian Railton

Welbeck Estates – Andrew Moss (Ward Hadaway)

**Steering Group Members**

Philip Ashmore (Hepscott PC)

Nic Best (Morpeth TC) (Environment Topic Group) Vice Chair

Ken Brown [till May 2014] (Morpeth TC) [Chair till May 2014]

Alison Byard [from May 2014] (Morpeth TC)

Ian Campbell (Planning Adviser) [till December 2014]

David Cowans (Hepscott PC) (Heritage Topic Group)

Peter Fuller (Transport Topic Group)

David Herne [till May 2013] (Morpeth TC)

Mark Horton [till May 2013] (Morpeth TC)

Andrew Kelly [till September 2014] (Hebron PC)

David Lodge (GMDT) (Economy Topic Group)

David Parker (Morpeth TC) (Housing Topic Group)

Colin Pearson (Education Topic Group)

Bob Robertson [from May 2013] (Morpeth TC)

Mike Sharp (Mitford PC)

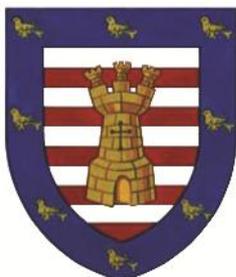
Joan Tebbutt [from May 2013] (Morpeth TC) [Chair from May 2014]

Graeme Trotter (Sports, Arts & Leisure Topic Group)

David Woodard (Pegswood PC)

# Appendix C: Letters sent to consultees

## 12/09/2013: Formal Notice of Consultation on The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) - Issues and Options Consultation Report



Morpeth  
Town  
Council

12<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Sirs

### **Formal Notice of Consultation on The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) – Issues and Options Consultation Report**

As you may know, Morpeth was chosen as one of the neighbourhood planning 'Front Runner' areas leading the way nationally to test new neighbourhood planning powers introduced through the Localism Act in 2011. These powers provide a locally-led approach to creating planning policies that will help shape communities and guide planning decisions.

Preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Morpeth and the parishes of Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford, and Pegswood is being led by Morpeth Town Council supported by a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Since the launch last October, residents who volunteered to help with the MNP have been working within topic areas to gather information and examine the key **Issues** facing Morpeth and its adjoining communities. A series of open public workshops have also been held to help with the process. We are not setting out preferred **Options** or any detailed proposals at this stage – this is more a check that we've identified the issues that need to be addressed.

Our topic working groups have each produced a technical report, and their findings have been consolidated into an 'Issues and Options Consultation Report'. We are now seeking comments from people who live, work or have businesses in the area, and from other organisations that have an interest in the plan area.

These reports can all be viewed at the following website: [www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](http://www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk). Printed copies will also be available for inspection during normal opening times at:

- Morpeth Library, The Willows, Morpeth NE61 1TA
- Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth, NE61 1LZ

If you would like to comment on the 'Issues and Options Consultation Report' please write to us at the Morpeth Town Council office, Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth, NE61 1LZ; send an email to [louise.davey@morpeth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:louise.davey@morpeth-tc.gov.uk); or you can complete the survey available on the website.

**This consultation period lasts until Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013 allowing a full 6 week consultation period. Your responses and comments will help us prepare a draft MNP that we intend to publish and consult on next Spring.**

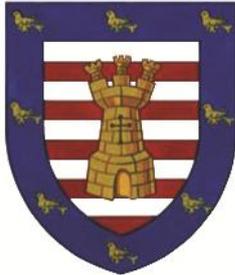
If you have any queries about the consultation process please contact Morpeth Town Council on 01670 514314 or email [louise.davey@morpeth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:louise.davey@morpeth-tc.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Councillor Ken Brown  
Chair, The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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**02/02/2015: Formal Notice of Consultation on The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan – Pre Submission Consultation Draft Plan**



Morpeth  
Town  
Council

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

Dear Sirs

**Formal Notice of Consultation on The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan – Pre Submission Consultation Draft Plan**

As you may know, Morpeth was chosen as one of the neighbourhood planning 'Front Runner' areas leading the way nationally to test new neighbourhood planning powers introduced through the Localism Act in 2011. These powers provide a locally-led approach to creating planning policies that will help shape communities and guide planning decisions.

Preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Morpeth and the parishes of Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood is being led by the Morpeth Town Council supported by a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. We have worked with the community to identify important local issues for which solutions could be proposed through a new plan for the Plan area. This has included a number of community workshops and topic based working groups, which critically assessed key development issues for the Plan area.

The Plan is intended to provide planning policies to cover the whole of the parishes of Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood. It recognises and respects the context for development in these areas, which are tightly constrained by local and national environmental and landscape protection designations.

This formal stage in the process of preparing the Plan requires a six week period of public consultation. We are seeking comments on the Draft Plan from people who live, work or have businesses in the area and from other organisations that have an interest in the plan area.

The Draft Plan can be viewed at the following website: [www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](http://www.themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk) Printed copies of the plan will be available for inspection during normal opening times at:

- Morpeth Library, The Willows, Morpeth NE61 1TA (from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015)
- Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth, NE61 1LZ

If you would like to comment on the Draft Plan please write to us at the Morpeth Town Council office, Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth NE61 1LZ, send an email to [dee.cota@morpeth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:dee.cota@morpeth-tc.gov.uk) or you can complete the survey available on the website.

**This consultation period has now been extended until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to ensure that all key stakeholders and consultees receive a full 6 week consultation period. However, if you feel that the original informal notice that you received on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015 was adequate notice, please notify us as soon as possible so we can proceed without delay.**

With the General Election taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 any comments received after Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 cannot be taken into consideration due to constraints imposed on local authorities during the pre-election purdah period.

If you have any queries about the Draft Plan or the consultation process please do not hesitate to contact Morpeth Town Council on 01670 514314 or by emailing [dee.cota@morpeth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:dee.cota@morpeth-tc.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

Councillor Joan Tebbutt  
Chair of The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

# Appendix D: Housing Topic Area Proforma sample (post Draft Plan Consultation)

Topic area:	Housing			
Respondent(s) <i>(List all applicable)</i>	Consultation Draft Plan Reference <i>(Page No. / Para. Ref./ PP or CA Ref.)</i>	Respondent Comment(s) <i>(Verbatim or Précis)</i>	Proposed Action	Notes
Resident	P.13 Para. 2.4.1 – Housing Location	On NPPF’s requirement for sustainability need to refer to three elements – economic, social and environmental factors.	<b>Amend first sentence of second paragraph as follows: -</b>  “National planning policy requires potential housing locations to be assessed in terms of sustainability, covering economic, social and environmental factors. Examples are: distance from services; availability of public transport; and, other factors reducing use of private cars.”	
Resident	P.47 Para. 3.6.1	Typo: 3.6.1 refers to Table 1 as at Sept ‘14 but it is actually Dec ‘14	Amend date to March 2015.	
NCC	P. 47 – 52 Para. 3.6.1	Include phrase “at least” against housing numbers to ensure alignment with NPPF	Agreed at PPG on 27 Feb to include “at least”.	

# Appendix E: Written Draft Plan responses

31 letter responses to Consultation Draft Plan were received from:

BDW North East  
Coal Authority  
Prof Alan Davison\* (Emeritus Professor, Newcastle University)  
DTZ for HCA  
England & Lyle for Taylor Wimpey  
Environment Agency  
GVA for Cussins Ltd  
Mr David Holden\*  
Highways Agency  
Holder Planning for CWP  
Morpeth Civic Society  
Morpeth & District Chamber of Trade (1 & 2)  
Natural England  
NECC  
Northumberland Low Vision Action Group  
Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust  
Northumbrian Water Ltd  
Persimmon Homes  
PPL for Dransfield Properties  
Royal Mail Group  
SENRUG  
Signet Planning for Mitford Estates  
Story Homes  
County Councillor Andrew Tebbutt\*  
Welbeck Estates  
George F White for Messrs Laidler  
George F White for Messrs Michie  
+ 1 Individual Local Landowner / name supplied & available on request  
+ 2 other Individual Residents / names supplied & available on request

\* Individual residents who have given permission for their names to be listed (3)