

NOTES OF THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

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

1. Present

Representing

Councillor Ken Brown	Morpeth Town Council - Chairman
Councillor Bob Robertson	Morpeth Town Council
Councillor David Cowans	Heritage Topic Group
Councillor David Parker	Housing Topic Group
Simon Cox	Sports & Leisure Group
Councillor Mike Sharp	Mitford Parish Council
Councillor David Woodman	Pegswood Parish Council
Councillor Ashmore	Hepscott Parish Council

In attendance

Ian Campbell	Project Co-ordinator
David Rowlinson	Northumberland County Council (NCC)
Kevin Cassie	Pegswood Parish Council

Clerk

Miss Gillian Turner	Morpeth Town Council (MTC)
Miss Louise Davey	Morpeth Town Council

The meeting commenced at 3.03pm.

Apologies for absence were received from David English (NCC), Cllrs Nic Best, Joan Tebbutt, Andrew Kelly and also Graeme Trotter (Sports and & Leisure Group) and Colin Pearson (Education Group).

The Chair welcomed all members present and noted that Simon Cox attended in the absence of Graeme Trotter. He introduced Councillor David Woodard and Kevin Cassie (Clerk) representing Pegswood Parish Council following the resignation of Peter Stonell.

He requested that the contribution that Peter Stonell had made to the Neighbourhood Planning process be formally acknowledged.

2. Notes of the meeting held on 11th November 2013

The notes of the previous meeting were approved subject to the following amendments. It was requested that the presence of Councillor Kelly be noted.

The first sentence of paragraph 5 to indicate that if a request for additional funding from the Parishes was formally made that this would be considered.

Matters Arising

The membership of the Plan Preparation Group was confirmed. The group will next meet on the 19th December 2013.

3. Issues and Options Consultation – Final Presentation

It was confirmed that the Issues and Options presentation made at the last meeting had not changed and it was not proposed to repeat this. Questions from the floor were invited.

It was noted that Simon Cox had analysed the data to summarise the responses for each Topic Group. All summaries are available to other Topic Groups where there are any cross-cutting themes and these are available from Louise Davey, Simon Cox and Ian Campbell. Simon was thanked for his hard work

Agreed: the next step for each group is to review this analysis.

4. Progressing the Plan Post Issues and Options

(a) Tasks for topic Group Chairs/ Topic Groups

At the meeting to brief the Topic Group Chairs the tight timetable was highlighted. Each topic group was tasked to provide a summary of the key issues and identify a policy framework aligned to the emerging policy of NCC. There is then an expectation to form a task and finish group. The interim deadline of the 8th January 2014 is anticipated to be achievable and the results will be referred back to the 13th January 2014 Steering Group.

(b) Town Centre Workshop 13th January 2014

A planning meeting has been scheduled between Ian Campbell and Colin Haylock to finalise the approach to the workshop and identify outputs and logistical support. The workshop is open to Topic Groups and all interested stakeholders in the Neighbourhood Planning process. The workshop is to be advertised on the website.

Action: Ian Campbell to provide detail of text for the workshop and Louise Davey to upload this to the website. Invitations are to be ready by week ending 13th December 2013.

(c) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Update on Progress

It was confirmed that the SEA has to be published alongside the draft plan however there have been some issues with resources. Ian Campbell is liaising with Planning Aid England and NCC to use their consultants URS. Due to the timescales resolution of this is required before Christmas 2013. It was noted in the updated risk register that conformity with planning requirements and regulation and the completion of the assessment was shown as a red risk.

Action: Ian Campbell is to pursue Planning Aid England and NCC.

Action: Louise Davey to circulate the risk register to the members of the Steering Group.

(d) MNP Project Plan v 3 – Revisions and additional key milestones

Ian Campbell gave a verbal update of the key changes and new milestones to the plan. It was requested that a hard copy of the timescale be provided.

Agreed: Ian Campbell to circulate the revised plan with the next agenda.

5 Resources and Support

Media coverage was discussed concerning the next steps and keeping the public informed as to the progress.

Action: Louise Davey is to update the web-site.

6. NCC update

David Rowlinson outlined the success of the strategy meeting. The attendance was about fifty people during the day and a further 30 in the evening. There were a number of detailed questions and some key issues raised, for example housing numbers, location of housing and the Inner and Outer Green belt.

He also updated the progress on the northern bypass plan and confirmed that the inspectorate meeting was to be held in the Town Hall on the 15th January 2014. He acknowledged that there had been some slippage in the timescale and completion was now estimated as Autumn 2016.

7. Any other business

David Parker outlined that he believed that the complexity of the plan process has increased as more people have joined. He suggested that someone be charged with summarising actions/ deadlines etc for distribution to a wider audience. It was understood that Graeme Trotter had started this process earlier in the year.

Action: Ken Brown to request that Graeme Trotter continue the publication of the newsletter stating the progress of the plan in order to keep people motivated and on-side.

David Parker referred to Appendix 2 of the Housing Topic Group report and the methodology adopted for the site assessment process for the location of new housing. He confirmed that Appendix 2 was not published at the time of the technical report so as not prejudice the outcome of the consultation. Simon Cox suggested that the publication of the methodology be deferred to the January Steering Group Committee. Ken Brown proposed to delegate this decision to the Stakeholder Development Group as this Group would not make changes, and only manage the publication.

Agreed: To apply a “Health Warning” to Appendix 2 of this working document to be considered at the Steering Group meeting on the 13th January 2014.

The v1.6 of the draft response from MTC to the NCC core strategy was discussed. It was acknowledged that the draft was a high quality document however concerns were raised that this response had not included the inputs from the other Parishes. It was suggested that the Parishes produce an addendum to the response identifying areas of broad agreement and those where there were some differences. It was suggested that it would be useful to agree where Parish input could be achieved at an earlier stage.

Agreed: The agenda of the January Steering Group to include a mechanism for inclusion and how the MNP will respond will respond to NCC consultations in the round.

Simon Cox identified that there was a public consultation event at KEVI by Barretts and Tees Valley Housing. MTC attendance was discussed.

Action: members of the Steering Group, if available, would attend, to raise the profile of and knowledge about the MNP.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 13th January 2014 starting at the earlier time of 2pm. This will be followed by the Town Centre workshop commencing 6pm.