

NOTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

MONDAY 11th November 2013

IN THE CORN EXCHANGE at 3.00pm

1. Present

Councillor Ken Brown
Councillor Nic Best
Councillor Bob Robertson
Councillor David Cowans
Councillor Mike Sharp
Councillor David Parker
Councillor Philip Ashmore
Graeme Trotter
Colin Pearson
Councillor Peter Stonell

Representing

Morpeth Town Council - Chairman
Morpeth Town Council – Vice Chairman
Morpeth Town Council
Heritage Topic Group
Mitford Parish Council
Morpeth Town Council
Hepscott Parish Council
Sports, Arts and Leisure Group
Education Topic Group
Pegswood PC

Clerk

Miss Gillian Turner
Miss Louise Davey

Morpeth Town Council (MTC)
Morpeth Town Council

In attendance

Ian Campbell
David Rowlinson
David English
Simon Cox
Alan Jones

Project Coordinator
Northumberland County Council (NCC)
Northumberland County Council

1. Welcomes/Apologies/Introductions

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Joan Tebbutt (MTC) and David Lodge (GMDT).

2. Notes of the meeting held on 14th October 2013 and Matters Arising

The notes of the meeting held on the 14th October 2013 were approved subject to the following amendment. Cllr Karen Carins and Simon Cox were shown as in attendance rather than present.

There was one matter arising to note for information. Ian Campbell advised that the Independent Examiner will review and test whether the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with County Council Core Strategy.

3. Issues and Options Consultation – Initial Feedback

Simon Cox introduced a presentation on the initial feedback following the Issues and Options Consultation. He summarised the functionality of the spreadsheet and database and the methodology used to cleanse the data and the analysis undertaken.

Alan Jones summarised the quantitative results from the questionnaires and the proforma used to put the data into the database into a workable format.

It was agreed that the headline data and a thank you for all those completing the questionnaires should be placed in the Morpeth Herald.

4. Progressing the Plan Post Issues and Options

a. Revised functional structure: Plan Preparation Group

A revised functional structure was presented and it was proposed that a Plan Preparation Group be formed to commission the work of the “Task and Finish Groups”. This would comprise the Operations Group and it was agreed to delegate authority to this Group to co-opt other Members.

b. Landowner / Developer Engagement

Progress on the engagement with developers, landowners and other stakeholders was discussed together with the timescales for the process. The engagement group was to be identified as early as possible, with knowledge of the whole plan, not limited to any one topic group.

The information required was outlined:

- Evidence - basic information of sites
- Attitude – towards the vision for Morpeth
- Engagement – working with Developers

c. Town Centre Workshop 13 January 2014

It was confirmed that Colin Haylock is to facilitate a town centre workshop event. This was to be open to those involved in the Neighbour Planning process.

d. Strategic Environmental Assessment

The lead time for the completion of the assessment was outlined to include the 5 week consultation period which could impact on the draft plan. It was confirmed that this was a legal requirement.

e. MNP Project Plan v.3 – Revisions and additional Key Milestones

The milestones of the project plan from June 2013 were re-examined. A paper was tabled identifying the changes made. It was requested that the project plan be a standing item on future agenda.

Andrew Kelly left the meeting at 17.03.

5. Resources and Support

It was stated that additional funding for the plan would not be requested from the Parishes and MTC will finance from the 1 April 2014. It was confirmed that the grant status was being reviewed and that there would be a second round of grants for the locality bid.

It was confirmed that the costs of the Referendum and Examination would be met by the County Council.

6. NCC Update

A presentation on NCC Core Strategy Housing, Employment and Green Belt Preferred Options preceded the Steering Group meeting.

Nic Best left the meeting at 17.10pm.

It was questioned if the timescale for NCC plan had slipped as adoption is now expected to be Spring 2015 and whether the MNP should continue to be aligned to the Core Strategy. It was suggested that whilst not a legal requirement this would make sense.

7. Any other business

There was no the business to discuss.
The meeting finished at 17.20pm.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 9 December 2013 at 3pm.