

NOTES OF THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2014 AT 2pm IN THE CORN EXCHANGE OF MORPETH TOWN HALL

1. Present

Representing

Councillor Nick Best	Morpeth Town Council – Deputy Chairman
Councillor Bob Robertson	Morpeth Town Council
Councillor David Cowans	Heritage Topic Group
Councillor David Parker	Morpeth Town Council and Housing Topic Group
Peter Fuller	Transport Topic Group
Councillor Mike Sharp	Mitford Parish Council
Councillor David Woodard	Pegswood Parish Council
Councillor Ashmore	Hepscott Parish Council
Councillor Andrew Kelly	Hebron Parish Council
David Lodge	Greater Morpeth Development Trust

In attendance

Ian Campbell	Project Co-ordinator
David Rowlinson	Northumberland County Council (NCC)

Clerk

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

The meeting commenced at 2.03pm.

1. Welcome/ Apologies and Introductions

Apologies for absence were received from David English (NCC), Cllrs Ken Brown and Joan Tebbutt. It was confirmed that Councillor Woodard is now the Pegswood Parish Council representative.

2. Notes of the meeting held on 9th December 2013 and matters arising

The notes of the previous meeting were approved subject to the observation that Councillor Woodard was present not a Councillor Woodman.

a) E-bulletin

Graeme Trotter reported that a template has been set up on “mail chimp” in preparation for the distribution of e bulletins. He advised that the content of mails would require populating for example informing about the Town Centre Workshop.

b) Terms of reference – Plan Preparation Group

Ian Campbell reported that the Plan Preparation Group (PPG) has met three times. The terms of reference for the group have been drafted and required approval. It was agreed that these would be adopted and appended to the document titled “The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Governance Arrangements”.

c) Steering Group representations on NCC Core Strategy

Councillor Brown advised that Town and Parish Councillors met on the 8th January 2014 to discuss Steering Group representations on the NCC Core Strategy and he provided a composite response. Councillors Ashmore, Cowans and Kelly discussed some amendments to make more definitive about safeguarding land. It was requested that reference be made to the map produced by Ian Campbell of the “Preferred Morpeth Inner Green Belt”. It was agreed that subject to the amendments that the document could be submitted.

Action – Nic Best

Responses from the other Parishes were discussed and it was noted that there may be some delay. David Rawlinson requested to be copied into e mails when the responses were submitted.

It was noted that there would be further consultations in May and June 2014 and it was agreed to review the mechanisms within the Steering Group for the co-ordination of responses and this would be placed on the next Agenda for discussion.

3. Issues and Options Consultation- Verbal Presentation on KEVI feedback

Councillor Best gave a verbal presentation on the survey results from King Edward VI on the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan. He advised that there had been 99 responses from the 6th Form and 73 from the rest of the School.

It was agreed that the survey responses would be circulated to Topic Chairs and the PPG.

Action – Louise Davey

4. Housing Topic Group’s site assessment exercise

Councillor Parker advised that the Housing Topic Group had developed a model to assess potential sites for building and produce a “pecking order”. It was noted that any publication of this model should be caveated as it was produced at a certain point of time and had not included other Topic Group comments or views.

It was proposed to accept the paper but not to endorse it.

It was agreed that the paper should be placed on the website, as part of the Housing Technical Report subject to the inclusion of a suitable caveat.

5. MNP preparation of pre-submission draft

a) Feedback from Topic Group Chairs/ Topic Groups/ scoping the Plan

It was reported by Ian Campbell that the majority of Topic Group Chairs had responded to the January 8th 2014 deadline with a commentary on the likely policies and proposals to be tested to scope the next stage of the plan. It was noted that a number of different formats had been used.

It was agreed that as the PPG are to consider the papers at the meeting on the 23rd January 2014 additional information could be provided up to that date.

b) Town Centre workshop 13 January 2014

It was confirmed that there had been a positive response to the Town Centre Workshop and it was expected that there would be a good attendance.

c) Strategic Environmental Assessment – update on Progress

Ian Campbell gave an update on the progress of the Strategic Environmental Assessment following a meeting with NCC on the 10th January 2014. It was confirmed that NCC would be able to provide some capacity and were committed to providing a report by the 31 January 2014. Ian Campbell proposed that the Chairman of the group be given devolved responsibility to sign off the report to expedite the process.

This proposal was endorsed.

d) MNP Risk Register

At the meeting on the 9th January 2014 the PPG reconsidered the December risk register for the Plan. Councillor Best outlined some of the key changes and detail of red risks. Councillor Parker referred to the possibility of changes to NCC and whether this should therefore be included.

Ian Campbell confirmed that the register is to be reviewed at each meeting of the PPG and when appropriated be reported back to the SG.

6. Resources and Support

Ian Campbell advised that Planning England are to assist Pegswood Parish Council with a housing need survey. Graeme Trotter questioned if this support would be too late. Ian Campbell confirmed that it would not be as it would inform the pre-submission draft for consultation.

7. NCC Update

Members requested if there was any additional information following the Transport Review that was available to update the planning process. David Rowlinson advised that the information available was on the web-site.

It was agreed to invite a representative from NCC Highways to attend a Steering Group meeting alongside the Planning Officers.

8. Any other business/ date of next meeting

None.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10 February 2014 in the Corn Exchange, Town Hall at 3pm.

The meeting closed at 3.29pm.