

NOTES OF THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

MONDAY 18th MARCH 2013 AT 3PM **IN THE CORN EXCHANGE OF MORPETH TOWN HALL**

1. Present

Councillor Ken Brown
Councillor Graeme Trotter
Councillor David Parker
Councillor Nic Best
Ian Campbell
Councillor David Cowans
Councillor Philip Ashmore
Councillor Andrew Kelly
David Rowlinson
Cllr Peter Stonell
Colin Pearson
Joan Tebbutt

Representing

Morpeth Town Council – Chairman (left at 4.58pm)
Morpeth Town Council – Vice Chairman
Morpeth Town Council
Morpeth Town Council
Project Coordinator
Hepscott Parish Council
Hepscott Parish Council
Hebron Parish Council
Northumberland County Council
Pegswood Parish Council
Education Report
Education Report

Clerks

Mrs Angela Logan Morpeth Town Council
Mrs Dee Cota Morpeth Town Council

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thompson and Ms Gillian Turner (Morpeth TC), Cllr Mitford (Mitford PC), David English (NCC) and David Lodge (GMDT).

The Chairman welcomed all members present.

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

The notes of the previous meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Education – Presentation by Colin Pearson

The Chairman welcomed Colin Pearson and Joan Tebbutt. Colin Pearson has prepared an Education Baseline Report in support of the Education Cross Cutting Theme Group and gave a very detailed and informative presentation called “Education in Morpeth – A Changing Landscape”.

Action - Ian Campbell to circulate key points from the presentation amongst the members.

Agreed - A copy of the presentation to be put on the Neighbourhood Plan website along with references.

The members agreed that Education should become a Topic Group and a representative from the Education Group is to be invited to the Steering Group meetings. Colin Pearson agreed to chair this group.

4. Topic Group Reports

Topic Group Highlight Reports were received from the Local Environment, Local Economy and Housing topic groups. (Please refer to reports circulated on 13th March 2013).

Heritage

Cllr Cowans advised the members that Colin Haylock (Cabe) had attended the meeting on the 27th February 2013 and he had explained the importance of an environmental appraisal. Published examples of Mission Statements were circulated amongst the group and discussed. Also, circulated were extracts from the Northumberland County Core Strategy and these were commented upon. The next meeting is Wednesday 27th March at 7pm.

5. Parish Council Updates

Pegswood Parish Council

Cllr Stonell reported that the next Pegswood Parish Council meeting was on the evening of Monday 18th March and they would be discussing their draft response to the Core Strategy as they are seeking designation as a Local Service Centre. Cllr Stonell also advised members that a “very good evening” with Colin Haylock from Cabe was held on Wednesday 13th March and the Vision document devised from the workshop, once approved, would be circulated amongst the Steering Group.

Hebron Parish Council

Cllr Kelly advised that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 8th April. More interest and support is being slowly generated and the Education report should be well received.

Hepscott Parish Council

Cllr Cowans advised the members that the next meeting is on Thursday 21st March and at the request of the Local Environment group, they are looking at how flooding affects Hepscott.

The Chairman (Cllr Brown) left the meeting at 4.58pm and thanked all members for their good work and hoped it would continue. The Vice Chairman (Cllr Trotter) assumed the Chair.

6. Cross Cutting Themes

The members were advised that volunteers were still required for the Transport, Infrastructure and Sports & Leisure Cross Cutting Themes groups.

Action – Ian Campbell to produce a summary of the Infrastructure Audit, prepared by the postgraduate students at Newcastle University, identifying critical infrastructure.

Agreed – Ian Campbell to arrange a corporate meeting with Les Hall of Northumbrian Water in which one/two representatives from each of the topic groups will be invited.

Transport

The members were advised that not much progress had been made with this group. A follow up meeting to the “Managing Morpeth’s Transport” Workshop held on 4th March 2013 has been scheduled for Thursday 21st March 2013. Some individuals have expressed an interest in volunteering for this group and a meeting has been convened for Thursday 21st March, at 5.30pm, in Morpeth Town Hall in view of forming a Transport group. Ian Campbell, Cllr Best and Peter Fuller will be in attendance, with apologies from John Earl and Peter Scott.

Sport & Leisure

Still needs to be addressed and volunteers required.

Locality Profile

Henry Warne from the Housing Topic Group has been asked to produce a Locality Profile for the group, which will in turn provide background evidence for the whole plan, but the risk of this needs to be addressed.

7. Project Plan/Key Milestones

The members were advised that at the moment the Topic Groups are gathering evidence to produce Technical Reports for the Issues and Options stage. Logistically, the timescale required for the Issues and Options stage is longer than originally anticipated and we could be in a position to consult at the end of June/beginning of July 2013. Concern was expressed over consulting during the summer period but the Operations Group advised that they wished to proceed sooner rather than later.

Proposal – Timescale to be reviewed at the beginning of May 2013 due to the local elections held on the 2nd May 2013.

8. NCC Update

Responses to the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation should be received by 23.59 on Wednesday 20th March 2013. The drop in sessions held in Morpeth were the best attended and feedback from the workshops will be issued in the near future.

9. Resources & Support

(a) Cabe Workshops

The members were advised that the three workshops facilitated by Cabe have helped to develop a ‘vision’ for the neighbourhood plan within Morpeth and the surrounding areas. It has also helped the volunteers think more creatively, holistically and spacially about the plan. Cabe will produce a report by the end of March 2013 summarising the work done.

(b) Planning Aid – Update Report

Chris Anderson from Planning Aid is working with Stobhill Community Forum, KEVI and Abbeyfields schools in Morpeth and Pegswood First School.

(c) Traffic Review – Update Report

An update meeting to the workshop held on the 4th March has been arranged for Thursday 21st March in Morpeth Town Hall.

10. Any other Business/Date of the next meeting

Additional funding from DCLG was discussed.

There was no other urgent business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 5.28pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th April 2013 at 3pm in the Corn Exchange at Morpeth Town Hall.