

# **NOTES OF THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING**

## **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014** **IN THE CORN EXCHANGE OF MORPETH TOWN HALL**

### **1. Present**

### **Representing**

Councillor Joan Tebbutt	Morpeth Town Council, Chairman
Councillor Nic Best	Morpeth Town Council, Deputy Chairman
Councillor Bob Robertson	Morpeth Town Council
Councillor David Parker	Morpeth Town Council and Housing Topic Group
Councillor David Cowans	Heritage Topic Group
Councillor Mike Sharp	Mitford Parish Council
Councillor David Woodard	Pegswood Parish Council
Colin Pearson	Education Topic Group
Graeme Trotter	Sport and Leisure Topic Group

### **In attendance**

Ian Campbell Project Co-ordinator

### **Clerk**

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

The meeting commenced at 3.04pm.

### **1. Welcome/ Apologies and Introductions**

Apologies for absence were received from David Rowlinson and David English (NCC), David Lodge, Cllrs Andrew Kelly, Philip Ashmore and Alison Byard.

### **2. Notes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and matters arising**

The notes of the previous meeting were approved subject to the observation that the date in Item 6 should be 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

#### **a. Legal Advice on GVA letter and proposed response**

The matter arising regarded the legal advice provided by National Association of Local councils (NALC) on the GVA letter and a proposed response by the MNP to that letter.

Ian Campbell (IC) summarised the draft response which concluded that the Steering Group did not accept the criticisms of GVA in their letter dated the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Members endorsed the draft letter of response to GVA. Concerns were raised about some of the governance arrangements that had been identified in the NALC e mail and that these should be shared with the Town Council.

It was agreed that the paper would be taken to the P&T and F&GP Committee meetings at the earliest opportunity.

IC stated that Neighbourhood Plans are intended to be community led and MTC and the Parishes are facilitating this. It is questionable whether the governance arrangements for a Neighbourhood Plan should be the same as for Parish Councils in general- It was agreed that Cllr Best would send a letter to other Neighbourhood Plan areas.

**ACTION- Cllr Best**

It was noted that David English had e mailed the Steering Group with a number of observations on the information provided by NALC. It was agreed that the NALC opinion be referred to NCC legal and proposed that a covering letter be drafted by IC and GT and sent out in the name of Cllr Best.

**ACTION – IC and GT**

It was agreed to contact the DCLG to request guidance on governance arrangements.

**ACTION – Gillian Turner**

### **3. MNP – Preparation of Pre-Submission Draft / Feedback from PPG Meetings**

#### **a. Progressing the Plan - Summary of Progress on Plan Workstreams – verbal update**

Cllr Tebbutt gave a verbal update of the meeting of the PPG on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014. It was noted that Cllr Woodard and Peter Fuller made presentations on their workstream areas. There was then an opportunity to ask questions.

IC updated the Committee on each of the other areas.

It was questioned if there was a critical path where workstreams were not progressing at all that the Group should be made aware of. IC stated that he would update following the PPG meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and that he was comfortable that things in the control of the MNP were progressing.

#### **b. Strategic Environmental Assessment – Verbal report**

The next SEA workshop date was confirmed to be the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in the Town Hall and is to be facilitated by Ian McCluskey of URS. It was stated that the intended focus is to be on the identification and appraisal of reasonable alternative locational and policy options for realising the Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives. The preparation of the SEA Environmental Report will be informed by the outcome of the workshop.

#### **c. MNP Project Plan v 4**

A detailed project plan for stage B5, the Draft Plan Report and Consultation, pre the submission draft was introduced. The key milestones had been taken from the overall project plan. Each had been allocated a responsible person, or group, completion date and given an alert status of red, amber or green.

It was agreed that the August Steering Group be deferred to the 18<sup>th</sup> August to allow more time to draft the report prior to this meeting.

### **3. Resources and Support**

It was confirmed that the locality bid had been approved for £2,840 to support, in part, the consultation stage of the project.

### **4. NCC Update**

Nothing was reported in the absence of the NCC Officers.

### **5. Any other business / Date of next meeting Monday 14 July 2014**

No other business was declared and the date of the next meeting was confirmed as on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

The meeting ended at 15.55pm.