

NOTES OF THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

MONDAY 14th July 2014 IN THE CORN EXCHANGE OF MORPETH TOWN HALL

1. Present

Councillor Joan Tebbutt
Councillor Nic Best
Councillor Bob Robertson
Councillor Alison Byard
Councillor David Parker
Peter Fuller
Councillor David Cowans
Councillor Andrew Kelly
Councillor David Woodard from 15.38pm
Councillor Philip Ashmore

Representing

Morpeth Town Council, Chairman
Morpeth Town Council, Deputy Chairman
Morpeth Town Council
Morpeth Town Council
Morpeth Town Council and Housing Topic Group
Transport Topic Group
Heritage Topic Group
Hebron Parish Council
Pegswood Parish Council
Hepscott Parish council

In attendance

Ian Campbell (IC)
David English
David Rowlinson

Project Co-ordinator
Northumberland County Council (NCC)
NCC

Administration

Miss Louise Davey

Morpeth Town Council (MTC)

The meeting commenced at 3pm.

1. Welcome/ Apologies and Introductions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Sharp, David Lodge, Graeme Trotter, Colin Pearson and Gillian Turner.

2. Notes of the meeting held on 9th June 2014 and matters arising

The notes of the previous meeting were approved.

David English summarised the legal advice from NCC. The GVA issues were not considered as detrimental to the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) process.

NALC's suggestion that a Joint Committee should be set up between MTC and the Parishes was considered to be an uncommon structure and it was resolved that the current governance arrangements remain in place. It was proposed that each Council's resolution to work in this way be re-validated. It was also suggested that the terms of reference for the Steering Group be reviewed.

ACTION: David English to provide written details of the specific requirements for this validation to the Parishes.

ACTION: Gillian Turner to be invited to provide the original terms of reference and discuss with the Steering Group.

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

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

It was proposed that this item would be covered in item 3d.

b. PPG Policy Workshops

It was reported that two four hour policy workshops had been completed.

It was stated that the first workshop profiled the topic group reports, reviewed policies, identified links, areas to merge, conflicts and gaps. The main gaps identified were the visitor economy, transport and mixed developments sites. It was recognised that the MNP was a starting point and work would continue after the plan was written.

It was stated that the second workshop reviewed allocations and designations of land and sites.

Written notes were provided to summarise the outputs from both workshops.

c. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Workshop 10th July 2014

It was stated that URS facilitated the SEA workshop. The workshop focussed on identifying strategic alternatives for housing.

This included St Georges, a distribution across North and South Sites, the A192 and Fairmoor. Each option was appraised against SEA objectives.

It was noted that there remained some outstanding work and also that assessment needed to be extended to Pegswood.

d. MNP Project Plan v 4

IC gave a verbal update on the progress of the plan. He highlighted that a number of actions relied on or were the responsibility of third parties and the MNP could not influence their progress. He stated that the preparation of the Environmental Report by NCC was unlikely to be met and that this had been moved to a red status.

It was proposed that the PPG review the project plan in more detail. A summary of the report was requested to be provided by IC.

ACTION: Ian Campbell

Cllr Best outlined the meeting with Northumberland County Council held on the 2 July 2014. He indicated that it was not clear that the MNP and the NCC core strategy were still going in the same direction He stated that an Outline Planning Application for 250 units at the Fairmoor site by Persimmon would be taken to NCC Area North Committee on Thursday 17th July 2014 with a recommendation for approval. This site has been allocated for employment use in the CMDLP, and this is a sudden departure from strategy.

Cllr Kelly stated that representatives from Hebron Parish had been requested to meet with Taylor Wimpey as soon as possible. As both the Fairmoor and the Northgate site were ~~both~~ within Hebron Parish he intended to speak at the NCC Committee meeting on Thursday 17th July 2014.

The sustainability of development was discussed, in general, together with the capacity of the infrastructure.

4. Resources and Support

It was confirmed that all paperwork had been submitted to the Community Development Foundation for the grant awarded of £2840. It was stated that the money had not yet been received.

5. NCC update

It was concluded that all updates from NCC had already been covered in the meeting and that there was nothing else to add.

6. Any other business/ Date of the next meeting

No other business was declared. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 18th August 2014 at 3pm in the Corn Exchange. It was noted that this was a week later than usual.

The meeting ended at 16.25pm.