

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

**MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 3pm  
IN THE CORN EXCHANGE OF MORPETH TOWN HALL**

**Present**

Councillor Nic Best  
Councillor Bob Robertson  
Councillor Alison Byard  
Councillor David Parker

Councillor David Cowans  
Councillor Mike Sharp  
Councillor David Woodard  
Councillor Philip Ashmore  
Colin Pearson  
Graeme Trotter

**Representing**

Morpeth Town Council – Acting Chairman  
Morpeth Town Council (left at 3.57pm)  
Morpeth Town Council (left at 3.47pm)  
Morpeth Town Council & Housing Topic  
Group  
Heritage Topic Group  
Mitford Parish Council  
Pegswood Parish Council  
Hepscott Parish Council  
Education Topic Group  
Sport and Leisure Topic Group

**In attendance**

Ian Campbell

Project Co-ordinator

**Clerks**

Mrs Dee Cota  
Miss Louise Davey

Morpeth Town Council (MTC)  
MTC

The meeting commenced at 3pm.

**1. Welcomes/Apologies/Introductions**

Apologies were received from Councillor Joan Tebbutt.

**2. Notes of 13 October Steering Group and Matters Arising**

The notes of the meeting of the Steering Group Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

**a. Feedback from Hebron PC**

Councillor Best reported that he had not received a response to his letter to Hebron Parish Council.

## **b. County Hall update**

Councillor Parker stated his disappointment that the third meeting with NCC proposed at the Steering Group on the 13<sup>th</sup> October had yet to be held.

The two meetings that had been held considered the strategic approach to planned housing and employment.

## **c. Meetings with NCC**

Councillor Best reported that a confidential meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014 between Karen Ledger and Jo-Anne Garrick, NCC, and Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan representatives Councillors Best, Ashmore and Woodard. This was a briefing for Neighbourhood Plan groups on the content of the draft Core Strategy.

It was understood that the total housing provision for the Central Northumberland area would be slightly reduced, but that the housing numbers for the MNP area would be increased from 1700 to 2100. Councillor Best stated he is to arrange a meeting with Karen Ledger and Jo-Anne Garrick and members of the Plan Preparation Group (PPG) with regard to infrastructure implications.

Several Members commented on the impact of the increased figures including the effect on land available for employment and commercial use.

Councillor Best proposed to retain the 1700 figure in the MNP, but include reference to the new Core Strategy allocation in the text.

It was also reported that the NCC proposed greenbelt boundaries are comparable to those previously identified by MTC.<sup>1</sup>

The full draft Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy, County Economic Strategy and associated documents will be taken to the NCC Policy Board on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 for approval.

Members were also informed that Taylor Wimpey had asked for a meeting with the DEG and that an information request had been sent to them. Councillor Best referred to a Signet Planning exhibition to be held in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> It was pointed out, subsequently, that the NCC proposed greenbelt boundaries were comparable to those previously identified by MTC with the exception of the North West corner of Morpeth

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

**a. Progressing the Plan – Draft Plan Preparation – draft text for SG approval (previously circulated)**

The PPG were thanked for their work on the draft text and in particular the significant input of Alan Jones and Simon Cox.

Comments were invited on the text and were received from Councillor Woodard with reference to Pegswood, one from Cllr Sharp re: development in the open countryside and from Councillor Cowans on heritage.

Councillor Best requested approval of the draft text and stated that the full design version would be prepared for consideration at the Steering group on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014. He also indicated that a 12 page leaflet would be prepared, printed and distributed to all households in the plan area.

It was agreed that to approve the draft text, subject to the consideration of the comments suggested and other minor changes which PPG were given delegated authority to make.

*Councillors Byard and Robertson left the meeting*

**b. MNP Project Plan v 4 – verbal report**

Councillor Ashmore gave a verbal update on the Project Plan and confirmed that all deadlines had been met to date.

**4. Resources and Support**

It was stated that the budget for the project to 31st March 2015 had been reviewed by the Town Clerk and that it was not anticipated that additional funding would be required.

**5. NCC Update**

**a. Core Strategy consultation – dates / emerging approach**

It was confirmed that the NCC core strategy consultation would commence on the 12 December 2014.

Members were reminded that there will be a Neighbourhood Planning response to the Core Strategy consultation as well as individual parish council responses.

Councillor Best expected that the MNP response should be presented at the January 2015 Steering Group prior to the NCC deadline of the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**6. Any other business / Date of next meeting**

There was no other business and the date of the next meeting was confirmed as 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The meeting ended at 16.18pm.