

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

**MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015 at 3pm  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF MORPETH TOWN HALL**

**Present**

Councillor Nic Best  
Councillor Joan Tebbutt  
Councillor Bob Robertson  
Councillor David Parker  
Councillor David Cowans  
Councillor Mike Sharp  
Councillor David Woodard  
Councillor Philip Ashmore  
Councillor Alison Byard  
Colin Pearson

**Representing**

Morpeth Town Council (MTC) – Vice  
Chairman (in the chair)  
MTC - Chairman  
MTC  
MTC and Housing Topic Group  
Heritage Topic Group  
Mitford Parish Council  
Pegswood Parish Council  
Hepscott Parish Council  
MTC (left at 3.45pm)  
Education Topic Group

**In attendance**

David English  
David Rowlinson

Northumberland County Council (NCC)  
NCC

**Clerks**

Mrs Dee Cota

MTC

**1. Welcomes/Apologies/Introductions**

Councillor Best wished all present a Happy New Year.

Apologies were received from Graeme Trotter (Sports & Leisure Topic Group).

**2. Notes of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Steering Group and Matters Arising**

The notes of the meeting of the Steering Group Meeting on the 8th December 2014 were approved as a true record.

**Matters Arising**

Councillor Best advised members that some amendments had been made to the draft plan and the summary leaflet, including the actions arising from the December meeting.

Thanks were given to the Plan Preparation Group (PPG) for all their hard work.

### **3. MNP – Draft Plan consultation**

#### **a. Website**

Members were advised that the draft plan, summary leaflet and supporting maps and information are in the process of being uploaded to the front page of the Neighbourhood Plan website. However, because of the size of the draft plan (25Mb), this and all other documents will be accessed via Dropbox.

NCC advised that they are not able to open Dropbox because of security issues and it was agreed that this issue would be looked into.

The online survey has been uploaded to the website and is available to use.

A list of the supporting documents is gradually being compiled and uploaded and the list on the website will be updated throughout the consultation event.

Members were advised that if there are any problems/queries with the website, to contact Councillor Best or Dee Cota.

Thanks were given to Councillor Ken Brown for all his help with Survey Monkey.

It was agreed that members of the Steering Group will receive a weekly update of the survey responses received.

#### **b. Leaflet distribution**

It was reported that the distribution of the consultation leaflet has begun and these will be delivered to all parishes. This should be completed by 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Pegswood Parish Council advised that they would like to include a letter with their leaflet and have already spoken to the distributor regarding this and will make their own arrangements.

Members were asked to let the Dee Cota know when they receive their leaflet.

c. Launch & Events

Invitations have been distributed to all key stakeholders and consultees for the Draft Plan Consultation event at St James Community Centre on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 1pm, there will be stall and leaflet hand out on Morpeth Market place. Volunteers were requested. There will be a static display in the Buttermarket of Morpeth Town Hall throughout the consultation and from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February there will also be an exhibition in Morpeth Library.

Councillor Best will also be addressing the KEVI school council on 30<sup>th</sup> January and it was agreed that Councillors J Tebbutt and B Robertson will also attend.

Councillor Best has also spoken to the Morpeth Herald and there will be an article in the press on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January introducing the Neighbourhood Plan with two more detailed articles scheduled throughout the consultation period.

Pegswood Parish Council are holding an exhibition event on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 6pm in the Union Buildings in Pegswood. Dates for 2 further events are to be confirmed.

Hepscott Parish Council confirmed that they will be sending a newsletter around the parish containing all the details of the consultation.

An article will also be in the February edition of Inside Morpeth. Mitford Parish Council are to organise their own distribution and have requested extra copies of this magazine.

d. Social Media

It was proposed that a 'one way' information page on Facebook will be set up and Councillors Best and Robertson could provide the administration for this. However, this proposal did not receive support and so will not be implemented.

It was agreed that a link to the Neighbourhood Plan website will be on the Morpeth Matters facebook page, with Councillor Robertson providing administration.

e. Project Plan

Councillor Ashmore informed members of updates to the Project Plan and will circulate v7.0 to all members.

#### **4. Resources and Support**

Members were informed that Dee Cota is providing all administration support for the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **5. NCC Update**

NCC reported that they are still waiting for details of any grants/funding available from April 2015 and will advise at a later date.

The SEA work being completed by NCC is still progressing.

The Core Strategy Consultation is now taking place and to date there is a slightly lower turnout than the last consultation. Various drop in events and workshops are taking place across the county.

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan response to this consultation will be informed by the comments received to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation and a draft response will be brought to the next Steering Group meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

It was also reported that the Development Consent Order for the Morpeth Northern Bypass has been granted and the Inspector's report should be available to view on the NCC website very soon.

*Councillor Byard left the meeting.*

NCC also advised members of the recent High Court judicial review claim from a developer regarding the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan in Aylesbury Vale and the decision to allow the plan to proceed to referendum in the absence of a development plan detailing strategic housing policies.

Members were informed that there is no appeal stage to this decision and it is final. However, it is important for the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan to look in more detail at settlement boundaries and where housing could be allocated.

The Steering Group agreed to explore the Winslow decision, and if appropriate adopt the opportunity for the Neighbourhood Plan to go forward to Examination and Referendum ahead of adoption of the Core Strategy.

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

With no other business to discuss the meeting concluded at 4.30pm. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015.