

Neighbourhood Plan
Notes of Eighth Housing Topic Group
Morpeth Town Hall, 2nd April 2013

1. Present:

Cllr. David Parker (MTC and Chair), Ian Campbell (Consultant to MTC), Simon Cox, Hugh Edmundson, Martin Laidler, Tim Nichol, Peter Scott, Leslie Starkie.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Ed Campbell, Jo Gooding, David Holden, Alan Jones, Anna Jones, Joan Tebbutt, Henry Warne.

3. Minutes of previous meetings.

3A. Meeting held on 5th March 2013:

There was some discussion regarding the additional notes provided by Charles Robinson. It was agreed that the notes of the meeting would stand and the additional notes would be regarded as Charles' written response to the questions sent to him prior to the meeting. As such they would provide additional information and will be added to the minutes as an appendix. Charles will be asked to confirm that he is happy for the written response to be made available via the web site with the minutes.

3B. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2013.

Two small changes were proposed by IC and accepted by attendees.

- On page 1, item 4, bullet point 2 the final sentence should be amended to read "IC will convene a meeting with Northumbria Water to talk about the existing sewerage network and their plans, to which representatives of all groups will be invited". (IC noted that the meeting with Northumbrian Water will take place on Tuesday 9th April at Storey Park).
- On page 5, bullet point 2 should replace the phrase " 181 homes per year" with "181 affordable homes per year".

4. Discussion regarding location:

The meeting received the document entitled 'Strategic Questions for the Housing Group'. The meeting noted the contents but after discussion it was resolved not to discuss the paper in detail as the issues arising were currently being considered as part of the work group's drafting of the Housing Technical Paper.

5. Feedback on preparation of the Housing Technical Paper :

SC set out the work done to date and the intended work plan of the group and provided confirmation that the group would be in a position to present its first draft to the Housing Group by the 12th April. This would then provide the group with an opportunity to meet DP or/and IC to discuss the draft before it was circulated to the Housing Group with time to read the paper in detail prior to a detailed discussion at the next meeting.

It was noted that the Housing Group's work would feed into a paper to be brought together by the Steering Group. The current work plan provides for this document to be completed by June but the Chair noted that there may be slippage.

IC also drew attention to how site discussion must link in with the weight attached to different Policy/processes. It was noted that greater weight is now to be attached to NPPF.

DP stressed the need to press on with the NP in order for its conclusions to carry greater weight in the planning process. He also noted that MTC is taking the position that planning consents should be put on hold until the NP has been ag through the planning process.

6. Any other business:

There was a discussion reflecting on the matters raised by the technical experts who had presented to the group. It was generally felt that the input by these experts had been of great value and the issues the Group had to respond to had been fleshed out by the expert witnesses. Overall the input brought into focus the need for the Group to consider every option objectively.

7. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on 7th May in the Town Hall at 7.00pm.