

Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan - Heritage Topic Group 5th June 2013

1. Present - David Cowans Chair, John Lewis notes
Ian Campbell, Dorothy Cowans, Frank Robinson, Bryony Roff
Apologies - John Bibby, Ed Campbell, John Earl, Alan Fowlie, Sheilagh
Johnson, Barry Mead, Kim Bibby Wilson
2. Meeting Notes – 8/05/13 agreed
3. Matters Arising – None
4. Issues and Options Material
 - Paper One, Dorothy Cowans, Buildings at Risk 2013. Some additions were suggested: Dorothy noted amendments.
 - Paper Two, David Cowans, Technical Report: Introduction: agreed to incorporate.
 - Paper Three, David Cowans, Social Heritage, with justifications for question(s) on valuing and support of the protection of Heritage, in a Neighbourhood Centre. Agreed to incorporate this into the report.
 - Paper Four, John Lewis, Conservation Areas and Extensions. Most of this has now been transferred and incorporated into Bryony Roff's Document.
 - Paper Five, John Lewis, 'Design' with a copy of 'Requiring Good Design,' NPPF. Agreed; that the issue of positive design policies for both urban and rural areas (and how prescriptive they should be) should be included as an appendix and put to the public. It was also agreed that 'Saved' Design Policies' should be put into an appendix with a Design Policy for shop-fronts within Conservation Areas.
 - Paper Six, Bryony Roff – Urban Areas (seven pages.) This covered Conservation Areas, preserving and enhancing historic vistas and ancient routes, threats to individual historic assets, design issues and new development; erosion of character - additionally preserved by removal of clutter, historic settings and green open spaces; disused rail, pedestrian routes, alleys and paved areas within urban settings increased and enhanced. Illustrations and overlaid maps would be needed later. It was agreed.
 - Paper Seven, Frank Robinson- Rural Heritage. (seven pages)
This is a first draft covering landscape characterisation designations, cultural heritage, natural heritage, green belt, recognised settlement boundaries, visual impact of approach roads to Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford, Morpeth and Pegswood. Tourism. Further comments and Inclusions would be welcomed

It should be noted by the group that Settlement Policies will be in Northumberland Core Strategy. In the Options for the Green Belt which should have been put to the public in 2012 the inner western boundary would put Mitford in the Green belt and the inner southern boundary would retain the rural character and mark the separation of Morpeth from Clifton and Hepscott.

The boundaries of settlements are related to sustainability issues. Hebron, Hepscott and Mitford are Tier 4 Settlements where infill is the maximum allowable. Hepscott is likely to be washed over by the greenbelt. It was agreed that our Topic paper should out the emphasis of any likely impact on the setting, character and appearance of the landscape. Some alterations and amendments are needed. It was agreed to incorporate some of Alan Davison's ancient woodlands heritage environment areas.

David Cowans thanked all the contributors for their work.

Next steps – the deadline for the Issues and Options Paper is the end of June. DC agreed to coordinate and produce the document which will be based on the Papers.

Public Consultation will be 18th September to 30th October 2013.

AOB- None

Date time place of next meeting Tuesday 25th June 7-00 pm Morpeth Town Hall.