

The Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan
Heritage Topic Group Meeting
Morpeth Town Hall on 19th December 2012 at 7pm

1. Present

David Cowans (Chair), John Lewis (Minutes), Dorothy Cowans, Kim Bibby-Wilson, John Bibby, Ian Campbell, John Earl,
John Howarth, Alan Fowlie, Barry Mead, Alan Davison, Frank Robinson, Bryony Roff,

Apologies

Maryan Duckworth, Bernard Cudd

2. Notes of previous meetings were circulated

- (a) minutes of meeting held on 21 November
- (b) list of Heritage Issues (3 pages)
- (c) Morpeth's Heritage Themes (11 pages)

3. David Cowans read the minutes and took the meeting through the heritage issues.

Members noted a number of refinements and there was a long discussion on how progress could be made.

The following notes are a short summary and do not cover everything that was said.

[] There was a requirement to focus on how and what can go into a Neighbourhood Plan.

[] A need to refine from general issues to specific.

[] Public Realm is important; to population, visitors and its heritage as an economic driver.

[] What assets do we want to protect and how

- Townscape characterisation; essential character and liveability of neighbourhoods
- Empty, unused and depreciating buildings
- 'Buildings at Risk'; 'Local Listings' extension;
- ancient woodland/open spaces;
- Alleyways, historic routes, heritage site footpaths; railway lines, and architecture
- Victorian historic street/bridge lighting preservation and present day illumination of heritage

assets

- Industrial Heritage: mining; metal working; mills, tanners and hatters
- Social Heritage: drivers of change; cultural, political and educational movements, associated historic

pioneers

- Agricultural Change: 2000 years of physical changes, improvements and historic pioneers for

change

- Conservation Areas: existing, extensions and proposals for Morpeth and Parish settlements

[] Policies need to manage development in the interest of heritage and inherited natural environment

[] Neighbourhood characteristics.

Townscapes and landscape appraisals are important

Relationship between Morpeth and adjoining Parishes

[] How best to to prove environmental capacity of Morpeth and to resist urban sprawl which would

damage heritage issues.

Previous Government discussions have proposed a tight Green Belt around Morpeth.

[] Social and cultural information- the awareness of what helps to make Morpeth - could go into Appendix

[] English Heritage information on website
'Knowing Your Place'

[] Artefact storage, display and heritage education - a Morpeth Heritage Centre, (don't call it a 'museum')

An opportunity to incorporate a Heritage Centre within Morpeth Town Centre

4. and 5. items (not discussed)

6. Comparative Local Heritage Group Schemes: Berwick/Tweedmouth where Public Realm is a unifying theme.

Eden LHP, in a sensitive environment within a National Park area, Cumbria - website.

7. Item not discussed

8. Topic Group Chairs will meet in January to ensure that there is no significant overlapping on issues between groups.

[] There was a need to isolate themes from evidence gathered to date.

[] Volunteers were requested to form sub-groups to work on the development of issues and report back.

- Alan Davison offered to provide information on mapping of open spaces, landscape, woodlands etc

- Barry Mead's list of heritage assets on table

- Frank Robinson offered information on ancient holloways pathways and routes

- other offers of help: photos, maps and drawings

- with old and existing heritage architecture/railway routes for asset and recreation, John Earl

[] It was decided that an e mail would be circulated to all members of the group in advance of the next meeting.

9. No other business

10. The date of the next meeting is the 24TH JANUARY 2013 at Morpeth Town Hall at 7-00 pm.