

Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan. Heritage Topic Group Meeting.

24.01.13 7-00pm at Morpeth Town Hall
Chair: David Cowans. Notes: John Lewis

1. PRESENT

Ed. Campbell, Ian Campbell, Doug. Cockburn, David Cowans,
Dorothy A Cowans, John Earl, John Haworth, John Lewis, Barry Mead,
Frank Robinson, Bryony Roff

APOLOGIES

John Bibby, Kim Bibby-Wilson, Alan Davison

2. MINUTES

19/12/12 were agreed

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. REQUEST for NOTE TAKER

John Lewis who had volunteered prior to the meeting was agreed

5. GROUPS to REVIEW DOCUMENTS

DC summarised the present position so far which was contained in three produced draft documents previously circulated by email and off-prints now made available: a list of area heritage assets, a narrative area history and a summation table of heritage planning concepts, area history & heritage.

DC thanked volunteers who had provided new documents which were in 4 packs:
(I Campbell, OS highlighted map of Neighbourhood area;
DA Cowans, heritage buildings of note/at risk in Morpeth Area and 3 historical maps;
A Davison, an outline environmental heritage context of Morpeth/Wansbeckvalley;
B Mead, area Listed Buildings town and parishes
Frank Robinson, Listed heritage green tracks/lanes)

It was agreed to divide into four small groups to review / refine strategic documents then make feedback comments.

6. FEEDBACK

(Notes JL; DAC notes on Flipchart, 4 Group Summaries from Dg.C, JH, FR, BR)

Group One: Doug Cockburn, Ed Campbell, Dorothy Cowans

Need for a definition of HERITAGE to show relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan.
(JL includes a document with minutes)

CONFLICTS

1. Economic development. Lack of investment
2. Ownership- absentee/institutional
3. Public engagement- value
4. Relationship to the National Planning Policy Framework

ISSUES

1. Ensure Listed Buildings are up to date
2. Conservation Area extended; protect with Character Statements
3. Route Hub overarching policies needed
4. Education needed for Conflicts and Institutional Policy
5. Hospital sites eg St Georges' housing development
6. Mills, proactive in conservation
7. Trade and industry conflict
8. Green entrances to Morpeth cf Morpeth Plan Gateways

Group Two: John Haworth, Ian Campbell, John Earl

1. A focus on what we are trying to achieve
2. Characteristics of the Plan areas to be preserved/enhanced
3. Settlements similarly
4. Development, to take account of issues which could conflict
5. Cherished local assets to be included
6. Development management policy and enforcement essential
7. Scope to identify threats
8. Identify aspirations of Telford Bridge
9. Heritage Centre

Group Three: John Lewis, Frank Robinson

Conservation Areas and Extensions:

MORPETH

The Morpeth Local Plan shows the existing Conservation Area (1970) POLICY MC 8 (CMBC) In accordance with POLICY C 26; The Council will investigate the extension of the existing Conservation Area and proposed, delineated by yellow lines; suggesting the outdated plan should extend its boundaries to include additional worthy parts of the town centre for preservation and enhancement The Group considered it should be done. Additionally two smaller areas could be looked at. Pretoria Avenue and The Willows.

MITFORD

Morpeth Local Plan: MDC 5 in accordance with Policy C 26 The Council will investigate the extension of a Conservation Area for Mitford The Church, Old Manor House, and adjoining ruins of Mitford Castle are Listed Structures of considerable merit plus the overall attractive character of the Village, make it worthy of designation Group considered it should be done.

HEPSCOTT

Listed C 17th Hepscoth Hall plus C14th tower and manor with dovecote, gateway and walls and a smithy with buildings structures of considerable merit, set in a small historic area, with the overall attractiveness of the Village make it worthy of Conservation Area designation.

HEBRON

Has isolated Listed buildings which would make an area designation difficult however Character Appraisal suggested

PEGSWOOD

Limited Knowledge and no representatives; however it contains attractive farm buildings, industrial landmarks, social heritage indicators and riverside monuments which should have recognition

Boundaries are needed to identify setting, protect and enhance settlement. Buffer zones are needed.

An Area Heritage Centre supported by local councils needed.

Group Four: D. Cowans, B Mead, B Roff

Local Listing will be important and to be kept up to date

Character Appraisal of all Neighbourhood Area

Settlement boundaries

Heritage areas and points to be translated on to overlay maps

Agricultural buildings to be considered

What we want to happen:
re. design quality and materials

Set Heritage Objectives
Include culturally significant landscape.

COMMENTS

Feedback helpful strengthened previous meeting points and was very positive
We will set heritage objectives focusing on how to achieve them
A useful meeting

NEXT MEETING

27/2/13 at Morpeth Town Hall