

THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
HERITAGE TOPIC GROUP MEETING
27 FEBRUARY 2013, 7pm AT MORPETH TOWN HALL

1. PRESENT: David Cowans (Chair) Dorothy Cowans, John Earl,
Colin Haylock, John Lewis, Frank Robinson, Bryony Roff.

2. APOLOGIES: John Bibby, Kim Bibby-Wilson, Ed Campbell, Ian Campbell,
Alan Fowlie, Barry Mead.

3. MINUTES:

Environmental Appraisal of Settlements

Colin Haylock explained the preliminary work he was undertaking on the importance of an environmental appraisal and how it should be taken into account when looking at the options for the future development within the Plan Area. Some highlighted points are:

(a) The role of Morpeth as a Market Town, which has to take some development under Northumberland County Council's Planning Policies but not too much, in our view.

The NCC has not yet published for consultation the future housing figures or Green Belt Boundaries. (This is proposed for August 2013.)

(b) There are severe limitations to developing any land to the South of Morpeth Plan Area. because of traffic movements, flooding and overwhelmed infrastructure; with the fear of urban sprawl and the importance of a southern green gap between Morpeth, Hepscoth and Mitford Parishes protecting the open countryside and a sense of place.

(c) The Morpeth Northern Bypass, Northgate and St Georges site areas were discussed and how much development the Northern Area could be asked to take, having regard to the green and built infrastructure. The main Town Centre facilities and traffic flow are separated by the now inadequate Telford river bridge at the peak of its capacity; to the North of the river.

(d) CH has been invited to meet with Pegswood Councillors. He thought that there was a strong feeling that Pegswood would welcome and could provide new residential, shopping and employment development with a generous increase in supporting infrastructure. This would have a knock on effect in supporting existing shops in Pegswood and Morpeth.

4. HERITAGE: (a) JL's circulated note with a heritage definition and NPPF Policy together with other complementary material was agreed.

(b) Concerning JL's note; which included four heritage objectives, a fifth was added- to identify threats.

5. MISSION STATEMENT: Several existing published examples relating to Morpeth were

circulated by DC for comment and discussed. Some were directed at Tourism or Built Heritage of the Town alone. However it was agreed they could be adapted and worked on to provide the basis for the Plan Area.

6. DC circulated extracts from Northumberland CC Core Strategy - Preferred Options February 2013.

Policies 50, 51, 52, 53 relating to Heritage were discussed and commented upon for points of fit with our Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy 53, Question 56, was highlighted:

It was agreed to advise NCC that in the first paragraph, it should read:

'Proposals that would result in significant harm should not be permitted.'

6. Thanks by JL.

DC thanked attendees.

7. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday March 27 at 7-00pm in Morpeth Town Hall.