

Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan. Heritage Topic Group Meeting. 27.3.13

Present: David Cowans (Chair) Ed Campbell, Dorothy Cowans (notes)
John Earl, Barry Mead, Frank Robinson

Apologies: John Bibby, Ian Campbell, Shelagh Johnstone, John Lewis,
BryonyRoff, Kim Bibby-Wilson

Notes: 27.2.13 Previous meeting notes were accepted.

Matters Arising:

Colin Haylock's presentation was discussed: there were many points of fit with our previous meetings agreements which we endorsed:

It was agreed to endorse: that only a very small scale allowance for development within the Market Town of Morpeth should be planned.

Larger scale development could be accommodated within Pegswood with a very generous infrastructure allowance - Agreed.

We agreed to ask for extensions and new Conservation Areas with additional Spot Listing of suitable assets in Morpeth town, Hebron Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood villages.

It was agreed there was a need to preserve and restore Telford Bridge. And press for a relief bridge which should have a sensitively treated design, siting and setting; sympathetic to a heritage area, which it would protect. It should link settlements people and traffic with Morpeth facilities across the river also linking up to the Northern Bypass.

Definitions: BM, linking with agreed December documents: it was decided to include the wording - 'cultural heritage.' Other minor improvements, changes and suggestions were considered and made.

Objectives: Edited to:- 'Allow only appropriate and sensitive re-use of heritage buildings.'

EC emphasised one of our objectives should be: to promote heritage tourism as an economic driver. However the wording of all Policies must be, 'fire-proofed' – to prevent being flamegunned by planning barristers.

Meetings: DC reported a heritage contribution to the NCC Area Committee Core Plan items at Ashington followed up by acknowledged e-mail.

- to tease out and separate from numbered sections 50...53:- heritage infrastructure from green infrastructure. DC
- 53/ Q56 A limitation to only: 'Proposals which would result in significant harm should not be permitted.' – no other clauses. JL

Correspondence: Deputy Town Clerk's letter.
Points were noted and found interesting

[] DC It was decided to invite the NCC Conservation Control Officer to attend and contribute to our Topic Meeting.

[] DAC had corresponded to a past meeting warning Hepscoth PC and consequently to NCC Highways; about heritage mileposts in HPC Parish: at; Shields Road Toll Cottage Stobhill, Catchburn and Barmoor Bank. Some had been removed and others were still at risk. Only Catchburn is Listed. Stobhill has been restored by developers.

[] FR and BR Following January 24 meeting - examination of DAC/BM/ FR's ' Listed Buildings,' 'Local Listings' and 'Buildings At Risk;' with a pledge to complete and update them:

A jumbo747 Listings has been made.

There was a worry that any omission might be disadvantaged or time called on the Heritage Topic project.

DAC: It was feasible to continually 'Spot List' items at risk.

The Local List would not be closed, an updated version could be referred to.

FR:The issue arising was the logistics of mapping to form the basis for the Conservation areas. To send to D.Cota for circulation.

AOB: EC: It was now to be hoped that rapid progress could be made as there was a new raft of local development control emerging.

- aim for positive press, publicity and personal contact with informative leaflets available to all households.

JE Discussion about NCC Core plan supporting SENRUG's promotion of the heritage Blyth & Tyne Railway to Morpeth as a rapid light passenger transport system to and from the Coast. We should endorse this stance and link it to our support of MNP heritage railway architecture, walks and local passenger/tourist facilities.

Next Meeting: Approximately late April – to tie in with NCC Conservation Control Officer's proposed visit.

DRAFT