

MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Minutes from Local Economy group meeting 30th January 2013

Present

David Lodge – Chair	(CEO Greater Morpeth Development Trust)
Ian Campbell- Project Officer	(Consultant for Morpeth Town Council)
Ken Reed	(Local business)
Doug Cockburn	
George Williams	Morpeth District Chamber of Trade
Ken Stait	Morpeth District Chamber of Trade/local business
Julie Stephenson	(Representing Pegswood Parish Council)
Keith Raine	(Local resident/ involved with regeneration projects such as 'Go Wansbeck')

Apologies

Cameron Scott	
Doug Phillips	(Chair Greater Morpeth Development Trust)
Carol Robinson	(Local resident/ freelance consultant)
Eric Fletcher	(Local resident/ retired policeman)

David agreed to write up the flip chart discussions for this evening's meeting.

A. Previous minutes and appendices agreed.

B. Actions from previous minutes:

- 1) **Ian** to access relevant strategies and distribute these. Ian Campbell to circulate note of feedback from launch events – *these are detailed below as links or attached to minutes*
- 2) **All**- identify who else we need on this group – there was no feedback on this point prior to the meeting but the following list were identified and need to be approached, group members to email David with who they are prepared to contact to gauge interest and attendance of future meetings.
 - Ray Browning (ARCH) – KR?
 - Iain Ogilvie (NCC Euro Funding) - DL
 - Young Peoples View – JS?
 - Eddie Campbell (retired planner) – DC ?
 - Medi – Sandersons Arcade – DL
 - Les Sage – Property Owner
 - Commercial Sector – Ian Rickard
 - Commercial Sector – Simon Haggie
 - Commercial Sector – Barry Tait
 - King Edwards (KEVI) – Victoria Najafi
- 3) **David** – circulate the Market Town Welcome report – this was circulated and some discussion took place but reference 2009 report timescale and how things had changed since, but it is a good source reference document.

4) **All** – email David in terms of availability to commit time between meetings to research , meet stakeholders and help drive the process. Thanks to Carol, Ian and Eric for delivering actions from previous minutes.

Ken Reed only one responded prior to the meeting but general consensus that all members of the group would be willing to take on key tasks,

5) **All**- Identify issues to consider before the next meeting – email to David to help establish next agenda. – none received

C. Economic Vision – a discussion was held to review the objectives of the Alnwick & Renwick Economic objectives and how appropriate they were to Morpeth:

1. Defined as a Rural Service Centre – supporting the wider Hinterland – this took the majority of debate for the evening and conclusions were Morpeth has :

- a. Retail Strength – mix of Arcade and Independants creating a visitor experience
- b. Public centre administration centre – although recognised this was diminishing with public sector reform
- c. Classed as a Dormitory town – lots of commuting to City Region
- d. Also recognised part of City Region

Above recognises the *"Strong retail core and day visitor attraction and tourism hub"*

That is where we are now – what is the vision for the future and what needs to change to realise the future ?

2. Offer a range of employment opportunities with a focus to retain youth : there was debate about supporting this and recognised development opportunities to change the mix of employment through development in and around the town.

3. Meet need of new investment and Existing businesses: there were a total of 19 sites identified at the last meeting (detail below) and these should be further explored at the next meeting regarding potential use and how this would be impacted by the other Planning groups. Sites to be considered and further research to be carried out as well as identifying other sites and recognising ongoing development through St Georges, Dransfield, Bypass and Housing development:

1. Registrar building / old Grammar School
2. Telephone Exchange
3. Benfield Site
4. Davidson Garage site
5. Police Station
6. Court House
7. Cottage Hospital
8. Old Gas Works
9. Willows/Library site
10. Health Centre Gas House Lane

11. Fire Station Gas House Lane
 12. Sorting Office
 13. Pumping Station Mitford
 14. Field next to Old persons Home (St George's ?)
 15. Pegswood Welfare (Bothal Estates landowner)
 16. Pegswood Club / Pit canteens
 17. Old Colliery site
 18. Hepscott park (outside geographic boundary but close proximity needs consideration)
 19. Northumberland County Council owned sites in neighbourhood
4. Assist Flexible Growth and Diversification and meet these aspirations in a sustainable and environmental way
 5. Have an integrated approach to delivering all the above.

It was felt that a lot of the objectives from Alnwick & Denwick were fairly generic and could be applied to a lot of different localities and there is a need for the vision of Morpeth to be specific to the Towns and surrounding areas unique offer.

- D. There was debate regarding the role of the group and how much impact it could have on the Core Strategy and how much of the NCC Core Strategy was a given and not subject to influence. IC stated that the role of the NPEG was very influential and could help shape the Core Strategy by delivering a layer of detail that NCC could not aspire to get to because of lack of resources. IC has produced a paper on the relationship of the MNP and NCC Core Strategy which is attached for reference.
- E. Ian Campbell will provide more detailed area maps at the next meeting and discussions around designated and potential locations further explored. Reference documents links to help understand previous reports are attached:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=7734>

– the Employment Land Study

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=11871>

– the Town Centre and Retail study

This Technical appendix has a series of links to employment related studies (see page 10 under the head "Developing a Resilient Economy"). It extends to tourism studies although difficulties in opening the tourism study link have been found.

Proposed Next Meetings for 2013

**6.30pm to 9.30pm on Tuesday 5th February 2013,
Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan 'Visioning Workshop' at Morpeth Town Hall**

7.00 - 8.30pm on Tuesday 26th February at Morpeth Town Hall

7.00 - 8.30pm on Tuesday 26th March at Morpeth Town Hall