

**NOTES OF THE MORPETH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING**

**MONDAY 13th April 2015 at 3pm
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF MORPETH TOWN HALL**

Present

Councillor Joan Tebbutt
Councillor Nic Best
Councillor David Cowans
Councillor David Woodard
Councillor Philip Ashmore
Councillor David Parker
Councillor Alison Byard
Councillor Bob Robertson
Councillor Mike Sharp
Graeme Trotter
Peter Fuller

Representing

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Heritage Topic Group
Pegswood Parish Council
Hepscott Parish Council
Morpeth Town Council (MTC)
MTC – left at 3.47pm
MTC
Mitford Parish Council
Sports & Leisure Group
Transport Group

In attendance

David English Northumberland County Council (NCC)

Clerks

Gillian Turner MTC – Clerk (left at 4.14pm)
Dee Cota MTC – Office Manager

1. Welcomes/Apologies/Introductions

Councillor Joan Tebbutt welcomed all present.

Apologies were received from David Lodge (GMDT), Colin Pearson (Education Group) and David Rowlinson (NCC).

2. Notes of 9th March 2015 Steering Group and Matters Arising

The notes of the meeting of the Steering Group Meeting on the 9th March 2015 were approved as a true record.

Councillor Cowans enquired if there was a policy included within the plan regarding heritage assets at risk of harm. It was reported that this has been included in Policy Her2.

3. **Documents for Approval**

Members considered the following documents for approval:

- (i) Submission Draft Plan
- (ii) Proposals Map
- (iii) Basic Conditions Report
- (iv) Consultation Report

Members approved all of these documents with an amendment to Policy Env2 in the draft Plan, clarifying the Plan's intent regarding the apparent conflict between the designation of Tommy's Field as a Local Green Space and the possible need to remove some of the allotment land to facilitate junction improvement for access to the St George's Hospital Phase 1 site.

These documents will now be submitted for a Pre-submission Health Check.

4. **Meeting with NCC Planning Officers**

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with Councillors Best and Ashmore, Karen Ledger, Jo-anne Garrick and Mark Ketley (NCC) regarding the weight that will be given to the Plan by NCC Officers and members when considering planning applications.

Members were advised that assurances have been received from NCC that the plan has already got some weight because it has been consulted on and this weight will increase as progress is made. Staff and members involved in planning decisions will be notified and training will be given as appropriate. NCC are more confident about progressing the Plan without a current local plan since the Gladman case.

It was also reported that from mid-April, NCC will become the lead local flood authority and more responsibility will shift from the Environment Agency to NCC.

There are no major changes to the Core Strategy or the proposed Greenbelt policy and the Employment study is still ongoing.

5. **NCC Property Review**

Members were advised that at MTC's Planning and Transport Committee on Wednesday 8th April 2015 it was agreed that MTC, as the elected authority representing Morpeth, should take the lead in relation to liaising with NCC on this matter.

A request has been made to Councillor Grant Davey, Leader of NCC, for a meeting as soon as possible to discuss how this can be taken forward in Morpeth and the best way to involve other stakeholders.

6. Small Settlements/Greenbelt Meeting

Members noted receipt of the follow up notes from the meeting on small settlements in the Greenbelt.

Members did query the email sent with these notes requesting details of how individual Parish Councils and the Town Council wish to see the County Council approach the inclusion or exclusion of small settlements from the Green Belt around Morpeth, as this was discussed at this meeting.

A copy of the meeting notes will be requested.

7. Funding Applications

It was agreed that a funding application will be submitted, as soon as possible, to cover the costs of printing the Full Plan.

8. Resources and Updates

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

9. NCC Update

There was no update from NCC on this occasion.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Members were informed that the meeting will be held on Monday 18th May at 3pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.27pm.