

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

**MONDAY 27th May 2015 at 3pm
IN THE CORN EXCHANGE OF MORPETH TOWN HALL**

Present

Councillor Joan Tebbutt
Councillor Nic Best
Councillor David Cowans
Councillor David Woodard
Councillor Philip Ashmore
Councillor Alison Byard
Councillor Bob Robertson
Colin Pearson

Representing

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Heritage Topic Group
Pegswood Parish Council
Hepscott Parish Council
Morpeth Town Council (MTC)
MTC
Education Topic Group

In attendance

David English
D Rowlinson

Northumberland County Council (NCC)
NCC

Clerks

Dee Cota

MTC – Office Manager

1. Welcomes/Apologies/Introductions

Councillor Joan Tebbutt welcomed all present.

Apologies were received from Councillors D Parker (MTC) and M Sharp (Mitford), David Lodge (GMDT), Peter Fuller (Transport Group) and Graeme Trotter (Sports & Leisure Group)

2. Notes of 13th April 2015 Steering Group and Matters Arising

The notes of the meeting of the Steering Group Meeting on the 13th April 2015 were approved as a true record.

There were no matters arising other than those included as separate agenda items.

3. Outcome of Pre-submission Health Check and Actions

Councillor Best gave an update of the changes made to the draft plan following the pre-submission health check.

Councillor Cowans raised some concerns that the list of heritage buildings had not been made available for the health check.

It was agreed that Councillor Cowans will provide this information again and once it has been reformatted, it will be included in the combined evidence report. Alison Byard and Joan Tebbutt offered to type up the hand written sheets.

Northumberland County Council (NCC) provided the final version of the Proposal Maps.

4. To Formally Endorse the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan

Members unanimously agreed to formally endorse the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan subject to minor typo amendments. The Plan Preparation Group (PPG) will look at all amendments at the meeting on Friday 29th May 2015.

The Plan is being brought to the Planning and Transport Committee meeting on 27th May 2015 for approval.

Thanks and congratulations were given to PPG and everyone who has been involved in the process during the last 3 years.

5. NCC Property Review

Members were advised that a response has been received from Councillor Grant Davey, Leader of NCC, regarding a request 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.

It was reported that Councillor Davey cannot offer any dates for a meeting because NCC have yet to make a decision on this issue. Members expressed concerns that NCC should be consulting before making any decisions.

6. Small Settlements/Greenbelt Meeting

Members were advised that no response has been received from our request for a copy of the meeting notes.

David English/David Rowlinson were asked to chase this up.

7. Funding Applications

Members were advised that NCC paid for the health check.

Two successful funding applications have been made through Locality for printing costs of the Plan and also the consultancy work carried out by Rosemary Kidd.

8. NCC Update

David English advised that after the Plan has been submitted to NCC, they will need the Plan in a format that has the ability to be changed, so that they can make any amendments that come from the examination.

NCC have set in place the appointment of an examiner and will have three CV's to consider. NCC will agree with MTC which examiner to appoint.

It was agreed that these CV's be circulated amongst members for consideration.

NCC will publicise the plan (which can run concurrently with the appointment of the examiner) for a 6 week period.

Once the Plan has passed the examination stage it will be signed off by the Executive Director of NCC as the earliest opportunity.

The Plan will then go to referendum in approximately October/November 2015 with adoption approximately December 2015/January 2016.

Members were informed that the SEA and Habitat Regulations are being updated by NCC.

9. Next Steps and Meeting

It was agreed to keep the membership of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and call a meeting if and when necessary, with possible informal meetings to update one another.

MTC's Planning and Transport Committee and the Steering Group will look at the Community Action's in the Plan to identify how these can be taken forward. Alison Byard, Nic Best and Joan Tebbutt will look at the Community Actions to identify priorities and a programme of who to involve at what point.

10 Achievement

Colin Pearson commented that it was amazing how far we have come since we started out and everyone should be very proud of what has been achieved.

The meeting concluded at 4.05pm.