

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

**Monday 16th November 2015 at 3pm
in the Council Chamber of Morpeth Town Hall**

Present

Councillor Joan Tebbutt
Councillor Philip Ashmore
Councillor Nic Best
Councillor David Cowans
Councillor David Parker
Colin Pearson
Councillor Mike Sharp
Councillor David Woodard
Graeme Trotter
Councillor Alison Byard

Representing

Chairman – Morpeth Town Council (MTC)
Hepscott Parish Council
Vice Chairman – MTC
Heritage Topic Group
MTC
Education Topic Group
Mitford Parish Council
Pegswood Parish Council
Sports & Leisure Topic Group
MTC

In Attendance

David Rowlinson
Northumberland County Council (NCC) – arrived
at 3.15pm

Clerks

Mrs T Bell
Ms D Cota
MTC Town Clerk
MTC Acting Deputy Town Clerk

1. Welcomes/Apologies/Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all members present and invited introductions.

Apologies were received from Councillor Bob Robertson (MTC) and David English (NCC)

2. Notes of previous Steering Group meeting

The notes of the previous meeting on 7th October 2015 were approved as a true record with one amendment:

Page 1 – Councillor D Cowans is representing the Heritage Topic Group.

3. Update

Members were advised that the Chief Executive of NCC, Steven Mason, has signed off the document that approves the Examiner's recommendations. It

was confirmed that the Plan has been updated with these recommendations and it was agreed to chase up NCC for a date for the referendum.

Both Word and PDF copies of the Plan will be requested from NCC.

4. Publicity

Members were advised that Councillors J Tebbutt, Parker and Best had met to discuss publicity. Notes of this meeting were previously circulated by email to all members.

Members were informed that the exhibition on the 9th November in Morpeth Town Hall received a considerable amount of interest. A publicity article reminding the public what the plan says will be in the next edition of Inside Morpeth and a press release has been issued to the Morpeth Herald and the Journal. A further press campaign will take place after Christmas 2015.

Briefing notes will be produced for staff, other Parish Councils, community groups and social media outlets. There will be further articles for the Morpeth Town Council, Parish, Neighbourhood Plan and Morpeth in Morpeth websites.

Members also acknowledged the cautionary email received from David English (NCC) in relation to publicising and campaigning in relation to the referendum.

Councillor Woodard reported that he will write an article for the Pegswood Parish Council magazine that goes out in December.

Councillor Ashmore advised that he will keep his residents briefed as well as possible and will encourage people to turn out and vote.

Councillor Sharp advised that he would be relying heavily on leafleting in his parish because of the age profile of the residents. He also confirmed Mitford Parish Council's continuing support of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Members were also informed that it has been proposed that an A5 2-sided leaflet giving basic information about the plan, will be delivered to every household in the plan area in January 2016. A leaflet from another Neighbourhood Plan area was circulated amongst members who welcomed the style and content of this.

5. Core Strategy Response

Members were advised that Councillors Best, Byard and J Tebbutt were preparing MTC's response to the latest Core Strategy Consultation.

The Steering Group agreed that it would be useful to share draft responses from parish and town councils to the Core Strategy and prepare an additional MNP response ensuring that these responses are aligned.

6. Next Meeting

It was agreed that a provisional meeting date be scheduled for 14th December 2015.

The next confirmed meeting date is 11th January 2016.

The meeting concluded at 4.25pm.