

Morpeth Town Plan - Priority Issues & Actions for Morpeth			
		Actions and Update 2015	Priorities and Actions for 2016
1.	Youth Facilities		
	Priority Issue:	The top priority as to provide facilities for the young people in Morpeth	
	Current Actions:	MTC provide funding to youth organisations to develop activities & support	
		MTC manage, maintain and improve Play Areas and BMX for teenagers	
	Proposed Actions:	MTC will increase youth engagement and consult through events and create a MTC Youth Group	
	Actions of Partners:		
	* NCC	Provide Integrated Services - connexions, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy service, youth offending and youth service	
	* Barnabas Safe & Sound	Services in evenings and weekends, drop in youth centre, supported housing	
	* KEVi Youth Service:	Youth Services and youth club	
	* Mustard Tree Trust	Activities for young people, drop in, youth club and school assemblies	
	* Morpeth Youth Initiative	Developing youth facilities.	
		Subsidies to Barnabas, Mustard Tree Trust, KEVi and Active Northumberland.	
		New Play Area at boundary Drive	
			Review possibility of Youth Council - Contact Sheila Clark
		Active Northumberland took over all Leisure facilities and assets in April 2015	
		Took over old Boys Club in Stobhill wef 2012	
		Organisation Folded	

2.	Flooding			
	Priority Issue:	Floods in Sept 2008 highlighted flood defence, resilience planning and restoration programmes	A further flood in 2012	Community Action CAEnv1 – Watercourse Maintenance
	Current Actions:	MTC lobbying Env Ag and NCC for support and solutions	Upstream Dam and other works completed 2015 - £21m. Flood Risk insurance scheme introduced using the Morpeth model which has been adopted and used nationally	The Town and parish councils will request that appropriate agencies bring forward a strategy for tackling over grazing of banks, poor channel morphology and local pollution issues along wildlife corridors. Community Action CAInf1 – Drainage System Capacity and Performance The Town and Parish Councils will work with developers and agencies including Northumbrian Water, NCC as the Local Lead Flood Authority and the Environment Agency to reduce flood risk wherever possible across the Plan area through the use of sustainable water management measures throughout the Plan period.
	Actions of Partners:	MTC liaise with NCC to provide active role in future emergency procedures	Community Agreement Published 2014	Continue to monitor progress of Northumbrian Water, NCC and the Environment Agency to ensure that flood maps are updated. Conitue to monitor risks with regard to surface water flooding
	* EA	Commenced public consultation on upstream alleviation measures and defences	Completed Work to Cottingwood Burn is next on list	
	* NCC	Resilience Team to lead multi agency planning	Completed	
	* Northumbria Police	Work with other emergency services to develop response to major incidents	Completed	

3.	Car Parking			
	Priority Issue:	Problems of quantity and cost of off-street parking and management		Community Action CATra3 – Car Parking Morpeth Town Council and other relevant organisations, will work with NCC to monitor car park use and occupancy, to plan and ensure an adequate supply of car and cycle parking spaces, and to manage available car parking space, so as to discourage demand in excess of available supply in accordance with the agreed standard. MTC to continue to lobby for additional car parks and spaces due to the number of new housing developments planned for Morpeth. Annual benchmarking survey will continue to monitor situation.
	Current Actions:	MTC to lobby to maintain and manage efficient parking	Free Parking introduced and Parking Strategy completed 2014.	
	Proposed Actions:	Develop a car parking strategy	Completed	
	Actions of Partners: * NCC	Hoping to take on on street parking enforcement	Completed- Residents permits introduced	
* Northumbria Police	Currently responsible for on street parking	Transferred to NCC - New car parks introduced		

4.	Public Toilets			
	Priority Issue:	Insufficient public toilets in the town. 24hr toilets wanted, Terrace toilets are awful and Town Hall is to be redeveloped and will not have nay public toilets.		
	Current Actions:	MTC manage the Bus Stn toilets and Carlisle Park. Paint Terrace and service hand dryers and check during the day. Police respond to intelligence re inappropriate use	Terrace completely refurbished 2012	
Proposed Actions:	MTC to investigate new toilet facilities i.e. public houses and bars to allow access.	Local Loo scheme introduced - £50 donated to premises	Continue to maintain and monitor facilities to ensure they remain in excellent working order	

5.	Shopping Facilities			
	Priority Issue:	The need for more varied choice, markets and supermarket facilities		
	Current Actions:	MTC support continued development of town centre shopping initiatives	Continues: Town Team created 2014, Action for Market Towns Surveys (now People & Places) Completed	Continue with annual benchmarking survey. Review the role and function of the Town team
		MTC support the continued development of Morpeth Markets through membership of the Morpeth Market Partnership.	Continues: MTC provided £5k for 3 years (ending 2015) to relaunch Market	
	Proposed Actions:	MTC to develop a policy for responding to out of town shopping planning applications	Completed	
	Actions of Partners:			
	* Dransfield	Providing significant investment within the town centre and infrastructure	Sanderson Arcade completed and new Morrisons Supermarket	
	* NCC Regeneration	supports robust and diverse economy through business development and investment	Continues	
* NCC Neighbourhood	Provision of Morpeth Market	Continues. Reviewed in 2015.		
* Chamber of Trade	And Newgate Traders aim to increase customer choice and experience	Continues: under transfer to Town Team role and functions		
* Northumbria Police	Work with retailers re Stopwatch to enhance communication and security	Continues		

6.	Entertainment & Leisure			
Priority Issue:		Perceived lack of facilities i.e. cinema, arts and culture venue		Community Action CASpo1 - Sports and Leisure Facility
Current Actions:		MTC provide funding to organisations incl. arts and culture	Subsidies provided to many choirs and groups, GMDT (picnic in the park and community cinema), and grant towards feasibility study for Heritage/Performance space	The Town and parish councils will work with NCC, Active Northumberland, the Greater Morpeth Development Trust and other relevant organisations to upgrade, extend or rebuild a sports and leisure centre, and to build an arts and performance centre, possibly including a heritage museum visitor attraction, and establish sustainable arrangements for managing and running that facility in the Plan period. If it is deemed desirable to relocate existing sports and leisure activities, the best alternative use for the existing Morpeth Riverside Leisure Centre should be found that makes a strong financial contribution to the new sports and leisure facilities.
Actions of Partners:		MTC provide Community Centres	Continues: Double glazing, boiler and heating upgrades £50k in 2010 (PWLB loan)	Consultation and engagement with service users will continue to ensure that the facilities are maintained.
		MTC supports a calendar of entertainment and events	Continues	
* GMDT	Arts and Heritage Groups		Continues	
* NCC	Culture, Leisure and tourism		Now undertaken by Active Northumberland	
* Leisure connections	Riverside Leisure Centre		Now undertaken by Active Northumberland	
* Other Groups	Sporting, arts and leisure groups operate within the town.		Rugby, Football, Athletics, zumba etc.	There are a number of options currently being considered with regard to the Leisure Centre these are: refurbish existing centre, rebuild on the current site or relocate away from Town Centre to former County Hall site.

7.	Street Cleaning			
	Priority Issue:	Public have concerns over cleanliness, litter, dog fouling and chewing gum		
	Current Actions:	MTC provide litter and dog bins	Continues	
		MTC promote and undertake community clean-up events	Continues	
		MTC has policy to make Morpeth a plastic bag free town	continues	Policy implemented and work ongoing
	Proposed Actions:	MTC will develop a strategy for reduction of litter, dog fouling and chewing gum and will lobby other organisations.	continues	Policy implemented and work ongoing
	Actions of Partners:			
	* NCC Street Scene	Clean the streets and dog warden to enforce legislation re dog fouling	Now undertaken by local services	
* Retail Outlets	Have a duty to manage litter generation	Now undertaken by local services		
* Northumbria Police	continue to enforce legislation	Now undertaken by local services		

8.	Town Hall/ Heritage Sites			<p>Community Action CAHer1 – Locally Valued Heritage Assets and Heritage Assets at Risk of Harm The Town and parish councils and other appropriate organisations, working in conjunction with NCC conservation team and local organisations, will agree lists of key local assets and unprotected buildings that are valued locally and which may be under threat.</p> <p>Community Action CAHer2 – Important Vistas The Town and parish councils and other appropriate organisations, working in conjunction with NCC conservation team and local organisations, will develop a strategy to protect important vistas in the Plan area. This will include agreeing a list of important vistas (setting or view of a heritage asset) which merit protection, outlining the reason for their selection in relation to a character assessment of the local area, and assessing whether possible new developments might affect them or could make a positive contribution to them.</p> <p>Town Hall treasures are logged and a refurbishment and conservation programme is ongoing</p> <p>Continue to market the Town Hall and investigate possibility of the phase 2 expansion</p>
	Priority Issue:	TH is being refurbished	Completed. Marketing is ongoing.	
	Current Actions:	MTC to manage the civic function rooms - Mayors Parlour and Council Chamber	continues	
	Actions of Partners:			
	* NCC	Owns the building	Continues	
	* GMDT	Planning to enter into an arrangement with NCC to manage the building and appoint a Town Hall Manager.	Management of the building transferred to MTC, in partnership with Registrars Service TH is now the official Registry Office	

9.	<p>Affordable Housing</p> <p>Priority Issue: Severe shortage of affordable housing Many people have to look outside of the town</p> <p>Current Actions: when considering planning applications i.e. smaller homes, social hsg for rent and part ownership schemes</p> <p>Proposed Actions: MTC will adopt a policy on affordable housing based on the former CMBC policy</p> <p>Actions of Partners:</p> <p>* CM Housing Maintain and improve and will meet decent homes standard by 2010</p> <p>* Johnnie Johnson / Hunter Provide affordable housing in the town</p> <p>* NCC LDF Team Manages Affordable Housing Policy aiming to improve the current situation</p>	<p>Continues</p> <p>MNP now includes policies for affordable housing. MNP states developers need to ensure that adequate numbers are included in future developments.</p> <p>Now undertaken by ISOS</p> <p>continues</p>	<p>Community Action CAHou1 - St George's Hospital Site Masterplan</p> <p>The Town Council will engage actively with NCC, the Homes & Communities Agency and relevant organisations as a matter of urgency to bring forward the Masterplan for the whole of the St George's Hospital site prior to commencement of development on the site.</p> <p>Community Action CAHou2 – Effective Use of the Housing Stock</p> <p>The Town and parish councils and other relevant organisations, working with NCC and local organisations, will promote: -</p> <p>A. the improvement of the condition and energy efficiency of the existing housing stock in the Plan area;</p> <p>B. the maintenance of low vacancy rates in the housing stock of the Plan area;</p> <p>C. the conversion of appropriate properties, not currently used for residential purposes, where there is no longer a demand for that use (e.g. a retail property or former storage over a shop), to provide residential accommodation in a sustainable location; and</p> <p>D. measures to enable residents who are under-occupying or over-crowding their current home in the Plan area, to have the option to move to more appropriately sized accommodation. Subject to funding from developer contributions, the Town and parish councils will develop an 'Existing Housing Plan' and establish a 'Co-ordinator' post to implement a co-ordinated approach in relation to the existing housing stock and deliver this Community Action.</p> <p>Community Action CAEdu1 – Planning Education</p> <p>The Town and Parish Councils will work with the associated Trust boards and the Local Authority to ensure that there are sufficient school places in advance of demand; in appropriate geographical locations; and that admission policies are such that the schools will accommodate: -</p> <p>A. pupils from within the Plan area as a priority; and</p> <p>B. those who wish to attend but live outside the Plan area, especially those who are either already within the system or have siblings already within the system.</p>	0
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10.	<p><u>Integrated Transport</u></p>	<p>Traffic congestion and road safety. Improvements required at both north and south junctions of the A1.</p>	<p>Northern Bypass has commenced 2014 (Correct signage will be required when complete)</p> <p>Free car parking introduced 2014</p> <p>continues</p> <p>continues</p> <p>continues</p> <p>Continues. Shared Space Audit completed and priorities passed to NCC</p>	<p>Community Action CATra1 – Strategic Road Improvements</p> <p>Measures to develop and bring forward: -</p> <p>A. at the earliest opportunity, a road link between the Morpeth Northern Bypass and KEVI school;</p> <p>B. a Stobhill-Loansdean Link Road;</p> <p>C. junction improvements at Coopies Lane/A192 (Morpeth Station), Sun Inn/A197 at St George's Hospital/foot of A197 (Whorral Bank)</p> <p>D. four way junctions on the A1 Trunk Road at Whalton Road or Clifton; and</p> <p>E. an assessment of the need for a further river crossing; will be encouraged and supported, working in conjunction with NCC and the Highways England.</p> <p>Community Action CATra2 –Town Centre Traffic</p> <p>The Town and parish councils and other relevant organisations, working in conjunction with NCC Highways will actively promote measures to: -</p> <p>A. remove unnecessary vehicular traffic from the central area through comprehensive signing of alternative roads, and thereby to improve the local environment within the shopping area;</p> <p>B. facilitate making more road space available for walking and cycling, and pedestrian priority within the Primary Shopping Area;</p> <p>C. ensure that an appropriate maintenance regime for Telford Bridge is adopted; and</p> <p>D. reduce conflicting vehicle turning movements at Telford Bridge and improve traffic flow.</p>
	<p>Priority Issue:</p>			
	<p>Current Actions:</p>	<p>MTC lobbying for improvements supporting walking, cycling and public transport to reduce traffic</p> <p>MTC lobbying for car parking improvements</p> <p>MTC consulted on the LTP</p> <p>MTC responds to all planning applications taking into account traffic flow</p> <p>MTC continues to lobby for the dualling of the A1</p>		
	<p>Actions of Partners:</p> <p>* NCC</p>	<p>Manages highways infrastructure and develops the LTP</p>		

<p>* NCC</p> <p>* Highways Agency</p> <p>* Northumbria Police</p>	<p>Manages the bus services and taxi licensing</p> <p>Responsible for the major trunk road network</p> <p>Tackle anti social behaviour which has an impact on willingness to use public transport</p>	<p>continues</p> <p>continues</p> <p>continues</p>	<p>Community Action CATra4 – Improved Rail Services and Facilities</p> <p>Rail providers are encouraged to make improvements to local rail services to Morpeth and Pegswood, and an increased number of stopping services on the ECML and Cross Country services; improvements to local stations and their facilities; and support measures to improve the accessibility of local stations.</p> <p>Community Action CATra5 – Bus Routes and Facilities</p> <p>Bus providers are encouraged to maintain and improve the existing network of bus routes, and to protect and enhance passenger facilities at Morpeth Bus Station.</p> <p>Community Action CATra6 - Integrated Public Transport System</p> <p>All public transport providers are encouraged to work together to ensure an integrated public transport system that encourages non-car use and provides maximum benefit to the community, including a park & ride system</p>
<p>11 Environmental Issues</p>		<p>Tree and Deadwood Policy in place</p>	<p>Community Action CAEn+E191:E196v2 – Tree Management</p> <p>The MNP encourages the adoption of an active approach to tree management to include:</p> <p>A. a programme of street tree replacement and planting in Morpeth town centre;</p> <p>B. guidance to address problems arising from poor use of trees on existing developments, including the wrong choice of species for sites that are or will block light to properties and have potential for root / subsidence damage; and</p> <p>C. establishing guidelines for planting of appropriate trees in new developments.</p> <p>The Town and parish councils and other appropriate organisations will develop and establish a protocol for responsible active tree management, minimising loss or damage to existing trees.</p>

12 Economic Development

Community Action CAEmp1 – Improving the Visitor Economy

Morpeth Town Council working in partnership with Northumberland County Council, Greater Morpeth Development Trust and other appropriate local organisations, will promote and support measures that strengthen Morpeth's visitor economy and its role as a tourism hub for the region and which either:

- A. increases the number and range of visitor attractions;
- B. improves the range and choice of visitor accommodation;
- C. improves the range and choice of food and drink establishments; or,
- D. improves the evening economy.

Community Action CAEmp2 – Employment Land Supply

Morpeth Town Council working in partnership with Northumberland County Council, Greater Morpeth Development Trust, the surrounding parishes and other appropriate local organisations, will seek to maintain a continuous supply of employment land and business premises. The opening up of the West Lane End and East Lane End Employment Sites, facilitated by the development of the Morpeth Northern Bypass, will be a key delivery priority.

Community Action CACom1 – Community Infrastructure

The Town and parish councils, working with NCC and other relevant organisations, will: -

- A. prepare a community infrastructure strategy which considers all existing and likely competing demands for infrastructure funding arising from Section 106 agreements and the Northumberland Community Infrastructure Levy; and
- B. make funding decisions on a case-by-case basis in the light of the overall community strategy and related to achieving optimal 'community benefit' from the funds available.