



**Greater Morpeth
Development Trust**
Regeneration of town & countryside

2006/7 Annual Report

10th October 2007



JACK PENN
Make stepping stones out of
stumbling blocks



GMDT Details



Vision

GMDT will develop Morpeth to be a premier market town in North East England. Promoting and improving the town and Countryside for public benefit, economic and social well being of people living and working in Morpeth and surrounding areas of Northumberland through the promotion of urban and rural regeneration



Objectives

- Delivering the vision through partnership with key stakeholders including residents, agencies, businesses, funders and service providers
- Create and facilitate a platform of engagement through the Interest groups
- Develop a portfolio of projects to continually improve the locality through awareness of strategic policy and strategy



The Development Agency for the North East of England

Partners

The extent of partnership working is only limited by ambition and the logo's on this page represent some of the key partners engaged with GMDT in pursuit of its ambition to make Morpeth a quality place to live and work.



Company Registration Number 5676236

Charity Number 1117036



BARNABAS · Safe & Sound



GMDT Team & Structure

Board -	Doug Phillips	Chair
	Colin Harvey	Vice Chair
	Charles Robinson	Director
	Alan Sambrook	Director
	Mark Horton	Director
	Kim Bibby-Wilson	Director
	Trevor Downing	Director
	Bruce Murray	Director
	Dave Pope	Director
	Stuart McKellar	Director
	Tom Green	Director

Staff –	David Lodge	CEO
	Andrea Langston	Project Manager
	Emma Cochrane	Funding Manager
	Irene Nicholson	Office Manager

Structure

GMDT BOARD

2x CMBC Directors, 1x NCC Director, 1x MTC Director
1x Director from each community interest group:
Heritage, Enterprise, Economy, Environment, Art & Culture.
1x Young Person's Representative
2x Community Directors

INTEREST GROUPS

Economy Enterprise Heritage Environment Young People Arts & Culture

Chairmans Reports

Can I say at the outset a big thank you for your continued support over the past 12 months. I would also like to thank the staff for their unflinching support of the Board. It is with great sadness that I report the untimely death of Cllr Alan Cutter our, Northumberland County Council representative. I would also like to thank Tom Green Youth representative and wish him good luck in his University studies.

The Board have not been able to progress some of it's aspirations as quickly as we had hoped or wished, having said that plenty has been going on as outlined in this report. I do feel we are in a much stronger position to go forward, particularly with Castle Woods and Water project, the redevelopment of the Town Hall and Chantry and the extension of the Lodge House.

Over the next year we need to consolidate and ensure we can continue to fulfil our pledge for Morpeth and it's surrounding Areas.

The Trust is part of 'Advancing Morpeth' the Local Strategic Partnership for Castle Morpeth, I am a member of its Board and this enables us to contribute within that framework. We do not know what the future holds with regard to Local Government reorganisation but we are ready to engage and take our part.

Finally I would like to thank our Partners who are fundamental to the impact the Trust can have in Morpeth, there are too many to mention them all but special mention to our Core funders, local authority partners, Northumberland Strategic Partnership and Northern Rock Foundation.

Doug Phillips
Chairman

Restoration plan sanctioned for Morpeth's old Town Hall

Half a million pounds has been earmarked to secure the future of one of the oldest and most important buildings in Castle Morpeth.

For more than three centuries the Town Hall has dominated the centre of Morpeth. But its future has been of great concern for some 20 years, with the building in dire need of refurbishment to enable it to maximise its potential for further community use and as a popular visitor attraction.

Now Castle Morpeth Borough Council has announced it is to work in partnership with the Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT), to breathe new life into the historic old building which dates back more than 350 years.

Under the proposals agreed by Castle Morpeth councillors, the management and day-to-day running of the Town Hall would pass to the Trust, which would also be in a better position to lever in external funding to support refurbishment and redevelopment proposals for the building.

They have sanctioned the use of at least £500,000 to kick-start a development package for the Town Hall, which it is hoped the Trust will be in a position to present for discussion early next year.

As Councillor Peter Jackson (Leader of Castle Morpeth Borough Council) says, the Town Hall occupies pride of place at the heart of the cultural heritage of the Borough. "It is one of the jewels in our crown, but it does need a substantial investment made in its future.

"There has been plenty of talk about what should be done at the Town Hall, feasibility studies and public consultations about its future, without any definitive decisions being made. But now we have decided this is the right thing to do, and the right time to make this investment.

"The Town Hall is at the very heart of the culture and heritage of Morpeth, and we need to make sure it has a long-term sustainable and viable future. In recent years Castle Morpeth Borough Council has in many ways, led the way in involving partners and the community in managing



Cllr Peter Jackson (right) and Doug Phillips shake hands on a partnership deal for the Town Hall

their affairs and taking ownership of community facilities.

"In this instance we are putting our faith in GMDT to take this project forward and make a real success of the Town Hall, and we are confident that trust will be well placed."

Doug Phillips who chairs GMDT added: "We are keen to work in partnership with Castle Morpeth Borough Council, over the development of the Town Hall. There have been a number of studies over the past few years, and the development proposals will use this work to come up with some exciting plans for this key building.

"GMDT has already approached other funding bodies to get additional funding to maximise the impact of the scheme development, not only for the Town Hall but other key assets around the town such

as The Chantry and our base in the Carlisle Park Lodge."

David Lodge (GMDT Chief Executive Officer) added: "The Trust is entering an exciting time and now has the resources to start improvements in the Town Hall, coupled with the transfer of £600,000 for the Castle Woods & Water projects which we will manage going forward, and we are looking to start work with our partners to maximise the impact they will have on the community of Castle Morpeth."

- The celebrated Northumbrian author Nancy Ridley wrote in her book 'Portrait of Northumberland' that the people of Morpeth were 'rightly proud' of their Town Hall which was designed by the renowned 17th Century architect Vanbrugh for the Earl of Carlisle. Vanbrugh also designed Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard in Yorkshire.

Arts & Culture Interest Group has taken forward the role previously carried out by Morpeth District Arts Trust delivering a vibrant and varied programme building upon established events. The long term goal of an arts venue is a long way off but the support of the events and good interface between the Trust officers and Group members continues to develop resulting in a healthy, grass roots arts scene in Morpeth. The range of events has covered skill development, touring productions, exhibitions, lunchtime and evening performances and of course the annual picnic in the park. I believe if we continue to build from this, and refine our offer, it is only a matter of time before we have better facilities to promote and deliver arts and culture.

Bruce Murray - Director



Heritage Interest Group aim is to prioritise heritage opportunities in line with the aspirations of the Castles, Woods and Water Project. The group has been actively involved in promoting the educational element of heritage through various schemes and is developing future opportunities relating to signage, interpretation and multi media work. The Trust's great heritage-related success during the year has been the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for restoring Emily Davison's grave, with GMDT acting as lead organisation on behalf of the Emily Davison Working Group. This resulted in an award of almost £50,000. The group is playing an integral role in the development of two strategic buildings, the Town Hall and Chantry, in order to ensure that their historic significance is emphasised and enhanced in future plans.

Kim Bibby-Wilson - Director

Environment Interest Group activities has carried out a field survey of the entire Castles Woods and Water corridor from Mitford to Bothal and prepared an outline plan of improvements covering both paths and historical features. This will be delivered as part of the £600k transfer of CW&W funds to GMDT. This is the fourth year of Morpeth Walking Festivals with both a Summer and Autumn Festival and the Trust is now the organising authority in partnership with the CMBC team. These festivals get larger each year and there is the possibility of linking with Haltwhistle and Berwick Festivals to provide a pan Northumberland Festival.

Colin Harvey - Director



Economy & Enterprise Groups have examined and discussed a wide range of issues. These have included, the Lodge House – proposals for additions or extensions. the Evening Economy – survey and report commissioned by CMBC and Carlisle Park and Pavilion- possible schemes. The Enterprise group initial focus to assist in the development of a business plan which would generate an income stream for GMDT together with option appraisals on developing the management of space at the Chantry and Town Hall

Henry Warne and Trevor Downing - Directors

Youth Interest Group have been involved in two great events for the town, in February GMDT sourced £7k funding to deliver an Ice Rink event in Carlisle Park. GMDT also worked with Barnabas to deliver a “Pop in Peth” event based around activities identified by Youth Groups in the town. There are plans to have both these activities back in 2008 building on the this years success and demand.

Tom Green - Director



FINANCIAL REPORT 12 months to March 2007

<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE</u>		Actual	Budget	Variance
Core Funds	Core Funds	183,325	177,912	5,413
Income	Fundraising	1,010	20,000	-18,990
	<i>Total</i>	<i>184,335</i>	<i>197,912</i>	<i>-13,577</i>
Project Income		79,997	57,756	22,241
Core Funds	Core Funds	175,703	200,400	-24,697
Expenditure	Fundraising	5,548	8,500	-2,951
	<i>Total</i>	<i>181,251</i>	<i>208,900</i>	<i>-27,648</i>
Projects Expenditure		23,078	30,000	-6,922
	Net Surplus/Loss	£60,003	£16,768	£43,235

BALANCE SHEET

Fixed Assets				
Current Assets				
	Debtors		7,363.76	
	Deposits & Cash		30,318.79	
	Bank Current Account		54,868.68	
				92,551.23
Current Liabilities	Creditors:Short Term		31,991.48	
				31,991.48
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:				60,559.75
Total Assets less Total Liabilities:				60,559.75
Capital & Reserves				
	Reserves		556.76	
	P & L Account		60,002.99	
				£60,559.75



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Going Forward

I took over the role of Chief Executive in May 2007 following five years in regeneration at Blyth. I hope to bring and deliver a professional approach to the role. I believe that GMDT can be a proactive organisation that makes things happen for the benefit of the Community. Through the delivery of quality sustainable projects in conjunction with partners and adds value where ever possible. Since May the trust has continued to development through its young, enthusiastic and knowledgeable team and unwavering support from the Board. We are passionate about the work we do and take pride in what has been achieved to date and extremely excited by the future opportunities.

The transfer of the Town Hall and CW&W residual Funding provides much needed resources to enable change. GMDT have been in discussion with a number of partners regarding to delivering funding to support the ambitions of the Interest groups together with the potential acquisition of assets.

When GMDT launched there was considerable hype and expectations were raised high, I will try and communicate what our plans are on a regular basis to ensure the community are kept up to date but also have an opportunity to shape the future going forward. The uncertainty of local government reorganisation will create some challenges but hopefully the role of GMDT will become clearer through initiatives like Belonging Communities where the government is looking to increase civic responsibility.

David Lodge CEO

 **Castles, Woods & Water.**
Morpeth, Mitford & Bothal. Heritage in the Making.

Passionate people. Passionate places.

