



KEY ACTIVITIES: 17 June to 14 July 2020

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered*	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
40	5	2	2

* Details of the planning applications considered can be viewed on our website under 'Our Work/ Responses to Planning Applications'.

NEWS ITEMS

Crook Hall. Sadly, closed its doors. The Trust is keeping an eye on developments in case it can help to keep this important heritage asset open to the public. Various ideas were suggested by Trustees.

Eddis Business Park. Application for a large new retail development was APPROVED.

Bradley Surface Mine. Application for an extension to the mine was REFUSED.

KEY BUSINESS

County Durham Plan (CDP) examination. Trustees contributed to responses for 66 Main Modifications (MMs) to the CDP including collaboration with the Parish Council and the Western Relief Road Action Group. The responses have all been uploaded to the County Council's consultation portal and will be shared with these and other partners (such as CPRE, the countryside charity). Closing date for responses: 21 July 2020.

New CDT website. Development was continued on the new site (with a break for work on the above MMs!). Progress is needed on the website appearance and the membership and publications pages, but comments/posts can be made to the News (blog) page.

New Patrons. Trustees voted on a shortlist for new Patrons and the Chair was delighted to announce that both Bill Bryson and Roberta Blackman-Woods had accepted their invitations to take up the roles.

Next Bulletin. The draft of the August Bulletin is in progress, with suggested topics being: how the Trust has been operating during the pandemic; our new website; report on the CDP Examination in Public; University news; expansion of the WHS; the bus station application; proposed CIO status; Durham after Covid; Trust personnel changes; Treasurer's report; new Patrons; book review of "Durham City in 50 buildings". Trustees have also discussed how best to link the Bulletins to the new website.

Annual Accounts/Report. The Treasurer shared his draft of the Trust's 2019 report for inclusion in the August Bulletin.

CURRENT CONCERNS

Membership. The Trust needs to find ways to increase membership.

Finances. Finances are stable for 2020 (with very little activity this month) but interventions are needed to increase income in 2021. A few suggestions were made by Trustees.

Covid-19. Trustees started discussing when to start physical meetings again and how to hold an AGM (September at the earliest).

Legal Status. The Trust is in the early stages of planning to adopt the new status of Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), including drafting a new constitution. The CIO status has fairly recently been developed by the Charity Commission (designed for smaller charities) and has been adopted by similar local charities, such as The Friends of Old Durham Gardens.