



KEY ACTIVITIES: 15 July to 11 August 2020

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered*	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
16	6	0	2

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

NEWS ITEMS

Aykley Heads development. DCC submitted a full planning application for Plot C and outline permission for the whole scheme (*the initial closing date was 7 August; extended to 28 August*).

"Planning for the Future" consultation. The Government launched a 12-week consultation on their White Paper proposing major reforms to the planning system in England (*closing date 29 October*).

Durham City Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The Independent Examiner concluded that the NP now meets the legal requirements, subject to the modifications in his report, and DCC has decided to accept his recommendations. The NP can now proceed to a local referendum, which should be held in May 2021.

Durham Bus station. DCC's planning application for the bus station redevelopment was APPROVED. Construction from Spring 2021 is proposed to last about 14 months.

KEY BUSINESS

County Durham Plan examination. DCC published a summary of responses to the MMs consultation (the issues raised with DCC's responses to them) with about a dozen substantive additional modifications (*at least half being in response to the Trust's comments*). Concerns were raised over DCC's inconsistent summarising, so Trustees agreed to identify deficiencies in the summaries for a letter to the EIP Inspector.

Aykley Heads application. Trustees agreed the application was rushed and slipshod, and held a virtual Special Meeting on 28 July to urgently discuss a response. After considerable efforts by the Trustees, the Trust submitted a lengthy response via the portal on 6 August and are considering additional comments now that the expiry date has been extended.

Planning reform White Paper. Trustees decided it was important for the Trust to respond to this planning reform consultation. Trustees were asked to send their initial comments to the Chair by the end of August, to shape a draft in time for the next Trustee's meeting (*15 September*).

New CDT website. A new section on Reviews was added and Trustees discussed how to capture the Trust's impact/achievements.

Next Bulletin. The draft of the August Bulletin/Annual Review was finalised, including brief information for members regarding the virtual AGM (*proposed for 30 September*) and a request for members' email addresses to facilitate communication.

Annual Accounts/Report. Trustees agreed to sign off the text and financials for the Trust's 2019 Report which should be received back from the Examiner in time for the virtual AGM in September.

CURRENT CONCERNS

AGM. Guidance from the Charity Commission still insists on an AGM by 30 September, so a decision was taken to plan for a virtual AGM on that date, with technical support from a Trust member. It was proposed to distribute an additional short Special Bulletin in September to include details of issues that need to be voted on and arrangements for attending the virtual meeting.

Covid-19. Trustees agreed to continue to hold off from physical meetings for the time being.

Legal Status. A full account of the proposed change of status to a CIO, proposed updated constitution and statement of the Trust's aims will be presented at the virtual AGM in September.