



KEY ACTIVITIES: 16 September to 20 October 2020

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
22	4	0	3

NEWS ITEMS

County Durham Plan. Following publication of the EiP Inspector's final report (17 September), the County Durham Plan (CDP) was adopted at a County Council session on 21 October 2020 (it was passed by 68 votes to 15 with 24 abstentions). It replaces all saved policies from Local Plans, including Minerals, Waste and the Interim Policy on Student Accommodation.

Public Inquiry for the Sands common land dispute. The date has now been announced: 26 January 2021.

Sherburn Road housing development. Banks Property launched an initial public consultation into their proposed design for the Bent House Lane housing development (closes on 23 October).

Durham History Centre phase 3 consultation. DCC started an on-line consultation (closes on 25 October) following planning permission for the Mount Oswald site being granted on 25 September.

COVID-19. There has been a drastic rise in the number of cases in the city centre area, with local concern expressed regarding the role of students and the University in this increase. Durham was incorrectly cited as being the second worst affected city for shop closures during the first half of 2020 (43 shops) but the Trust corrected the misinterpreted BBC/Guardian reports, as only 21 had actually closed (*still not good*).

KEY BUSINESS

Autumn Bulletin. The bulletin was drafted - an 8-page version to include the AGM 2020 minutes and a page advertising the Trust's Christmas cards, as well as various news articles.

Durham Heritage Case Study. The final version of the Trust's response to the draft report on "*Balancing Heritage and Growth in Cathedral Cities and Historic Towns: Durham Case Study*" was shared with Oxford Civic Trust, but the case study report was withdrawn for 'reformatting' by Historic England.

Planning reform White Paper. The Trust submitted a response to the associated "*Changes to the Planning System*" paper and continued to work on a response to the "*Planning for the Future*" White Paper.

AGM and Annual Accounts/Report. The 78th AGM was held via Zoom on 30 September and included a short talk on the planning reform White Paper from Roberta Blackman-Woods. Minutes of the 2019 AGM were formally signed off, as were the 2019 Annual Accounts and Report. Members voted unanimously to adopt CIO status, and Honorary Officers and Trustees of the Trust were proposed and appointed.

Design masterplans for Durham. The Trust agreed to join a coalition of community organisations to push for design input into major developments in Durham (eg Sherburn Road/Sniperley) following the adoption of the CDP. Initially the Trust plans to put in a request to Banks Property for early involvement in their design plans for the Bent House Lane housing development.

Seven Hills heritage trail. Trustees agreed to co-sponsor the trail maps proposed by the Parish Council.

CURRENT CONCERNS

Personalia. At the AGM the following were proposed and elected: Dr Malcom Reed as Honorary Treasurer, Dr Lucy Smout Szablewska as Honorary Secretary, Azets as Independent Examiners, and Blackett, Hart and Pratt, LLP as Honorary Solicitors. Three retiring Trustees were proposed and re-elected (John Ashby, Tim Clark, John Lowe) and two co-opted Trustees were proposed and confirmed (Michael Hurlow, Sue Childs). Tribute was paid to long-standing Trustee Paul Beard who retired this year. At the meeting of Trustees in October the following were proposed and re-elected: Roger Cornwell as Vice-Chair and John Lowe as Chair.

CIO legal status. Trustees have worked hard this month to draft the new constitution and, following the AGM vote, Trustees began formalising the necessary paperwork to submit to the Charity Commission.

Recruitment/membership. At the AGM the question of the sustainability of the Trust's membership was raised and a recruitment strategy paper shared with Trustees.

Architectural Award. It was debated whether there were any strong nominees this year for an award. Possible nominations are to be discussed at the next Trustees' meeting in November.