



KEY ACTIVITIES: 12 August to 15 September 2020

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
18	4	0	2

NEWS ITEMS

Durham City Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Durham County Council issued a Decision Statement confirming that the NP can now proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum at a date *TBA (most likely not before May 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions)*.

County Durham Plan. The County Council has received the Inspector's Report and he has declared the plan sound subject to the Main Modifications.

KEY BUSINESS

Annual Review. The August Bulletin/Annual Review was printed and distributed to members, and was warmly praised for the high-quality content.

Durham Heritage Case Study. Trustees discussed Ian Green's (Chairman of Oxford Civic Society) draft report on "*Balancing Heritage and Growth in Cathedral Cities and Historic Towns: Durham Case Study*" highlighting inaccuracies and summarising comments for a response to be submitted later in September.

County Durham Plan examination. The Trust submitted a letter to DCC's Head of Development & Housing (copied to the EiP Programme Officer) voicing concerns about the inadequacy of some of DCC's summaries and responses to the Trust's comments during the recent County Plan MM's consultation. DCC responded that the EiP Inspector has been informed of the omissions and had received the Trust's full response.

Planning reform White Paper. Trustees shared comments and resources on both the "*Planning for the Future*" White Paper (consultation deadline 29 October) and the associated "*Changes to the Planning System*" paper (consultation deadline 1 October). The Trust intends to respond to both.

Annual Accounts/Report. The full 2019 Accounts have been signed off by the Examiner in time for the (*virtual*) 2020 AGM.

CURRENT CONCERNS

AGM. A draft agenda was shared for the 78th (*virtual*) AGM proposed for 19.00 on Wednesday 30 September 2020, including a short talk on the planning reform White Paper from Roberta Blackman-Woods. A document was shared on the rotation of Trustees to identify those needing re-election. The AGM agenda pages will be uploaded to the Trust's website, emailed to on-line members and hard copies posted to other members, as they contain a postal ballot option regarding the CIO status change for those unable to attend the (*virtual*) AGM.

Personalia. Trustee Lucy Smout Szablewska agreed to be nominated for the role of Honorary Secretary at the next AGM to take on this role temporarily alongside her current tasks as Membership Secretary. Trust member Francis Pritchard started attending meetings with a view to being co-opted as a new Trustee.

CIO legal status. Trustees discussed what the future roles and objectives of the Trust should be and worked carefully through the Charity Commission CIO framework documents to draft a new constitution in time for the 2020 AGM.

COVID-19. New and continuing virus restrictions mean that Trustees' meetings will continue to be on-line for the next few months.