



KEY ACTIVITIES: 21 October to 17 November 2020

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
21	3	0	2

NEWS ITEMS

DCC Interim Chief Executive. DCC announced the appointment of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources, as its Interim Chief Executive - to be confirmed at a full Council meeting in December.

ICOMOS review of the proposed Business School. This critical technical review was published on the planning portal alongside a UNESCO covering letter requesting the current application to be refused.

Remembrance display. The Parish Council and local groups worked together to produce a spectacular poppy display in Durham Market Place.

Lumiere 2021. DCC and festival producer Artichoke plan to stage the event in Durham next year from 18 to 21 November (Thursday to Sunday).

COVID-19. Following Durham City being identified as a Covid-19 'hotspot', Durham University released a new video encouraging students to follow safe Covid-19 practices, and laying down the law if they don't. The second national lockdown came into force on 5 November for 4 weeks.

North East Transport Plan consultation. DCC launched this consultation on its website with a closing date for comments of 14 January 2021.

KEY BUSINESS

Autumn Bulletin. Bulletin Number 90 was distributed to members and very well received.

December talk. Preparations are underway for Martin Roberts' talk on the historic buildings and gardens at Kepier - scheduled (via Zoom) for 7pm on 10 December.

Planning reform White Paper. The Trust's submissions to both papers were also sent to the Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee, and the Trust were invited by the Select Committee to submit further written evidence in response to specific questions.

Design masterplans for Durham. Trustees have put in a huge amount of work compiling documents on transport, heritage, landscape and other aspects of the proposed development off Bent House Lane, and entered into a collaborative agreement with the Parish Council. A request for involvement in the planning of the housing estate was sent off to DCC and opening comments were sent to Banks Property (following an initial meeting with them). Other local groups (Belmont Parish Council, Friends of Durham Green Belt, Friends of Pelaw Wood and Gilesgate Residents Association) are keen to be involved too.

Seven Hills heritage trail. The Parish Council Environment Committee is progressing this project, with one of our Trustees currently working on the map.

CURRENT CONCERNS

Personalia. At the meeting of Trustees in November Francis Pritchard was nominated to be co-opted as a new Trustee and duly appointed. Francis has been providing invaluable assistance for the Trust's Zoom meetings.

CIO legal status. The Trust's new Constitution has been formatted ready to submit to the Charity Commission with the rest of the required documentation.

Recruitment/membership. Further suggestions for recruitment were raised by Trustees and letters urging members to encourage others to join were sent out with the Autumn Bulletin. The Treasurer shared a short report on the Trust's subscription policy to start a discussion on possible changes to subscription charges and payment methods.

Publications. A detailed report on the Trust's stock of publications was produced and discussions started on how to increase sales, which have been poor this year due to the pandemic restrictions.

Website. A soft launch of the new website was suggested whilst development of the site continues.

Architectural Award. As there were no strong nominees put forward this year, it was decided to put the award aside for 2020.