



KEY ACTIVITIES: 9 December 2020 to 19 January 2021

| PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered | OBJECTIONS submitted | SUPPORT submitted | COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 41 | 7 | 3 | 1 |

NEWS ITEMS

Aykley Heads planning application. The Secretary of State sadly declined to 'call-in' this major application.

Article 4 Direction consultation. DCC opened a consultation on restricting conversions of C3 (family homes) to C4 (HMOs) in the Mount Oswald, Carrville and Belmont areas. The Parish Council has commissioned an evidence report supporting this proposal and the Trust will also be supporting it, especially for Mount Oswald.

Parking and accessibility consultation. DCC started a public consultation on this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) referenced in the adopted County Durham Plan. The deadline for comments is 26 February and the Trust will be making a response.

Student accommodation (PBSAs). Planning applications have been submitted for a 70 bed PBSA on Silver Street (*full*) and 850 bed PBSA north of Mount Oswald (*outline*). The Trust is objecting to the former and commenting on the latter, which has been 'called in' to committee.

Durham City UAD. DCC is planning to put a bid in to Historic England for funding to update the Urban Archaeological Database for the historic city. The Trust is supporting this project.

Fernhill development refused. DCC's Area Planning Committee again refused permission for these proposed executive homes in the Green Belt.

COVID-19. The third national lockdown began on 5 January - expected to last until at least mid-February. Durham University announced that, with a few exceptions, all courses would be taught on-line for the entirety of Term 2 (until after Easter).

KEY BUSINESS

Sands common land inquiry. PINS have pushed the date of the public inquiry back again until 27 April 2021, with a deadline of 19 March for objectors' bundles (documentary evidence) to be submitted.

Bent House Lane planning application. The Trust submitted a substantial response to this large housing allocation application. Many other objections and serious concerns were raised by organisations - including the Coal Authority and the Church Commissioners.

NETP consultation. The Trust submitted an extensive response to the North East Transport Plan consultation. The Trust considers this regional transport plan very ineffectual.

Dunelm House. The deadline for responses to this Listing Review process was extended to 1 February. The Trust has drafted a response to support the Listing and protect the building.

Spring Bulletin. Proposed topics have been agreed by Trustees and the draft is in progress with a copy deadline of 20 February - for distribution in early March.

Talks Programme 2021. After the success of the virtual talk in December, several possible speakers are already lined up for this year, with names and dates to be decided at the Trustees' meeting in February.

CURRENT CONCERNS

CIO legal status. The Trust's new Constitution was submitted to the Charity Commission on 4 January 2021.

Finances. Following low operational costs in 2020 and the usual inflow of subscriptions in January 2021, funds are looking healthy.

Website. The new website is nearing readiness for a soft launch proposed in mid-February, in time for the Spring Bulletin print deadline. The website has been designed to work well on all mobile devices. Trustees are looking into a new hosting contract for the website.

Personalia. The Trust were sorry to hear of the death of one of our life members in December - Sir Arnold Wolfendale - a distinguished physicist and astronomer.