



KEY ACTIVITIES: 17 February to 16 March 2021

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
30	7	0	3

NEWS ITEMS

Belmont Viaduct campaign. This campaign, led by The Friends of Keping Woods, to reopen the viaduct as a bridleway was in the press this month, gaining support from local Parish Councils, Durham Greenpeace and Durham Green Party, as well as huge public support. The Trust are happy to support this campaign. DCC, which now owns the land on both sides, shares the aspiration but warned of significant repairs/investment.

Proposed extension to the AQMA. On 22 February DCC wrote to previous consultees regarding a consultation on the proposed extension to the Durham City Air Quality Management Area. The Trust are drafting a response to urge more action to curb air pollution (deadline for comments: 31 March).

Parish Council's Blue Plaque Awards. The City of Durham Parish Council launched an appeal for nominations (8 March) for blue plaques to be installed dedicated to a particular person, building or event of significance in our parish area (closing date: 15 April). The Trust is passing suggestions on to the Parish Clerk.

KEY BUSINESS

Sands common land inquiry. The Trust's proof (documentary evidence) and summary were submitted in advance of the inquiry to be held 27-29 April. The barrister is impressed by the Trust's well-prepared case.

Local heritage list campaign. DCC have said that it will be June at the earliest before they contact stakeholders regarding this initiative to support projects developing/improving local heritage lists.

Meeting with DCC's new Corporate Director. Along with the Parish Council, the Trust had a virtual meeting with the new Director for Regeneration, Economy and Growth, Amy Harhoff. A useful introduction, but the Trust will seek a further meeting with senior officers to question the continuing 'car-centric' approach to infrastructure planning and the flaunting of policies in the new County Durham Plan.

Parking and accessibility consultation. The Trust submitted a detailed response to this SPD revision by DCC.

National planning consultations. The Trust have submitted a response to the "*Right to Regenerate: reform of the Right to Contest*" consultation, and are finalising responses to the double consultation: "*National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals*" (deadline: 26 March).

Bulletins. The Spring Bulletin (91) was distributed and well received. Trustees are planning an interim bulletin for April focussing on the May 6th Neighbourhood Plan referendum, as the Trust's AGM is likely to be pushed back again this year.

Website. Posts for the new website are encouraged on development proposals and issues spotted around the city, and it was suggested that review(s) of the latest Pevsner guide (different perspectives) could be done for upload. A photo competition as publicity for the new website has also been suggested.

Talks Programme 2021. The next virtual talk on Beaurepaire is open for invitation requests (8 April, 7 pm). The last talk by Martin Roberts on his revision of the Pevsner guide is available on-line for members to watch. Email zoom@durhamcity.org to request access to these.

Sustainability Award. Trustees are drawing up criteria and considering further ideas for a merit award for outstanding 'green' developments.

CIO legal status. Bureaucratic complications have arisen regarding the Trust's application for status change to CIO. Charity Commission advice has confirmed the adapted approach needed in the application.

Publications. The stock loss due to water damage has been assessed, with a view to put in an insurance claim. The Trust is replacing the damaged shelving in the storage cupboard at Alington House.

80th anniversary. Ideas are sought for commemorating the Trust's 80th anniversary in 2022. One suggestion is for the Trust to lead a prominent campaign about derelict buildings around the city.

Membership. Membership currently stands at 375, with 22 new members gained so far in 2021.