



## KEY ACTIVITIES: 17 March to 20 April 2021

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
24	3	1	3

### NEWS ITEMS

**Sands common land inquiry.** This public event has been announced to take place on-line from 10.00 to 16.00 on five days from 27-29 April and 11-12 May 2021. A weblink is available for virtual viewing of the inquiry.

**Local elections.** On 6 May in the Durham area there will be elections for County Councillors, a Police & Crime Commissioner and Parish Councillors. A few Trustees are standing for the City of Durham Parish Council and one is standing for the County Council.

**Neighbourhood Plan referendum.** The public vote on whether to adopt the Durham City Neighbourhood Plan to help decide planning applications in the city area will be held at the same time as the local elections (two polling cards) on 6 May. A new website (<https://dh1.org.uk/>) summarising the key points of the Plan has been set up to assist local residents to decide.

**Lottery funding for Redhills.** Durham Miners' Hall has been awarded an additional £4.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund for its restoration and renewal as a centre for culture, heritage and education.

**Launch of County Durham Pevsner.** Martin Roberts's "*County Durham*", the latest revised volume in the Pevsner "*Buildings of England*" series, was published on 23 March.

### KEY BUSINESS

**CIO status.** The Trust finally received notification of its official change to Charitable Incorporated Organisation status on 7 April 2021. The revised Constitution was circulated to Trustees and uploaded to the new website. Trustees remain the same. Trustees agreed to extend the final accounting period for the City of Durham Trust Ltd from 31 December 2020 to 7 April 2021 to avoid additional filing and costs. Other implications of the transition will be discussed at the next Trustees' meeting in May and HMRC will be updated regarding continuing gift aid claims.

**Proposed extension to the Durham City Air Quality Management Area.** The Trust submitted a response to DCC on 29 March regarding this consultation on the proposed extension. It can be viewed on our website.

**National planning consultations.** The Trust submitted responses to the double consultation: "*National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals*". Trustees are finalising a response to the Government's call for evidence on Permitted Development Rights (deadline: 30 April).

**Bulletin 92.** This supplementary bulletin was produced quickly and distributed in mid-April. It included an article on the upcoming Neighbourhood Plan referendum to assist members in their decision, as well as articles on the campaign to reopen Belmont viaduct and proposals to counter air pollution in Durham city.

**April Talk.** The virtual talk on the history and restoration work at Beaufort by Rebecca Watkins of Dream Heritage was very successful with just over 100 attendees.

**Milburngate junction.** Two Trustees spoke at DCC's virtual Planning Committee meeting regarding the variation in plans for the new junction into the Milburngate development (off Framwellgate Peth). There was an acknowledgement of the Trustees' expert submissions, and a close result, but it was still approved.

**Awards.** The University's new Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science building at Upper Mountjoy was proposed for the Trust's Architectural Award in 2021. Discussions were had to finally hand over the 2019 award plaque to the Assembly Rooms Theatre later this year (delayed due to Covid-19). Trustees also discussed awarding a Special Recognition Award to Dream Heritage for their work at Beaufort.

**Insurance.** The Trust submitted a claim for water damaged stock. The shelving in the storage cupboard at Alington House has now been replaced and the stock will be returned there shortly. New insurance cover has been taken out at a lower cost.

**Personalia.** John Lowe was nominated, seconded and duly elected as the first Chair of the new CIO. Francis Pritchard was proposed and appointed as Acting Honorary Secretary, pending ratification at the AGM.