



KEY ACTIVITIES: 21 April to 18 May 2021

| PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered | OBJECTIONS submitted | SUPPORT submitted | COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 21 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

NEWS ITEMS

County Council elections. The results from the local elections (6 May) have caused a seismic shift on Durham County Council, with Labour losing overall control for the first time since 1925. Some cabinet postholders had already left DCC before the election and the Leader of the Council resigned his post after the elections. The new Leader of the Council was elected at DCC's annual meeting on 26 May, along with announcements on the new Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members and Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees.

Neighbourhood Plan referendum. The Durham City *Neighbourhood Plan* (NP) was overwhelmingly voted in on 6 May (85.6% in favour of its adoption). Unfortunately, no-one who helped in its development remains on the city's Parish Council, so the City of Durham Trust has resolved to continue as the guardian/promoter of the NP and its companion document "*Looking Forwards*".

Sands common land inquiry. An additional one or two more days - 1 July and 7 July 2021 - have been added on to the five days already completed for this public inquiry.

Apollo Bingo Hall. A full planning application was submitted to demolish the bingo hall (Front Street New, Gilesgate) and replace it with a 145 bedroom, 4-storey Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) block. The Trust is objecting to the proposal.

KEY BUSINESS

Proposed extension to the AQMA. DCC (David Gribben) responded to the Trust on 21 April and Trustees are drafting a further enquiry regarding the outcomes of DCC's 2016 Action Plan on air quality.

Review of the new Pevsner. The Trust have published on their website a review by Douglas Pocock of the 2021 revision by Martin Roberts of Pevsner's "*The Buildings of England: County Durham*".

National consultation. The Trust submitted a response to the government's "*Call for evidence on Permitted Development Rights*" consultation on 29 April.

Publications. The stock of publications was moved back to Alington House on 19 May, and a first (small) re-order of stock was requested for the Cathedral shop.

AGM 2021. The Trust hopes to have an in-person AGM in late September at the Assembly Rooms Theatre, when a resolution vote on changes to the CIO constitution and benefits can be taken.

Website. It was proposed to have a trial Instagram page for the Trust, for members to post interesting photos of Durham city and to 'follow' other groups.

Masterplan for the Sniperley site. Following a premature 'public consultation' by one proposed developer of the Sniperley housing allocation site, the Trust have again urged DCC to consult with key community stakeholders on drawing up a masterplan for the whole site, in accordance with Policy 5 of the *County Durham Plan*, rather than a piecemeal approach. DCC has agreed that it will do this.

Footpaths at Houghall. Concern has been raised about the blocked footpaths around the Houghall campus (East Durham College) site. Trustees are looking into it, alongside the Ramblers' project to reclaim lost footpaths around Durham City. The NP companion document "*Looking Forwards*" has an aim to register new footpaths where possible.