



KEY ACTIVITIES: 19 May to 15 June 2021

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
27	5	1	3

NEWS ITEMS

DCC Joint Administration. The new Leader appointed to the cross-party administration is Cllr Amanda Hopgood (DCC's first ever female leader) with Cllr Richard Bell elected Deputy Leader. The new Cabinet met on 16 June to discuss reviews of the previous administration's decisions on the closure of the DLI museum, new County HQ on the Sands and the Aykley Heads development plans (report due by September), and also to discuss an increase to the Neighbourhood Budgets available to all 126 elected councillors.

Mayoral appointments. Cllr Arnie Simpson has taken up the annual ceremonial post of Mayor for Durham City, with Cllr David Freeman as Deputy Mayor.

Electoral boundary changes consultation. The Boundary Commission for England launched a consultation on proposed constituency changes to "reflect population shifts" (closing date: 2 August). The proposed map for County Durham shows major implications for the City of Durham constituency: www.bcereviews.org.uk.

Consultation about city centre signage. DCC are reviewing the wayfinding strategy for the city with an initial consultation (closing date: 18 June). The Trust is compiling a response.

TfN Decarbonisation Strategy. On 7 June Transport for the North launched a consultation on their draft strategy seeking to cut carbon emissions from surface transport (deadline for submissions: 31 August): <https://transportforthenorth.com/decarbonisation/>.

WHS visitor centre. Durham University is planning to move this to the refurbished Palace Green Library. The Trust is waiting to learn further details but has some concerns.

LNER timetable consultation. LNER launched a consultation on 11 June regarding proposed changes to their East coast timetable (closing date: 5 August) which affects the service from Durham station.

Covid-19. Sadly, due to rising cases of the new variant, the Government pushed back the full easing of restrictions until 19 July. Durham City has seen a recent severe spike in cases.

University Central Production Kitchen. The University is consulting on plans to move their central kitchen facilities to St Aidan's (comments by 23 June) as they intend to develop their Leazes Road site.

KEY BUSINESS

Proposed extension to the AQMA. Trustees are awaiting sight of DCC's annual report to government on air quality in the city (due at the end of June) before they comment further on the AQMA and Action Plan.

AGM 2021. Despite the delay in the final easing of restrictions, the Trust hopes to have an in-person AGM in late September at the Assembly Rooms Theatre, otherwise a Zoom version will be reverted to as in 2020.

Website. The Trust's Instagram page is now up and running, with members asked to post both positive photos of Durham city and ones showing issues around the city or unusual aspects of the city. One Trustee has started a series of blog posts on transport issues and climate change.

Subscription rate. Trustees have agreed to put forward a resolution to the next meeting on simplification of the Trust's membership categories and subscriptions, with a formal vote to be held at the 2021 AGM.

Accounts. Resolutions were agreed on the current and subsequent accounting periods to match our new CIO status. Trustees also agreed to consider moving the accounts from an accrual to a cash basis.

Publications. Pending further information on reprinting costs, the Trust is hopeful for a pay out for their insurance claim for the water-damage over the winter.

Donation. An anonymous donation of £430 was gratefully received.