



KEY ACTIVITIES: 21 July to 17 August 2021

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
23	8	0	3

NEWS ITEMS

Revisions to the NPPF. Updates were made to the National Planning Policy Framework (20 July) to enhance the role of high-quality design and beauty in decisions about development. These include changes to design principles, environmental considerations, and requirements for housing, sustainable transport and heritage aspects. Local authorities are urged to develop design codes with input from the community. The revised version includes an environmental commitment to ensure that all streets are lined with trees!

Durham Design Code. The City of Durham Parish Council are keen to produce a Supplementary Planning Document on good design - tailored to the needs of the city - and will be setting up a steering group next month to liaise on this work with DCC. The Trust will be represented on this group.

Permitted development rights. Trustees have expressed concern over the recent roll-out of permitted development rights (PDR) that allow the change of use from commercial, business and service uses (class E) to residential use (C3), without having to go through the full planning process, though prior approval is required to ensure certain environmental conditions are met. These changes came into force at the start of August and are intended to give high streets a new lease of life and increase accommodation availability. It is unclear how prior approval matters will be applied and whether the development proposals will be publicly available to view.

Cathedral Stakeholder Group. This initiative was set up by the Cathedral to gauge the opinions of other local groups regarding their masterplan. The Trust has two Trustees attending the meetings.

DCC Chief Executive. John Hewitt, who has been interim chief executive since December 2020, is due to be formally appointed to the role at a DCC meeting next month.

Consultation on the cost of leisure centres. DCC have launched a public consultation to collect views on how to improve access to Council leisure centres for low-income households (closing date is 30 September).

Big Bus Conversation. Regional transport leaders have launched a new region-wide campaign to gather feedback ahead of a bid to access a national £3bn funding pot with the aim of persuading people to switch sustainably to the bus. See www.transportnortheast.gov.uk/bigbusconversation (closing date: 10 September).

KEY BUSINESS

Electoral boundary changes consultation. The Trust submitted a highly detailed response on 29 July.

Footpaths at Houghall. Following a cautious response from East Durham College to an enquiry letter from the Trust, Trustees plan to get in touch with the Ramblers to gauge their view of the rights of way issues around the site.

Annual Review. This is currently being drafted and will be printed and delivered in October in time to announce the AGM details.

AGM 2021. This year's AGM will be in-person on Wednesday 27 October from 19.00 to 21.00 at the Assembly Rooms Theatre (capacity 170), with an option to take part electronically (via Zoom) if preferred. Voting on the resolutions for subscription rate change will simply be by show of hands. The annual report and accounts will be presented, Trustees re-elected/proposed and the Honorary Treasurer and Secretary appointed. The delayed 2019 Architectural Award will be presented to the Assembly Rooms Theatre and Douglas Pocock will speak on "A City in Trust: Eight Decades of Caring for Durham".

Book review. The Trust have arranged for Katie Mountain, a member of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, to write a review of "Roman County Durham: The Eastern Hinterland of Hadrian's Wall" by David J P Mason. The review will be posted on the Trust's website. It should be complementary to Douglas' review of Martin Roberts' edition of *Pevsner* that is already there.