



KEY ACTIVITIES: 18 August to 21 September 2021

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
28	6	3	2

NEWS ITEMS

Fire at Milburngate. On 15 September there was a large fire in a cavity wall at the Milburngate construction site with roads closed in the area, traffic gridlocked and residents advised to keep windows closed due to the toxic fumes. Thankfully no-one was badly injured.

DLI museum/DCC's new HQ. Options for the future display of the DLI collection will be discussed at a Special Cabinet meeting at DCC on 29 September, when the review report will be presented to Councillors. A review of options for the future use of DCC's new HQ at the Sands will also be presented. The press and public are excluded from parts of this meeting.

University deferral scheme. Due to a substantial over-subscription of freshers for the coming academic year, Durham University has offered £5,000 deferral incentives to students from an expanded list of subjects, and the University is arranging extra accommodation at PBSAs around the city (to be college annexes in effect).

Heritage Open Days. These ran from 10 to 19 September with free access to some of Durham's hidden gems.

Government re-shuffle. Michael Gove MP was announced as the new Secretary of State at the renamed Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Durham riverbanks. In mid-September DCC started maintenance work on areas along the riverside to improve the safety and appearance of the pathways, and (working with the Environment Agency) to clear the weirs of built-up debris. Areas known to be home to otters will be left intact.

New Elvet Bridge. Repair work is in the final stages, with the bridge on schedule to reopen in October.

Silver Street PBSA. The application for the controversial 9-apartment (58-bed) PBSA above the former M&S store had a Planning Committee hearing on 14 September. The Trust made representations in the restricted time allowed for hearing 3rd parties, but Councillors on the Sub-Committee determined and approved it.

Move campaign. On 21 September DCC launched a campaign to get residents moving and feeling good (particularly after the Covid lockdowns), with access to free activities at home, outdoors and leisure centres.

KEY BUSINESS

Housing allocation sites. On 24 August amendments were uploaded for the outline application for the H6 allocation site off Bent House Lane, including an increase in dwellings (up to 500). The Trust have submitted a further robust objection. On 10 September a hybrid application for a small part of the H5 allocation site at Sniperley was made available to the public, including a FPA for up to 370 dwellings. The Trust will be drafting an objection to this premature application due to the lack of a masterplan for the whole site.

Durham Design Code and Tree Management SPDs. Trustees are included in the working group for these supplementary planning documents that the Parish Council are drafting.

Climate Emergency. Trustees are keen to draw up a list of actions the Trust can take regarding climate mitigation within our work.

North Road retail. The Trust shares concerns about the disruption to shops on North Road from the overcrowding on pavements next to the temporary bus stops, so will attend a meeting of the Parish Business Committee to discuss the issue (27 September).

Annual Review. The final draft has been shared to ensure timely printing and distribution before the AGM. Volunteers have been gathered to restart hand-delivery of bulletins in the Durham City area to save costs.

Accounts. The final version of the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented at the October meeting.

AGM 2021. All retiring Trustees have indicated their willingness to continue as Trustees.

Autumn Lecture. Martin Roberts has offered to do a public talk on 11 December 2021 on "*Durham Riverbanks: a planned historic landscape*" (venue to be arranged).

Durham City Seven Hills Trail map. Trustees agreed to contribute £300 towards this excellent trail map being produced by the Parish Council.

Architectural Award 2021. Trustees are drawing up a shortlist of nominations to be discussed at the October meeting.