



## KEY ACTIVITIES: 20 October to 16 November 2021

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
22	8	1	2

### NEWS ITEMS

**Crook Hall.** It was announced in the local press that the National Trust are in the process of purchasing Crook Hall and Gardens.

**Redhills.** On 21 October Durham Miners' Association handed over ownership of the Grade II Listed Miners' Hall to the people of the Durham coalfield. Board members of the new Redhills Charitable Incorporated Organisation will serve as stewards on behalf of the community. The restoration of Redhills will cost £7.25m, with DCC providing £1.1m in matched funding and a further £1.65m pledged by trades unions and other supporters. Building work is due to get underway early in 2022.

**COP26 event in Durham.** On 6 November a Climate Action Fair was held in the Market Place, with speeches, music, debates and stalls promoting sustainable lifestyles. Members of the Trust were involved.

**Masterplans for Durham City and Sniperley Park.** On 9 November, DCC announced a series of draft town masterplans and one for the Sniperley housing development, to be discussed by Cabinet on 17 November. Public consultations will run on them from 29 November 2021 to 14 January 2022.

**Live streaming of Council meetings.** On 10 November, DCC announced that from 1 December only meetings of the Full County Council, Cabinet and County Planning Committees will be live streamed. The Trust is writing to DCC to ask for this valuable service to continue for all planning committee meetings.

**Fernhill stables redevelopment.** On 10 November, the planning application to replace the timber stables with a 4-bedroom dwelling was refused due to its impact on the Green Belt. The Trust had objected and made representations at the Central East Planning Committee meeting.

### KEY BUSINESS

**2021 AGM.** The 79<sup>th</sup> AGM was held (in-person and via Zoom) on 27 October in the Assembly Rooms Theatre. The 2019 Architectural Award plaque was formally handed over to the Theatre Manager before the formal AGM business, and afterwards Dr Douglas Pocock gave an excellent illustrated talk on "*A City in trust: Eight decades of caring for Durham*". The Trust's annual accounts were presented; members voted unanimously to level up the subscription rates; and Honorary Officers and Trustees were proposed and elected.

**Talks Programme 2021.** The venue for the Trust's final talk in 2021 has been confirmed. Martin Roberts will present a talk on "*The Riverbanks of the Durham Peninsula: From Defensive Moat to Romantic Landscape*" from 2pm on Saturday 11 December at Elvet Riverside room 141. A link is available to watch via Zoom.

**Personalia.** At the AGM in October, the following were proposed and elected: Dr Malcom Reed as Honorary Treasurer, and Francis Pritchard as Honorary Secretary. Four retiring Trustees were proposed and re-elected: Liz Brown, Richard Hird, Matthew Phillips and Prof. Barbara Ravelhofer; and one co-opted Trustee was proposed and confirmed: Francis Pritchard. John Lowe was proposed and re-elected as Chair at the following Trustees' meeting on 16 November.

**Autumn Bulletin.** The 8-page Bulletin 93 has been distributed. It includes the AGM 2021 minutes and a page advertising the Trust's Christmas cards, as well as the interesting articles and news items, particularly about the Riverbanks.

**Quality of Reports to Planning Committees.** Trustees are concerned about the lack of adherence to policies in the County Durham Plan and Durham City Neighbourhood Plan in recent Officer reports to planning committees. Ideas have been shared for a letter to be submitted to DCC expressing concerns.

**Observatory project.** Trustees are interested to chat with Prof. Martin Ward regarding his challenging proposal to renovate Durham's Observatory to be used as the Arnold Wolfendale Science Outreach Centre (as a tribute to the 14<sup>th</sup> Astronomer Royal who died last year).

**Local Heritage List.** Trustees have written up submissions for a number of suggestions for 'heritage to protect' around the city area. DCC has extended the deadline for submissions to 17 December 2021.

**Architectural Award 2021.** The Trustees' subgroup now considers there are enough candidates for a 2021 award, and assessment visits to the contenders will be arranged shortly.