



KEY ACTIVITIES: 17 November to 14 December 2021

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

NEWS ITEMS

Leamside line. Disappointment was expressed when plans to re-open this local rail link were scrapped by the Government. It followed an earlier announcement that the eastern leg of HS2 would be cut, and the promised Northern Powerhouse rail link between Leeds and Manchester would run partly on existing tracks.

Storm Arwen impact. A major incident was declared across County Durham in the wake of Storm Arwen that hit the region on 26 November causing extensive power cuts, with the army drafted in to assist in rural areas.

Sniperley Park outline permission. On 23 November, the planning application by Co. Durham Land LLP for the largest section of this County Durham Plan housing allocation site was validated on DCC's planning portal. It is for up to 1,550 dwellings, a local Centre, public house, primary school and associated landscaping/infrastructure. This is in addition to two applications submitted by Bellway Homes for the site.

County Durham Partnership event. This annual event was held on 26 November on the theme of "Environment and Climate Change - Our Local Response", with journalist Tom Heap as the keynote speaker.

Durham Lumiere and Christmas Festival. The Lumiere light festival ran from 18 to 21 November with installations spread across the county as well as the city. Durham Christmas Festival ran from 3 to 5 December with a craft marquee on Palace Green and other stalls in the Cathedral Cloisters/Market Place.

Covid-19 'Plan B' winter response. In response to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, the Government announced that from 10 December there would be a return to face coverings in most indoor settings and a return to working from home where possible from 13 December. Residents were urged to get their booster if they have not yet done so.

Selective licensing schemes. DCC's proposal to regulate private rented properties in designated areas was approved by the Government on 30 November. The powers will come into effect on 1 April 2022.

Seven Hills Trail map. The Durham City Seven Hills Trail map was officially launched at Durham Town Hall on 9 December.

Live streaming of Council meetings. On 14 December, in response to the Government's Covid-19 'Plan B' guidance, DCC announced that from 15 December there would be a return to live streaming for most of their committee meetings.

KEY BUSINESS

Roman book review. The review by Katie Mountain of Dr David Mason's "Roman County Durham: The Eastern Hinterland of Hadrian's Wall" was uploaded to the Trust's website on 22 November.

Durham City Framework and Sniperley Park Masterplan. Following the approval of this Framework and Masterplan by DCC's Cabinet on 17 November, Trustees have started work on responses to the public consultations which run from 29 November 2021 to 14 January 2022.

Quality of Reports to Planning Committees. The Trust submitted a letter of concern to DCC on 3 December, with no response yet.

Trust's website blog. An article on "Transport Decarbonisation & Sniperley Park" was posted on 7 December.

Martin Roberts' lecture. On 11 December Martin Roberts presented his talk on "The Riverbanks of the Durham Peninsula: From Defensive Moat to Romantic Landscape". Attendees watched in-person and via Zoom and it was very warmly received.

Observatory project. Trustees are supportive of Prof. Martin Ward's project to renovate Durham's Observatory to be used as an outreach centre to encourage young people in this field, and are suggesting ideas for the project.

Kingsgate Bridge. Trustees are concerned about the blocked gutters at the bridge potentially causing more damage to the concrete and hope to liaise with Elvet Residents' Association to submit concerns.

Marking the Trust's 80th anniversary. The sub-group for this task has shared ten preliminary ideas for marking this anniversary (9 November 2022) and Trustees have suggested others, with work starting on them.

Local Heritage List. Trustees have submitted a number of suggestions to DCC for 'heritage to protect'.