



KEY ACTIVITIES: 15 December 2021 to 18 January 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
29	17	0	1

NEWS ITEMS

Roger Norris. The former Durham Cathedral Librarian died on 19 December, aged 80. He was a former Trustee and Honorary Secretary of the City of Durham Trust (CDT). Other community roles included chairing the Durham Council of Churches, President of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland, and chairing the Trustees of the Durham City Freemen for 20 years until 2015. An obituary has been posted on the Trust's website.

Consett to Newcastle rail link. In December, DCC submitted an outline business case to the Department for Transport to re-establish a passenger rail connection between the two locations, including a new rail station at Consett and intermediate stations along different route options.

Durham boathouse fire. On 21 December the Van Mildert College boathouse was completely destroyed by a fire, causing £100k worth of damage including lost equipment. The fire service assessed the fire as deliberate.

Durham County Record Office. From January the county archive's search room temporarily closes to visitors to allow staff to begin packing the extensive collections of records for a move to the new History Centre.

Holiday 'pods' in Shincliffe. On 11 January, despite considerable opposition, Planning Committee Councillors voted (7:6) to approve an application to put four shipping container holiday 'pods' in the Green Belt next to Poplar Tree Garden Centre (against the advice of Planning Officers). DCC Planning have imposed conditions.

Apollo Bingo demolition. On 11 January, despite local opposition and a failure to assess the "need" for the PBSA, Planning Committee Councillors voted to approve an application to demolish the bingo hall in Gilesgate Moor to build a 4-storey PBSA. Due to questions over procedure, the decision has not yet been formalised.

Library services consultation. DCC have launched a "Libraries for You" public consultation to garner views on what is needed from the county's library service. The closing date for comments is 1 April 2022.

UK City of Culture 2025. DCC are due to submit their bid for City of Culture at the end of January, with the winner due to be announced in May. The Trust is adding its name to the organisations supporting the bid.

KEY BUSINESS

Durham City Framework and Sniperley Park Masterplan. Trustees submitted lengthy responses to the public consultations on these documents, commending proposals but suggesting enhancements.

Planning responses. Trustees produced a lot of responses to applications over the festive season, including a lengthy objection to the proposed development for the larger part of the Sniperley Park site.

Riverbanks project. The Trust are making a feature on work around the riverbanks this year, with articles in the bulletins/website and Trustees involved in the Riverscape Project meetings.

Definition of HMO/PBSA. Following recent confusing planning application decisions, Trustees are seeking clarification from DCC on these definitions and what conditions need to be met for an application to be considered under CDP Policy 16.2 or 16.3. Assessing an identified "need" for a PBSA has been skipped over by developers recently.

Spring Bulletin. The draft has been started for this and an assessment of exact numbers needed for a print run to avoid wastage.

YouTube channel. The Trust have decided to set up their own channel to share video clips, eg for talks and guided walks.

Marking the Trust's 80th anniversary. Further discussions have been had on the main ideas for this and work started. The first of a series of monthly articles on buildings/architecture protected in the city will be posted to the website this month. A handsome replacement bench has been placed in the Botanic Garden and is awaiting installation of three commemorative plaques.

Personalia. Our Honorary Treasurer Dr Malcolm Reed is retiring after the 2022 AGM, so initial discussions have been had about advertising the post to the Trust's wider membership. Sadly, another Trustee, Liz Brown, has resigned with immediate effect due to a conflict of interest with her work as a County Councillor. We wish her well.