



## KEY ACTIVITIES: 19 January to 15 February 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
19	8	1	1

### NEWS ITEMS

**Storms Malik and Corrie.** Another major incident was declared in the county following the impact of the storm-force winds in the region in late January. Many power lines were brought down, roads and footpaths blocked by fallen trees and properties damaged.

**Sniperley Park amendments.** Bellway Homes submitted amended plans, including a Transport Assessment, for their application (21/02360/FPA) for 370 houses to the north and east of Sniperley Farm. Trustees plan to submit a further objection.

**Apollo Bingo demolition.** New documents have appeared on the planning portal (21/01611/FPA), including one (dated before the committee meeting) from the University objecting to this application. The consultation date is now extended to 24 February. It is presumed that the previous decision will now be scratched due to the procedural errors and a future committee meeting will be held to re-assess the application.

**Conservation Area Management Plan.** The Parish Council are partnering with DCC to fund the development of a management plan for the Durham City Conservation Area. DCC is aiming to draft a document to go out to public consultation at the end of 2022, with the intention of adoption by the end of March 2023. DCC is yet to decide if this ought to be an SPD to the County Durham Plan or simply adopted as guidance.

**Durham riverbanks.** An additional project, mainly funded by the Environment Agency, has been started: the Durham Peninsula Riverbanks Regeneration Study.

**Rocking Horse Rehearsal Rooms.** A petition was started on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) to save this recording studio from demolition (planning application 21/04311/FPA), with a few thousand signatures already.

**DCC Economic Strategy Consultation.** On 31 January, DCC launched “*Our big Econ-versation*” - a public consultation on DCC’s future economic strategy for the county (closing date is 22 April).

**Seven Hills trail.** The Parish Council officially launched this walking trail leaflet which takes in the seven hills around Durham City in seven miles (11km), also taking in Durham ‘treasures’ including Wharton Park, Flass Vale LNR, Redhills, the battle site at Neville’s Cross, the Botanic Garden, Great High Wood, Maiden Castle iron age fort and the World Heritage Site (WHS) on the peninsula. The Trust donated towards the printing costs.

**Crook Hall.** The sale of the hall to the National Trust appears to have gone through, with the National Trust planning to open the medieval hall, garden and café to the public.

**Redhills.** A Chief Executive, Nick Malyan, has been appointed to lead the restoration of Durham Miners Hall.

**Jubilee weekend celebration.** The Parish Council are planning, amongst other things, to have a display of photos to mark the Queen’s reign and the Trust has offered to help.

### KEY BUSINESS

**Student numbers and accommodation.** Trustees are concerned about the increase in Durham University student numbers well beyond the ‘tipping point’ for community cohesion and balance. A blog article on the subject was uploaded to the Trust’s website on 22 January and Trustees contributed to a Palatinate article.

**Appointment of Independent Examiner.** The Trust’s current level of turnover means the Charity Commission does not require independent examination of its accounts; however, it was decided to retain the services of Azets to provide continuity for a changeover of Honorary Treasurer in 2022.

**Spring Bulletin.** It was agreed to add an A4 illustrated flyer on initiatives on the river and riverbanks, including a call-out for volunteers for the Wear Rivers Trust’s WINNS project to clear invasive plants.

**Marking the Trust’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.** The first of a website blog series on assets protected in the city was posted about Brown’s Boathouse, and it was suggested that the Trust should also highlight assets lost to the city. Plans are progressing to have commemorative cards printed, for sale and for publicity use. A title has been suggested for the day conference: “*The WHS and the Planning Environment*”. Prof. Jon Gluyas’ talk on “*Fuelling Durham – past, present and future*” has been advertised for 2 April 2022. A date of 24 September was suggested for the 2022 AGM, and Trustees are keen to have a stall at the WHS festival on 18 April.