



KEY ACTIVITIES: 16 March to 19 April 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
45	11	2	3

NEWS ITEMS

UK City of Culture 2025 shortlist. On 19 March, County Durham was included in the four locations unveiled as finalists on the shortlist to be the UK City of Culture 2025.

Durham Miners' Gala. Durham Miners' Association has confirmed that, after being cancelled for the last two years due to the pandemic, *The Big Meeting* will return to the city on Saturday 9 July 2022 and the event will be dedicated to key workers.

Great British Railways HQ bid. DCC has submitted a bid to house the new national rail body in County Durham (Durham City/Darlington), in conjunction with its quest to be UK City of Culture 2025. In total 42 towns/cities have sent bids in.

Crook Hall. After taking ownership of the Grade I-listed hall and gardens on 28 March, the National Trust have announced that the gardens, café and parts of the house, including the medieval hall, will re-open this summer (date TBC). They also hope to develop a longer-term project that will improve access to the National Trust owned Moorhouse Woods by creating a nature-rich green corridor between the two sites.

Redhills energy efficiency. Local organisations have commended plans by the Redhills project to reduce the future energy use of the Grade II-listed Miners' Hall, including a ground source heat pump for the main building heat. A great example of how energy/carbon savings can be achieved in an old building; particularly apt given the history of the DMA and the issue of fuel poverty in former coal mining areas in the county.

Ecological Emergency declared. At a meeting on 6 April, DCC's Cabinet agreed to declare an ecological emergency for County Durham, with an initial action plan to be provided within six months.

Day of prayer for Ukraine. Durham Cathedral held a day of reflection on 11 April in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and all those who are impacted by war. There was a free public lecture on the war in Ukraine and later on the historic building was lit up in blue and yellow when a public vigil was held on Palace Green.

Memorandum of Understanding updated. On 12 April Durham University and DCC signed an updated MoU to level up opportunities across the county and strengthen the economic recovery from the pandemic.

Future of HQ building to be discussed. DCC's Cabinet will meet on 27 April to discuss the DCC HQ Alternative Options Assessment. Members will be asked to agree to the sale of the building constructed on The Sands to Durham University for use as a Business School. They will also be asked to agree a business case for DCC's office and civic accommodation to be located at Aykley Heads, along with office accommodation in Stanley.

KEY BUSINESS

Spring Talk. The talk by Jon Gluyas on 2 April "*Fuelling Durham - Past, Present and Future*" was well-received.

Key Stakeholders meeting. Trustees attended a briefing event by the University's Estates and Buildings team on 24 March regarding their plans to use the DCC HQ on the Sands for a Business School.

Electoral boundary changes consultation. The Trust submitted comments to the secondary public consultation on electoral boundary changes affecting local constituencies.

Active Travel England stakeholder survey. The Trust submitted a response to this national consultation on the role of ATE in the spatial planning system.

World Heritage Day 2022. The Trust had a stall at this WHS festival on Palace Green, selling the Trust's publications/cards and promoting the work of the Trustees.

Marking the Trust's 80th anniversary. A venue has been secured for the proposed WHS day conference event, which will also link in with UNESCO's celebration of their 50th year, and the question on how the Trust can help shape Durham's WHS in the future.

Replacement Treasurer. Trustees were urged to suggest a possible volunteer for this critical post which will become vacant in September.

Letter in the Durham Advertiser. The Trust had a letter published in the *Comment & Opinion* section of the local newspaper regarding energy efficiency at the Sniperley Park housing development.