



KEY ACTIVITIES: 16 February to 15 March 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
21	8	3	1

NEWS ITEMS

Storms Dudley and Eunice. Some homes in the region were again left without power after these storms brought gale force winds and snow, with travel disruption and further trees felled.

Observatory Hill access blocked. Local walkers were shocked to see that the well-used paths around the Local Green Space at Observatory Hill had been blocked off with wire fencing, and the hill field had been ploughed for the first time in many years.

Live streaming of DCC meetings. From 1 March, DCC reverted to only providing live streaming for selected meetings (Full Council, Cabinet, the County Planning Committee and other exceptional meetings).

Apollo Bingo demolition. The Central and East Planning Committee members voted 9-6 (at the second time of asking) to approve this controversial application for a 4-storey PBSA in Gilesgate Moor.

Electoral boundary changes consultation. The Boundary Commission for England has launched a secondary public consultation on its proposed map of constituencies, where people can submit local views on what others have said in the first consultation (closes 4 April 2022). See: <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

Covid-19. From 24 February the legal restrictions relating to coronavirus ended in England, with no requirement to self-isolate, and free lateral flow testing ending from 1 April. Caution is still advised as cases are on the rise again in the region.

Anti-Social Noise Procedure. The University has worked with DCC and Durham Constabulary to put a new procedure in place, codifying the action that can be taken when noise from student properties causes a disturbance in the city: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/news-events/latest-news/2022/02/anti-social-noise-policy/>

Ruth First House mural restored. The City of Durham Parish Council have restored the mural on Providence Row dedicated to Ruth First, a famous anti-apartheid campaigner, writer, journalist and lecturer.

Invasion of Ukraine. DCC have been flying the Ukrainian flag at County Hall as a gesture of support for the people of Ukraine and have ended the town twinning link with Kostroma in Russia. Many community groups and charities have been collecting donations and organising events to raise funds for humanitarian action.

Night-hub at St Nic's. Durham City Safety Group opened The Hub @ St Nicholas' Church in the Market Place, to provide assistance to anyone who is unwell, vulnerable, or a victim of a crime. The hub is open until late on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights and is staffed by security and a support worker.

World Heritage Day 2022. The Durham WHS team is planning to celebrate this festival on 18th April with a range of activities, events, stalls and tours on Palace Green (12.00 to 18.00). The Trust will be represented at this event.

DLI Museum plans. DCC's Cabinet met recently to discuss the DLI Museum proposals and agreed to develop the plans to refurbish and reopen it as an exhibition centre, gallery and hospitality venue.

KEY BUSINESS

Spring Bulletin. Bulletin No. 94 and the accompanying A4 flyer on initiatives on the river and riverbanks was emailed or posted out to members.

Marking the Trust's 80th anniversary. The 2022 AGM date has now been confirmed for 24 September, with John Pendlebury agreeing to give a talk on Thomas Sharp. The Trust's commemorative bench at the Botanic Garden now has the three plaques in place. It was decided to hold a celebration event in St Nicholas' Church on Wednesday 9 November (the actual anniversary date of the Trust's foundation). Two drawings of Crook Hall have been provided for commemorative cards/postcards. Possible speakers have been suggested for a conference event to explore the difficulties faced by World Heritage Sites such as Durham in the current planning context.

Bequest. A generous donation of £500 was made to the Trust from the estate of the late Gwladlyn Ashby.