



KEY ACTIVITIES: 20 April to 17 May 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
21	5	-	1

NEWS ITEMS

Sale of DCC's new HQ building. Following the agreement by DCC's Cabinet (27 April) to sell the Waterside Building to the University for use as a business school (excluding the surface car park area and multi storey car park), a change of use application has been submitted. The Trust will be sending in comments.

New County Durham history centre. On 6 May the name for this new venue was revealed as: *The Story at Mount Oswald*. The building project is converting the Grade II listed Mount Oswald Manor House, alongside a modern extension, to house historic records and collections. The venue is due to open to the public in 2023.

UK City of Culture 2025 shortlist. Judges from the Dept of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport visited County Durham on 9 May. The winning city/county is due to be announced in late May.

Great British Railways HQ bid. The shortlist of locations competing to be the new national rail body HQ is also due to be announced later in May.

Aykley Heads housing development extension. Despite significant local objections, including from the Trust, members of the Central and East Area Planning Committee voted (8-5) to approve the application for an additional 48 houses to be built on the former Skid Pan at Aykley Heads. Persimmon Homes were criticised for the lack of sustainable energy/transport options in their design and on the impact on the Green Belt.

Vehicular access to Durham Market Place. Local stakeholders have been asked by DCC for ideas to improve the traffic control and emergency services access around the Market Place.

Controversial immigration centre. On 14 May protesters from around the UK gathered on Palace Green to demonstrate against the imprisonment of women at the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre near Consett, which began detaining women last December.

History Now! Talk series. The University's History Dept held a talk on *Understanding Ukraine* (Durham Gala) on 3 May, and plan a discussion event (Durham Town Hall) on 24 May on *The Miners' Strike in County Durham: A Family and Community Conversation* to share memories of the strike and discuss its legacy.

Eco events. On 16 June, which is also Clean Air Day, Durham University's Greenspace Festival will be held at Collingwood College from 2-7 pm. It will also be the first day of the 3-day Footprint Conference to be held in Durham Town Hall.

KEY BUSINESS

Inauguration of the new bench. On 7 May the Trust inaugurated the replacement memorial bench (with new plaques) at the Botanic Gardens when Trustees and friends met for an informal picnic. The three plaques commemorate: Desmond Kelly, Roger Norris and the City of Durham Trust's 80th Anniversary this year.

Visit to Binchester Roman Fort. On 12 May Trustees had a guided tour of this site (Vinovia) conducted by Dr David Mason, Durham County Archaeologist.

CDP Policy 16.2 - stakeholders' meeting. On 17 May Trustees attended a virtual meeting with DCC and the University to discuss the implementation of County Durham Plan Policy 16.2 on PBSAs. All sides agreed that they are still learning how to apply the policy effectively and that a stakeholders' dialogue is worth repeating.

Class N Exemptions data. The Trust received the most recent database and interactive map from DCC on the Class N Exemptions in Durham (by postcode), but Trustees noticed discrepancies. DCC officers apologised and corrected the data conversion errors, so the April 2022 data map is now correct.

Promoting the "Looking Forwards" initiatives. Trustees have agreed to look at promoting one or two of the initiatives in this companion paper to the Neighbourhood Plan, on themes that align with the Trust's aims.

DCC SPD consultations. The deadline for responses to the consultations for the three Supplementary Planning Documents (Parking & Accessibility, Developer Contributions and Residential Amenity) plus the Highway Design Guide modifications has been extended to 7 June. The Trust is submitting responses.

Queen's Jubilee beacon. Trustees have been invited by the Parish Council to attend a Platinum Jubilee reception (2 June) followed by the lighting of a Jubilee beacon on Palace Green at 9.45 pm.