



KEY ACTIVITIES: 22 June to 19 July 2022

| PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered | OBJECTIONS submitted | SUPPORT submitted | COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 21 | 4 | 2 | - |

NEWS ITEMS

Sniperley Park masterplan. On 22 June, DCC's Sniperley Park Masterplan and Healthy Active Travel Connectivity Plan were formally approved and adopted. There is no further public consultation but the existing applications on the development site will now need to be assessed against this masterplan. Trustees are hoping to meet with DCC to discuss shortcomings.

Great British Railways HQ bid. Unfortunately Durham City did not make the shortlist, neither did Darlington, but Newcastle and York are still in the running.

The Waterside Building. On 5 July, Durham University gained planning approval for its application to change the use of the previously intended DCC HQ on The Sands into a Business School.

School upgrades. Two schools in the city, Framwellgate and St Leonard's, are set for refurbishment/upgrades to their facilities via the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme.

Durham Miners' Gala. The 'Big Meeting' took place on 9 July after being cancelled for the last two years because of the pandemic. More than 200,000 people were reported to have packed the streets of Durham and the Racecourse ground, with at least 60 Durham miners' banners and 50 brass bands participating.

Community resilience. On 13 July, DCC's Cabinet considered a report reviewing the response to Storm Arwen and approved an improvement plan for managing incidents and improving community resilience.

Road closure. From 15 July the B6300 (Browney Lane) will be closed for six months to allow for major stabilisation work at Burnigill Bank due to landslips. The road runs between Meadowfield and Sunderland Bridge and DCC have warned that delays are likely along the A690 and A167 due to traffic displacement.

Bent House Lane housing development. Two developers (Miller Homes and Barratt Homes) have submitted a reserved matters application to DCC for the construction of 470 dwellings for most of the allocated housing site off Sherburn Road. The Trust will be submitting further objections to the reduced quality proposal.

Heatwave. The region had an amber weather warning for extreme heat from 17 to 19 July, with temperatures in Durham reaching 37°C and other areas of the UK exceeding 40°C for the first time. Electricity supplies in many parts of our region were disrupted and transport systems affected.

KEY BUSINESS

"Looking Forwards" document: Initiative 5. Trustees have formed a sub-committee to assess actions the Trust can make on this work to identify, protect and enhance heritage and green assets and views in the city.

Riverbanks projects. The Trust was represented at a steering group meeting discussing investigations planned for the two city centre weirs and a funding bid for work to improve the riverbanks in the peninsula area, including a more effective fish pass and work on invasive species/flood resilience.

WHS Conference. An updated outline for this event to mark the Trust's 80th anniversary has been agreed by Trustees, with shorter sessions over a half day, and time now available for Trust-specific ancillary events.

Historic Staircases booklet. Trustees are considering reprinting this booklet to tie in with Martin Roberts' talk later in the year.

Coal Stories book launch. On 13 July the Durham Energy Institute (DEI) held a formal launch event for this industrial trail booklet, with our Trustee and DEI Fellow Dr Adrian Green giving a very interesting lecture alongside Prof. Sandra Bell.

DCC consultation on changes to taxi licensing. On 17 July the Trust submitted a response to this public consultation, urging strengthening of the policies to encourage a move to low emissions vehicles and better environmental awareness/practices to reduce air pollution issues.

Website posts. A number of posts have been uploaded to our website this month covering local events, campaigns, the Parish Council's commemorative blue plaques scheme, and our Architectural Awards.

Annual accounts. The draft accounts for the financial year ending on 7 April 2022 have been approved by Trustees and will now be submitted to the Trust's appointed Examiner for scrutiny.

2022 AGM. The date for this has been set for Saturday 1 October at 2pm (*venue TBC*).