



KEY ACTIVITIES: 17 August to 20 September 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
22	4	-	-

LOCAL MATTERS

Death of Her Majesty the Queen. A service of remembrance was held in the Cathedral on 17 September and a moment of reflection was held on 18 September. Books of condolence were available for people to sign at DCC venues around the county. In line with Royal Protocol the Proclamation for King Charles III was read by the High Sheriff from Durham Town Hall to the public in the Market Place on 11 September.

'Big Econ-versation' continues. DCC consulted on their new Inclusive Economic Strategy earlier this year and are now seeking final views on the draft via an on-line survey. The closing date is 30 September.

More EV charging stations. DCC announced that the county will be one of nine areas to benefit from the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme to improve EV infrastructure. The £1.25M allocated to the county will be used to create faster on-street charging points and larger fuel station style charging hubs.

Tour of Britain. Stage 3 of the Tour of Britain cycle race started in the city (6 September) drawing big crowds.

City centre improvements. DCC have allocated £1.4M for the repair and maintenance of footpaths and road surfaces in Durham City. A specialist cleaning team was also due to begin work in the Market Place, before working on Magdalene Steps and Old Elvet Bridge.

KEY BUSINESS

Sniperley Park appeals. The developers for this huge urban extension housing site have worked together to submit appeals against non-determination for the planning applications that they submitted prematurely - before a masterplan was finalised by DCC. Trustees are involved in the appeals process.

Demolition of listed police mast. Durham Constabulary have submitted an application to demolish the Grade II listed telecommunications mast (designed by Ove Arup in the 1960s), which they were conditioned to re-erect following permission given to dismantle it in 2012 to make way for extra housing at their old HQ site. The sections of the reinforced concrete structure have been left to 'weather' in the long grass on site since 2017, with no enforcement action by DCC. The Trust will be submitting an objection.

Historical planning records. Trustees were concerned that historical records, charting decisions and planning issues around the city, may be lost or inaccessible as personal custodians move on. They are collecting records to pass on to the County Records Office for safekeeping.

Demolition of Dryburn House. An application has again been submitted to demolish this listed building to make way for a new Emergency Dept and a car park. The Trust has objected again.

Rushford Court development. Durham University, in partnership with Unite Students, plan further work at the existing student campus at Rushford Court on North Road. A public viewing consultation was held on 13 September. Trustees who attended considered it an inadequate event and will scrutinise the planning application(s) when they arise.

2022 AGM. The AGM will be held on 1 October (14.00) at the Assembly Rooms Theatre, when the Trust's Architectural Award for 2020/21 will be presented to the Cathedral in recognition of their new glazed lobbies. After the formal agenda John Pendlebury, Prof. of Urban Conservation at Newcastle University, will present a talk about Thomas Sharp, the town planner. Members are also invited to the Durham Museum exhibition, "How Historic Durham Survived the 20th Century", charting the role of the Trust in preserving Durham City.

Personalia. Two Trustees are due to be re-elected at the AGM and two are retiring, so new Trustees will be proposed at the AGM. Francis Pritchard, who is the current Honorary Secretary, has kindly volunteered to also take on the role of Honorary Treasurer when Dr Malcolm Reed steps down at the AGM.

2021-22 Annual Review and Annual Report. The superb Annual Review has been distributed to all members via hard or electronic copy. The Annual Report to the Charity Commission was approved by Trustees.

The Trust's 80th Anniversary. Final plans are being drawn up for the WHS Conference at the Pemberton Rooms (5 November) and the informal Civic Reception at St Nics Church (9 November).

Media profile. Trustees have begun to discuss ideas for improving the Trust's media profile and cultivating key contacts in the local press.