



KEY ACTIVITIES: 21 September to 18 October 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
27	8	-	-

LOCAL MATTERS

DCC bid for Investment Zone. As well as NETPark in Sedgfield, DCC identified Aykley Heads in Durham as a suitable fit for this tax incentives scheme, which could bypass the County Durham Plan policy requirements for the sensitive site. With Westminster reshuffling, it is unclear whether the scheme will go ahead.

Consultation on ASB strategy. DCC is currently consulting on the Safe Durham Partnership's draft strategy (2022-2025) to tackle anti-social behaviour. The closing date for comments is 13 November.

New road safety strategy. On 12 October, DCC's Cabinet authorised the implementation of a new County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Strategy (2022-2032).

Consultation on physical activity. DCC is gathering information for the Moving Together in County Durham strategy. The closing date for ideas/comments is 5 December.

Fernhill estate. Applications have been submitted to build a house in the grounds and erect a garage at the lodge for this Green Belt property - despite the recent appeal being dismissed. The Trust has objected.

KEY BUSINESS

2022 AGM. The 80th AGM was held (in-person and via Zoom) on 1 October in the Assembly Rooms Theatre. The Trust's Architectural Award for 2020/21 was presented to the Cathedral in recognition of their new glazed lobbies. The Trust's annual accounts were presented and Honorary Officers and Trustees were elected. Prof. John Pendlebury's talk about Thomas Sharp was well-received and members attended Durham Museum afterwards to view the exhibition charting the role of the Trust in preserving the city.

Personalia. At the AGM, Francis Pritchard was elected to serve as both Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. Dr Malcolm Reed and Dr Lucy Szablewska both retired as Trustees, whilst Roger Cornwell and Dr Adrian Green were re-elected. Chris Hugill was proposed and elected as a new Trustee. John Lowe was re-elected as Chair at the following Trustees' meeting on 18 October. It has also been proposed to reinstate the role of Vice-Chair to relieve concern over there only being two officers.

End of year talk. Martin Roberts' proposed talk on Durham's historic staircases has been postponed until next year. Eric Wilton, the General Manager for Crook Hall and Gardens, will now give a talk on Crook Hall and the National Trust's ambitions to create a green corridor to improve active travel in the area. The talk will be on Tuesday 6 December at 19.00, venue to be confirmed.

Autumn Bulletin. This is currently being drafted for printing and distribution in November.

Sniperley Park appeals. The Trust has registered to be a 'Rule 6' party, alongside the Parish Council and CPRE, and has submitted a Statement of Case. To avoid duplication with other parties, Trustees are focussing on four of the 13 reasons for failure of the applications: lack of conformity with a masterplan; poor design; lack of sustainable transport; and poor links to the Park & Ride. Proofs of evidence are required by 13 December.

Demolition of the police radio mast. The Trust has submitted an objection to the Police's application to demolish it. In addition, following communication with the Arup Newcastle office (original designers of the mast), the Chair forwarded comments from Arup on the condition of the mast to DCC's Planning Department.

Durham City Heritage Trail. At the Trustees' meeting on 18 October, member David Miller presented on his draft design, and potential production costs, for this new trail leaflet. The Trust is keen to support this project, following the success of the Durham Seven Hills Trail leaflet (also designed by David).

The Trust's 80th Anniversary. Bookings are coming in for the WHS Conference at the Pemberton Rooms (5 November) and Trustees are finalising plans for the informal social event at St Nics Church (9 November).

Media profile. Following a press release by the Trust, there was a front-page article in The Advertiser about the application to demolish the listed Arup police radio mast at Aykley Heads. In the same edition, the Trust's Chair also had a letter printed regarding the composition of planning committees.

Membership records. Trustees have been assessing some software called *membermojo* which could keep the Trust's membership records in more efficient order and assist in any recruitment drives.

'Asset of the month' posts. The September post on the website was on the Green Belt and October's will be on the western/northern relief roads.