



KEY ACTIVITIES: 16 November to 13 December 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
26	5	2	2

LOCAL MATTERS

County Electoral Divisions. The Local Government Boundary Commission is seeking views on a proposed new pattern of electoral divisions for the County Council. The aim is to reduce the number of County Councillors from 126 to 98. The closing date for comments is 30 January 2023.

Minerals & Waste DPD consultation. DCC have launched a final consultation on their draft M&W Development Plan Document and the associated reports. The consultation runs until 13 January 2023.

DLI Museum refurbishment. DCC has now submitted a full planning application for the proposed refurbishment and extension of this building at Aykley Heads. The Trust will be submitting a comment.

Blagdon Depot redevelopment. The demolition of the existing units at the commercial site on Frankland Lane (including the Rocking Horse Rehearsal Rooms) was approved at Planning Committee on 13 December.

Ecological Emergency Action Plan (EEAP). DCC has now formally approved an initial EEAP following their declaration of an ecological emergency in April. Further iterations of these plans will be integrated into a wider Local Nature Recovery Strategy for County Durham, as well as into future CERPs.

Crook Hall Gardens. The National Trust have appointed a Project Manager to lead on their green corridor plans, with the post being 50% funded by DCC.

Norman Chapel. Work has started on conserving the oldest standing building in Durham - Durham Castle's 11th century Norman Chapel, which has been suffering from water damage from the raised ground levels.

Inclusive Economic Strategy. This new strategy for Durham's economy (up to 2035) has just been formally adopted by DCC. A Delivery Plan will now be developed by the County Durham Economic Partnership.

New SPDs planned. DCC is planning initial consultations (January/February 2023) on new Supplementary Planning Documents covering Housing Needs; a Design Code; Trees, Woodland and Hedges; and Solar Power. A further SPD on Ecology is to be drafted later in 2023.

New University Chancellor. Durham University has announced that Dr Fiona Hill will be installed as the new Chancellor next summer, following on from Sir Thomas Allen who has served a decade in the role.

KEY BUSINESS

Conservation Area Management Plan. DCC's Senior Conservation Officer, Rebecca Taylor, has been appointed to lead the project on developing a plan for Durham City's conservation area. The City of Durham Trust will be part of a stakeholders' group for the project, with an initial meeting on 20 January 2023.

Elvet Clean Air Group. Trustees agreed to donate £50 towards the proposed public meeting in January to discuss the air quality issues around the Church Street area.

STACK hub development. A premises licence application has been submitted for this proposed leisure venue on Silver Street, requesting opening hours up to 1 am/2 am. There is concern about noise nuisance for residents and the use of Moatside Lane as an emergency exit route. The Trust will be objecting.

University housing group. The Trust is proposing to be represented at this group to ensure a balanced view.

Book review. The Trust has arranged for the North East region's FINDS Liaison Officer, Benjamin Westwood, to review a new publication by Gary Bankhead on his dives in the city: *"Textile Manufacture, Taxation and Trade in Late- and Post-Medieval Durham City - Underwater Excavations at Elvet Bridge, Durham 2008-2022"*.

Durham City Heritage Trail. The trail leaflet is going through final amendments and will be ready shortly.

Personalia. As the Trust now only has two Trustees covering the officer roles, it was decided to reinstate the role of Vice-Chair as a reserve officer. Ms Sue Childs was nominated and duly elected as Vice-Chair.

Website. New interactive planning application webpages will be made public in the New Year.

Social Media. Rather than set up a Facebook page/group for the Trust, one Trustee has volunteered to post Trust items/news on other local Facebook pages, eg Durham City Matters.

Talk's programme. The National Trust's talk on Crook Hall Gardens and their plans to create a green corridor was very well received by members. Martin Robert's talk on Durham's historic staircases is now planned to be held in late May 2023.

Insurance claim. Trustees are putting in a claim for the latest water-damaged publication losses.