



KEY ACTIVITIES: 19 October to 15 November 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
18	4	1	2

LOCAL MATTERS

Durham student housing 'crisis'. Durham University have established a housing group to help plan “*early and carefully*” for the next academic year as well as deal with this year’s issues caused by the additional student intake. The group will include student leaders to work with DCC, letting agents and private landlords.

Parish Council residents’ survey. Between 28 October and 17 November, the City of Durham Parish Council consulted local residents on what their priorities should be over the next year.

DLI Museum and Art Gallery. From 25 October until 4 November, DCC held a pre-planning consultation on the proposed redevelopment of this building at Aykley Heads. The Trust has submitted a positive comment.

Debris cleared from weir. Following receipt of a licence from Natural England regarding protection of an otter habitat, Framwellgate Weir has been cleared of trees and shrubs, with a commitment for regular inspections to minimise the collection of debris.

Definitive Map. The County’s map of public rights of way (PROW) celebrated 70 years as a legal document, having been drawn up in November 1952 as a paper map, and updated in a digital format since 2010.

STACK hub development. This concept leisure company has announced plans to open a leisure complex in the former M&S building on Silver Street, with food outlets, bars and a live performance stage. Earlier permitted plans to convert the upper floors to student accommodation seem to have been dropped.

New nature reserve. Pelaw Wood, near Gilesgate, has been formally designated a Local Nature Reserve by DCC. The status will help to protect the woodland from future development and promote it for public use.

KEY BUSINESS

Bent House Lane housing development. Amended plans for 470 dwellings were submitted for the reserved matters stage of planning permission for this site off Sherburn Road. Trustees are drafting another response.

Autumn Bulletin. Bulletin Number 95 was distributed to all members.

Sniperley Park appeals. Trustees welcomed the news that the developers had withdrawn their appeals against non-determination of their original planning applications (1,920 dwellings) for the Sniperley Park site. The public inquiry has now been abandoned. Resubmitted plans are expected. The Trust’s press release broke the story in the Northern Echo on 8 November and made the front page of The Advertiser on 10 November.

Boundary Commission final consultation. The Boundary Commission has made significant changes to their initial (drastic) proposals for the City of Durham constituency and comments on this final consultation are due by 5 December. The Trust is responding to welcome the latest revised proposals.

Durham City Heritage Trail. Following David Miller’s presentation and a quote for printing costs, Trustees have agreed to share the cost of printing 7,500 copies of this new trail leaflet with the Parish Council.

The Trust’s 80th Anniversary. The Trust made the front page of The Journal on 4 November with an article entitled “*Celebrating 80 years of preservation*”. The WHS Conference was well attended and feedback from both that event and the informal social event at St Nics Church was very positive.

Website. Trustees have started work on producing more interactive planning application webpages which would draw on information directly from DCC’s planning portal.

Membership software. Following a trial of the *membermojo* software, Trustees have agreed to purchase it to maintain the Trust’s membership records in more efficient order.

End of year talk. The National Trust’s talk about Crook Hall and their ambitions to create a green corridor has been confirmed for Tuesday 6 December at 19.00 in Elvet Riverside building room 201 (full details can be found in Bulletin Number 95).

Water damage. Unfortunately, following heavy rain in mid-November, rain has leaked into a storage cupboard at Alington House and caused considerable damage to the Trust’s stock of Cathedral books.