



KEY ACTIVITIES: 18 January to 21 February 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
20	9	1	-

LOCAL MATTERS

Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF). On 31 January, Natural England launched this new tool which supports the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

North East Devolution. DCC launched a public consultation for views following the announcement of a £4.2b devolution deal and a proposed implementation scheme. The consultation will run until 23 March.

Elvet Clean Air Group. During a piece on North East emission zones on the BBC's Politics North programme (and later on Look North), the campaign by this residents' group in Elvet was briefly featured.

Tolent enters administration. This Gateshead-based construction firm that had been working on the Milburngate project in Durham (amongst others), called in administrators on 13 February.

DLI Museum. The refurbishment/extension plans for the exhibition space and café were formally approved by DCC on 16 February.

Consultation on Supplementary Planning Documents. From 24 February until 11 April, DCC is undertaking a public consultation on four new or updated SPDs: Development viability, affordable housing & developer contributions; County Durham Design Code; Housing Needs; and Trees, Woodland and Hedges.

New exhibition 'Stories from the River'. This exhibition explores the finds of underwater archaeologist Gary Bankhead. It launched on Monday 20 February at the Museum of Archaeology within Palace Green Library.

Training events. The City of Durham Parish Council is running two on-line training events (open to residents): one on licensing issues (27 February, 18.00) and one on planning issues (21 March, 18.00).

KEY BUSINESS

Sniperley Park. The Trust put in further objections to the resubmitted Sniperley Park applications and has written to the Case Officer to suggest a meeting to discuss concerns and possible conditions.

Revisions to the NPPF. Trustees are finalising a response for submission by 2 March 2023.

Parking & Accessibility SPD. This updated SPD was due to be adopted last year but has been further delayed. It has been suggested that the Trust updates its useful response with the most recent census data to assist DCC's Spatial Policy team.

North East Active Travel Strategy. Trustees are drafting a response for submission by 5 March 2023.

STACK hub development. The Trust submitted an objection to the full planning application, and issued a press release with photos highlighting the safety issues, which appeared in the Northern Echo on 4 February.

Demolition of the listed police radio mast. The application to demolish the mast was refused by the County Planning Committee on 7 February. The Trust's Chair was interviewed for the BBC's Look North programme regarding the issue. The Trust awaits developments from DCC and Durham Police with interest.

Conflict of Interest (CoI) Policy. The Charity Commission are keen for charities to have a CoI Policy to help avoid financial and loyalty conflicts for Trustees, so the Trust has drawn one up which includes additional conflict types on confidentiality and impropriety. A final draft will be brought to the March meeting.

Conservation Area Management Plan. DCC's Rebecca Taylor has postponed her discussion with the Parish Council until 17 March 2023.

University housing group. One of the Trustees has now been able to join this housing group to help plan better for student accommodation next year.

Social media. Trustees are discussing options for handling social media accounts.

Links with MA students. Trustees are liaising with a Durham University student ambassador on ways the Trust can engage more with students, including promoting the Trust's work at a workshop on 2 March. Trustees have suggested areas of work that MA students could potentially assist with.

Architectural Award 2022. Trustees are beginning to gather ideas for nominations for exemplar new builds, renovations or green infrastructure projects completed last year.

Durham City Heritage Trail. Following final revisions to the leaflet to improve accessibility options, the leaflet has now gone out to be printed.