



## KEY ACTIVITIES: 22 February to 22 March 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
22	2	3	1

### LOCAL MATTERS

**Drunken Duck pub.** Following a serious crime/disorder incident on 4 March, the police requested suspension of the premises licence pending a meeting of the Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee on 28 March.

**North East Bus Service Improvement Plan.** The Department for Transport has confirmed almost £118m in funding to cover the first two years of this plan for “major improvements” to local bus services.

**Fernhill estate.** On 16 March, DCC approved the revised plans to build a sunken, split-level 4-bedroom house in the grounds of this estate in the Durham City Green Belt.

**Free afternoon parking to end.** From 1 April, free afternoon parking in Durham City ‘pay and display’ bays will end with normal charges applying. Free parking will still be available after 14.00 in some of DCC’s off-street car parks across the county (not including Wharton Park).

**Street Parties Policy.** DCC Highways have revised this policy to make it easier to apply for temporary road closure licenses (free) for community parties to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III (6 May). Residents are advised to apply no later than 7 April to ensure applications are processed in time.

**Durham World Heritage Day.** This free event will be held on 10 April (12.00 to 16.00) on Palace Green.

**School transport consultation.** DCC is inviting residents to comment on potential changes to school transport in the county, including work to improve routes currently classified as “unsafe” to enable pupils to walk/cycle to school. The consultation runs until 12 April, with a final decision being made by Cabinet in the summer.

**Greenspace Festival.** The University’s Greenspace Festival will be held on 14 June at Grey College.

### KEY BUSINESS

**Consultations on new/revised SPDs.** Trustees are drafting responses to DCC’s draft Supplementary Planning Documents on: Development viability, affordable housing & developer contributions; County Durham Design Code; Housing Needs; and Trees, Woodland and Hedges. The deadline for responses is 11 April.

**Planning enforcement.** Some Trustees are concerned about the weak enforcement of planning conditions by DCC and are starting a discussion on what action the Trust could take to improve the situation.

**Refurbishment of plaque.** Trustees are looking into how to refurbish the commemorative plaque at 56 Claypath (for James Finlay Weir Johnston who founded a grammar school in Durham in 1825, which eventually merged with other schools to become Durham Johnston) as the lettering is badly faded.

**Challenging Councillors/maladministration.** Following concerns about the procedures at some planning committees, Trustees have drafted a discussion paper for debate at a future meeting.

**Conflict of Interest (Col) Policy.** Following further discussion with Trustees regarding a Col policy to suit the needs of the CIO, a revised draft is being produced for consideration.

**Planning training event.** Some Trustees attended an on-line presentation on 21 March, hosted by the Parish Council, which included an explanation of the main changes to the planning system via the Levelling Up Bill.

**Investment of funds.** Trustees are investigating better options for investing the Trust’s current savings.

**Website.** Following the success of the photos of the commemorative plaques around the city, it has been suggested that a new section is created on the website to link with the city photos uploaded to the Trust’s Instagram account.

**Links with MA students.** Two Trustees gave presentations at the MA heritage student workshop on 2 March. Trustees have suggested areas of work that MA students could potentially assist with. The workshop organiser was very enthusiastic about developing links with the Trust, so hopes there will be future projects.

**Insurance claim.** The Trust’s recent claim for water-damage to books stored at Alington House has been met in full (minus an excess charge). Trustees are checking with the venue regarding the roof repairs.

**Durham City Heritage Trail.** Stock of the new leaflet has now been printed, with the Trust contributing just over £1,000.

**Personalia.** Prof. Barbara Ravelhofer has resigned as a Trustee due to pressure of work, and her contribution will be missed. Trustees are keen to attract new Trustees and have a gender balance on the Board.