



KEY ACTIVITIES: 19 April to 16 May 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
27	6	1	-

LOCAL MATTERS

Transforming Cities Fund. DCC announced a funding award of £2.8m to create sustainable transport infrastructure in the city, which will be used for walking/cycling improvements at three locations: Whitechurch junction (A177 Stockton Road), links between Old Pit Lane (Newton Hall) and Aykley Heads, and improvements between Sniperley roundabout and County Hall (B6532 Southfield Way). Plans for the improvements have not yet been made public. Work is expected to begin this summer.

Parish Council wins national award. The City of Durham Parish Council has received a Quality Parish Council Award from NALC, one of only three in the county to have received this accolade. Community leadership, excellent governance, their corporate plan and the Neighbourhood Plan were all praised as outstanding.

PBSA at Mount Oswald. Outline plans by the Banks Group for an 850-bed Purpose Built Student Accommodation on land near Mount Oswald were approved by the County Planning Committee on 2 May. This replaces a previous planning approval which had expired. All matters are reserved.

Consultation on electoral boundary changes. The Local Government Boundary Commission launched a further 10-week public consultation on the proposed new electoral boundaries for the county. The number of Councillors is proposed to be reduced from 126 to 98 (reducing the divisions to 48). The consultation runs until 10 July, with the Commission's final recommendations planned to be published in November 2023.

Nightclub licence breaches. The Directors of Jimmy Allens were prosecuted and fined by DCC for four charges in relation to breaches of the venue's licensing conditions noted at separate inspections.

'Clean-up tax'. Given the serious waste and noise issues during student move-out last summer, the Parish Council has written to landlords to request a min. contribution of £52 per property towards local services.

Community Hall opened. Merryoaks Community Hall finally opened its doors on 15 May and there is a promotional open day at the Hall on 11 June (11.00-16.00).

WHS Senior Manager. Dr Anne Allen was announced as the World Heritage Site Manager for Durham, a post which is part of the University's management structure. She commenced the new role on 15 May.

Bus fare cap. The Department for Transport has announced that the £2 single bus fare cap scheme will now run until 31 October 2023.

Parish Council annual meeting. The City of Durham Parish Council have announced their annual open meeting for 24 May (18.00) in Durham Town Hall. It will include an update on their work, an update from Durham Police, questions from the public and the Good Citizen 2023 awards.

KEY BUSINESS

Bent House Lane development. Amended plans have been submitted for the Reserved Matters application for 470 houses on this former Green Belt land. A Trustee attended a site visit with the planning officer and local residents, and the Trust will be submitting a further objection.

PROW Improvement Plan. The Trust's initial response to DCC's "Rights of Way Improvement Plan 4 2023-2033" will be considered at the Trustees' June meeting.

Supplementary Planning Documents. DCC is seeking approval at a Cabinet meeting (17 May) to commence public consultations on the 3rd draft of a Parking & Accessibility SPD and the 1st draft of a new Solar Energy SPD. The closing date for comments to both consultations will be 9 July 2023 and Trustees intend to submit responses.

Durham City CAMP. DCC's Design & Conservation team have requested the dates of the Trustees' meetings for the next year to insert them into the Conservation Area Management Plan reporting structure. A very encouraging sign of their intention to involve the Trust in their work on this Plan.

Conflict of Interest (Col) Policy. For transparency this new policy will be uploaded to the Trust's website.

Revision of the Trust's Objects. Trustees have started discussing amendments to the Objects/Purposes in the Trust's Constitution, as they were blocked from making changes during the transition to CIO status.

Personalia. Trustees were very sad to hear of the death this month of Paul Beard, a previous longstanding Trustee and Membership Secretary.