



## KEY ACTIVITIES: 17 May to 20 June 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
33	8	1	1

### LOCAL MATTERS

**DCC's leader and cabinet.** At DCC's AGM on 24 May, members agreed to continue with the same leader (Cllr Hopgood) and cabinet for a third term. The meeting saw changes to some Chairs/Vice-Chairs of committees.

**TfN STP consultation.** On 25 May, Transport for the North launched a 12-week statutory consultation for its revised Strategic Transport Plan for the north of England (closing date for comments is 17 August).

**Active Travel England (ATE).** This new national body became a statutory consultee on larger planning applications (150+ houses or 7,500+ sqm) from 1 June 2023. ATE's role is to help LPAs implement good active travel design, but it will not have statutory powers to direct the outcome of planning applications.

**New City of Durham Mayor.** Cllr Lesley Mavin has been appointed to the role at a ceremony at Durham Town Hall. Cllr Liz Brown will serve as Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

**Housing Strategy consultation.** On 14 June, DCC's Cabinet agreed to put the draft Housing Strategy Principles & Priorities Paper out for public consultation from 26 June to 18 August 2023, with the aim of adopting a new housing strategy in Spring 2024 (to replace the one adopted in 2019). The draft paper is the first stage in the preparation of the Housing Strategy and DCC is seeking views on a draft vision, 8 principles and 5 priorities.

**Assembly Room Theatre renaming.** Durham University has submitted plans to DCC for new signage to reflect the renaming of the building in honour of Sir Thomas Allen who was Chancellor from 2011 to 2022.

**Merryoaks Community Hall event.** On 26 June (19.30), Neville's Cross Community Association are holding a public meeting entitled "*Best practice in responding to planning applications that affect you*" at the new Community Hall for residents to find out what is being planned locally.

### KEY BUSINESS

**Consultations on a new Use class.** The Trust submitted a brief response to this national consultation on the introduction of a Use class 'C5' for short-term lets and the associated registration scheme.

**Bent House Lane development.** The Reserved Matters application for 470 houses on this former Green Belt land was approved by the County Planning Committee on 6 June. The Trust sent out a press release prior to the committee meeting and have since sent a letter to the case officer suggesting improvements to the plans.

**Meeting with DCC Officers.** Trustees are prioritising concerns and topics for an upcoming virtual meeting with Michael Kelleher (DCC's new Head of Planning & Housing) and senior DCC Officers.

**Supplementary Planning Documents.** Trustees are finalising draft responses to DCC's latest consultations on a Parking & Accessibility SPD and the new Solar Energy SPD.

**Sniperley Park plans.** Bellway Homes put in amendments to their FPA for 368 dwellings on land north and east of Sniperley Farm. Trustees have submitted further letters of objection.

**Future-proofing housing research.** Trustees have agreed to endorse a paper drawn up by David Miller to urge the Durham Energy Institute to undertake a study into "*A Community Approach to Future-Proofing of Housing in Durham City*", which could then provide advice to local householders.

**Frankland Lane holiday lodges.** An application has been put in to DCC for 26 holiday lodges and associated buildings to be built in a woodland setting near to Crook Hall. Trustees have submitted a strong objection to this inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

**New WHS Senior Manager.** Trustees were delighted to welcome Dr Anne Allen to their June meeting, when she attended to introduce herself and speak about her immediate plans for the World Heritage Site.

**Feature on INNS.** A Trustee is drafting a further feature for the Annual Review on the serious concerns about the Invasive Non-Native Species infestations around the city.

**Prince Bishops Place shopping centre.** Due to low occupancy of units, the new owners of the centre wish to reorganise the site and would like to present their plans to the Trust (and other community organisations). Trustees have requested an on-site presentation.

**The Newbury Society.** The Chair of this civic society is visiting Durham next month and will be attending the Trustees' July meeting to discuss shared interests.