



## KEY ACTIVITIES: 21 June to 18 July 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
27	3	-	2

### LOCAL MATTERS

**Pub group fined.** The Stonegate Pub Company was fined £1.56M (plus costs) following a trial on breaches of health and safety regulations arising from the death of student Olivia Burt at their Missoula venue in 2018.

**Durham University Chancellor.** Dr Fiona Hill, the daughter of a coal miner and a former foreign affairs advisor to US Presidents, was installed as the new Chancellor at a ceremony at Durham Cathedral on 29 June.

**Football centre refused.** On 4 July, DCC's County Planning Committee voted to refuse permission for a controversial proposal for a 20-pitch football centre off Pit House Lane at Leamside. It was agreed to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt with no very special circumstances to outweigh the harm.

**Cathedral lit in blue.** On 5 July, Durham Cathedral was lit up in blue to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS.

**PBSA at Mount Oswald.** Outline plans (submitted in 2020) for the proposed 850-bed PBSA on land to the north of Mount Oswald were finally approved by DCC on 6 July.

**Refurbishing the Baileys.** Work to the North and South Bailey, including footpath improvements and the reinstatement of cobbles, has started, and is planned to be complete by Summer 2024.

**Whitechurch junction.** On 10 July, roadworks started at this four-way junction on Stockton Road, involving the removal of the crossing islands to allow pedestrians to cross in one movement. The traffic lights will also be upgraded to improve traffic flow. DCC are seeking additional funding to improve the junction for cyclists.

**Park & Ride expansion.** Work to increase the parking spaces at the Sniperley P&R site to more than 580 will get under way later this summer, with construction expected to be completed in Spring 2024.

**DCC's Minerals & Waste Disposal Plan.** DCC has now submitted this for review by the Planning Inspectorate.

**Award for Burnigill Bank project.** Challenging work to repair a landslip damaged road between Croxdale and Meadowfield has won Civils Project of the Year at the 2023 Constructing Excellence North East Awards.

**Council tax on empty properties/second homes.** DCC is reviewing their policy on council tax charges for these properties, with a closing date for comments to the public consultation of 13 September.

**Ticket office closures.** Train companies are running a public consultation in July and August on their plans to modernise retailing of tickets and assistance at stations. It includes the closure of the Durham ticket office.

**Redhills.** Renovation work has started at the Miners' Hall, including an accessible extension, with the project scheduled for completion in Autumn 2024.

### KEY BUSINESS

**Durham Crime & Punishment theme trail.** On 5 July, two Trustees attended a tour arranged by Visit County Durham on this proposed city trail. They are drafting an input to endorse the heritage bid for the trail.

**Diamond Terrace car park.** Hanro have put in a planning application for a car park on Green Belt land to the east of Diamond Terrace, above Sidegate. Trustees are drafting an objection.

**Hallgarth Care Home.** A change of use application has been submitted to DCC for this recently closed city centre care home off Hallgarth Street. Trustees are drafting a response to the proposal for a 69-bed PBSA.

**Meeting with DCC Officers.** Trustees felt this virtual meeting on 12 July was generally positive, with a follow-up meeting proposed in a few months' time to discuss other topics.

**DCC's PROW Improvement Plan.** Trustees have agreed a final draft of comments on this fourth PROWIP.

**University Strategy Refresh information session.** Some Trustees attended virtual sessions for local stakeholders to hear the University's aims and direction up to 2027.

**Prince Bishops Place shopping centre.** Trustees attended a presentation on 14 July, which explained the retail situation and the reasons for the £60M mixed-use revamp (hotel, student accommodation, leisure and retail). Trustees will be sending in initial comments on the plans and there is a public on-line survey.

**Housing Strategy consultation.** Trustees are drafting a response to this consultation by DCC on their Principles & Priorities Paper. The closing date is 18 August.

**The Newbury Society.** The Chair of this civic society (celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) was welcomed at the Trustees' July meeting, when he attended to discuss common issues and shared interests.

**AGM 2023.** Trustees are considering dates and speakers for this year's AGM in October.