



KEY ACTIVITIES: 19 July to 15 August 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
33	7	1	-

LOCAL MATTERS

Virtual permit system. DCC are phasing in a new permit system (PermitSmart) over the summer that allows eligible residents/members of the public to manage permits via an online platform. This is in conjunction with a Road User Charge on the peninsular. Payment options via telephone or in person are still available.

Committee for Climate Change report. On 19 July, the CCC released its *Spatial Planning for Climate Resilience & Net Zero* report, authored by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, which highlights how a lack of clarity about government policy is undermining the ability of local planners to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Changes to Permitted Development Rights. The Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities have launched a consultation on extra flexibilities to support housing delivery, high streets etc, with a closing date for comments of 25 September.

Reforms to Local Plan-making. The Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities also have a consultation on proposals to make local plans simpler/faster to prepare, and more accessible (closing date: 18 October).

Leazes Footbridge closed. DCC closed this pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the A690 after structural issues were discovered during a routine inspection. It will remain closed while options are considered.

Aykley Heads HQ. On 26 July, DCC's Cabinet approved recommendations in an update report on specific (value for money) options for their office accommodation strategy. Whilst the first building being constructed at the north of the Aykley Heads site should be occupiable by 2024, DCC's proposal is to purchase and refurbish the Rivergreen Centre building for use as an HQ and Civic Centre site from spring/summer 2025. The site previously outlined for a new HQ will be available for commercial development.

New PINS online service. The Planning Inspectorate has launched an online service for submitting and monitoring planning appeals (householder & section 78). Listed Building consent appeals are excluded.

New College Durham all-weather pitch. An application has been submitted to DCC for construction of an artificial grass pitch with floodlights on part of the existing college car park, and construction of a replacement 313-space, hard surface car park on an existing playing field.

Twilight Talk. On Thursday 24 August (17.45-18.45), Durham University are hosting a free talk at Palace Green Library entitled: "A library full of good books - the story of Cosin's Library."

KEY BUSINESS

Durham Built Environment Network (D-BEN). Trustees have received an invitation to join this new information network which has been set up by Durham University.

Architectural Award. Trustees have agreed to present an award for 2022. The winner will be announced at the AGM in October.

Bulletins. Trustees have agreed a timescale for producing the Annual Review in time for the AGM. Trustees are discussing whether to change the format of the bulletins going forward and put more items online.

Commemorative plaques web page. This web page has been recently updated with photos of newly discovered plaques from around the city.

Prince Bishops Place shopping centre. Trustees are drafting comments to query some aspects of the proposed demolition and mixed-use revamp.

Housing Strategy consultation. Trustees submitted a response to DCC's consultation on their Principles & Priorities Paper and will share the response on the Trust's website.

Annual accounts. Trustees approved the draft accounts for 2022/23 to submit to the appointed Examiner.

Consultation on council tax on second homes/empty properties. Trustees are considering a response to these welcome proposals to increase charges on these types of properties (closing date: 13 September).

WHS Management Plan. Trustees have been invited to attend a forum event on 11 October to discuss the preparation of the next WHS Management Plan.

AGM 2023. This year's AGM will be held in Elvet Riverside room ER140 from 19.00-21.00 on 31 October, with the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Karen O'Brien giving a presentation on "A university in its city: Durham University now and in the future."