



KEY ACTIVITIES: 16 August to 19 September 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
42	9	-	3

LOCAL MATTERS

RAAC issues. St Leonard's school in the city was one of the schools forced into a temporary closure/disrupted start to the autumn term following DfE guidance changes regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete.

Research hub on transport decarbonisation. Led by Newcastle University (with Cambridge, Glasgow and Heriot-Watt universities as partners), this new hub for Decarbonised Adaptable and Resilient Transport Infrastructures (DARe) aims to identify pathways/solutions for delivering a resilient, net-zero transport system that works for people and communities. It will include an open-source research platform.

Bus station progress. The new building on North Road in Durham now has the steel frame in place, main roof and staircases/lifts installed with external cladding underway, with a proposed opening in November.

New Durham Innovation District. On 13 September, DCC's Cabinet approved plans to create a Durham Innovation District which includes the Aykley Heads employment site.

Flass Vale anniversary. On 15 and 16 September, the Friends of Flass Vale held commemorative events to mark the 50th anniversary of the campaign to save Flass Vale from development. The events included a viewing of the recently excavated ancient Flass Well and a picnic (with crafts) in the orchard.

Inaugural sermon by new Dean of Durham. On Saturday 16 September, the Very Revd Dr Philip Plyming (who was appointed in June) gave his inaugural sermon during his Installation service in the Cathedral.

PROW volunteer day. The Parish Council is organising a volunteer day on Saturday 14 October (10.00) to assess the condition of the existing Public Rights of Way network around the Durham City parish area.

Proposed new care home. The Banks Group/Torsion Care have applied to build a 74-bed care facility at the Mt Oswald development (land south of South College), and aim to start construction work in early 2024.

Go North East strikes. The UNITE union has announced two weeks of industrial action by bus drivers from 30 September to 6 October and 14 to 20 October. ACAS talks are on-going.

Stockton Road roadworks. Overnight road closures are expected at this busy crossroads (Whitechurch junction) from 22 to 29 October for resurfacing works.

KEY BUSINESS

Sniperley Park amended plans. Trustees have submitted a short response to the minor amendments to plans for the Bellway Homes section of this site, maintaining their objection.

Care home provision. Given the recent planning applications in this sector (one closure/conversion, one proposed new home), Trustees have contacted the Parish Council to offer support to update the figures (population, facilities etc) for Policy C4 and associated appendices in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Central & East Planning Committee. On 12 September, some Trustees attended to hear appraisals including a townhouse development at St John's Road and two HMO applications (Fieldhouse Lane/Lyndhurst Drive). These three were refused by the Committee (against officers' advice). A Trustee will be speaking at the next meeting on 25 September to defend the Trust's objection to a family home conversion on Nevilledale Terrace.

Changes to Permitted Development Rights. Trustees are submitting a comment to this national consultation.

December talk. Trustees are considering options for a speaker for a proposed public talk in December.

Times article. A comment from one Trustee was quoted in a Times article (16 September) on HMO expansion in the city: *"The places struggling to cope with rising numbers of students"*.

Commemorative plaque update. Following a request, Trustees have agreed to update the wording on the plaque for Desmond Kelly to include his wife (and Trust member) Audrey who passed away in 2020.

Prince Bishops Place shopping centre. Trustees have finalised comments to the initial plans for demolition and mixed-use revamp and will be sharing a copy of their response with the Parish Council and DCC.

PBSA definition. Trustees have been rather bemused by differing opinions in recent planning committee reports regarding the definitions of PBSAs/HMOs. The definitions in the County Durham Plan are considered to be unclear and Trustees look forward to viewing a new SPD that DCC is drafting regarding Policy 16.

Durham City CAMP. Trustees are drafting a response to the boundary proposals for the new Conservation Area Management Plan.