



KEY ACTIVITIES: 20 September to 17 October 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
36	6	-	4

LOCAL MATTERS

University Housing Hub launched. On this new online resource, the University has reassured students that there has been enough accommodation available in the city this year and analysis shows that there will be plenty to meet student demand in 2024/25 too.

STACK venue delays. Six months after approval was given for the redevelopment, the firm behind the STACK leisure venues has said “*unforeseen delays*” have set back work on its proposed Silver Street venue. Initial work is planned to start in November/December.

Blue plaque for DMA founder. A blue plaque has been unveiled at 16 Mowbray Street in the Viaduct area to recognise the former home of John Forman, one of the Durham Miners’ Association founding members.

Northumbria in Bloom awards. City locations have won awards this year including: Durham City, Wharton Park, St Cuthbert’s Hospice, Durham BID, Botanic Gardens, Crook Hall & Gardens and the Cathedral.

Levelling Up Bill amendments. There is concern that recent amendments to the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill (LURB) will allow government to implement National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) which, if passed in legislation, would have primacy over Local Plans where there is conflict.

Culture and regeneration programme. On 11 October, councillors pledged £2M towards plans for a 3-year (2024-2026) programme of events in the county and hope to match the same amount from funding partners.

Update on CERP2. On 11 October, DCC’s Cabinet members heard about the progress made in delivering against the Climate Emergency Response Plan 2 and agreed adjustments to CERP3 (currently being drafted).

Further bus strikes. Due to a failure to resolve the current pay and conditions dispute, the UNITE union has announced an indefinite period of strike action for Go North East workers from 28 October.

County Durham Plan review. A public meeting has been organised by local councillors to discuss modifying the CDP via a review (due in 2025). It will be held in Merryoaks Community Hall at 19.30 on 23 October.

Citizen’s Climate Forum. Climate Action Durham has announced that a Forum on the Climate Emergency will be held on Tuesday 7 November (19.00-21.00) in Durham Town Hall.

KEY BUSINESS

Sniperley Park appeal. Trustees are considering whether to put in a Statement of Case to the new appeal by Co. Durham Land against DCC’s failure to determine their latest application (22/03712/OUT) for the site.

Parking & Accessibility SPD. The latest version (2023) of this Supplementary Planning Document was adopted by DCC on 9 October, but Trustees have concerns about the analysis behind some aspects of the guide. Trustees plan to contact other major commenters to discuss concerns.

New SPDs. On 11 October, DCC’s Cabinet approved four new Supplementary Planning Documents to go out to public consultation from 23 October to 3 December. Two at second draft: County Durham Design Code and Trees, Woodland & Hedges; two at first draft: Shop Fronts and Energy Efficiency, Renewables & the Historic Environment. Trustees are starting to draft responses.

Architectural Award 2022. The winner - 173 Gilesgate - has been revealed in the Annual Review and will be announced at the AGM, with a commemorative plaque to be unveiled at an open day in the spring.

December talk. Jane Gibson, formerly the Durham WHS Coordinator, has agreed to give a public talk on Saturday 2 December in Elvet Riverside ER140 (14.00-16.00).

WHS Forum. The Trust was represented at the WHS Coordinating Committee meeting on 16 October (with a following forum discussion).

Website. Additional items have been added to the webpage on commemorative plaques in the city.

Annual Review. Copies of the 2022-2023 Annual Review have been emailed out to members and hard copies posted/delivered in advance of the AGM. Trustees are discussing options for future editing of the bulletins.

2023 AGM. Trustees have agreed which four Trustees are due to ‘retire’ and stand for re-election at this year’s AGM on 31 October.

Bank accounts. Trustees are updating the signatories for the current account and making plans to move the savings account monies away from Virgin Money, as the Durham branch is closing.