



KEY ACTIVITIES: 22 November to 11 December 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
17	7	1	-

LOCAL MATTERS

Durham Council Plan 2024-2028. DCC have a draft plan out for consultation on their proposed visions/priorities for the next few years. The closing date for comments is 1 January 2024.

Eshwin Hall centenary. This former miners' welfare hall (now sheltered housing) in Esh Winning, which won a Trust Architectural Award for its conversion, celebrated the centenary of its opening on 1 December.

Parish Council budget. The City of Durham Parish Council have launched a short public survey asking for residents' views on the areas/activities they should deliver on over the next year. Closing date is 5 January.

Police Precept consultation. The PCC is seeking the views of County Durham residents, regarding the budget for Durham Constabulary for 2024/25, to determine policing priorities. The closing date is 8 January 2024.

'Free after 2pm' parking ends. From January 2024, normal parking charges will return for the County Council car parks and on-street parking in the city, including on Sundays.

Rooftop solar. The government has announced a change to PDR from 21 December, meaning that, in some cases, planning permission won't be required for the installation of PV panels (except in Conservation Areas).

65-bed student housing off Clay Lane. A controversial application has been submitted for the demolition of a large dwelling (at Rowanwood) to make way for nine small HMOs and one large HMO across three blocks.

Permanent 20mph zone. On 8 December, DCC's Highways Committee endorsed the proposals to introduce further traffic calming measures along Framwellgate Moor Front Street, following pedestrian safety concerns.

Climate march. On Saturday 9 December, there was a rally and march in the city centre to mark the COP28 climate talks, followed by a series of talks/events in St Nicholas's church.

Biodiversity Net Gain. The government has set out a timetable for introducing the 10% BNG requirements for developers: January 2024 for new housing/industrial/commercial; and April 2024 for 'small sites'.

Study on green spaces. DCC is encouraging residents to take part in a research study by Durham University about green spaces in the county. The biodiversity study *Public Perceptions of Greenspace Management in County Durham* runs until the end of February 2024.

Green Gown Awards 2023. Durham University has won the Nature Positive category of these awards for the comprehensive approach to their *Enhancing Biodiversity at Durham 2022/2032* strategy.

Future Homes Standard. The Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities is consulting on changes to Parts 6, L and F of the Building Regulations for dwellings and non-domestic buildings (closing date: 6 March 2024).

KEY BUSINESS

Sniperley Park appeals. Trustees have submitted an updated Statement of Case to cover both the Co. Durham Land and Bellway Homes' appeals. Trustees plan to draft a short post for the website.

DCC Housing Strategy. Trustees have submitted a short letter praising DCC's approach but highlighting that the housing strategy is too vague on some aspects of Durham City issues.

Autumn talk. The public talk given by former WHS Coordinator Jane Gibson on "*Durham Castle and Cathedral: Nine Years a World Heritage Coordinator*" on 2 December was very warmly received.

Air Quality Action Plan review. The Trust has submitted a letter to DCC with comments/suggestions for the proposed revisions to the Durham City AQAP.

Kingsgate Bridge. The commemorative event for the bridge's 60th anniversary was on Wednesday 13 December with talks from Prof. Karen O'Brien (Vice-Chancellor), Douglas Pocock, Dr Alan Powers (C20 Society) and Trustee Dr Adrian Green, plus a video by Arup (Newcastle) on the construction of the bridge.

Website policies. Trustees are considering whether the Trust needs to be registered under the Data Protection Act because of additional information held for the website.

Bulletins and talks for 2024. Trustees have drawn up a shortlist of suggested speakers for next year and have agreed an editorial board for producing future bulletins.

Architectural Award 2023. There is currently only one nominee suggested, so Trustees are seeking others.