



KEY ACTIVITIES: 18 October to 21 November 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered	OBJECTIONS submitted	SUPPORT submitted	COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted
22	7	2	2

LOCAL MATTERS

Parking charge review. DCC has held a consultation about changes to parking provision, including increased charges (incl. Sundays), scrapping of the 'free after 2pm' scheme and new Park & Ride services on Sundays.

Durham ticket office closure reversed. A controversial decision to close rail station ticket offices has been scrapped by the government.

Blue plaque for Bow Cottage. Trustees are supportive of the Parish Council's proposal to install a plaque in Bow Lane on this former home and workshop of sculptor Fenwick Lawson.

Safety failings at HMOs. Concerns have been raised that more than 20% of large HMOs in the county (mainly in Durham City) have expired gas and electrical safety certificates, according to DCC's online register.

CoHo bar fire. Police are investigating the cause of a fire that broke out at this riverside bar (13 November).

Corporate Enforcement policy. DCC have an updated draft out for public consultation until 26 November.

Housing consultations. DCC have launched consultations on their draft Housing Strategy and draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy (closing date for both is 18 December). The Trust will be responding.

Milburngate site delays. A technical review of works has highlighted safety failings, including the incorrect thickness of intumescent paint applied to the steelwork structure, so the buildings are not able to open yet.

Hallgarth Care Home conversion refused. This proposed change of use from a care home to a 69-bed PBSA was refused by DCC as being contrary to County Durham Plan Policies 16 and 31.

Diamond Terrace car park. The Hanro Group has withdrawn its application to build a car park in the Green Belt following objections from local organisations, DCC and residents.

Bus station delay. The opening of the new bus station on North Road has been delayed due to a leaking roof.

Continuing bus strike. Go North East has set up a 'skeleton service' whilst workers are balloted on a new deal.

Historic England Advice Note (HEAN). The government's heritage advisor has published a draft HEAN on *Climate Change and Historic Building Adaptation* which it is consulting on until 24 December.

KEY BUSINESS

Sniperley Park appeals. Trustees have submitted a Statement of Case and attended a Case Management Conference (20 November). The inquiry is due to start on 30 January, with evidence required by 2 January.

Parking & Accessibility SPD. Trustees plan to pursue issues via upcoming Climate Action Durham meetings.

New SPDs. Trustees are finalising responses to the four new Supplementary Planning Documents (County Durham Design Code; Trees, Woodland & Hedges; Shop Fronts; and Energy Efficiency, Renewables & the Historic Environment). The closing date for comments is 3 December.

Air Quality Action Plan review. Trustees are attending an engagement event in Durham Town Hall on 23 November to discuss the actions DCC is proposing for their revised AQAP.

Kingsgate Bridge. Following a suggestion from the University's Vice-Chancellor at our recent AGM, the Trust has reached out to the Parish Council, DCC and Arup (Newcastle) regarding the bridge's 60th anniversary. Trustees have also suggested that DCC establishes a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environment Agency and Historic England regarding maintenance of the historic bridges in the city.

Local Heritage Listing project. Following approval by DCC's Cabinet for publication of the Durham City list of non-designated heritage assets (NDHAs), Trustees have suggested that the Parish Council updates the appropriate Neighbourhood Plan appendix to reflect these new NDHAs.

Durham City Parkland. Trust member David Miller gave a presentation at the Trustees' November meeting on his vision to enhance use of the Green Belt around the city. He is hoping to draw other organisations in.

Website policies. Trustees are formulating Comment Moderation, Privacy and Social Media policies.

Autumn Bulletin. Another excellent edition (no. 97) has now been distributed to members.

2023 AGM. The event on 31 October was well attended and Prof. Karen O'Brien's talk was warmly received.

Election of Officers. At the AGM, Francis Pritchard was re-elected as both Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. At the Trustees' November meeting, John Lowe was re-elected Chair and Sue Childs as Vice-Chair.