



## KEY ACTIVITIES: 12 December 2023 to 16 January 2024

| PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered | OBJECTIONS submitted | SUPPORT submitted | COMMENTS/CONCERNS submitted |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 30                               | 8                    | 5                 | -                           |

### LOCAL MATTERS

**NPPF revised.** On 20 December, an updated version of the National Planning Policy Framework was launched in response to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill.

**Care Home refused.** This proposed 74-bed facility on land south of South College was refused permission by a planning committee on the grounds of unacceptable economic impacts on other providers in the county.

**Sniperley Park inquiry.** The Inspector has announced that the public inquiry will now last 15 days and cover all four of the appeals against non-determination by the developers Co. Durham Land and Bellway Homes.

**St John's Road development appeal.** The developer of the land off St John's Road in Neville's Cross is appealing against DCC's decision to refuse permission for their application to build 12 townhouses there.

**Pit House Lane football centre.** The developer of the proposed 20-pitch football centre at Leamside is appealing against DCC's decision to refuse them planning permission in the Green Belt.

**New College Durham.** The County Planning Committee voted to approve the college's plans for a new all-weather playing pitch with floodlights and a repositioned car park, subject to mitigations.

**Bus Station open.** Durham City's new bus station finally opened on Sunday 7 January and the temporary stops on North Road are being removed.

**Street vote development orders.** The government is consulting on a controversial proposal to allow local residents to suggest permitted development in their area. Trustees will be submitting a short response.

**Regeneration of former council offices.** DCC is seeking a development partner to transform the empty plots (13-17 Claypath and 3-5 Millenium Place) next to the Gala Theatre.

**Town Masterplans.** On 12 January, DCC's Overview & Scrutiny Committee discussed opportunities to review and replace town centre masterplans with Strategic Place Plans, in line with the Inclusive Economic Strategy.

**County Durham Culture Trust.** On 17 January, DCC's Cabinet discussed (and agreed) the benefits of establishing a charitable trust (CIO) to support the Council's culture service and fundraising efforts.

### KEY BUSINESS

**Durham Council Plan 2024-2028.** Trustees submitted comments on this draft plan on 31 December 2023.

**Sniperley Park appeals.** Trustees submitted a further Statement of Case to cover the Bellway Homes' hybrid application appeal and are doing preparatory work for the inquiry, including possible viewpoints to suggest.

**New Parish Councillor.** On 11 January, one of the Trustees - John Ashby - was declared to be duly elected as a Parish Councillor for the City of Durham (Durham South) ward.

**BNG sites.** Trustees have collated information on sites in and around the city where Biodiversity Net Gain obligations could be offset (if on-site BNG is not possible). The data has been passed to the Parish Clerk.

**Missing plaques/signs.** Trustees are investigating a need to recreate a plaque removed from Chapel Passage (33 Old Elvet) during building work. Following an enquiry by a Trustee, DCC's enforcement team are taking action to have a new sign at the archway to William Robson House removed as it obscures the heritage sign.

**Presentation to MA students.** The Trust's Chair has been invited to talk about the Trust's work to a student group on 27 February 2024.

**Prince Bishop's Place.** Trustees agreed to take up the offer from the developers of the shopping centre to view their revised plans for the site. A visit will be arranged after the Sniperley Park inquiry.

**Spring talk.** A public event has been arranged for 9 March 2024 at Elvet Riverside when Durham's WHS Senior Manager, Dr Anne Allen, will give a talk.

**Website.** The new on-line membership system is now live on the Trust's website. A web post on the Sniperley Park appeals had been posted and Trustees have suggested drafting a series of web posts to raise the understanding of commonly referred to policies in the Trust's planning responses.

**Bulletin 98.** Trustees have drafted interesting articles for the next bulletin and are aiming to submit it for printing before the Sniperley Park inquiry starts (end of January).

**The Trust's 'boundary'.** Trustees have discussed whether to define their geographical area of influence more formally, but have decided to consider the issue further when the Trust's Objects are next updated.