

# THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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Web site: <http://www.DurhamCity.org>

c/o Blackett, Hart & Pratt, LLP  
Mandale Business Park  
Belmont  
Durham, DH1 1TH

14th August 2024

George Spurgeon  
Planning  
PO Box 274  
Durham County Council  
Stanley  
County Durham  
DH8 1HG

Dear George Spurgeon

**DM/24/01993/FPA | Part two part three storey extension to music and sports building, addition of cladding to south west corner, and altered first floor fenestration | New College Durham Framwellgate Moor Durham DH1 5ES**

The Trust supports this extension which provides a pleasant contemporary design revamping the facade.

However, we would like to take the opportunity to make a comment about New College's Transport Statement. The Transport Statement seeks to demonstrate that sufficient car parking is already provided on site. Using the information on staff and student numbers provided in the Statement, the Trust calculates that the **Parking and Accessibility SPD** would recommend a provision of around 1600 spaces, around double the 813 which are currently provided. The SPD allows for car parking provision to be reduced in accessible locations and the Trust considers that this is justified in the case of New College. A previous application, DM/21/03497/FPA, noted a substantial surplus of car parking spaces, based on occupancy surveys. The current Statement provides data on the proportion of staff and students travelling by car (paras. 2.4.1 and 2.5.11) and estimates a surplus of 42 spaces.

**Local Plan Policy 21** states that "car parking at destinations should be limited to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport". If there is actually a surplus of spaces as stated in the application, the site may not overall be in compliance with this policy. The current Travel Plan submitted as DM/22/02518/DRC includes as an action (p. 16) the production of a monitoring report every two years to be submitted to Durham County Council. The Trust therefore suggests that the Planning Authority seek explicit assurance from internal consultees in Sustainable Transport that the Travel Plan is on track to reduce car use as intended, and if not, to consider imposing conditions to reduce car parking demand and capacity further.

Regards

Sue Childs  
Vice Chair  
City of Durham Trust