

Neighbourhood Planning Forum- Working group

October 9th, 2015

Antioch House, Durham City

Present: John Ashby, Pippa Bell (note taker) Roberta Blackman-Woods, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwall, Mike Costello, Ann Evans, David Hook, John Lowe, Nigel Martin, Matthew Phillips & Angela Tracy-Smith

Apologies: Karen Elliott, Jonathan Lovell and Kirsty Thomas

Master plan for the whole of Durham City area

There was a discussion around the need for a master plan for the whole of the Durham City area as there is a gap between the County Durham Plan (CDP) and the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), the latter is only centred on the non-parished areas of Durham City. The longer term sustainability of the city needs to be considered not only by the NPF but also through a Town Council once it is established.

Action: All - to take petition for a Town Council door to door – when??

County Council consultations

Need an official response from the NPF to the following consultations:

Durham City air quality action plan – by December 14th

HMO's and interim student accommodation – by October 30th

Durham City conservation area character appraisal – by October 30th

Sustainable Transport Plan- October 30th???

County Durham Plan ??

Matters arising from the Minutes, 14th September

Questionnaire

Sue has updated the analysis of the questionnaire and is now incorporating John A and Ruth's analysis so there will be a complete set of responses from the opening meeting and the returned questionnaires.

Sue hopes to have the full feedback on the website by Tuesday.

The group recorded their thanks to Sue, John A and Ruth for their work on this

Action: Sue to send updated feedback by email to members of NPF

Consultation with children and young people

Pippa reported that she has arranged meetings with the school councils of St. Oswald's and St. Margaret's primary schools to gather the pupils views on Durham City. She is awaiting a reply from St. Leonard's Catholic School, and at the meeting was given a contact for Johnston School.

Pippa has got 3 reports from 2010/11 of young people's thoughts about Durham City centre from Investing in Children to use as evidence

Action: Pippa- ASAP

Consultation with stakeholders

- **Dean and Chapter**, David Kennedy – **Action:** Pippa – ASAP
- **University** – There is an urgent need to engage with the university to ensure that the city infrastructure can cope with the university's future expansion.
There was a discussion around who should represent the University, one contact to be involved in the forum and working group, should this be Graham Towl, as had originally been suggested? It was agreed that Karen Elliott and Matthew Phillips,

both who work at the university, are welcome additions to the working group. They focus on specific areas and are not representing the university.

Mike has given Sian Broadhurst, Senior Executive Officer in VC's office, a map of the student accommodation in the city to give to the VC so that he understands the current student accommodation situation in Durham.

Action: Roberta to ask Vice Chancellor for a University representative to join the NPF –ASAP

- New College
- University Students
- Hospital
- World Heritage Site – **Action:** Kirsty
- Houghall College
- Durham County Council – **Action:** Pippa to chase Jonathan regarding contacting Gavin Scott
- Developers in the city

Action: ALL – need volunteers to make contact with one stakeholder

Writing Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Need costings quotes from professionals with help for writing policies.

Action: Nick – ASAP

Each member of the working party to write 5 policies for each of the 6 topics:

- Housing
- Environment
- Heritage
- Community
- Economy
- Infrastructure

Consider the NP aims before writing the policies, and look at the CDP policies in black, and the gaps they have left and add more detail.

Use feedback from the public through the consultations as the evidence base, and information from the topic groups.

Look at other NP from similar towns such as Ely and Wells.

Land Use

- In the revised CDP the council may have revised plans to build on some of the green belt. The area around Crook Hall needs to be protected through the NP.
- Identify potential sites for start-up businesses in city centre, as there is no provision for this in the CDP.
- Be ready to suggest alternative uses for land where planning permission has already been granted for purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) in case any of the sites become vacant again

Other Neighbourhood Plans

Graeme Trotter from Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan is coming to speak at the working group meeting on Friday October 16th to share his experience of creating the plan and its examination in public (EIP).

It was suggested that contact be made with Sedgfield Neighbourhood Plan Forum.

Action: Roger ?? -ASAP

Press

Need an article in the Durham Times asap regarding the feedback from the open meeting and questionnaires.

Action: Pippa – ASAP

Response to request from Palatinate student paper regarding Gates development written by Sue and John L

Social Media

Facebook page is live.

Action: Roberta's intern to keep it current – ASAP

Gates Development

Matthew and Roger reported that the City of Durham Trust noticed that the planning permission was given for this although it doesn't comply with building regulations.

Action: City of Durham Trust to keep a watching brief on this and report back to NPF

Secretary for NPF

Vacancy for secretary and nominations invited from full NPF

Action: All - ASAP

Sustainable Transport Consultation

Matthew and Karen attended the event. Forum needs to make a response, consultation ends on October 30th??

Action: Matthew/Karen???-October 30th

Topics

The NPF needs to be in place around the time the CDP is ready for its second EIP, which could be as early as the new year. Concern was raised that the time frame would not enable the NPF to do a thorough job with some of the topics including economy and infrastructure.

Economy

- Consider the type of businesses Durham needs to attract, and write policies accordingly.
- Better signage for Durham City, to make it easy and legible to navigate for all users, employees, residents and visitors
- Ideas for filling the economic gap in the summer created by the absence of students.

Action: Roberta offered to find help for economy topic

Next working group meeting, Friday 16th October, 9.30am, 41, Old Elvet,