

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Working Group Meeting, 30 October 2015, Redhills**

Present: John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Roberta Blackman-Woods, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, David Hook, John Lowe (Note Taker), Nigel Martin, Angela Tracy-Smith.

Apologies: Jonathan Lovell.

- 1. Minutes of 22 October:** These were reviewed and agreed as a true record. Matters arising from them are included in the items below. The order in which items were taken was to some extent determined by the fact that some members were not able to be present for the full meeting.
- 2. Website update:** It was agreed that because the NPF is a public body the website should be updated to include the names of current officers, the names of full Forum members, and the composition of the topic groups. **Roger** would email Forum members first.
- 3. Student Accommodation Policy and Article 4 (1) Direction:** John Ashby had led on the response to this consultation and he reported that it had been submitted before today's deadline. John was thanked for his work on this. It was noted that the Durham University Residents Forum (DURF) had a meeting arranged for 11 November with DCC officers to discuss the outcome of the consultation. **John A** would convene a pre-meeting to prepare for this.

Nigel reported that he had responded supporting the NPF response but also emphasising the need to extend the area covered by the Article 4 (1) Direction to include housing areas likely to be included in the County Plan. University student number forecasts would also need to be updated.

- 4. Conservation Area Appraisal:** Angela had led on the response to this consultation and she reported that it had been submitted before today's deadline. Angela was thanked for her work on this. The Appraisal document contained much valuable evidence for the work of the Heritage topic group.
- 5. DURF Student research project:** John Lowe reported that a group of third year geography students was doing a research project on students' accommodation preferences. He would be meeting the students on Monday. The project was due to be completed by mid-December and should provide much valuable evidence for the work of the Housing topic group.
- 6. "To Let" Boards:** It was noted that these are once more proliferating and that the voluntary code is fatuous. Our response to the Conservation Area Appraisal contained good arguments about this. **Nigel** agreed to seek further information about the Article 7 Direction that had been implemented in Newcastle.
- 7. Air Quality Consultation:** Nigel reported that the Council had put back the introduction of the new SCOOT traffic control system until April 2017.
- 8. Letter to stakeholders:** **Roger** will deal with this as soon as the current plethora of consultation responses has been completed.

9. Strategic Housing Market Assessment: We discussed the priority that should be given to the different types of housing. It was agreed that they should be:

High: Affordable homes to rent
Affordable homes to buy
Properties designed for older people

Medium: Homes to buy on the open market
Improving stock quality
Properties designed for people with specialist needs

Low: Executive homes
Selfbuild

It was confirmed that our response should only apply to the area covered by the NPF, not the County as a whole. In response to Q50 we should emphasise the need for good quality design suitable for our historic city and also aiming for zero carbon emissions. **Roger** will submit our response.

10. Funding for a Project Manager: Roberta, Roger and Sue were to discuss this immediately after the meeting.

11. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting at Newton Aycliffe: Pippa reported on a most valuable meeting she had attended yesterday. It had brought together representatives of all local groups preparing neighbourhood plans. Pippa has circulated her notes of this meeting separately. She also distributed copies of some very impressive working documents that had been produced for the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan. She emphasised that we have to consult Historic England.

12. Jonathan Elmer: Jonathan has resigned as a director of a company in our area and he has sought clarification of his eligibility to remain a Firum member. It was agreed that he is no longer eligible but he was thanked for his contribution to the working groups and assured that he would be welcome to continue his contribution as a co-opted member. **Roger** will write to him.

13. County Hospital Appeal Hearing: It was agreed that the Forum needed to respond to this. **Nigel** would send to Roger his views on the matter.

14. Facebook and publications: Sue agreed to liaise with James Hammond, Roberta's intern, about these matters.

15. NEXT MEETING: Thursday 5 November at 11.00 in Redhills.

This meeting will focus on creating a work plan using the model of the Great Aycliffe documents. **John A** will book the room.

John Lowe
30 October 2015

(npf wg notes 30 oct 2015)