

**Durham City Centre Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Working Group Meeting, 17 November 2015, Redhills**

Present: John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, John Lowe, David Miller, Kirsty Thomas.

Apologies: Adam Deathe, Angela Tracy-Smith.

1. **Minutes of 30 October:** These were reviewed and agreed as a true record. Matters arising from them included:
 - It was confirmed that the **DURF meeting with DCC** would take place at County Hall at 3.00 on 18 November.
 - **Roger** would contact **Matthew** about the **Air Quality Consultation**.
 - Sue reported that the **Facebook** page was progressing with work being done to deal with technical issues.
2. **Funding for Project Manager:** Sue reported that **Ros Ward** had offered to work two days per week as a volunteer in this role. This offer was very much welcomed by the group and it was agreed to pay her expenses and for RTPI training as necessary. **Roger** will write to welcome her offer and invite her to our next meeting when we will discuss her detailed brief. Meanwhile, **Roger and Sue** will amend our funding bid accordingly.
3. **Developers' Responses:** Sue had sent an email yesterday summarising the responses received from developers. Roger has set up an email list to maintain contact with them. We will meet any developers who wish to talk to us and we will keep them informed via updates on the website and email. Housing for older people has been identified as a key need. Keith Husband who represents McCarthy and Stone, specialist retirement housebuilders, is keen to talk to us. It was agreed that **Roger** would invite him to a meeting with himself, **John A, Sue and Ros**. It was noted that the SHLAA is currently being updated. John A and Sue are working on the issue of housing numbers and possible sites and John sent an email with an attachment about this yesterday. It was also agreed that Roger should write to Housing Associations as stakeholders in the same way as developers as they are important providers of affordable housing and might also help in the conversion of HMOs back to family homes.
4. **Vision:** David introduced his paper on Vision and Themes / Topics, Objectives / Policies and Options, using the structure followed by Great Aycliffe. There was a warm welcome for David's approach and he was thanked for it. He emphasised that objectives in the plan must be deliverable. There was some discussion about the need to prevent developers holding on to sites that had received planning permission but that were not being developed. **David** will do further work on his model and we will align our topic groups to the themes (**All**).
5. **Historic England:** Kirsty noted the need to meet HE. It was agreed to ask **Ros** for advice about how best to approach them.
6. **AAP City Centre Group:** It was agreed that **John L** would provide that group with an update on the NPF at its meeting on 1 December.
7. **Sustainable Transport:** Pippa reported that Karen had had a fruitful meeting with Terry Collins.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Wednesday 25 November at 2.00 in Redhills AND Wednesday 2 December at 2.00 in Redhills.

After the meeting the group watched a webinar hosted by the RTPPI about how well neighbourhood planning is working. A report will be available later.