

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Working Group Meeting, 15 December 2015, Redhills**

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

Apologies: Adam Deathe, Jonathan Lovell, David Miller, Angela Tracy-Smith.

1. It was **AGREED that we should adopt a new structure for our agenda:**

- Items that need to be decided at the current meeting
- Reports from theme convenors
- Matters arising from the previous minutes
- Any other business
- Dates of next two meetings

2. It was also **AGREED that John Lowe would act as secretary to the Forum and also as convenor for the cross-cutting theme of Climate Change.** This would put it on the same footing as the other themes and ensure it was not overlooked. The group welcomed the news that David Miller intended to take part in the working group.

3. **Response to the Mount Oswald planning application (variation)**

Sue presented a draft response that had been prepared by Matthew and it was **AGREED to submit it.** The traffic assessment needs updating in light of the developments at Browney Lane. This will be done by the **City of Durham Trust.**

4. **Durham City Housing Market**

John A referred to the possibility of some research being conducted by consultants into the effect of studentification on the Council's finances; on the local community; on the student experience; practice elsewhere; the relation between supply and demand for student accommodation. It was **AGREED to discuss the possibility of funding this at our next meeting.**

5. **Government consultation on Starter Homes and the Green Belt**

This consultation has just been announced and has a deadline of 25 January 2016. It was **AGREED that Sue and John A would consider this in the context of the housing theme and draft a response in consultation with Ros.**

6. **Reports from Theme Convenors**

Heritage: Kirsty reported that a second draft of proposals had been sent by Ros to Gavin Scott (DCC) and to M Hurlow and J Gibson (World Heritage Site). They had also been sent to parish councils and other local church communities to raise awareness. This led to a general discussion about the need to identify gaps in our evidence base and discuss themes with stakeholders. These approaches were distinct from formal public consultations. It was **AGREED that we needed to consider adopting policies from the WHS management plan.**

Economy: Pippa reported that she needs to talk to Ros to clarify the way forward. She has many discussions to write up and lots of information that needs structuring.

Housing: John A and Sue will meet K Husband on Thursday to discuss McCarthy and

Stone's plans for retirement homes. John and Sue have drafted objectives and John is working on the figures. It will be necessary to label sites for particular purposes.

Infrastructure: The group thanked Matthew for all the work he had put in to responses to consultations on Air Quality, Sustainable Transport and Mount Oswald. The sustainable transport strategy being proposed by JMP consultants would need to be subjected to critical appraisal.

Community: Roger reported that he had received lots of feedback on issues.

Climate change: John noted the importance of building on the Paris accord.

7. Previous Minutes:

The minutes of 2 December were approved.

Roger would ask Nick Rippin to press Roberta about University representation on the Forum.

Ros would produce a work plan for the working group.

Our Facebook page was being widely advertised and John A is monitoring it daily.

8. Any other business

John A reported that developers had submitted a planning application (DM/15/03735/VOC) to vary their planning application for Kepier House.

Roger reported that developers would be making a presentation to the Crossgate Community Partnership on 5 January about their planning application for the Companions' Club. It was noted that this must not be allowed to convert to student accommodation.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Tuesday 12 January and Tuesday 26 January at 2.00 upstairs in Redhills.

Items for inclusion on the **NEXT AGENDA** would include:

- A consideration of David's proposed vision for the neighbourhood plan
- Response to consultation on starter homes and Green Belt
- The possibility of funding research into the housing market
- 2016-17 funding in general
- Fixing the dates of future meetings to facilitate attendance (following recent email correspondence)