

Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group Meeting, 23 May 2017, Miners' Hall

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, John Lowe, David Miller, Matthew Phillips, Angela Tracy.

Apologies: John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Mike Costello, Ros Ward.

2. Notes of 9 May

The notes were agreed and **Sue** will post them on the website.

Sue confirmed that she had renewed our data protection registration.

Roger reported that the City of Durham Trust trustees had unanimously agreed to handle payments from Groundwork on behalf of the NPF. We formally recorded our thanks for this. **Roger** will draw up the formal written agreement about how the account will be managed. Sue confirmed that the paperwork had been completed and submitted to Groundwork.

3. Durham University Masterplan

Roger and John L had attended last night's official launch of the plan. The booklet and videos are now on the website at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/strategy2027/>

The plan takes no serious account of the impact of the proposed expansion on the city's long-term residents. The proposed expansion and the return of students from Stockton increase the scale of the challenge the city faces in the following main areas:

- Student accommodation
- Pedestrian traffic
- Retail viability
- Health provision

The university is consulting with DCC to ensure consistency with the emerging County Durham Plan, but not to the same extent with the NPF to ensure consistency with the Neighbourhood Plan. Its plan is only emerging and many details remain to be settled. It will offer positive aspects such as increased opportunities for public participation in cultural and sporting activities. We need to review our plan in the light of what we now know of the university's plans. We also need to await the response to our consultation.

John L was asked to request a copy of the Estates Masterplan from Matthew Wright.

4. Scoping Report

Feedback was received on Monday from Historic England. Sue reported that Claire Hattam's comments had already largely been incorporated in the latest version.

It was **agreed** that a wider range of strategy documents would be consulted and analysed with an

emphasis on those that focused on Durham City. **All** were asked to advise Sue of any additional national strategy documents they had found significant for their themes.

Sue and **John L** (in the absence of Ros and John A) will work on considering Historic England's comments and revising the document accordingly.

5. Holly Street Appeal

Holly Street is one of our recommended housing sites. The developer is appealing against the Council's decision not to allow the building of a PBSA. **Roger** will check the committee minutes to confirm the reasons for not granting planning permission and draft a response for our consideration at our next meeting.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 6 June**, 10.00 – 12.00 in the **Miners' Hall**. The main focus of the meeting will be to consider the revision of the Scoping Report.

7. Other Business

It was noted that planning permission was being sought for a PBSA in the former post office in Silver Street and an associated building in Back Silver Street. The former might involve some loss of retail space and the latter would use the ground floor for student accommodation, thus preventing the expansion of arts facilities in that area. We need to consider whether our policy is robust enough in this matter. **Roger** would look into these matters and report to the next meeting.