

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group meeting,
9.12-11.36 am, 13 January 2018, Miners' Hall**

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: John Ashby, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, Matthew Phillips, Ros Ward.

Apologies: Pippa Bell, Peter Jackson, John Lowe, David Miller, Angela Tracy.

2. Notes of 6 February 2018

These were agreed.

3. Revised timetable for DCC, Historic England and other officer workshops

Carole Dillon had offered 22 February for the SEA workshop but, having accepted this date, it has transpired that several members of the Working Group would not be able to attend. Accordingly, **Ros** will request a new date for the SEA workshop, with the 'guinea pig' or exemplar being Theme 4, in the week beginning 26 February. The Working Group will meet at 9.30 am prior to officer meetings at 10.00. Historic England have confirmed that they cannot manage any date earlier than 20 March.

Ros has also requested a schedule of dates for meetings with appropriate County Council officers (and where appropriate Durham University or other bodies) to follow the SEA workshop to discuss principles and details of changes to the Draft Plan, Theme by Theme. Note: Beverley Bentham of DCC has since offered the following schedule:

27th February – Housing

6th March – Community Facilities

13th March – Transport

20th March – Heritage

27th March – Economy

3rd April – Environment (Including Green Infrastructure and Sustainability).

4. Categorisation of Theme(4) Housing

Sue was congratulated on this exceptional work. The Persimmon and Southlands responses re 'needing' at least 600 new homes will be discussed with Carole before publishing the Theme 4 categorisation schedule – our figure would be nearer 300 and approved sites should be counted towards the figure of 'need'. The population thresholds in Policies D2 and D3 might be judged by elector numbers as a proxy or by bed-spaces (**Roger** will investigate) to at least represent the impact of a PBSA; again, discuss with Carole. Monitoring of decisions and appeals under the Interim Policy will be discussed with Carole and with Stephen Reed of DCC. **John A** will revise his entries in the categorisation schedule and **Sue** will finalise it for the Working Group meeting on 20 February.

5. Categorisation of Theme 2(a) Built Heritage and Theme 2(b) Green Infrastructure

Ann and **Ros** will revise Theme 2(a) Built Heritage and forward to **Roger** to convert for circulation for the meeting on 27 February. **They** will seek a meeting with Jane Gibson (WHS Co-ordinator)

and also invite her to the meeting on 27 February.

Sue will prepare a categorisation schedule for Theme 2(b) Green Infrastructure for circulation for the meeting on 27 February.

The decision of the County Council to not retain its previous plans for development of the Aykley Heads playing fields plateau area in the Green Belt was welcomed. The site for new County Council offices has been decided by the County Council to be on The Sands car and coach park; this site is not proposed for offices in the current Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Timetable for categorisation of Themes

The aim is for Theme schedules to be circulated in time for consideration on the following dates of Working Group meetings:

Theme 4: for meeting on 13 Feb

Theme 2(a): for meeting on 20 Feb

Theme 2(b): for meeting on 27 Feb

Theme 3: for meeting on 27 Feb

Theme 5: for meeting on 6 March

Theme 1: for meeting on 13 March

Theme 6: for meeting on 13 March (**Sue C** to invite Angela Tracy)

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Draft press release: approved with thanks to Pippa (subsequently issued by her).

7.2 Email from a member of the Forum: Roger will reply that we share their concern about the future of the M&S site; however, at this stage we cannot progress anything, because nothing is in the public domain and also because the source of the rumour is not known to us.

7.3 University Engagement Event: the issues around this event were noted. On the Missoula tragedy, **John A** will ask SNCF to consider submitting a neighbourhood question to the Durham City Action Area Partnership about the terms of licensing in Walkergate.

7.4 Durham City Access For All Group: Barry Gower has requested a speaker for their March meeting. **Roger** will respond accepting the invitation.

8. Date of Next Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 20 February, 9.15 (or whenever the Forum meeting ends) -12.00 am, Miners' Hall.

