

**Durham City Neighbourhood Plan Working Party  
22 January 2019, Miners' Hall**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

**Present:** John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, John Lowe, John Pacey, Matthew Phillips.

**Apologies:** David Miller, Angela Tracy.

**2. Notes of working party meeting on 15 January 2019**

- a) **Accuracy:** The notes were agreed and **Sue** will post them on the website.
- b) **Matters arising:** None.

**3. Implications of the Pre-submission Draft of the County Plan**

The most significant issues from the point of view of satisfying the Basic Conditions was that DCC has listed all the policies as strategic. **Roger** will write to query this. We shall also need to discuss with Carole Dillon the implications for the Neighbourhood Plan's policies with the strategic policies of the local plan: is it still just a matter of conformity with the Durham City saved policies? It was noted that so far DCC has only approved the plan for consultation, not the policies themselves.

**4. Any matters to report from:**

a) **Parish Council**  
None.

b) **AECOM**  
John A thanked Roger and Sue for providing the additional text and maps requested by AECOM concerning Observatory Hill. AECOM has asked a further question about the origin of the decision to seek a full Sustainability Appraisal rather than just a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The working group made this decision in the light of the views expressed by Historic England and also to help us to satisfy the Basic Condition about sustainability. **John A** will respond to AECOM and also ask them to let us have their report not later than Tuesday 5 February.

**5. Timetables for Neighbourhood Plan and County Local Plan**

Due to the delay in receiving the AECOM report, a definitive revision of the timetable would have to await developments. However, after discussing the various options and constraints, it was **agreed** to follow the following process:

Monday 8 April: Draft Plan sent to Parish Planning Committee  
Friday 12 April: Presentation of Plan to Parish Planning Committee  
Tuesday 16 April: Opportunity for NPWP to make final amendments  
Wednesday 17 April: Draft Plan sent to Parish Council  
Thursday 25 April: Plan considered for approval by Parish Council

(Note: I'm not absolutely sure about these dates as the discussion was originally about March and

I've tried to extrapolate. The NPWP meeting on 16 April was not mention at the meeting, but I thought it might be worth adding. Easter Sunday is 21 April. JL)

## 6. Consultation Statement

John L apologised that he had not been able to make progress on the *Consultation Statement* as he had had problems with his laptops. He would try to prepare something for the next meeting. Meanwhile, colleagues could make progress on the Tattenhall table.

## 7. Basic Conditions Statement

John L had sent the revised draft to Carole Dillon for her advice. He had reminded her that we had still not received advice about dealing with EU directives. He had also informed her that we would wait to invite her to a meeting until we had received the AECOM report. So far he had not received a reply. It was **agreed** that **John A** would write to Carole to ensure the point about the invitation was clear and to identify four main topics we wished to discuss with her:

- The *Basic Conditions Statement*
- To seek an assurance that DCC was no longer sticking to the criticisms it made in its letter in December 2017, and that the only point at issues was the *Sustainability Appraisal*.
- AECOM's *Sustainability Appraisal* report.
- The implications for the Neighbourhood Plan of the strategic policies in the Pre-submission Draft of the County Durham Plan.

## 8. Plans for the Regulation 14 Consultation

**All** are asked to send to Sue any amendments to the Summary leaflet that David had distributed. **Sue** will add to the Tasks Spreadsheet what needs doing to prepare for the consultation which is now like to start in May. It was **agreed** that the Tasks Spreadsheet should be included as a regular item on the agenda.

## 9. Progress on Consultation on the Plan Area

No problems have been reported. The consultation is open until 31 January. John L noted that he would be asking the Sidegate Residents' Association this evening to support the proposal. **John A** will write to Carole to explain what Parish councillors had done to explain the proposals to people in the Gilesgate area and to ask how the consultation was going.

## 10. Witton Gilbert Neighbourhood Plan

John A noted that the success of their documentation should encourage us. It was suggested that the City of Durham Parish Council should express support for the Witton Gilbert plan.

## 11. Any other business:

None

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 9.00 am at the Miners' Hall.