

## **Durham City Centre Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group Meeting, 2 December, Redhills**

**Present:** John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs (Note taker), Roger Cornwell (Chair), Adam Deathe, David Hook, Jonathan Lovell, John Lowe, Kirsty Thomas, Ros Ward

**Apologies:** Karen Elliott, Angela Tracy-Smith

**1. Minutes of 25 November:** These were reviewed and agreed as a true record.

### **2. Matters Arising**

- Next DURF Meeting. Roger will raise the issue of To Let Boards.
- Air Quality Consultation: We will put in a separate response, mainly endorsing Matthew's document for CDT. Sue will circulate a draft response for comment.
- Stakeholder contacts, actions to be completed: Sue and JohnA to contact housing associations.
- JohnA to contact Roberta re University contacts.
- JohnL will give regular updates on the NPF to the Durham AAP
- Map of Green Belt: Roger is working on this
- The press release has appeared in the Northern Echo and Durham Times
- Sue will attend Banks' event on Mount Oswald on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**3. Project Manager's Report:** Ros Ward has contacted Gavin Scott. She will also contact other relevant DCC departments, e.g. assets, public transport, public health, adult and community care. She is catching up with all the Planning Aid information on Neighbourhood Planning. She attended the Sustainable Transport Strategy meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November. She met with Barbara Hooper, Historic England. Ros will produce a workplan with deadlines for us to meet. This will also incorporate, as they become available, deadlines for Local Plan and EiP consultations and activities.

It was agreed that from now on all contacts with DCC will be via Ros. Ros' email is [ros.ward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ros.ward@yahoo.co.uk). Contacts with other groups and individuals will be via Working Group members, but they need to inform Ros so she is kept up to date. Ros will use the official npf email address [durhamcitynpf@gmail.com](mailto:durhamcitynpf@gmail.com) when contacting outside bodies and people. Roger and Sue will talk with Ros about email channels etc.

Kirsty Thomas sent a list of the Heritage issues to Gavin Scott and received helpful feedback. She will circulate these documents to the Working Group.

We need to consider how much feedback is required from people who are frequent visitors/users of Durham City Centre, but who do not live or work in the Forum area. Parish councils could be contacted. Ros will produce a plan of action for this. It should be noted that there are other unparished areas outside the Forum area, e.g. Newton Hall, Sherburn Road Estate.

**4. Facebook Page:** James attended meeting with update on progress of the NPF Facebook page. We need to grow the number of people liking the page: currently at 35. Roger and Adam will promote it through their various lists and contacts. James will promote it through his University contacts. Working Group members should send James brief details of their Forum activities, with photos where possible. The Facebook link should be used on all Forum publicity etc. Sue will add it to the NPF website.

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/durhamnpf](http://www.facebook.com/durhamnpf)

James' email: [j.n.hammond@durham.ac.uk](mailto:j.n.hammond@durham.ac.uk)

It was agreed that JohnA would look at the site on a daily basis to moderate its content and make responses where applicable. We only have the resources to respond to planning matters that fall within the Forum area. For other matters, people will be advised to contact their local councillor, etc.

James was thanked for his work.

**5. Sustainable Transport Strategy Meeting – Report:** JohnA and JohnL gave feedback from this meeting. JMP, the consultants working for DCC, will produce a detailed document in the New Year. Their presentation at the meeting was very promising. They stated that the priorities for sustainable transport were:

- people walking
- people cycling
- people using public transport
- people using cars

Other key points they made were: Employers need to be on board, e.g. by reducing car parking and providing cycling to work schemes and support for public transport use. There is no congestion problem in the City: the rush hour traffic only lasts for ~1hr. Deal with the problems on Milburngate Bridge by providing a bus lane in each direction. A North Relief road might be necessary. The people attending the meeting will be given first sight of the full document in the New Year and have 2 weeks to respond. It is vital that the Forum responds in that 2 week period. The final version of the document will then be put out for public consultation. To deal with this issue will require a change in culture, a change in infrastructure and political will.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Sue sent the amended priority questionnaire to Karen Elliott for circulation to University students. She has also set up a new e-questionnaire for the students to use.

A consultation on plans for the Bus station is expected in April. Money has been set aside to improve North Rd, Claypath and Millenium Place. The old council offices will be put up for sale.

Pippa has contacted Rosalind Brown, member of the Dean and Chapter and Chair of the WHS. They will meet in the New Year. Jane Gibson is the WHS Co-ordinator and will be contacted by Kirsty.

The County Hospital Planning Appeal public meeting is on 8th December, 10am, URC Church in Waddington St.

Houghall College is planning for student accommodation, but this will be on their own site on a non-green belt piece of land.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 15 December at 2.00pm, upstairs room, Redhills