

## **Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group Meeting, 7 June 2016, Redhills**

**Present:** John Ashby, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Adam Deathe, Ann Evans, David Hook, John Lowe, David Miller, Kirsty Thomas, Angela Tracy-Smith, Ros Ward.

**Apologies:** Pippa Bell, Karen Elliott, Jonathan Lovell, Nigel Martin, Matthew Phillips,

### **1. St John's EcoFestival on 19 June**

**Pippa, Karen, Matthew and Ann** have volunteered to attend. They will focus on seeking views about walking routes.

### **2. Neighbourhood Planning Working Group Meeting on 7 July**

This event will be a briefing about the County Durham Plan. **John L. and Ann** will attend.

### **3. Recent official documents**

John L. drew attention to the following documents. They are included as attachments with these notes:

- Amendments to the *Planning Practice Guidance*
- *Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill*
- Also the *Housing and Planning Act* defines that “Affordable Homes” include “Starter Homes” which outside London cost an average of £250k. (This document not attached).

### **4. BID Consultation event on 8 July**

Adam asked whether we could share our policy papers at this event. It was **agreed** that we would decide at the working group meeting on 5 July which papers were ready to share. There would be an emphasis on policies relevant to the economy. It is also important that we share them DCC. **Ros** will invite Gavin Scott to the meeting on 5 July.

### **5. Notes of our meetings on 3 and 24 May**

These were agreed as a true record and **Sue** will post them on the website. As a matter arising she asked volunteers to contact her about walking around areas where residents' associations had not identified suitable housing sites.

### **6. AAP City Centre Group documents**

John L. drew attention to three documents he had obtained at a recent meeting:

- *Durham Tourism Management Plan 2016 – 2020*. This was a glossy booklet that he gave to Adam. It contains useful information about the tourism economy.
- *Durham City Regeneration Projects Update*. This is a very useful brief summary from Jeanette Armin. This is attached to these notes.
- *Durham City Riverside*. This is a project to open up the riverside to visitors. It fits well with our Green Infrastructure proposals. This is also attached to these notes.

### **7. Durham City Policies 2004**

Roger reported that Sue Pitts had offered this documentation to the NPF. **Kirsty** offered to collect it.

### **8. Data Protection Registration**

Roger reported that he had renewed our registration.

## 9. Revised Project Plan

Ros had distributed a revised plan. There seems no need to be concerned about clashing with DCC's published programme for the development of the new County Durham Plan. It was **agreed** that we should hold the formal six-week pre-submission consultation on the draft plan 19 September – 31 October.

**Ros, Sue and John L.** will get together to determine the details of the consultation process.

**Ros, John A. and David M.** will use their professional expertise to finalise the policies. There will be an additional working group meeting on 21 June for colleagues to comment on the proposed documentation which will have to be finalised at the meeting on 5 July.

After some discussion about employing someone to write up the final document, **David** volunteered to do it. David requires the final versions by 12 July.

## 10. Revised structure for the plan

David and John L. proposed that the Climate Change theme should be subsumed into a new Sustainable Future theme that would incorporate design principles that applied to all the themes. This would be the introductory theme. This was **agreed**. A balance needed striking between avoiding repetition on the one hand and overloading this theme at the expense of the others.

## 11. Economy theme

Adam explained the changing nature of the retail offer and the challenges that businesses faced in the city. They had to come to terms with the reality of both on-line shopping and out-of-town shopping. He will add some material to the economy policies for the meeting on 21 June to address these issues.

## 12. Heritage theme

Kirsty emphasised the need to ensure protection of the conservation area. An explicit policy is needed to protect buildings designated as of special local interest. She also emphasised the need for interpretation of the city's history. It was noted that brownfield sites only needed listing if there is a specific proposal for their use. The need for enhanced public toilet provision was also highlighted and it was suggested that businesses could be persuaded to join a scheme to allow use of their facilities.

## 13. Green Infrastructure

Sue noted that they had added an additional policy (GI5) to promote the creation of local green spaces. They were also keen to protect specific allotments and cemeteries. The identification and registration of rights of way is important to promote connectivity and the walkability of the city. Policies H7, 8 & 9 are now subsumed within the Green Infrastructure theme.

## 14. Housing theme

Roger noted that the Coach Park is common land and not available for development. It was **agreed** that we should attempt to strengthen DCC's student accommodation policy in line with the views expressed at the EiP. We need to check DCC's parking permit policy for the city centre.

### 15. Infrastructure theme

David M. reported that in view of amendments to the policies, this theme should now be restricted to the Transport infrastructure. The policies remained as agreed on 24 May but there were still issues to resolve about parking (see above). Suggestions were made that we should promote “walking buses” for school children and the provision of secure cycle racks for residential accommodation, particularly flats if it is difficult to take bikes inside.

### 16. Community Hub proposals

Angela was thanked for developing this proposal with Sue. She distributed copies of the consultation leaflet. This would become policy C3 in the Community theme.

### 17. Challenging Actions

Unfortunately there was insufficient time to discuss David M's paper properly and he asked colleagues to respond directly to him. **All.**

### 18. Future Meetings

The following dates were agreed, all Tuesdays at 10.00 and at Redhills **except** 5 July:

- 21 June
- 5 July **Venue to be notified. David M.** is checking the availability of the new facility at Wharton Park. **JohnA**, will check Antioch House if necessary.
- 2 August
- 6 September