

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Working Group Meeting, 6 September 2016, Wharton Park**

Present: John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, David Hook, Peter Jackson, John Lowe, Matthew Phillips, Kirsty Thomas, Ros Ward.

Apologies: Adam Deathe, Karen Elliott, Nigel Martin, David Miller, Angela Tracy-Smith.

In attendance: Gavin Scott, Durham County Council

Peter Jackson was welcomed to his first meeting.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Harvey Dowdy of the University's Masterplan 2016-26. This is confidential until a public consultation on 10/11 October. Representatives of the City of Durham Trust were in attendance for the presentation.

1. Notes of Working Group Meeting 19 July 2016

The notes were agreed and **Roger** will post them on the website. Please note that until further notice all documents to be posted on the website should be sent to Roger. **All**

2. Scrutiny of Draft Policies

The main purpose of this meeting was to review the policies that have been drafted. The notes that follow are a brief summary as **all theme convenors** were asked to make detailed notes of comments on their theme. In addition, it was agreed that **all** should make any written comments on the drafts by using the "Comments" boxes in the "Drafts" section of the website:

<http://npf.durhamcity.org.uk/drafts/>

It was also agreed that actions to be taken by statutory and community bodies should not be expressed as policies but as "Statutory and Community Actions." The focus of the plan's policies must be the criteria by which planning applications are assessed.

We had time to look at the following themes (just a few highlights are noted here):

Heritage: it is essential to have Policy H7 that covers the whole plan area, not just the conservation areas.

Green Infrastructure: Sue asked for any additional areas to be designated as Local Green Spaces; justification must be given.

Transport: this was not as developed as others due to personal circumstances, but **Matthew** undertook to develop it further for 20 September with assistance from **John A.**

Economy: consideration needs to be given as to how best to ensure a satisfactory broadband service for the city centre businesses.

Housing: the Interim Student Accommodation Policy needs including in full with the possibility of amendments in the light of experience. The city will have to accommodate 6000 more students by 2026. We need a policy about the conversion of student accommodation to family use and about the adaptation of homes to allow older people to remain in them.

Community Hub: this theme was not discussed, but Peter noted that the Chamber of Commerce would be able to offer some financial support and advice to help with the development of this project. The university presentation also contained relevant material.

3. **Revised Project Timetable**

Ros had distributed a revised timetable prior to the meeting. She needs to have the finished drafts before she can talk to the County Council about whether it meets the basic conditions and satisfies the sustainability requirements. 20 September will be the deadline for this. **Ros** will complete the grant application form to claim money to cover our public consultation costs. The public consultation will follow the Council's Preferred Options consultation in January/February 2017.

4. **Maps**

Roger will deal with the provision of maps outside the meeting.

5. **Next meetings**

There will be **an additional meeting** of the working group on **Tuesday 20 September, 10.00 – 1.00 in Wharton Park** to complete today's agenda. Gavin will attend the meeting and we will scrutinise and agree the remaining policies.

The **next ordinary meeting** of the working group will be on **Tuesday 4 October, 10.00 – 1.00 in Wharton Park.**

There will be a **meeting of the full Forum on Thursday 20 October at 6.30 in Redhills** to agree the final version of the policies to be submitted to the County Council.