

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Working Group Meeting, 20 September 2016, Wharton Park**

Present: Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, David Hook, John Lowe, David Miller, Matthew Phillips, Ros Ward.

Apologies: John Ashby, Adam Deathe, Karen Elliott, Peter Jackson, Nigel Martin, Kirsty Thomas, Angela Tracy-Smith.

In attendance: Gavin Scott, Durham County Council

1. Notes of Working Group Meeting 6 September 2016

It was agreed that the second paragraph of Item 2 should be amended to read: "It was also agreed that actions to be taken by statutory and community bodies should not be expressed as policies but as 'Actions for Statutory and Community Bodies.' The focus of the plan's policies must be the criteria by which planning applications are assessed."

The notes were then agreed and **Sue** will post them on the website.

2. Scrutiny of Draft Policies

We discussed the following themes (just a few highlights are noted here):

Sustainable Future: The grid showing the relationship between the NPPF and all our policies would be valuable as an appendix to show that our plan meets the basic condition of conformity with the NPPF. It is important to add 'Actions for Statutory and Community Bodies' to the grid.

Monitoring and review arrangements will need adding to all themes.

Transport: An objective assessment technique for walking and cycling plans is required for robustness, though it needs to be proportionate to the size of the site. City centre parking needs to be flexible to assist shoppers and the level of parking provision is a planning issue. Controlled parking zones are required near PBSAs. Footpaths need better signage and maintenance. **Matthew** will meet **David M** and **John L** next week to do further work on these themes.

Community: There is likely to be a greater need for community health centres to relieve pressure on hospitals. It was suggested that the criteria for policies C5 and C6 could be merged and that C7 should be moved to the Housing theme. We need to consider including a policy that protects existing community provision.

3. Strategic environmental Assessment

Ros will deal with this with advice from the County Council.

4. Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

Ros will deal with this with advice from the County Council.

5. Grant Application

Ros sought advice about the nature of the support we needed to apply for. It was **agreed** that we should apply for a viability study of sites proposed for development and for a final health check on the plan.

6. Publication of a Newsletter

Pippa will prepare a press release that highlights the young persons' consultation that she has just completed and also publicise the full Forum meeting on 20 October.

7. Arrangements for the Full Forum Meeting

The Thompson room at the Miners' Hall, Redhills, has been booked for 6.30 on Thursday 20 October. **Sue** will email Forum members immediately to alert them to this. The main purpose of the meeting will be to ask the Forum members to endorse the policies we have drafted.

All theme convenors must send their documents to Sue by the morning of Sunday 9 October so that she can post them on the website. **Sue** will then inform all Forum members that they are available and ask them to study them before the meeting. She will also ask them to email any questions before the meeting to npf@durhamcity.org.uk or to use the "Comments" box on the website.

John L will make enquiries about making available at the meeting a printed Executive Summary. The MP will be attending the meeting and will be invited to speak. At the end of the meeting **Ros** will explain the next steps in the process of preparing the plan.

8. Our Neighbourhood

It was **agreed** to adopt Roger's suggestion that after an initial explanation the plan should refer simply to "Our Neighbourhood" rather than "our neighbourhood plan area".

9. Objection to Holly Street PBSA

The group thanked John A for preparing this objection.

10. Consultation on the Neighbourhood Planning Bill

John L was asked to look into this and report to the next meeting.

11. AAP Tripartite Debate on the City

John L reported that the Durham City AAP Board had invited us to take part in a debate with the County Council and the University at its meeting on Tuesday 6 December at 6.00 in the Town Hall. It was **agreed** that we should accept this invitation and that **John L** would seek further details.

12. Update on City Centre Regeneration Projects

John L reported that he had received this update yesterday at a meeting of the AAP sub-group dealing with the city centre. It will be distributed with these notes.

13. Future Meetings

The **next ordinary meeting** of the working group will be on **Tuesday 4 October, 10.00 – 12.00 in Wharton Park**. This will include consideration of the public consultation arrangements.

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.

The working group will also meet on **Tuesday 1 November** and **Tuesday 6 December**. Both meetings will be at 10.00 in Wharton Park.