

Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group Meeting, 21 March 2017, Miners' Hall

Present: John Ashby, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Mike Costello, Ann Evans, John Lowe, David Miller, Matthew Phillips, Angela Tracy, Ros Ward.

Apologies: Adam Deathe, Pippa Bell, Carole Dillon, Karen Elliott, Peter Jackson, Kirsty Thomas.

1. Notes of 14 March

- The notes were agreed after John L corrected the name of the person coming from Historic England to Barbara Hooper. **Sue** will post them on the website as well as the notes from all these extra meetings as they form an important part of our evidence.
- **Roger and Sue** will take our Twitter account offline to avoid people receiving unnecessary emails.
- Roger noted the 2:1 vote in favour of a Parish Council for Durham City.

2. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A general discussion was held about the correct template to use. Carole and Claire (DCC) had indicated that they had identified deficiencies in the template we had sent them. Ros explained that she thought it omitted consideration of alternatives and reasons for the eventual selection of policies. In practice we had largely done this, but we need to make it explicit in the SEA, including our reasons for not including policies that are beyond our remit or are being addressed by other bodies such as DCC.

It was recognised that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to be particularly robust in the absence of DCC's Local Plan. It was **agreed** that we need to be more explicit in acknowledging the great significance of the university in the city. Its Masterplan means that we don't have to propose plans for it, but we do need to be clear where that will have an impact on the city and where our proposed policies might challenge their aspirations. **John A to draft a new text for Section 2.2 Challenges.**

In preparation for Friday's meeting with Historic England, **Sue** will send them the most recent draft of our plan.

It was **agreed** to adopt the version of Sustainability Objectives drawn up by John L. This was based on the NPPF with some customisation to Our Neighbourhood; this could be taken further. The account of the initial scoping of the plan has to be done at plan level, not at the level of the individual themes. It moved from Topics through Consultations and the study of the NPPF and Local Plans to the elaboration of the Themes. **John L and David** will meet to progress this.

3. Future meetings

The next ordinary meeting will be on **Tuesday 28 March at 9.00.**

There will be a special meeting on **Friday 24 March at 9.00** to meet Jules Brown and Barbara Hooper from Historic England. They are due to join us at 9.30.

Both meetings will be in the Miners' Hall.