

## **Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group Meeting, 3 October 2017, Miners' Hall**

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

**Present:** Pippa Bell, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, John Lowe, Matthew Phillips, Ros Ward.

**Apologies:** John Ashby, Sue Childs, David Miller.

### **2. Notes of 26 September**

- The notes were agreed. **Sue** will post them on the website.
- Item 8: The cycling map is OK. **Roger** will amend the colours on the walking map and will discuss with John A the site numbering on the housing map.

### **3. Sustainability Assessments**

Matthew asked for guidance about the Transport assessment. It was complicated because of the number of options to be considered. He was advised to try to simplify these.

### **4. Response to Carole Dillon's Comments**

It was **agreed** that we should not provide a detailed response to all Carole's comments at this stage. We had made our general response at last week's meeting. The key thing at this stage is to accept those comments that we judge will improve the text of the policies. We can consider the other comments as part of the consultation process.

It was noted that Carole had not submitted any comments on the Heritage theme.

### **5. "Strategic" Policies**

This issue arose because some of Carole's comments suggested that we should delete some policies because DCC considered them strategic and thus its preserve. Roger drew attention to a legal judgement in which the judge had ruled that a neighbourhood plan is not prevented from coming forward with policies ahead of an emerging local plan, even one that is more advanced than the Durham County Plan. John L noted that the judgement also stated that there is no statutory definition of "strategic policies" or of the concept of "general conformity" with them.

It was **agreed** that we should publish the consultation draft of the Neighbourhood Plan as it stands and await DCC's formal comments before responding in the light of this judgement.

### **6. Final practical arrangements for the public consultation**

- **Leaflets:** **Ros** will check these. **John A** is organising the distribution of leaflets via residents' groups. Some will be needed for the Town Hall event on Saturday 4 November (last year over 800 people attended).
- **Display Boards:** **Ros** will check the dimensions. **Pippa** and **Roger** will finalise the text and photos. We shall store them at the Miners' Hall between events. We can leave them in the Lantern Room at the Town Hall after the launch meeting of the Forum on Friday 3

November in readiness for the event on Saturday 4 November.

- **Event Venues:** Pippa reported that the event at St Oswald's had had to be changed to Tuesday 21 November, still 12.00 – 16.00. John reported that Ustinov College was still not confirmed and would not be before 6 October. It was **agreed** that if it were not available we would not seek a replacement venue at such short notice. We would try to provide tea/coffee and biscuits at the events. **John L** will obtain name tags for working group members.
- **Press Release:** **Pippa** would prepare this and also try to secure radio/TV coverage.
- **Plan Copies:** It was **agreed** to obtain 10 print copies.
- **Questionnaires:** It was **agreed** that we would print these as required during the consultation period. In order to encourage responses we would offer a £20 voucher to be spent in a City business. **Pippa** would discuss this with Adam.
- **Posters:** **Pippa** will produce 30 A4 posters advertising the consultation for display in local notice boards, shops etc.
- **Forum Meeting on 3 November:** **John L** will add to the draft agenda an item asking Forum members to vote to approve the publication of the consultation draft. He will also amend the draft email inviting members to the meeting to emphasise that this is the central purpose of the meeting. We need to prepare two signing-in sheets, one for members and one for non-members.

## 7. Response to Housing White Paper

It was **agreed** that we should check with **John A** before deciding what to say. The deadline is 9 November. It is more a matter for the City of Durham Trust than the NPF and we can learn from their response. However, the advantage of submitting our own response is that we are kept in the loop as the consultation proceeds. (Post-meeting note: CPRE have just distributed some useful material on this topic.)

## 8. Other Business

- **Mount Oswald:** Key stakeholders are invited to a consultation event at the Palatine Centre on Thursday 12 October, 10.00 – 12.00. The event is then open to the public until 7.00 pm.
- **Sub-station at the County Hospital:** It was **agreed** that this was not an issue for the NPF to comment on.
- **Garden Village near Darlington:** Roger drew attention to this very large development that should have implications for the housing requirement in County Durham.
- **Additional NPF Funding:** Pippa had distributed an email (2 Oct) about new funding that will shortly become available to support the development of neighbourhood plans. This might be useful to assist with analysing the results of the consultation and revising the plan.

## 11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10 October, 9.00 – 10.30, in the Committee Room at the Miners' Hall.