

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Working Group Meeting, 19 September 2017, Miners' Hall**

1. Welcome and apologies

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

Apologies: Peter Jackson, Ros Ward.

2. Notes of 5 September

- Roger noted that he had suggested amendments to policy E2.1 to remove references to specific sties that were already under development. and the notes were then agreed. **Sue** will post them on the website.
- Sue reminded everyone that she is adding amendments to the policies that are being made as a result of the sustainability assessment. **All** are asked to submit any amendments to Sue this week.

3. Date of the Consultation Launch

It was **agreed** that we should stick to **Friday 3 November in the Lantern Room at the Town Hall**. However, the start time has to be put back to **7.00** as the hall is booked earlier. **John L** will book the venue and then inform Forum members.

4. Consultation Venues

The consultation will run until **Monday 18 December**.

The precise dates and times of the events will have to be decided in conjunction with information about the availability of venues. The following preliminary details were **agreed**:

- Town Hall AAP event, Saturday 4 November, 10.00 – 2.00 **John L** to book (done)
- St John's, NX, Monday 6 November, 14.30 – 20.00 **Pippa** to book (done)
- St Oswald's, Church St, Thursday 30 November, 12.00 – 16.00 **Pippa** to book
- St Nicks', Market Place, Friday 24 November 12.00 – 4.00 **John A** to book (done)
- Wharton Park, Wednesday 6 December, 11.00 – 4.00 **John L** to book (done)
- Ustinov College, Tuesday 14 November, 4.00 – 8.00 **John L** to book

(Note: I've amended slightly some of these dates in the light of constraints that became apparent when we tried to make the bookings. I trust this will help to avoid confusion.)

5. Sustainability Assessments

It was **agreed** to use the template developed by Sue. **All** are asked to complete their assessments accordingly and circulate them, together with any suggested policy amendments, to the Working Group by **Tuesday 26 September**. The purpose of the exercise is to fine-tune the policies. This will be summarised using the template of Table 8 in Levett-Therivel so that we can see the overall impact of the proposed policies on the sustainability objectives. It was **agreed** that a small group

will be identified to do this at the next meeting.

6. Primary and secondary retail areas

Roger distributed a map showing the areas that had been suggested at the last meeting and the following amendments were **agreed**:

- **Additional primary areas:**
 - Alishaan restaurant
 - Service area below Tenter Terrace

It was confirmed that the Milburngate House redevelopment should be primary.

- **Additional secondary area:**
 - Area immediately north of the roundabout in North Road

It was **agreed** to exclude completely the North Road roundabout, the Methodist Church and the bus station parking area.

7. Reverse cover page for the Plan document

It was **agreed** that all the acknowledgements should be in a single list.

8. Local government finance settlement

This is a technical consultation document that Roger had alerted us to in an email dated 16 September. It proposes that local authorities should lose part of their new homes bonus if developers win appeals. It was **agreed** that we should object to this because it distorts planning judgements and doesn't take account of the fact that the rules can change between the time of the original decision and the time of the appeal.

It was also **agreed** that we should object to the proposals concerning business rates as they benefit wealthy authorities at the expenses of poorer ones (such as Durham).

Roger will respond to the consultation.

9. Housing White Paper

The White Paper is published for consultation and we have until 9 November to respond. Among other things, it is intended to make it easier to formulate neighbourhood plans. Perhaps its key section deals with the calculation of housing need. John A suggested that we might have to revise the appendix about student accommodation in its light. We certainly need to comment on its failure to take account of large bodies of students in its calculations. It was **agreed** to review the issues at a future meeting.

10. Summary texts for display boards

It was **agreed** to use Roger's slides showing the revised text of the visions, photographs and theme objectives, plus a reference to the related policies. These would be available in full in printed form at the consultation events.

11. Date of next meetings

Tuesdays 26 September and 3 October, 9.00 – 12 .00 in the Miners' Hall.