

Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group Meeting, 7 November 2017, Miners' Hall

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Peter Jackson, John Lowe, David Miller, Matthew Phillips, Ros Ward.

Apologies: Ann Evans.

2. Notes of 31 October

These were agreed and **Sue** will post them on the website.

3. Review of Forum Meeting on 3 November

Everyone congratulated Roger on the way in which he had chaired the meeting.

In view of the point made by Alan Doig, Ros confirmed that the residents' associations had been invited to comment on the draft plan. **John L** will write to them to reinforce this message.

John L will also write to Carole Dillon and Matthew Wright to urge the County Council and Durham University respectively to discuss the draft plan with us as early as possible during the consultation period. It was noted that DCC would be likely to confirm its formal response at a Cabinet meeting on 13 December.

4. Additional item on Transport issues

This additional item was inserted before Matthew had to leave the meeting.

Firstly, he was concerned about a couple of discrepancies between the scoring of the sustainability objectives and the coloured grid in the *Sustainability Report*. **Matthew, Ros** and **John A** will meet to resolve them and amend the document with an explanatory note and the date. It is important to be able to show that the Sustainability Appraisal has led to improvements in the draft policies.

Secondly, Matthew reported that he had prepared a document about cycling issues to explain more fully the map in the draft plan. It is parallel to the document he has prepared about pedestrian issues that is now on our website in the "Surveys" section as part of the evidence base. **David** is currently reviewing the document and it will need approving by the working group before it is published. Peter voiced his concerns that the proposals for cycling routes in the city centre could lead to people rejecting the plan at the referendum.

5. Review of the AAP Event on 4 November

The event was attended by over 700 people and proved to be an excellent opportunity to publicise the consultation. People showed considerable interest in the plan.

6. Review of St John's Drop-in Event on 6 November

This event was very well attended with 85 people signing in and others in addition. One problem that came to light was confusion over the colouring of the housing map which led some people to

be concerned that St Margaret's Allotments had been allocated for housing. **Roger** will attempt to remove the ambiguity.

The questionnaire needs to include the web address of the draft plan. **Sue** will amend it. Sue noted that the comments made on paper questionnaires will have to be added to the analysis produced by the computer. We shall need this for the *Consultation Report*.

We need to make more use of the briefing notes prepared by theme convenors. **David** will review them.

It was **agreed** that it would be helpful to have 4 members of the working group at each event so **John A** will circulate a revised rota.

7. Speaker for WHS Lecture Series

We very much welcomed this invitation and it was enthusiastically agreed that **Roger** should do it. The theme of the series is “Heritage at Risk” and it was suggested that the starting point should be the letter from Historic England requiring us to carry out the SA/SEA. It would be good to have a contribution from Historic England to show how we have contributed to protecting heritage assets that are at risk. (Post-meeting note: this has now been arranged for Wednesday 29 November.)

8. Offer from Matthew Wright to provide a University venue for a Drop-in Event

Matthew has helpfully offered to find us a university venue. **Roger** will ask for Ustinov College at Sheraton for an evening event in the week beginning 27 November (but now excluding 29th!).

9. Grant Expenditure

Sue presented a paper summarising the expenditure of our grant. Some individual items have gone slightly over budget, but overall we have nearly £400 left. **Sue** will write to Groundwork to inform them of the situation to ensure we are not liable for any penalties. It was **agreed** that we should order 15 additional copies of the draft plan; members of the working group really need their own copy. **Sue** will order these.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28 November, 9.00 – 11.00, in the large committee room at the Miners' Hall.