

Feedback on consultation draft of Durham City Neighbourhood Plan

I write as Secretary of Elvet Resident's Association, and would like to thank all those who contributed for their endeavours.

In addition to the individual feedback which you have received, Elvet Residents' Association would like to comment on the draft plan collaborated from the feedback of our committee and members. We strongly support the draft plan, and the themes clearly represent the concerns of the residents.

It is important that the planning authority is independent in order to represent the residents' interests. Housing and transport are of paramount importance, and has consequences including traffic, parking and the condition of roads and footpaths.

I have received lots of comments about the plan, and have of course urged all individuals to submit their own personal feedback form. However, I believe the following represents the comments are those shared by the majority of the residents.

Theme 2:

We believe that the conservation area should be extended to include South Road and Potters Bank, as well as the University site of Mountjoy. We strongly welcome and endorse the policies around Green Infrastructure. A request for more Walks and Trails around the city to be supported. One resident commented how Shincliffe Parish Council have permanent illustrated boards showing walks, wildlife to look out for and interesting features and landmarks.

Theme 3:

Numerous comments were made to remind planners that Durham is not a city like Newcastle or Manchester, and Durham's unique character should be preserved. Fowlers' Yard should be protected as a cluster of independent craft business', and the local theatre building should be safeguarded.

Theme 4:

It is hoped that the policies protect Durham's diverse range of residents, and encourage families back to the city. There are concerns over the definition of "affordable housing", as the current government definition is not affordable for the average family.

Theme 5:

Consideration should be made to restrict student parking to those with a disability, and Durham County Council and Durham University should accept some responsibility around this area of increasing concern.

Projects to improve our neighbourhood:

Careful consideration should be made when deciding long term improvements. Electric vehicles are not proven to be the future and currently only produce cleaner air where the vehicle is being driven. However, the pollution still occurs somewhere else.

Control of “to Let” boards has long been promised, but is still ignored. Any controls in place will need to be monitored, and consequences for not upholding.

We hope this feedback is constructive, and once again wish to thank all the contributors who have clearly dedicated a huge amount of time and went to tremendous efforts to produce this fabulous plan.

Yours Sincerely,

Phil Moore

Secretary

Elvet Residents' Association