

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group meeting
9.12-11.14 am, 27 January 2018, Miners' Hall**

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: John Ashby, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, Matthew Phillips, Ros Ward.

Apologies: Pippa Bell, John Lowe, David Miller, Angela Tracy

2. County Council SEA/SA workshop

Due to severe snowfalls neither Carole Dillon nor Claire Hattam could reach Durham city. A new date will be set. (Note: now fixed for the morning of 8 March).

3. Notes of 20 February 2018

The draft notes were not considered and will be an item for the next meeting of the Working Group on 6 March.

4. Revised timetable for DCC, Historic England and other officer workshops

The postponed SEA/SA workshop needs to happen before Theme workshops commence. Accordingly, consideration of Theme 6 Community Facilities cannot take place on 6 March. In order to retain the agreed dates for all other workshops, Theme 6 will now be at the end of the timetable, on a date to be agreed. The revised timetable is currently as follows.

Timetable as at 28-02-18		
DCC workshop	Theme(s)	Suggested deadline for WG agreement to categorisation table for this theme
8 March	SEA using Housing as example	
9 March	Housing	20 February (done)
13 March	Transport	6 March
20 March	Heritage	13 March
27 March	Economy	20 March
3 April	Environment (Sustainability and Green Infrastructure)	27 March
<i>New date</i>	<i>Community facilities</i>	<i>New date</i>

Adam Deathe has agreed to attend the DCC officer workshop on Theme 3 on 27 March. **Sue** will invite Angela Tracy to the Community Facilities session on the new date; also Empty Shops and The Faithful Durhams. Historic England will attend the Heritage workshop on Tuesday 20 March at 10 am, presumably in The Miners' Hall – **Ros** to check. **John A** will ask Durham University's Matthew Wright for a date for the Working Group to discuss the University's comments, and will inform Ros and DCC.

5. Locality Grant applications

Ros will email Jeremy Fennell from Locality to ask him to confirm his opinion that the Forum

should continue to function until it has passed the Plan to the County Council and the fact that the City of Durham Parish Council will have come into being before that date is not relevant. **Sue** will complete the Expression of Interest form by 1st March. An Application for Technical Assistance will need to be made by 5th March. The package for SEA/SA advice/consultancy will be needed immediately; a final health check on policies by an Inspector from the pool will come later.

The relevant wording of the Forum's constitution may need to be re-considered at the March meeting of the Forum.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 **Roger** will (weather permitting) attend the County Durham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting in Great Aycliffe Town Council offices tomorrow in lieu of John Lowe.

6.2 The Working Group discussed whether to continue to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) or the slightly less demanding Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The decision was to continue with the SA.

6.3 On the matter of options in the SA, it was agreed to not construct artificial options, and to take forward any options raised by consultees (e.g. a new housing site).

6.4 The question of whether policy G1 on protecting and enhancing green assets is superfluous in the designated Green Belt area was discussed. It was agreed that this policy is necessary given that the five purposes of Green Belts do not include maintaining and enhancing attractive parts, and also given that the Green Belt is under threat. The NPPF justifies this approach of neighbourhood plans adding protections to national policies, and so do Historic England and the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator.

6.5 **Roger** noted that he would ascribe the Neighbourhood Planning Forum as the claimant for expenses for the lecture he had given to the University's MA course in International Cultural Heritage Management.

6.6 **Matthew** reported that he hopes to circulate the Theme 5 Transport categorisation table later this week. All available members of the Working Group must have the opportunity to comment on the categorisation tables and the tables then endorsed at subsequent Working Group and Forum meetings. There may need to be additional meeting time allowed for contentious points.

6.7 **John A** will prepare a briefing note on addressing the comments from house-builders concerning quantified housing 'need'.

7. Dates of Next Working Group Meetings

Tuesday 6 March for normal Working Group meeting including consideration of the Theme 5 Transport categorisation.

Thursday 8 March for the postponed SEA/SA workshop at the Miners' Hall at 9.30 am.

Friday 9 March for the Housing Theme DCC officer meeting at the Miners' Hall 9.30 – 12.00

The working group meeting closed at 11.14 am.

