

Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Minutes of the Monthly “Wrap up” Meeting

19 April 2018 at 6.00 pm at the Miners’ Hall

Members Present: John Ashby, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell, Alan Doig, Fleur Griffiths, John Lowe, John Pacey,

Apologies: Pippa Bell, Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, Catharina Miller, David Miller, Matthew Phillips, Jean Rogers, Ros Ward.

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Roger Cornwell chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was quorate. He commented that since the last monthly meeting the working group had completed the series of theme workshops with DCC officers and other interested parties. These had proved very positive and helpful.

2. Minutes of the Forum Meeting held on 10 April 2018

The minutes were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Review of actions taken by the Forum and Working Group since 22 February

- As mentioned in the Chair’s introduction, the main business since the last meeting has been the very successful workshops held to discuss the way forward with the revision of the plan in the light of responses to the public consultation.
- It is important to recognise that all significant changes to the plan will be decided through the process of the Sustainability Appraisal, a systematic consideration of the options against an agreed set of criteria and probing questions.
- Sue Childs noted that we still have to analyse the responses in the “Further Comments” category. This will be addressed by the working group. We will provide feedback to all respondents in due course.

4. Any other business

- **Additional Technical Support for Site Appraisals:** John Ashby reported that six additional housing sites had been put forward during the public consultation, five by the University and one by Lovegreen Developments. These would all have to be assessed using the standard methodology that had been applied to the original sites in the draft plan. This would be done by AECOM Consultancy. It was **agreed** that **Roger** and **Sue** would apply for the grant to fund this.
- **Possible need for further public consultation:** The AECOM consultant who is providing technical support for our revision of the Sustainability Appraisal has suggested that we might have to carry out further public consultation either on the SA and / or on significant changes to the plan itself. It is possible that the consultation on the SA need only be with the

statutory consultees and that consultation on changes to the plan need only be with those significantly affected by them. We are awaiting further guidance on this.

- **Primary and Secondary Shop Frontages:** John Ashby reported on a sub-group meeting that had been held with BID and DCC officers to discuss our proposals about these. Primary frontages are retail premises and secondary frontages include other uses. It was thought that our original proposals for extensive areas of primary frontages were too ambitious and lacked sufficient evidence to justify them. It was suggested that we should drop these somewhat confusing terms and adopt DCC proposals for the definition of the town centre and core retail frontages. This suggestion will be considered by the working group as part of the SA process.

5. Future Meetings

The Tuesday meetings will continue to be held at 9.00 am at the Miners' Hall. The next one will be on Tuesday 24 April.

The next monthly "Wrap-up" meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 17 May at the Miners' Hall.