

## Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum 3 July 2018, Miners' Hall

### 1. Welcome and apologies

**Present:** John Ashby, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), John Lowe, John Pacey, Matthew Phillips, Angela Tracy, Ros Ward.

**Apologies:** Pippa Bell, Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, David Miller.

The meeting was quorate.

### 2. Notes of Forum meeting held on 19 June 2018

The notes of 19 June were agreed and **Sue** will post them on the website.

### 3. Forum members to confirm or otherwise decisions of the Working Group as recorded in the notes of its meeting on 19 June 2018

The decisions were confirmed.

### 4. Report on AECOM Consultants' Visit

Three papers had been prepared. **Sue** will make all these available on our website.

- The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 26 June recorded the morning meeting.
- John A had provided notes of the afternoon meeting which some members of the Forum attended with the consultants, Carole Dillon and Steve McDonald (DCC's Head of Sustainability). This meeting dealt with housing sites and the Sustainability Appraisal.
- John also provided notes of the meeting he and Sue had with Carole on 2 July to clarify issues concerning site boundaries.

It was confirmed that the consultants will carry out the Sustainability Appraisal using their standard methodology.

There were some issues about the precise boundaries of the sites proposed by the university, but these are being resolved following the discussions with Carole who will provide copies of the detailed maps used for DCC's *Preferred Options*.

It was **agreed** that we should support the inclusion of these sites in the *Preferred Options*. We also need to allocate them in our plan which is likely to be made before the County Plan, but that will then supersede ours. Because of the possibility of confusion about the site boundaries we need to include clear maps of the sites and of the green belt as that is a factor in determining some of the site boundaries.

This occasioned a more general discussion about the relationship between our plan and the *Preferred Options*. It was **agreed** that we needed to include a general proviso about the fact that some of our policies might only be interim until the County Plan is made, but at this stage their policies are still not finalised and it is not possible to know how it will turn out. In other words, in finalising our policies we need to have regard to the policies in the *Preferred Options*, but not be

absolutely governed by them.

#### **5. Arrangements for the next “Wrap-up” Meeting**

It was **agreed** to hold the next “Wrap-up” meeting on Tuesday 24 July, 6.00 – 7.30 pm, in the Lower Hall of St Nicholas’ Church. This meeting was delayed slightly to allow time for the preparation of our response to the *Preferred Options*; this will be a major item on the agenda.

Also on the agenda will be a consideration of the relationship between the Forum and the Parish Council with regard to commenting on planning applications. It is important that these comments should be published on the Parish Council’s website, but in the meantime we shall continue to publish them on ours.

#### **6. Any other business**

None

#### **7. Date of next weekly Forum meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10 July, 9.00 am at **Antioch House**.