

# City of Durham Parish Council

Office 3 D4.01d  
Clayport Library  
8 Millennium Place  
Durham  
DH1 1WA

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83224631368>  
Meeting ID: 832 2463 1368

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the **Environment Committee** will be held in **via Zoom** on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 1.00pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**
- 3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**
- 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 5. TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S STRATEGIC AIMS FOR 2023/24** – report included.
- 6. TO CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S BUDGET FOR 2023/24** – report included.
- 7. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:**

**7a. To decide:**

- I) To discuss continuing efforts to establish Warm Hubs in Durham – report from the Working Group
- II) Report by Cllr R Friederichsen on the Climate Emergency Response
- III) Proposal to host an Elvet active travel public meeting with the Elvet Clean Air Group

**7b. To complete:**

- I) To consider the purchase of an electric vehicle charging point in the City
- II) Durham in Bloom priorities – including bulb planting across the parish

- 8. AOB** (please note for information only and not for formal decisions).

## **9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, I Hereby Summon You to attend the said meeting.

**Adam Shanley**  
**Clerk City of Durham Parish Council**

# CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 13:00pm via Zoom**

**Present:** Councillors C Lattin (Chair), V Ashfield, L Brown, R Friederichsen and S Walker.

**Also present:** Parish Clerk A Shanley

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor D Freeman.

## **2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

## **3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

## **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

## **5. REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN**

The Committee welcomed the excellent reports from the Neighbourhood Warden on work carried out in July, August and September and agreed that these should be made public. The Committee took the opportunity to thank Dale Clement for his work with the Parish Council and to wish him well in his new role with Durham Police.

The Committee warmly welcomed that Kirk Thiis and Antony Waterson would be the Parish Council's new neighbourhood wardens as part of the SLA with Durham County Council and looked forward to working with both in the future.

## **6. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:**

### **6a. To decide:**

#### **IV) To discuss continuing efforts to establish Warm Hubs in Durham – report from the Working Group**

The Committee noted the excellent efforts of colleagues in seeking to establish warm spaces for those particularly effected by the rise in energy costs this winter.

The Clerk advised that the County Council is now providing grant funding of up to £1,000 per applicant to organisations with premises and who are willing to open these premises up to local residents. In addition, the County Council is also providing free of charge training on areas such as safeguarding, food hygiene, mental health first aid, etc.

The Committee **agreed** that the Working Group was sensible to concentrate on help to keep warm within the home and that the purchase of inventory such as hotties and duvets was the most sensible option and that these should be distributed via the warm spaces once established.

**V) To consider the purchase of an electric vehicle charging point in the City**

The Clerk reminded the Committee of the excellent presentation it had received at a previous meeting from the DCC officer leading on the rollout of the EVCPs. The Committee agreed that they would like to purchase an EVCP for the parish area; particularly in view of the small number available within the City and the fact that all diesel car sales will be banned from 2030.

The Committee **agreed** to propose to Full Council the purchase of the EVCP at £3,000 and for this to be located in the layby outside St. Cuthbert's Church in Neville's Cross Ward.

**VI) Durham in Bloom priorities – including requirement to purchase new bulbs for the Spring season.**

The Committee **agreed** to allocate £2,000 towards the purchase of bulbs this year as part of its planting efforts for Spring 2023. Cllr L Brown **agreed** to look into this with the Parish Council's usual suppliers and to propose appropriate bulbs for the community.

It was **agreed** that these bulbs should be distributed amongst local residents' groups for planting across the parish area.

The Committee also took the opportunity to say a huge congratulations to the team leading on Durham in Bloom for their terrific success at this year's competition.

**6b. To complete:**

**I) Improving the River Wear – joint project with the Wear Rivers Trust**

The Clerk advised that the funding has now been paid to the Wear Rivers Trust and he was engaging with them on the projects as agreed by Full Council. The Clerk highlighted that a leaflet promoting volunteering with the Wear Rivers Trust is being created for 2023.

**II) Planning a City-wide litter picking event**

The Chair reminded all Members of the city-wide litter picking event taking place on Saturday (15th October) and thanked Members for their support for this event.

**III) Progressing the *Shhh...11pm to 7am* campaign**

The Clerk advised that the new stencils were being painted on pavements across the parish area once more and that he had purchased new signs as well.

The Chair particularly welcomed that the Shhh campaign had been extended up Gilesgate Bank and into the Sidings where she was aware there was an issue.

**IV) Organising an unveiling event for the UHND Mosaic**

The Clerk reminded Members that an unveiling event for the new UHND mosaic is set to take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October and particularly thanked the Chair and Cllr S Walker for agreeing to attend this event along with representatives of the NHS Trust.

The Clerk advised that there would be some publicity going into the local press to highlight this project and the fantastic work of the artist Susan Warlock.

The Committee thanked the Clerk for his excellent efforts on this project.

**V) Progressing the blue plaques scheme – including proposed unveiling of existing plaques.**

The Clerk advised that the wording had now been agreed and the blue plaque for 20 Allergate had now been ordered.

The Clerk also advised that he is awaiting feedback from the nominator on the Neville House blue plaque and hoped to have an update to the Committee as soon as possible.

The Clerk also advised that he had had a very good meeting with the Principal of St. Hild and St Bede college on the unveiling of the blue plaque for the first female graduates of Durham University and advised that an unveiling event is expected to take place in November with the Women's Banner Group and other local representatives. The Clerk advised that all Parish Councillors would be invited to this event and to look out for an invitation from Simon Forrester at the college on this.

The Committee thanked the Clerk for his excellent efforts on this project.

**6c. To note:**

**I) Renewing the planting in the planters at the Viaduct Area**

The Committee **agreed** to purchase more plants for the planters in the Viaduct area.

**II) Delivery of the "*What to do if you have a local issue in Durham*" leaflet**

The Clerk advised that he was now only aware of part of Hastings Avenue which had not yet received the leaflet from the Parish Council and confirmed that he would be delivering these after the litter picking event on Saturday.

**7. AOB** (please note for information only and not for formal decisions).

None received.

**8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2022

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all those present for attending and for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Signed,

**Chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee  
(8<sup>th</sup> November 2022)**

**ITEM 5: TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE’S STRATEGIC AIMS FOR 2023/24**

Councillors are reminded that the Parish Council has agreed to formulate its strategy for 2023/24 ahead of the budget setting process in January 2023.

As part of this, all Parish Council Committees are being asked to agree their priorities for the forthcoming financial year so that this can feed into the Parish Council’s budget agreement.

For this current year, Members have agreed that the five overarching priorities for the Parish Council are as follows:

1. Being an ambitious voice for the city
2. Enhancing the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents and addressing inequalities in our parish
3. Upholding the Neighbourhood Plan and representing the parish on planning matters
4. Creating a positive environment for businesses and encouraging tourism to improve prosperity of parish
5. Taking action to combat the climate and ecological emergencies.

**Looking Forwards**

The ‘Looking Forwards’ document has also been included as part of this work. ‘Looking Forwards’ is a companion document to the Durham City Neighbourhood Plan and has been developed by the City of Durham Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. It is built on the aspirations and views as expressed by local people for their City during the five years of preparation of the Plan. It looks forward to greater involvement of the community in making Durham a more creative and sustainable City.

In addition to the five overarching aims of the Council, the Environment Committee also agreed the following priorities for this year:

**Environment Committee**

<b>Council priorities 2022/23</b>	<b>Environment Committee priorities 2022/23</b>	<b>Looking Forwards initiative(s)</b>
<b>1. Being an ambitious voice for the city</b>	Engaging with and responding to residents of all ages and backgrounds in environment-related work Mobilise Volunteer groups Work with young people and respond to their concerns	Theme 6: A City with an enriched community life.

<p><b>2. Enhancing physical and mental wellbeing of our residents and addressing inequalities in our parish</b></p>	<p>Promote cleaner air, a cleaner river, green spaces, and streets for living across the city. Reduction in light pollution. Reduction in night time noise. Sustainable travel</p>	<p>Theme 1: A City With A Sustainable Future</p> <p>Theme 5: A City With A Modern And Sustainable Transport Infrastructure</p>
<p><b>3. Upholding the neighbourhood plan and representing the parish on planning matters.</b></p>	<p>Work with all relevant committees to ensure the climate and ecological emergencies are considered in all planning matters. Sustainable housing</p>	<p>Theme 4: A City with attractive and affordable places to live</p>
<p><b>4. Creating a positive environment for businesses and encouraging tourism to improve prosperity of parish</b></p>	<p>Improve and protect the appearance of the city and its heritage.</p>	<p>Theme 2: A Beautiful And Historic City</p> <p>Theme 3: A City with a diverse and resilient economy</p>
<p><b>5. Taking action to combat the climate and ecological emergencies.</b></p>	<p>Be proactive and collaborate with all partners (including Parish Council committees, Durham County Council, residents, developers, landlords, and other businesses) to coordinate our impact on the climate and ecological emergencies and increase community resilience. Encourage sustainable Travel Increased awareness and action on climate change. Tackle the ecological emergency</p>	<p>Theme 1: A City With A Sustainable Future</p> <p>Theme 5: A City With A Modern And Sustainable Transport Infrastructure</p>

<p><b>DECISION REQUIRED</b></p>	<p>For Members to consider the above report and agree the Environment Committee priorities for 2023/24.</p>
---------------------------------	---

## ITEM 6: TO CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S BUDGET FOR 2023/24

As Members are aware, the Parish Council is required to agree its budget and precept request for the forthcoming financial year in January 2023.

In order to assist the Council in agreeing both the budget and precept for 2023/24, each Committee of the Council is being asked to propose a budget against their individual identified priorities for next year.

Members are reminded that the Parish Council has recently renewed its Service Level Agreement for an enhanced neighbourhood warden service in the parish with Durham County Council for a further 3 years.

Members are also reminded that the Parish Council committed to co-fund the Safety of Women at Night hub in the City with other partners.

In view of these ongoing commitments and other projects by the Environment Committee, the following budget is proposed:

### Environment Committee

Item of expenditure	Cost (£)
<b>PRIORITY 1: Additional policing and safety for the parish area</b>	
Enhanced SLA with Durham Police for late night policing	50,000.00
Safety of Women at Night hub	10,000.00
<b>PRIORITY 2: Noise abatement</b>	
Building on the Shhh campaign	2,000.00
<b>PRIORITY 3: Clean Air, Clean and Green City</b>	
Durham in Bloom	10,000.00
Clean air and active travel (2 x EVCPs)	6,000.00
Tackling illegal car parking	5,000.00
<b>PRIORITY 4: Appearance of the City</b>	
Neighbourhood Warden SLA with DCC	10,000.00
Christmas Frontages Awards (possible collaborative project with Business Committee)	1,000.00
<b>PRIORITY 5: Recycling</b>	
Continuation of Terracycle scheme	2,000.00
<b>PRIORITY 6: Promoting the heritage of the City</b>	
Funding a heritage trail map	3,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROVISION IN 2023-24 AGAINST PRIORITIES</b>	<b>99,000.00</b>

#### DECISION REQUIRED

For Members to consider the above report and agree a proposed budget for the Parish Council's Environment Committee.

## **ITEM 7A: REPORT BY CLLR R FRIEDERICHSEN ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**Summary:** This report updates the Environment Committee on Durham County Council's current Climate Emergency Response Plan (2022-2024) and its reception by Durham city and county residents. It suggests the Committee **requests additional information** from Durham County Council and recommends steps for the City of Durham Parish Council to **contribute to improving the effectiveness of and levels of public engagement with the local government** (Parish and County Council) **response** to the climate emergency.

### **Introduction**

The summer of 2022 has seen an acceleration of the climate crisis. Record temperatures were recorded across the UK, including 36.9 degree Celsius measured on 19 July in Durham City<sup>1</sup>. The summer's drought across large parts of continental Europe is thought to be the worst in 500 years. The continuing acceleration of the climate emergency makes it more urgent than ever to retain the focus on climate action across all areas of the Parish Council and all levels of government. This encompasses mitigation and adaptation measures.

This report applies learning from the Climate Literacy training (completed by two Councillors and attended in part by one further Councillor) to the ongoing climate action by Durham County Council, proposing ways for the Parish Council to support County-level action as well as strengthening citizen engagement in it.

### **We need to use our spheres of influence strategically to achieve impact in all 13 change targets**

The Centre for Sustainable Energy's (CSE) set of 13 change targets summarises key points to guide action:

- a) the key areas and targets for change;
- b) local government must address all of them. Appendix 1 combines the CSE's list of change targets with the Local Government Association's model of spheres of influence. The benefit of the resulting map is that the Parish Council can quickly establish whether all 13 key change targets are being addressed, and it can choose which sphere of influence is best suited for addressing each target.

### **Durham County Council's Climate Change Strategy and Emergency Response Plan (2022-2024; also known as CERP 2) and its reception by Durham residents**

CERP 2<sup>2</sup> is the second action plan following County Durham's declaration of a climate emergency, adopted by Cabinet in June 2022<sup>3</sup>. The 128-page document is a significant step forward from the first climate emergency response plan, it presents a significant level of ambition (see e.g. the section on emissions budget on pages 7-8) and a significant list of actions/projects (pages 100-115) amounting to a stated overall financial commitment of £121m by the county council and its

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://durhamweather.webspace.durham.ac.uk/2022-data-11/> (last accessed on 7 September 2022).

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/40220/Climate-Change-Strategy-and-Emergency-Response-Plan-2022-24/pdf/ClimateChangeStrategyAndEmergencyResponsePlan2022-24.pdf?m=637925305338470000> (last accessed on 7 September 2022).

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.durham.gov.uk/climatechange> (last accessed on 7 September 2022).

partners (cf. p. 100). An overall independent assessment of the quality of CERP 2 is not yet available, but the Climate Emergency UK's Council Climate Scorecards<sup>4</sup> provides a comparative framework for assessment, an analysis to the 2020 action **plan** and it will carry out a second score card-based analysis of UK principal authorities' climate **action**, likely in 2023.

Climate Action Durham (CAD) organised a citizens' forum to debate CERP 2 which took place on Tuesday 5 July, 2022 at Durham Town Hall. Around 60 residents attended the event which comprised an introduction by Durham County Council's (DCC) Alan Patrickson (Cllr Mark Wilkes delivered a short address by video due to falling ill with Covid), followed by work in four topic-based small groups which were co-facilitated by CAD's citizen experts and Durham County Council officers. The small groups discussed ongoing and planned climate action by the council and what additional actions residents felt were needed. CAD agreed with Durham County Council representatives to host a follow up event in a year's time and is following up with numerous strands of action to encourage, improve, and add to Durham County Council's climate actions.

### **The opportunity and need for Durham City Parish Council to support CERP 2 and climate action that goes above and beyond it**

This report does not attempt to assess the overall merits and shortcomings of CERP2. I will only point out important issues in it which invite and require the City of Durham Parish Council's engagement.

- 1. Parish Councils are yet to play a clear and active role in CERP 2 and its successors:** Parish Councils are not mentioned in CERP 2 as partners, only indirectly through the Area Action Partnerships. The City of Durham Parish Council (CoDPC) should request clarification from DCC on how Parish Councils across the county can become active supporters of and contributors to the implementation of CERP 2.
- 2. DCC must account to residents on adherence to decarbonisation targets:** The concept of carbon budgets is introduced in CERP 2 as the overall measure of success of climate action. There is, however, no mechanism set out for Durham citizens to know whether DCC is meeting its decarbonisation targets (see CERP 2, page 8); this includes CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration through ecosystem protection and restoration. CoDPC should request clarification on how all parish councils will be regularly informed about progress as assessed by the Net Zero Carbon Board (see page 87, CERP 2) to ensure accountability. CoDPC should consider what role it wants to play in the 2023 Durham Citizens' Forum on Climate Action which offers a means to inform and engage residents in CERP 2-related efforts.
- 3. Reduce air travel:** The need to reduce air travel (change target 7, see Appendix 1) is not mentioned in CERP 2, despite County Durham being home to the Teeside International Airport. This clear internal contradiction leads to the compelling logical conclusion that "County Durham seriously consider strategies for significantly limiting emissions growth from aviation

---

<sup>4</sup> See <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/#jump=durham-county-council> (last accessed on 7 September 2022).

and shipping”<sup>5</sup>. CoDPC should request clarification on DCC’s position on reducing air travel and the inclusion of encouraging behaviour change towards less air travel and the importance of consumption patterns in its climate change communication.

- 4. Make key CoDPC work strands address the climate and biodiversity emergencies:** Among the CoDPC’s biggest spending items are Durham in Bloom and a retail consultant’s advice being offered to Durham city businesses. CoDPC should commit to review the relevant contractual arrangements and add as priorities a) Greenhouse Gas reduction, b) climate change adaptation, and c) the restoration of biodiversity in the aims to be achieved through Durham in Bloom and the retail consultancy support to businesses.

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	For Members to acknowledge the report and agree to present points 1-4 above to be put to Full Council for approval.
------------------------------	---

---

<sup>5</sup> Kuriakose et al. (2022) Setting Climate Commitments for County Durham: Quantifying the implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement for County Durham. Tyndall Centre Carbon Budget Reports. Available at <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E06000047/> (last accessed, 24/10/2022).

## Appendix 1: Overview map to ensure the Parish Council addresses all change targets using its spheres of influence

Change targets <sup>7</sup>	Local government spheres of influence <sup>6</sup>					
	Direct control	Procurement and commissioning;	Place shaping	Showcasing	Convening	Engaging
1. Hugely reduced energy demand from buildings, including heritage assets		Potential area for retail consultant to address.			Potential opportunity to benefit from 2023 Citizens' Forums on Climate Action	
2. Smarter & more flexible management of energy demand, including storage		Potential area for retail consultant to address.				
3. Decarbonised power generation						
4. Decarbonised heat delivery						
5. Reduced private car travel and a comparable increase in active and public transport		Potential area for retail consultant to address.			Ongoing: Partnership work to improve active travel infrastructure	
6. A complete shift to electric vehicles (& an end to petrol & diesel cars & vans)		Potential area for retail consultant to address.			Potential opportunity to benefit from 2023 Citizens' Forums on Climate Action	
7. Massively reduced air travel, particularly among						Potential engagement with DCC and residents to

<sup>6</sup> Source: A councillor's workbook on the local pathway to net zero, point 3.2 available at <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/councillor-workbook-local-pathway-net-zero#3-opportunities-for-action>

<sup>7</sup> Source: Centre for Sustainable Energy, available at <https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/climate-emergency-action-plan-matrix-for-local-authorities.xlsx>

frequent flyers						accelerate behaviour change.
8. New buildings and developments that achieve net zero emissions (including associated new transport)			Ongoing: Lobbying for Sniperley Park development to be practically net zero, setting an example.			
9. Hugely altered consumption patterns, buying less and re-using / repairing more		Potential area for retail consultant to address.				
10. Greatly increased recycling rates to achieve a circular economy model, taking plastics out of the waste stream		Potential area for retail consultant to address.				
11. Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste		Potential area for retail consultant to address.				
12. Widely adopted land management practices that reduce emissions, increase soil carbon and protect & promote biodiversity		Potential area for Durham in Bloom to address.		Potential area for Durham in Bloom to address.		
13. Widespread, actively managed and planned carbon		Potential area for Durham in Bloom to address.		Potential area for Durham in Bloom to address.		

storage strategies						
--------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--