

City of Durham Parish Council

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972

I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the **CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL** will be held in the **RITSON HALL, ALINGTON HOUSE, 4 NORTH BAILEY, DURHAM CITY, DH1 3ET** on **THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2018 AT 19:00** to transact the following business:-

- 1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE (OR NOT) APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE FROM TODAY'S MEETING**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.**
- 3. CITY OF DURHAM YOUTH PROJECT PRESENTATION – SEE ATTACHED LETTER**
- 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS SHOWN BELOW.**
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE**
 - meeting of the parish held on the 17 September and
 - Parish Council meeting held on 27 September
- 6. COMMITTEE UPDATES FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION**
 - Planning Committee minutes from meetings held on the 21 September and 5 October.
 - Environment Committee minutes from the meeting held on 16 August
- 7. UPDATE FROM CHAIR – letter and response from MP concerning DCC HQ proposal**
- 8. The UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE** is seeking representation from interested parish councillors on the five sub groups that are currently being formed (Economic, Culture, Citizenship, Lived Environment and Durham For All) Could anyone interested let me know at the meeting.
- 9. The UNIVERSITY, as part of the re-opening its Assembly Rooms Theatre** are working hard to increase the accessibility of the venue, performances and facilities, to the wider community. Kate Barton is leading on this to develop this aspect of the theatre as a community asset.

The University is asking if anyone from the parish council would be interested in becoming a member of their working group.
- 10. For the councils information, a coalition of local groups and individuals is coming together to fight Durham County Council's proposals for two "relief" roads around Durham. It was thought that councillors might be interested in**

their Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1088091728016104/> and their website <https://durhamroadblock.wordpress.com/>

11. The Northern LGBT group would like to draw our attention to the **Transgender Day Remembrance 2018** to remember those who have lost their lives to intolerance and transphobic violence in 2017-18. This will be happening through roadshows happening in Durham City Centre on the 20th November between 10am until 5pm and the evening there will be a candlelit memorial in the Market Place Durham City between 6pm until 8pm. They would also like to invite a council representative to a Partner Meeting at 6pm on the 29th October at Alington House 4 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3ET.

12. PROPOSAL FOR SKATEPARK IN NEVILLES CROSS AREA, CLLR E SCOTT TO GIVE VERBAL UPDATE FOLLOWING A REQUEST FROM A DURHAM JOHNSTON PUPIL This could involve the use of section 106 monies and other funding arrangements.

13. MOTION FROM CLLR C REEVES FOR DISCUSSION BY MEMBERS.

"Durham University have recently announced a further increase in college accommodation fees. Rising to £8,149 per year for catered en-suite, this means Durham will continue to have amongst the highest accommodation fees in the country outside of London.

Alongside the impact this has in terms of pricing out low income students and many of the local area who might otherwise aspire to attending the university, this increase will only further fuel the overheated market in HMOs, risking more houses on our residential streets converted for student occupancy. This both undermines the strength of the community in the City of Durham and makes it harder for young local residents to find housing within the City.

The City of Durham Parish Council condemns this increase and commits to write to Durham University to express our opposition to this rise and our belief that only a freeze in college accommodation fees can address the crisis in affordability for Durham students and the crisis in housing for local residents."

14. MOTION FROM CLLR JONATHAN ELMER TO PROPOSE THAT THE LETTER SHOWN BELOW CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF TREES ON NETWORK RAIL LAND BE FORWARDED TO OUR LOCAL MP– See suggested letter below.

15. AUGMENTATION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – To ensure the Planning Committee can remain quorate the Chairman of the Planning Committee has requested that an additional two councillors are added to the current members. This will increase committee membership to seven councillors meaning the quorum will still be three but easier to achieve.

16. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TRANSFER TO PARISH COUNCIL – MOTION FROM CLLRS CORNWELL AND J ASHBY

"The City of Durham Parish Council recognises that on 1st April 2018, the date it was created, it automatically acquired all the responsibilities of a qualifying body as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. Until that date the Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum had been the approved qualifying body. The Forum's Working Party, which includes two Parish Councillors and is

chaired by the Chair of the Parish Planning Committee, has continued with the preparation of the Durham City Neighbourhood Plan and is about to complete a Draft Pre-Submission Plan.

The Parish Council hereby **RESOLVES** to (a) ratify the work undertaken to date by the Forum, and (b) accept the continuation of the existing Working Party until the Draft Pre-Submission Plan is received and considered by the Parish Council prior to the Parish Council submitting it to Durham County Council for Examination, the holding of a Referendum, and final Adoption.”

17. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA.

18. CYCLE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2018

22 November Lantern Room, Town Hall Durham
20 December – Lantern Room Town Hall Durham

2019

24 January – Possibly Durham Johnston School if not Lantern Room Town Hall.
28 February – Lantern Room Town Hall Durham.
28 March

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



Stephen Ragg
Interim Clerk City of Durham Parish Council

c/o Room 103, Floor 1,
County Hall,
Durham,
DH1 5UF

Tel 03000 269921
Email cdalc@durham.gov.uk

18 October 2018

AGENDA ITEM 3: CITY OF DURHAM YOUTH PROJECT PRESENTATION



Framwellgate Moor Youth & Community Association
Front Street

Durham
DH15BL

5th September 2018

Dear Councillors

I'm sure many of you are already familiar with Durham City Youth Project originally based in the City until recently and now based at Framwellgate Moor Community Centre to help cut running costs. The organisation is a city based group formed in 1936 being one of the first youth groups in the area.

We are very proud that we have survived 82 years especially with the demise of funding once given to us by Durham County Council and the financial climate we are now in. We are very lucky we have a strong Management Committee, who are committed to the project and within the last year alone the work that has been done is testament to the continuation of youth work it provides. The charity has recently converted to a CIO, we are now a direct licence centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and we have recently won a commission with Durham County Council for the delivery of a mobile sexual health service to target teenage pregnancy hotspots in the area. Within the last year we have engaged with over 250 young people, 25 of which have almost completed either their Bronze or Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award which was made possible by the support of the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear. We have a vibrant Youth Council who meet on a monthly basis where they give young people a voice and discuss relevant issues, and contribute to improving the lives of young people within their communities. Last year with the support of the Greggs Foundation, they organised an Intergenerational Afternoon Tea and are due to host a Pie & Pea Supper again for the local community later in September. Funding from Comic Relief and the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Fund has enabled us to deliver detached and outreach youth work across the city centre especially in identified problem areas such as the North Road Bus Station, Wharton Park, the Riverbanks and also in areas such as Sherburn Road Estate, Belmont Skate Park, Langley Park and Framwellgate Moor Front Street. Detached work entails engaging with young people and the homeless and building up relationships with them and in turn giving them the confidence to trust them. Youth Workers are then able to support them and where necessary sign post them to relevant organisations that can help.

Looking forward to September 2018 we have managed to secure funding from Children in Need for 3 years to continue to support our detached work within the city centre. Funding from Framwellgate Moor Parish Council for the 2nd year has given us the opportunity to run our Youth Club which is every Wednesday

providing a safe space and informal education along with activities and sports for young people from Framwellgate Moor, Newton Hall, Nevilles Cross, Gilesgate and other villages around Durham. Awards 4 All and the DCC Sexual Health Commission enables us to work in schools in the area, such as Durham Johnston, Durham Federation and Seaham High School, this provides education around mental health, internet safety and grooming and sexual health. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is also due to commence with a different group of young people starting their Bronze Award and those that have just completed will move on to the Silver Group. This is funded by sponsored events, bag packing, a contribution towards registration and sessions costs from parents, the DCC Duke of Edinburgh Committee and the AAP Youth Fund.

Apologies for such a long letter but I hope this demonstrates the need for our service in Durham. We would like to ask the City of Durham Parish Council if you are able to support us financially in anyway, as you can see our sessions and sessional workers salaries are well supported by so many generous organisations but as ever it's the salary costs for the Project Co-ordinator and the Admin Officer we are struggling to find. There are only a few funders who support core costs and although we've tried we've been unsuccessful in such a competitive area. The project couldn't run without both posts, and unless we are able to find funding we are looking at reducing our hours even further and closing sessions. The Project Co-ordinator post is 12 hours per week for 52 weeks, £8,112 and the Admin Officer works 7 hours a week for 52 weeks, £4,732.

We would be very grateful if the City of Durham Parish Council would consider this application for support. I would be happy to attend the next meeting and explain a little about Durham City Youth Project and what it does and the impact it has on young people and the community or alternatively I would be able to meet with you and talk through the above in more detail.

Kind regards

D Jenkins

Project Co-ordinator

Email: durhamcitycentreyouthproject@gmail.com

Tel: 0191 383 2819

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting regarding the proposal for the new DCC HQ held on September 17 in the Town Hall, Durham starting at 7:00pm.

1. Registration began at about 18.16 hrs with four parish councillors checking names against the Electoral Register and issuing voting cards for parishioners. This was necessary but slow.
2. The room was considered to be well organised with rows of seats facing the stained glass window and stage. Aisles either side and down the middle. A table was made available at the head of the room for speakers Elizabeth Scott (Parish council chair and Chair of Meeting), Roger Cornwell (parish councillor and chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Planning Committee), Jane Quilty (Assistant Secretary of St Nicholas Community Forum) and Steve Ragg (Interim clerk). A big screen was used for displaying the initial draft resolution, which enabled changes to be made to the resolution as they were suggested from the floor. The speakers table had a microphone and a roving microphone was also available for public participation.
3. The Chair started the meeting at about 19.05 hrs (people still arriving, extra chairs found, but nevertheless some people had to stand. It was estimated that there were about 185 people present.
4. The Chair explained the housekeeping arrangements, introduced the speakers, outlined the nature of Parish Meetings and the timetable for the evening with two votes being taken at the end, the first for parishioners and the second for everyone. She expressed thanks to St Nicholas Community Forum and the Parish Planning Committee.
5. Cllr Cornwell took the meeting through the chronology of the scheme from first Cabinet decision in 2015 to move DCC HQ to Durham city centre through to the planning application on The Sands car park and coach park. He noted that the contractor had already been appointed and had held a brief engagement event which did not consult on alternative locations. The planning application had been made three weeks later. The Parish Council had unanimously opposed the scheme, and had asked the Secretary of State to 'call-in' the application. He closed by urging everyone to keep submitting appropriate objections to the application.
6. Jane Quilty thanked the Parish Council for organising the parish meeting so that the residents of the city and the County could express their views. She summarised SNCF's campaign with an initial leaflet to all household on The Sands, a follow-up questionnaire which showed 98% opposition to the scheme, and going door-to door and in the Market Place with a petition that has attracted 684 signatures so far and will be delivered to the County Council probably in October. She stressed that this is not the right site for this large development, and that the County Council should stop, reconsider and consult. The four key things wrong with the proposal were traffic, air pollution, harm to the natural environment, and harm to the World Heritage Site. She closed by giving details of the SNCF website - Durham Matters -

and email address, and emphasised that everyone should object, which SNCF would help on technical matters if asked.

7. The Chair then invited questions. The headline questions and responses were:

- Durham City Access For All reported that the proposed development is inaccessible.
- CPRE considered the issue to be county-wide so DCC should have considered and consulted with other towns in the County. Also flooding issues on this site.
- A Claypath Court representative expressed their view that there should have been opportunity for people to put forward alternatives.
- Another resident raised questions about the monitoring of air quality. A new school and increased traffic from the HQ would exacerbate air quality and pollution in this area. It was reported that children wait at the Providence Row/Claypath junction. Response was to note submission document on air quality.
- From City of Durham Trust and Neighbourhood Planning Forum - both organisations strongly oppose the scheme. The design was considered to be very poor, and contrary to the Council's guidelines. Also there had been no sustainability assessments of other sites.
- A resident mentioned that in recent reports bad air quality is harmful to the heart, and there are a lot of young people in HMOs and PBSAs in Claypath, Lower and Upper Gilesgate and Providence Row.
- Reference was made about access for emergency vehicles? Response was that these services are statutory consultees.
- One resident remarked that he was not clear about what is hoped to be achieved. How can the issue be forced and what legal steps can be taken? Response: ask SoS to call in; also seek legal advice re possible injunction.
- Claypath resident: pavement too narrow to be safe with lost of traffic at Freemans Quay and young people attending the Sixth Form centre and the swimming baths.
- A Ferens Park resident indicated that students attending the Sixth Form Centre arrive in cars, with three other pupils in the car. They are young new drivers, quite impetuous, unused to coping with steep narrow roads in winter. Thus risk of injuries. She had seen many near misses. There could be deaths through increased traffic. The site of the proposed multi-storey car park is a dangerous blind corner and T junction.
- A resident of Oswald Court was concerned about loss of amenity of The Sands; fairs, circuses, coach park for tourists.
- A Wearside Drive resident asked how can he and others assist with and boost the request to the Secretary of State to call -in the application? Response was to encourage anyone to make a representation; base on this being a national issue.
- Save Low Newton Nature Reserve representative mentioned that having the HQ there will hugely increase traffic in the city centre – contributing to the exact problem that the County Council intends to 'solve' by constructing the Northern Relief Road through the nature reserve.

- An individual commented that the loss of coach park will cause loss of tourists if the buses skip Durham, causing much bigger losses of trade in shops etc than the claimed benefit from DCC staff in city centre HQ
- Someone remarked that DCC was responsible for loss of the DLI museum, loss of green belt land, etc and someone needs to tell DCC to learn from past controversies.
- Someone asked how Kier were chosen? Might they have a financial claim against DCC if planning permission refused? Response: Kier representatives said at the engagement event that liabilities are built into the contract. Also, if Kier discarded then fair to refund them their costs.
- Resident near Aykley Heads: numerous concerns re infrastructure inadequate to cope with promised 6,000 jobs there. Big loss - 11 hectares - of Green Belt land.
- It was mentioned that an anchor tenant is needed at Aykley Heads, a new well-designed County Hall would do this. Also can Councillors on the Planning Committee be lobbied? The response was no, but use residents' associations to get the message across.
- Another resident of Wearside Drive asked how can DCC justify The Sands location as this was a complete reversal of Park and Ride to keep cars out of the town.
- One resident mentioned that they were grateful to Parish Council and SNCF. Need expertise, so maybe raise funds? Response - the Parish Council has funds.
- Gilesgate resident: Kier winning bid 16% lower than expected; question whether their bid is realistic - remember Carillion.
- A Wearside Drive resident stated that the scheme provides 81 additional parking places; how many of these will be taken up by pool cars? Drivers will circulate around trying to find somewhere to park - more traffic, more pollution. The County Hall car park is used at weekends for excellent special events; this benefit to the town will be lost. Response: at the SNCF meeting with senior DCC officers we were told that staff will be told that they cannot bring their cars to work. This suggests there will be lots of dropping off and more cars up Providence Row.
- Someone mentioned that this may be about trying to save Council Tax payers? Is it driven by Central Government? Are there unstated financial benefits such as grants for a new road from the Sands up to near the Carrville intersection? Response: the DCC case is about financial costs, but there are environmental costs, health costs, peace and well-being costs, etc.
- Someone confirmed previous thoughts that this was a County-wide issue. Petition needs to be offered beyond The Sands area. Response from speakers was that they would try.
- A parish councillor remonstrated that we want to trust our elected representatives but we cannot if what they do isn't transparent. DCC must genuinely explain their rationale - treat us as competent adults, get it right together.
- Another resident asked about the local Member of Parliaments opinion on this proposal?

- As the issue was considered to be County Wide should we try to get an alliance of other Parish and Town Councils.

8. No more questions at 20.21 hrs. The Chair asked for suggested improvements to the resolution. Many suggestions were made over the course of the next 25 minutes or so. The final version for the parishioners (electors of the Durham City area) was:

"We the parishioners (electors) of the City of Durham Parish Council area strongly oppose the siting of the new County Council civic building and multi storey car park on the Sands.

We demand that the County Council pauses to explore other options and carry out a full and proper consultation."

The result of this vote of parishioners (electors) voting at the meeting was 144 for; 0 against; 0 abstain.

There was then a further public vote for all those present at the meeting on the following resolution.

"We the residents of County Durham strongly oppose the siting of the new County Council civic building and multi storey car park on the Sands.

We demand that the County Council pauses to explore other options and carry out a full and proper consultation"

The result of all those voting at the meeting was 184 for; 0 against; 1 abstention.

9. The Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone who had attended. Roger Cornwell added that any new points would need to be submitted via the Parish Council.

Minutes of a Meeting of the **City of Durham Parish Council** held on Thursday 27 September 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in the Ritson Hall, Alington House, Durham

Present: **Councillor E Scott** in the Chair

Councillors E Ashby J Ashby, L Brown, S Cahill, R Cornwell, J Elmer, D Freeman, G Holland, R Ormerod, C Reeves and M Ross.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors V Ashfield and J Atkinson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items of business on the agenda.

3. Public Participation

Representatives from St Nicholas' Community Forum wished to place on record, their sincere thanks to the City of Durham Parish Council for their support during the recent collaborative work carried out between both organisations.

4. Membership of the University of Durham Task Force

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Pro Vice Chancellor (Colleges and Student Experience), the University Community Liaison Officer and Director of Student Support and Wellbeing, who were representatives of the University of Durham Task Force.

The University Community Liaison Officer provided the Council with the background to the Durham University Community Engagement Task Force and the revised terms of reference for the task force which had been circulated with the meeting papers. The revised terms of reference had progressed significantly from the original draft and resembled a realistic middle ground. It was hoped they were closely aligned with the council's own priorities and would enable councillors to feel comfortable to join the task force and its subgroups. This had followed meaningful dialogue with Councillors J Ashby, A Doig and the Interim Clerk. The University had given their approval for the revised version of the terms of reference earlier in the week.

Councillor J Ashby commented that the five sub-groups contained interesting themes which would inevitably have some crossover, for example the theme of tourism was contained within the culture sub-group, which was entirely correct. However, it could be relevant to other sub-group areas. The University Community Liaison Officer agreed with the comments made by Councillor J Ashby and explained that it was inevitable that issues, including tourism and others would stray from one area to another.

Councillor E Ashby queried if Purpose Built Student Accommodation would be dealt with under the accommodation theme of the 'lived environment' sub-group. The University Community Liaison Officer felt that this was the case and it would be worthwhile having this spelt out under the themes.

Councillor R Cornwell asked if the University administration would consider joining with the parish council in discussing matters regarding the standard of student

accommodation. The University Community Liaison Officer agreed that it was very much a shared interest and the type of issue that should be discussed within the group.

Councillor A Doig referred to the night time economy and the already increasing trend for license variations to extend opening times from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. Councillor Doig wished to see the night time economy as a focus for one of the sub-groups and requested that the Architectural Liaison Officer from Durham Constabulary be invited as representative to serve on the group.

The University Community Liaison Officer would arrange to contact Durham Constabulary with a view to arranging a scoping session explaining the importance to find the 'best fit' for this area of work.

Councillor E Ashby asked if the University would engage with consultations on licensing policy in 2019 and the various statutory processes, having felt that the university had been silent on such issues in the past. The University Community Liaison Officer commented that it was a fair question which would need to be taken away to discuss.

It was noted that membership of the sub-groups was beyond the core membership and it would be acceptable to the task force should any Councillor wish to participate in one of the sub-groups.

An invitation was extended to parish councillors to a community open brunch between from 10am to 12 noon on 21 October 2018 at Stephenson College.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agree to the terms of reference and that Councillors J Ashby and A Doig be nominated as representatives to serve on the task force.

5. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 26 July 2018 and 5 September 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

With reference to the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2018, and comments reflected in the final paragraph of Item 4 (f), Councillor E Ashby asked if the minutes could be corrected to clarify that "A Councillor commented that, by contrast, Durham Area Action Partnership had received a detailed presentation on the relocation of the County Archives to Mount Oswald and how this was integral to the proposed HQ development relocation and the Aykley Heads development of a business park".

The amendment was felt necessary because the parish council were not aware if other Area Action Partnerships across the County were consulted on the new County Council HQ proposals.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2018 be agreed, as amended.

6. Committee Updates

The Parish Council received updates as follows:-

Planning

Councillor R Cornwell informed the Council that four planning committee meetings had been held since the previous update. The Committee had made representations on many planning applications including responses to the preferred options of the County Durham Plan and proposed relocation of the County Council HQ. Councillor Cornwell asked that any Councillor wishing to make comments on an application, particularly those not on the Planning Committee, could bring matters of concern to his attention.

Councillor L Brown requested that any actions attributed to her at meetings could be communicated to her so she could follow them up.

Councillor Holland, referring to the highly informative and consistent minutes produced for the planning committee, explained that there were a few minor reporting procedures that required correction. Councillor E Scott asked if this could be included in a future training day to ensure that all Councillors understood the minute reporting format.

Environment Committee

Councillor E Ashby informed the Council that the Environment Committee had held its first meeting on 16 August 2018. Councillor M Ross reported that the Committee had discussed proposals to set-up a working party to consider safety on A167. Discussions had also taken place regarding improving heritage signing in the city centre, possible competitions and the potential employment of a general maintenance operative (all of which would require discussion with the Finance Committee). In 2019 the Committee hoped to look into the possibility of promoting/awarding the most improved and business fronting in the city centre.

Finance Committee

The Interim Clerk informed the Council that he had been approached by Councillor V Ashfield to progress arrangements for a meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss the budget for 2019/20 and other matters.

7. Update from the Chair

The Chair wished to place on record her thanks to everyone involved in the public meeting held at Durham Town Hall, particularly the speakers. The Chair would be writing to the MP for the City of Durham seeking her support. It was also proposed to write a similar letter to the respective Chairs of parish councils within the Durham Area Action Partnership and Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council, for which the interim clerk was acquiring the details of.

The Chair informed the Council that she had spoken to several people on an informal basis in relation to the clerk's vacancy as the closing date for applications approached. Shortlisting would take place w/c 8 October, with interviews taking place w/c 15 October.

Councillor A Doig had circulated a paper detailing the various options framework for internal and external communications processes by which the Council could inform and engage with each other, staff, stakeholders, other institutions, the public and the media. He highlighted the importance of having a strategy in place, to ensure that the incoming clerk had an awareness of what the Council's requirements were, both internally and externally. It was hoped that the briefing paper would form the basis of discussion to ensure that the parish council could devise a sensible list of communication priorities and consider the time commitment and any potential cost implications.

Resolved

That Councillor A Doig take the work forward.

8. Motion from Cllr Cornwell

Councillor Cornwell moved that:-

"The Parish Council wishes to put on record its appreciation of the work done by the St Nicholas Community Forum in opposing the plans to site a County Headquarters building on the Sands, and congratulates and thanks the Forum. We hope we can continue to work together in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation".

In **Moving** the motion, Councillor Cornwell explained that the Parish Council didn't come into being until 1 April with elections taking place on 3 May. He thanked St. Nicholas Community Forum for taking the initiative and felt that the parish council and the forum had complimented each other well in their early exchanges. Councillor Cornwell hoped that the parish council and community forum would continue to collaborate and cooperate in the future. The motion was **Seconded** by Councillor C Reeves.

Councillor E Scott was in full agreement with the view expressed by Councillor Cornwell and explained the importance of taking residents views from the parish area in all aspects of the work, something which had been very much reflected at the recent public meeting held in Durham Town Hall.

The Council agreed the motion unanimously.

9. History of Lord Londonderry Statue and Battles of Neville's Cross – Provision of Information Boards

The Chair informed the Council that she had received an email from a resident regarding historical statues in the City, with a particular emphasis on those which

did not reflect modern values. The Chair felt that there was an opportunity to tell more about the history of Durham, including workers' rights and other historical factors. Councillor Cornwell had circulated a document which reflected on a similar piece of work carried out.

Councillor M Ross referred to the work of the Environment Committee and explained that discussions had taken place at a recent meeting with similar themes, with many suggestions made on how the entire city could be joined up with interpretation boards and walkways.

Councillor E Ashby explained that the Durham Pointers had acquired much background material from various perspectives some of which was specialist in nature and could potentially be used for the type of project discussed.

Councillor Holland felt that it would be an excellent project, which needed to be historically accurate. He encouraged use of the University and the Friends of Flass Vale, adding that it would be important for paths to be properly marked out, well defined with way markers, relevant story boards and accompanying maps. It would be an excellent opportunity for visitors.

Councillor Freeman informed that Council that he had been approached by residents previously regarding similar matters and had made representations to the Durham County Council, Culture and Sport, regarding the need for information on historical people with connections to the City of Durham.

Councillor Elmer felt there was a huge potential for number of interpreted footpaths. He cited the City of York which had invested in access and interpretation. Councillor Elmer hoped that the parish council could grow and foster this in the future.

Councillor J Ashby informed the Council that the David Butler was a key contact for matters relating to the Battle of Neville's Cross.

Councillor R Cornwell commented that the neighbourhood plan contained a policy for preserving footpaths. Once the plan was agreed the council would be able to take forward the types of projects discussed.

Councillor Holland commented on the strength of feeling in favour of the various issues discussed and explained that someone was required to lead on the project, adding that skilled and knowledgeable volunteers could would serve the people for many years to come.

Councillor R Cornwell **Moved** that the matter be referred to the Environment Committee. Councillor E Ashby **Seconded** the proposal.

Resolved

That the matter be referred to the Environment Committee to progress.

10. Durham County Council and Keir Property Development for a new HQ

Councillor J Ashby informed the Council that he was seeking a resolution from the parish council to make enquiries for a legal opinion in relation to the planning application concerning the proposed new County Council HQ. There had been a clear desire from many that the pathway needed to be challenged in some way.

Councillor G Holland explained that much good work had taken place to date in terms of the volume, length and breadth of objections made. Councillor Holland felt that this was sufficient at present and advised the Parish Council to await the report produced by the Planning Authority prior to taking any further action.

Having listened to the debate, Councillor R Cornwell felt that a way forward would be for the parish council to authorise Councillor J Ashby to seek a legal view on the matters discussed. It was important to proceed on the basis of good advice and information and not on the parish council's fears and hopes.

Councillor J Ashby **Moved** that an open-ended request be made to a solicitor for a legal opinion/advice on any form of legal challenge regarding the matter and any potential risks associated with such a course of action.

The motion was **Seconded** by Councillor R Cornwell.

Resolved

That the motion be agreed.

11. Membership of the CDALC Larger Councils Forum and Representatives on the CDALC City of Durham Area Committee

The interim clerk informed the Council that as a member of the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC), the City of Durham parish council was entitled to appoint and send up to three representatives to the CDALC larger council's forum which brought together the 16 larger councils that CDALC has in the County Association.

The CDALC City of Durham area committee aimed to bring the parish council representatives together from the ten parish councils that made up the Durham City Area Action Partnership area. Two councillors from each council were invited to attend. The Committee had met very infrequently in recent years. The aim of the committee was to bring the group of parish councils together. Each year this group were expected to choose their CDALC Executive Committee Member and their parish councillor representative on the AAP Board.

Resolved

- (i) That Councillors J Atkinson, R Ormerod and C Reeves be nominated to serve on the CDALC Larger Councils forum; and
- (ii) That Councillor R Ormerod and Cllr E Ashby be represented on the CDALC Durham Area Committee.

12. Discussion on Holding an Away Durham for the Parish

The Chair suggested that an away day be held on Monday 22 October 2018 at 6 p.m. to discuss strategic priorities. Input would be required in advance and it was important that those Councillors who could not attend make submissions in advance.

13. Cycle of Future Meetings

The Council noted the cycle of future meetings:

2018

25 October

22 November
20 December

2019

24 January
28 February
28 March

14. Items for the meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 25 October 2018.

- Away day
- Neighbourhood plan
- Motion regarding university fees

Signed

Chair of City of Durham Parish Council
25 October 2018

Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Friday 21 September 2018 in Durham Town Hall.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Cornwell (Chair), Ashby, Elmer, Reeves and Holland (Secretary).
Also present: George Walker and Meg Haskins from Durham University Students Union

Declarations of interest: None

Minutes of the meeting on 7 September 2018: agreed as a correct record

Discussion with Students' Union representatives on standards for student accommodation in Durham: Cllr Cornwell welcomed George Walker and Meg Haskins to the meeting and there followed a discussion on the minimum room size for all forms of student accommodation in the City.

It was noted that after October 1st the County Council will be able to set minimum floor space sizes for student rooms and that Islington already required a minimum of 8 square metres. Ms Haskins indicated that room size versus student welfare and mental health had never been studied adequately and that some student rooms were "shocking" and brought little or no benefit to their tenants. She also noted that after spending their first year within colleges the students were often under pressure to grab whatever rooms were available and within reach of their pockets and often accepted sub-standard accommodation as a result.

Councillors present expressed support and sympathy with this dilemma and indicated a willingness to help the students and exercise pressure whenever and wherever possible to help their cause. Cllr Elmer suggested that it was more a Licensing than Planning approach that was needed and there was general agreement that Licensing would provide the stronger line to follow by placing detailed conditions based on safety and security for the resident students. Cllr Ashby observed that the HMOs and developing PBSOs put pressure on the University to offer more competitive pricing of college places. It was agreed that through licensing and over time the 8 square metre minimum should be introduced.

Cllr Cornwell undertook to contact the County Council to indicate the City Council's concern and involvement in this matter.

Matters arising: the following responses were **approved** (for text of letters see parish web site):

DM/18/02369/FPA; and New County HQ

DM/18/02372/FPA | Demolition of Tower Cottage, the Avenue, and building 3 new houses fronting on the The Avenue.

The following planning applications were considered:

DM/18/02638/CPU | Increasing from 4 to 6 bedrooms at 5 Church Street Villas Durham DH1 3DW. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Cornwell would send a

letter to the County Council expressing reservations about this application and that the room concerned should be for single occupancy only.

DM/18/02763/FPA | First Floor Side and Single-Storey Rear Extension, 14 Aykley Green Durham DH1 4LN. Noted

DM/18/02790/FPA | Alterations at Willow House 5 Mayorswell Close Durham DH1 1JU Noted

DM/18/02614/FPA and DM/18/02615/AD | change of use to make gin distillery at The Riverwalk Millburngate Durham DH1 4SL. Discussion centred on potential fire risks at this site and that Building Control should pay particular attention to this hazard. Cllr Cornwell to write to the County Council drawing attention to these concerns.

DM/18/02545/FPA | Clad existing rendered rear external walls with brick cladding panels, 30 Nevilledale Terrace Durham DH1 4QG. This is a part-retrospective application attempting to make good an unauthorised concrete cladding of this property with a brick facing to conceal the concrete. Members regarded this solution as unacceptable and Cllr Cornwell agreed to submit an objection to this application.

Any Other Business: Following introductory comments by Cllr Ashby it was agreed that all documents and minutes concerning the Planning Committee should be distributed to all members of the Council.

Dates of future meetings: 5th October – 19th October

There being no further business the meeting ended at 12.00 noon

Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Friday 5 October 2018 at 10:00
in Alington House

MINUTES

1. Present: Cllrs R Cornwell (Chair), J Ashby, C Reeves.
Cllrs L Brown and E Ashby and visitor Sarah Wilkinson were also in attendance.
2. Apologies: Cllr G Holland. The Chair reported that Cllr Holland would be convalescing for a significant period of time and proposed that, in the interests of securing the quorum of 3, the Interim Clerk be asked to agenda a request at full Parish Council that the membership of the Parish Planning Committee be increased from 5 to 7. This was agreed, noting that the membership of all Committees is reviewed annually.
3. Declarations of interest: Cllr Cornwell declared an interest in the application DM/18/02372/FPA Demolition of Tower Cottage, the Avenue, and building 3 new houses fronting onto The Avenue as his property is close to this site.
4. The minutes of the meeting on 21 September 2018: received and agreed as a correct record.
5. Public participation comments on the following agenda items: Sarah Wilkinson commented on DM/18/02545/FPA when it was discussed.
6. Matters arising:
 - a) 24 The Avenue: Cllr Brown will ask the Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Department (who licence HMOs) about the railings that have been erected around the light well that was claimed to be the means of escape from the basement rooms.

(b) The responses to the following applications were approved (for text of letters see parish web site):
 - DM/18/02486/AD** Two advertising hoardings outside County Hall, Durham. Cllr Brown noted that shrubbery had already been cleared.
 - DM/18/02545/FPA** Clad existing rendered rear external walls with brick cladding panels, 30 Nevilledale Terrace Durham DH1 4QG.
 - DM/18/02614/FPA** Proposed Durham Distillery The Riverwalk Millburngate Durham DH1 4SL: now a matter for Building Control, who are seeking further information. Cllr E Ashby will mention this application to the Parish Council Chair to raise as an example in their meeting regarding the County Safety Committee.
 - DM/18/02638/CPU** Increasing from 4 to 6 bedrooms at 5 Church Street Villas Durham DH1 3DW.
 - (c) Review of applications previously considered:
 - DM/18/01671/FPA** | 11 Prospect Terrace Nevilles Cross Durham DH1 4JH: the applicant has withdrawn the application and is intending a smaller extension within permitted development rights. Cllr Brown remarked that this bypassed all

of the carefully constructed conditions and safeguards that officers would have imposed on the original scheme.

DM/18/02369/FPA New County HQ: noted that The Freemen have formally objected; agreed that Cllr J Ashby should write to the Clerk to the Trustees to seek further information. Also noted that the Planning Inspectorate had replied to the 'call-in' request that "Subject to the committee resolving to grant planning permission, the Secretary of State will give due consideration to your Council's request for call in. In the meantime, I consider that it would be inappropriate to place an Article 31 holding direction on the planning application." It was resolved that, if the DCC Planning Officer's report when published a week before the County Planning Committee recommends approval, the Parish Planning Committee should immediately re-request the Holding Direction. Cllr Reeves drew attention to fencing that has been erected alongside the riverbanks, closing the footpath. It was agreed that documentation would be obtained from Durham County Council for applying to have the footpath added to the Definitive Map.

DM/18/02372/FPA Demolition of Tower Cottage, the Avenue, and building 3 new houses fronting on the The Avenue: Cllr Brown agreed to ask the planning officer whether the necessary detailed geotechnical information has been provided.

DM/18/02486/AD Two advertising hoardings outside County Hall, Durham: nothing to add.

DM/18/01727/LB and **DM/18/02009/AD** Durham Town Hall listed building application and associated advert application: both applications have now been amended to remove all the banners that were proposed to be attached to the front of the Town Hall. The applications have now been approved. The Chair will circulate a draft letter welcoming the amendments, that re-varnishing of the wooden elements of the doorway would also be welcome, and expressing reservations about the 'modernising' graphics.

(d) New HMO licensing regime:

DCC's Principal Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Officer has advised that 10% of HMOs are below the new space standards. He is reluctant to have higher space standards as this would lead to a high rate of failure, but he suggested a way forward might be via the Landlord Accreditation Scheme, which he also manages. He is most willing to meet the Committee and needs to be offered dates. Cllr Brown would wish to attend.

7.To consider making representations on the following planning applications:

DM/18/02269/AD and **DM/18/02276/LB** Signage at the Covered Market, Durham (revised details): this application has been approved.

DM/18/02632/AD Erection of non illuminated fascia sign Rushford Court North Road Durham DH1 4RY: agreed that Cllr J Ashby will draft and circulate an objection to the proposed size, to it being an advertisement not the name of the property, and to the precedent it would set for other PBSAs to permanently advertise the developer with huge logos.

DM/18/02709/FPA 2.7m high fence, extensive alterations, Oaklea, The Avenue, Durham DH1 4DX: it was agreed to generally welcome the renovations

but to point out that timber windows rather than uPVC windows would be more in keeping with the Conservation Area.

DM/18/02735/LB Alterations to convert the 2nd and 3rd floors into a flat including a rear access at second floor level, Moon Jewellery 12 Silver Street Durham DH1 3RB. There is also an accompanying planning application using an entrance off Moatside Lane and steps down to the service yard. Cllr Cornwell to draft and circulate a letter of objection regarding the need for information on the retention of listed building internal features and a separate letter of concern re the steps, access, lighting and rubbish arrangements.

DM/18/02737/LB Infrastructure and cable route updates, University College, Durham Castle, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RW: noted.

DM/18/02805/FPA Change of use of ground floor from general store to 2 residential flats (use class C3), Ash Villa Homer Terrace Nevilles Cross Bank Durham DH1 4JS: agreed to defer to next meeting to enable research of grounds for retention of an asset of community value.

DM/18/02847/FPA Single storey rear kitchen extension, 3 Howlcroft Villas Crossgate Peth Durham DH1 4DU: agreed to defer to next meeting to enable research on whether the "rear" extension is at the road side of the property.

DM/18/02931/FPA Sculpture of illuminated heron with associated railings and landscaping - Land To The South Of Freemans Reach Freemans Place Durham DH1 1SL: agreed that Cllr J Ashby will draft and circulate a letter welcoming the proposal in principle but preferring it to be located in the more developed area of the café and the Passport Office.

8. Dates of future meetings: 19 October and 2 November.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 12.15 pm.

Signed

Chair of City of Durham Planning Committee.
19 October 2019

Minutes of the Environment Committee of the City of Durham Parish Council held in Room 3, Alington House, 4 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3ET on Thursday 16 August 2018 at 19.00.

Present: Councillors E Ashby, V Ashfield, J Atkinson, M Ross

Apologies for absence Cllrs Saul Cahill, Jonathon Elmer, Richard Ormerod,

1. **Election of Chair**

Cllr Victoria Ashfield nominated by Cllr E Ashby and seconded by Cllr M Ross. There being no further nominations, Cllr Ashfield was duly elected Chair of the Council's Environment Committee for the ensuing year.

2. **Election of Vice Chair** deferred to next meeting.

3. **Declarations of interest from members.** None.

4. **To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items.** None It was agreed that we refer to Full Council the matter of recording the numbers of members of the public attending all meetings of the Council as a way of monitoring public engagement

5. **Priority setting by Environment Committee**

	Priorities referred to EC by June 6th Full Council meeting	Action to date.
1	Involving young people	-
2	Greening Millennium Place	Britain in Bloom event
4	A167 traffic calming	Agenda EC 16.8.18 item 6
5	Night time safety	Durham City Safety P'ship
6	Heritage signing	Fix agenda date - item 12.
7	Good neighbour of the year	Agenda item EC 16..8.18
8	Litter	-

Following discussion it was agreed to refer back to full Council for consideration at its planned Away Day the rest of the attached report as it concerned matters of detail connected with the Neighbourhood Plan possibly outwith the T'sOR of this committee.

6 **Agreed:** to form a working group to engage with appropriate County Council officers to investigate means of domesticating the driving environment between the Sniperly and Cock o' the North roundabouts on the A167. Cllr E Ashby to invite Cllrs Liz Brown and J Elmer to join the group together with representatives of local residents' organisations in the affected area.

7. **Agreed:** to form a working group to meet with officers of Durham County Council's Clean and Green team to discuss the possible setting up of a pilot scheme for an award in 2019 for the 'Best Kept Business Frontage' in the city centre. Cllrs Ashfield, Atkinson and Ross to action.

8 **Agreed:** the Chair of Environment Committee approach the Chair of Finance Committee to discuss the appointment of a part time member of staff to undertake from time to time such outside tidying, cleaning and general maintenance duties as may be required by this Parish Council.

9 Cllr Ashby reported on the Britain in Bloom lunch she and Cllr Brown had attended on 7.8.18. The RHS' senior judge praised entrants for their great success in 'Making Durham Different'. **Agreed:** to promote this phrase as a contender for a logo or brand for the Parish Council.

10. **Agreed:** Environment Committee to consult on means of reducing emissions caused by commercial and promotional vehicles when operating while stationary in public areas in the city centre. Cllr Ashfield to lead.

11. **Agreed:** Officers of the County Council be invited to discuss with Environment Committee means of improving and making safe historic vennels and steps in the city centre. Action: agenda date tbd.

12. **Agreed:** defer to future agenda for fuller discussion 'reviewing and improving heritage signage in the 3 Parish Council wards'.

13. **Dates of future meetings:** September 18, October 16, November 15
December 13.

Signed

Cllr E Ashby.
Chair of Environment Committee

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLLR JONATHAN ELMER'S MOTION FOR DISCUSSION

Dear Roberta,

Local residents have brought to our attention the extensive clear felling of trees that form part of the East Coast Mainline corridor as it passes through Langley Moor, and Durham with particular impact within the Redhills cutting area. The clear-felling is ongoing at this moment. Complaints have been made by Cllrs Jonathan Elmer and Elizebeth Scott to Network Rail in relation to this matter pointing out that the scale of the work is utterly disproportionate to the need to ensure railway safety. In particular, until most recently, Network Rail would prune off dead branches and fell isolated trees identified as unstable and dangerous. Their new approach seems to involve the clear felling of extensive linear stretches of woodland, and it would appear that this has been going on across the Country as part of a wider National programme.

City of Durham Parish Council are concerned that this change in practice is primarily driven by the desire to reduce tree maintenance costs, and that health and safety forms a convenient vehicle to side-line opposition. Regardless of the Network Rails veiled motivations, it's clear that the works will:

- Have a very serious and adverse impact on important wildlife habitats and corridors;
- Result in loss of privacy;
- Increase noise and light pollution;
- Have a very serious and adverse impact on the arrival at the World Heritage Site.

We would be grateful if you could ask Network Rail to immediately cease works in Durham pending review of the works actually needed to ensure safety on the line. We also feel that this matter is of national significance and should be escalated as appropriate to Environment Minister and parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Ragg