

# City of Durham Parish Council

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Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** will be held in the **LANTERN ROOM, DURHAM TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, DURHAM, DH1 3NJ** on **THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 at 7:00pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE (OR NOT) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM TODAY'S MEETING**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**
- 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 5. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- **Planning Committee minutes from meetings held on 15 and 29 October 2021**

Copies of all approved minutes from these meetings can be found here: <http://cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk/agendas-minutes/planning-committee/>

- Update following the joint meeting with Durham County Council on the use of the former coach park at the Sands as common land.

- **Environment Committee minutes from meetings held on 12 October 2021**

Copies of all approved minutes from these meetings can be found here:

<http://cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk/agendas-minutes/environment-committee>

- Section 106 project – sedum roofed bus shelters at Lower Claypath

- **Licensing Committee minutes from meeting held on 19 October and 2 November 2021**

Copies of all approved minutes from these meetings can be found here:

<http://cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk/agendas-minutes/licensing-committee/>

- 6. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair will provide a verbal update on matters arising since the Full Parish Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

- 7. DCC CONSULTATION ON LOCAL HERITAGE LIST**
- 8. ALLOCATION OF REMAINING GRANT FUNDING FROM 2021/22**
- 9. SECTION 106 CONSULTATION - MGH CARD LLP APPLICATION**
- 10. PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGY – FULL PARISH COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2022/23**
- 11. PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT A REQUEST FOR THE CONTINUATION OF LIVE STREAMED MEETINGS**
- 12. REPORT FROM THE LANDLORD LICENSING WORKING GROUP**
- 13. DCC CONSULTATION ON DURHAM CITY FRAMEWORK**
- 14. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
  - Report by Cllr E Ashby on the Durham University Covid-19 Community Liaison Group
  - Report by Cllr L Brown on the Durham Access for All Group.

**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 the meeting of the City of Durham Parish Council held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 19:00 in the Lantern Room, Durham Town Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors A Doig (Chair), L Brown, R Ormerod, V Ashfield, R Friederichsen, C Lattin, D Freeman, R Hanson, G Holland, S Walker, G Nair, N Brown, E Ashby, E Scott and H Weston.

**Also present:** Parish Clerk Adam Shanley and Ms Elizabeth Williams and Mr Jonathan Lovell (members of the public).

## **1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE (OR NOT) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM TODAY'S MEETING**

None received.

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

Councillor E Scott declared an interest the item relating to the common land and item 10 on the Agenda and took no part in the discussions on this item.

Councillor L Brown declared an interest the item relating to the common land and item 10 on the Agenda and took no part in the discussions on this item.

Councillor D Freeman declared an interest the item relating to the common land and item 10 on the Agenda and took no part in the discussions on this item.

Councillor R Ormerod declared an interest the item relating to the common land and item 10 on the Agenda and took no part in the discussions on this item.

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings, subject to the following amendments:

Under item 5 of the minutes, the sentences "*Cllr R Ormerod proposed that Cllr S Walker join the Committee and this was seconded by Cllr D Freeman*" and "*Cllr V Ashfield proposed that Cllr G Nair join the Committee and this was seconded by Cllr R Friederichsen*" be amended to "*Cllr R Ormerod proposed that Cllr S Walker fill the vacancy on the Committee and this was seconded by Cllr D Freeman*" and "*Cllr V Ashfield proposed that Cllr G Nair fill the vacancy on the Committee and this was seconded by Cllr R Friederichsen*"

Under item 6 of the minutes, the sentence "*The Chair asked Members, as a point of courtesy, if they could make the relevant Chairs of Committees aware that they wish to attend Committee meetings they do not sit on and also advise which items they'd like to discuss*" be amended to "*The Chair asked Members, in order to assist the efficient conduct of business if they could make the Clerk*

*aware that they propose to attend a meeting of a Committee they do not sit on and also advise, where relevant, any item(s) they may wish to contribute to”.*

#### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms Elizabeth Williams advised that she was attending the meeting with a general interest in items on the Agenda.

Mr Jonathan Lovell also advised that he was attending the meeting with a general interest in items on the Agenda.

#### **5. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

##### **• Planning Committee**

Cllr L Brown presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 17 and 28 September 2021. There being no queries from Members, Cllr L Brown moved on to Committee reports.

##### **Update following the verdict of the Inspector into the de-registration of the former coach park at the Sands as common land.**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Inspector’s verdict was published on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and the County Council has been granted permission to de-register the former coach park as common land.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Chair of the Parish Council has issued a public statement expressing disappointment at the outcome of the inquiry and requesting a meeting with Durham County Council in order to discuss the future use of the land.

The Clerk advised that a meeting is scheduled to take place next week with the leadership team at Durham County Council including the Parish Council and representatives of the Freemen in order to discuss the future use of the land.

Members expressed a desire to see the coach park return to the City and for the area to be turned into a more useable community facility with planting and benches installed in the area. Members particularly expressed a desire to see that the land is protected against future development.

The Chair advised that a follow up report would be provided at November Full Council following the meeting with DCC.

##### **• Environment Committee**

Cllr C Lattin presented the minutes from the Environment Committee meeting held on 14 September 2021. There being no queries from Members, Cllr C Lattin asked Cllr R Friederichsen to present his report on the COP26 event.

Before Cllr R Friederichsen did so, the Chair reminded Members of his correspondence to Cllr Friederichsen earlier in the week where he had set out a number of concerns about the proposed COP26 event. In particular, the Chair

highlighted issues he had identified with the risk assessment and the proposed activities for the event. In doing so, the Chair remarked that the Parish Council's insurance provider has indicated that they would be unable to insure the Parish Council for this event.

Cllr R Friederichsen reminded Members that he had responded to the Chair's concerns in a letter to all Members and he hoped that this would address the concerns set out by the Chair and could therefore be supported by Full Council. Cllr R Friederichsen also advised Members that the proposal to Full Council on this event is now to provide £1,500 funding to Climate Action Durham.

Cllr V Ashfield highlighted that she, Cllr R Friederichsen and Climate Action Durham have worked tirelessly to organise the COP26 event in Durham and this included the involvement of local interested parties and schools.

Members expressed concern about providing funding to Climate Action Durham as an informal organisation with no bank account, constitution or officers. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council would not be able to provide funding to an individual's bank account.

Members also expressed concern about the event currently not being insured. Cllr V Ashfield advised that she and the group were looking to take out a day's insurance for the event and she would be able to organise this.

Members expressed concerns about the event having a political aspect to it and the Parish Council not being to fund any part of this. Cllr E Ashby highlighted that the main organiser for Climate Action Durham is entirely apolitical and usually arranges the hustings – involving all political parties - during general elections.

No amendments were proposed and seconded for the proposal to provide funding to Climate Action Durham for the COP26 event, however the proposal was withdrawn from consideration, with all Members agreeing this.

- **Licensing Committee**

Cllr S Walker presented the minutes of the Licensing Committee meetings held on 20 September and 4 October 2021. There were no queries from Members on these minutes.

- **Business Committee**

Cllr E Scott presented the minutes of the Business Committee meeting held on 22 June 2021. There being no queries from Members, Cllr E Scott moved on to Committee reports.

### **Proposal to host a Christmas event to support local businesses**

The Clerk advised Members that the Parish Council has committed a budget to hosting Christmas events in the City this year in an effort to support local traders and increase footfall to the City.

In order to support the delivery of these events, the Clerk advised that he and representatives of the Business Committee have been in ongoing discussions with business representatives, including the Durham Markets Company, Durham BID and Prince Bishops Place on events.

The Clerk set out a timetable of events already taking place in the City over Christmas and proposals for how the Parish Council may add to these. The events primarily included street entertainment and followed advice from business representatives on what typically works well for families.

The Clerk also reported that he and Cllr E Ashby are currently trying to establish a charity gift wrapping service over December.

Members **agreed** to working in partnership with key stakeholders on the hosting of Christmas events.

Members also **agreed** to provide funding for the Christmas events, as set out in the Clerk's report as follows:

- **£1,200** – arts and crafts, street entertainment (LED juggler and storytelling) delivered by DMC – 12th and 19th December
- **£2,000** – paw patrol on 12th December, in partnership with PBP.
- **£2,500** – Grinch/ Christmas-themed street entertainment character, liaising with Durham BID – 19th December
- **£200** – Facebook advertising

Members also **agreed** to delegate organisational responsibility for these events to the Parish Clerk and the Parish Council's Business Committee.

## **6. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update on matters arising since the Full Parish Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council is very disappointed with the outcome of the public inquiry into the common land issue. The Chair advised that he and the Clerk, along with representatives of the Freeman, will be meeting the leadership at DCC in the coming days to talk through potential future uses and safeguards for this plot of land.

The Chair advised that he was delighted to see the Parish Council's anti-cigarette waste campaign being launched this week and hoped to see this having a meaningful impact on the city, not just in terms of keeping the City clean and green but also the positive impacts for people's health too through quitting smoking. The Chair thanked all those Councillors who supported the Clerk in the rollout of this project to City businesses yesterday.

The Chair advised that, like many others, he was shocked at the recent reports in the national news about the spiking taking place in licensed premises in Durham City. The Chair advised that Members will have seen that University students this week have boycotted nightclub establishments. The Chair advised that the Clerk

has circulated a briefing from Durham Police about this and the Licensing Committee is meeting next week to discuss its response to this issue.

The Chair advised that the recent Section 106 application from Artichoke for the "lampounette" art piece has been rejected by DCC. The Chair reminded Members that, having seen the full details of this application, the Parish Council withdrew its original support and objected to this.

On the subject of Lumiere, the Chair advised that the festival is set to commence on 18<sup>th</sup> November in the City, with tickets already on sale for the event. The event will take place until 21<sup>st</sup> November. The Chair advised that he hoped that the event will take place safely, with as little disruption to usual daily life as possible and families enjoy their time during the festival.

The Chair advised that, like many others, he was shocked at the tragic killing of the MP Sir David Amess earlier this month. Whilst the security arrangements for MPs are currently being reviewed, the Chair advised that local Councillors are just as accessible to the public if not more so than MPs, albeit Parish Councillors are less at risk than MPs. The Chair advised that he has asked the Clerk to circulate a briefing to all Members on ensuring that Councillors keep safe as they go about their duties as local representatives in the community.

The Chair advised that the Battle of Neville's Cross Anniversary events earlier this month – including a commemorative walk and a church service – went absolutely brilliantly. The Chair advised that those who attended the church service were overwhelmed at the incredible artwork by local school pupils and the commemorative walk led by David Butler was fantastic. The Chair particularly thanked the Parish Clerk for arranging this and to everyone who helped and supported this event – including local schools, Rev. Barnaby at St. John's church, David Butler and Councillors. The Chair advised that it was a real source of pride for the Parish Council that the work on the restoration of the Neville's Cross was completed to a phenomenal standard in time for this important anniversary in our parish.

The Chair advised that he was delighted to hear the news that Durham has been longlisted in its application for City of Culture 2025. The Chair advised that the Parish Council looks forward to DCC engaging with us on this and hopes that, no matter the outcome of this bid, 2025 can be a huge year of culture for Durham.

The Chair reminded Members that the Parish Council's Christmas civic event is set to take place in the Town Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December. This is a great event, which gives the Parish Council the opportunity to thank all those groups, volunteers, partners and Councillors for their work and support of the City throughout the year.

The Chair reminded Members that Parish Council representatives on outside bodies must bring a written report from their respective organisations to each Full Parish Council meeting to update Members of the Parish Council on the work of each organisation.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council will be progressing with its strategy earlier than usual this year, in order to agree this ahead of the budget setting

process in January 2022 for the forthcoming financial year. The Chair advised that the Clerk will ensure that this item is on the Agenda of all of our Committees' meetings in November.

## **7. DCC CONSULTATION ON LOCAL HERITAGE LIST**

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council is currently consulting on the production of a local heritage list.

The Clerk advised that the Local List is a pilot project funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government. The aim is to connect with communities across the county and take nominations for non-designated heritage assets or NDHA's. The Clerk advised that these can be buildings, green spaces (such as parks), street furniture (such as benches, street signs, sculptures), archaeological sites, or maritime heritage. Importantly what makes them a non-designated heritage asset is that they have heritage value but are not already covered by existing protection such as a listed building or scheduled monument.

The Clerk advised that, due to the size of County Durham and the vast amount of potential for the list, DCC is to commence with eight pilot areas only, this is to help ensure that the processes are correct before making it available to the wider county. These initial pilot areas include:

- Bishop Auckland
- Durham City
- Sacriston
- Seaham
- Sedgefield
- Shotley Bridge
- Staindrop and Raby
- Stockton & Darlington Railway including Shildon

The Clerk reminded Members that he had circulated details of this consultation in advance of this meeting. So far, the Clerk advised that he had received one nomination for the former Durham City Baths.

Cllr H Weston asked if Kingsgate Bridge could be considered, however the Clerk advised that this was already listed and the consultation did not include already listed heritage assets.

Cllr E Ashby asked if the list of non-designated heritage assets – as identified during the County Council's 2016 Conservation Area Character Appraisal and listed in the Neighbourhood Plan could be submitted immediately.

It was **agreed** that the existing lists be circulated to all Members electronically with a deadline to feedback to the Clerk and nominations would be submitted once agreed.

## **8. CONSIDERATION OF PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL'S CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS BEGGING IN THE CITY**

The Clerk reminded Members that he had been contacted by DCC to ask if the Parish Council would consider supporting a campaign which would include a poster on the issue of addressing begging in the City centre and asking the public not to give money to those begging in the City.

The Clerk advised that he had initially circulated the details of this campaign via email and asked for a view from all Members, however it was clear that there are strong feelings on this highly complex issue.

It was **agreed** that this issue is such a complex one that this cannot be resolved by this poster alone. Members **agreed** not to support this campaign.

## **9. UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY EVENT 2021**

The Clerk provided a report to Councillors on the work being undertaken on preparations for the Remembrance Sunday event. The Clerk advised that preparations were going well and reminded Members that the Cathedral is limiting numbers of attendees at the Sunday service this year due to Covid-19. The Clerk reminded Members that there is a need for all attendees to have a Covid passport and proof of a recent negative test result.

10 Councillors confirmed their attendance at the Remembrance Day event.

## **10. DURHAM CITY CHARTER TRUST**

The Chair set out a report on the issue of the Charter Trust and advised Members that he would be discussing this further with the current Mayor of Durham City. The Chair reminded Members that the current position of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on Charter Trusts is that they are outdated establishment and NALC is calling on the Government to abolish these entirely.

The Chair advised that no decision is required at today's meeting on this subject and he would be contacting DCC to discuss this further.

## **11. PROPOSAL TO DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ON DURHAM TOWN HALL**

Members were asked to consider a proposal to Durham County Council that the Town Hall be turned into a community hub for the City.

The Clerk set out the report to Full Council on this proposal. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council has agreed, through the '*Looking Forwards*' document, to seek to establish a community hub for the parish and it is proposed that the Town Hall be considered as a business case for such a use.

The Clerk advised that *Looking Forwards* set out that an overarching requirement in encouraging creativity is to develop a City Centre Hub which provides welcoming spaces for meetings, courses and events where people can think, plan and act with imagination. A City centre facility which advertises all that the City has to offer would be a focal point for the whole community, including permanent residents, students and visitors. This central facility is more fully described in Initiative 20 'The Development of a City Centre Hub'.

The Clerk advised that, since the formation of the Parish Council, a number of requests have been made to the Parish Council to assume responsibility for the Hall. Any such request would need to be considered and worked through with the County Council.

The Clerk advised that, at present, the Town Hall includes the council chamber which was the meeting place of the municipal borough of Durham and Framwellgate until 1974 and then of Durham District until it was dissolved in 2009; it remains the meeting place of the mayor and aldermen of Durham, who are now appointed by charter trustees.

The Clerk also advised that the Town Hall is listed as one of the cultural assets of the County and it is hoped that turning this into more of a community hub will enhance this status in the City.

The Clerk also advised that, at present, the current office arrangements for the Parish Council are temporary and the Parish Council has a rolling monthly lease with the County Council for the use of the office and part of the corridor outside the Clerk's office. The office has no windows or landline facility and is limited to library opening times. With the prospect of additional staff joining the Parish Council, it is not envisaged that this is a suitable long-term arrangement and it is therefore proposed that the Parish Council requests a more suitable office arrangement within the Town Hall.

In addition to which, Durham City currently has no Tourist Information facility nor (until recently) a Durham World Heritage Centre. All of which may be considered as part of a request to the County Council, subject to discussions with relevant third parties.

It was **agreed** that Cllr E Scott, in her role as DCC Cabinet Member, should pursue the proposal of the Parish Council having an office space within the Town Hall.

## **12. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND NOISE: CONSULTATION PAPER**

The Chair provided a follow-up report to the Parish Council on the issue of the anti-social behaviour and noise issues in the parish. The Chair advised that no decision is required on this item at this particular meeting but that the Parish Council is continuing to engage with partner organisations on these issues. The Chair advised that the Parish Council has received an indication from Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner, that she will be hosting a public ASB meeting in November on these issues.

Members expressed a desire that this public meeting be held in Durham City.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting.

Signed,

**Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council  
(25<sup>th</sup> November 2021)**

## **ITEM 5: SECTION 106 PROJECT – SEDUM ROOFED BUS SHELTERS AT LOWER CLAYPATH**

In September 2021, the Parish Council considered opportunities for uses of Section 106 funding available within our parish area. At present, a substantial amount of funding towards both public art and open space enhancement is available within the Elvet and Gilesgate electoral division.

The Parish Council has been very proactive on the use of this funding, with over £4,000 being awarded earlier this year towards the restoration of the Ruth First Mural (Elvet and Gilesgate division) and just under £20,000 being awarded towards the restoration of the Neville's Cross and improvements to the signage along the Battle of Neville's Cross walk (Neville's Cross division).

The Parish Council's Environment Committee has been working for some time now on a proposal to provide green-roofed bus shelters within the parish as part of its aims to clean and green the parish area.

In order to maximise the benefit of this initiative, the two bus shelters at lower Claypath have been identified as target areas for this work. Both are within a very busy thoroughfare of the City, both shelters are very well-used by residents, visitors and workers in the City and options to green the public realm are limited in this area of the City centre.

More and more communities and cities are following the trend to make their city greener by planting on the roofs of bus stops. A green sedum roof on a bus shelter brings several advantages for the environment:

### **Storing rainwater**

As well as their cooling effects, the green roofs on the bus shelters store water. The sedum is filled with substrate so that the roof stores water and reduces rainwater run-off. As the water drains through the sedum, its flow is slowed and some of the water evaporates. Due to climate change and the increase of hard paved surfaces in cities, the drainage systems simply cannot handle the rainwater supply fast enough. Introducing green roofs to bus shelters, for example, reduces the peak flow of water into the underground pipework.

### **Fine dust filtration**

In many City centres, air quality is often poor, due in large part to the level of emissions from transport and industry. Indeed, a large part of Durham City is covered by an Air Quality Management Area (declared 2011) \*. In addition, the high building density restricts the quality and volume of air supply. The low proportion of green spaces in cities is not enough to compensate and clean the air. Foliage and a green environment can help purify polluted air by capturing particulate matter and absorbing gaseous contaminants. The sedum roofs on bus shelters filter the fine dust from the air and thus contribute to better city air quality.

## Raising the profile: Green awareness

These bus shelters with green roofs also heighten the awareness of the importance of greenery to those who live, work and visit the City. The proposed locations for these bus shelters will help to maximise their impact. In this way, the Council will be seen to be proactive in improving our resident's neighbourhoods and will raise awareness of the eco-benefits of these green roofs.

## Supporting local wildlife and the County Council's ecological emergency

These types of shelters are seen as advantageous to bees and other pollinators, whose populations are sadly decreasing each year. Particularly in large urban areas. The County Council has recently declared an ecological emergency and this project is seen as a practical step to help tackle this issue.

The Clerk has been working with the Strategic Public Transport team on this initiative for some months and the following costs have been obtained from the County Council's supplier of shelters for each bus shelter is as follows:

Job No	Reference No.	Qty	Description	Unit Price	Total
226611	1635349573	1 items	ENV 2 Bay shelter with Full End Panels	£ 10,501.00	£ 10,501.00
226612	1626967928	2 items	ENV Seat (per bay)	£ 262.43	£ 524.86
226613	1626968435	1 items	RTPI housing for ENV Cantilever	£ 257.25	£ 257.25
226614	1626968473	1 items	Installation of ENV shelter	£ 1,392.00	£ 1,392.00
226615	1635349668	1 items	Sedum Roof for ENV 2 Bay Shelter	£ 2,050.00	£ 2,050.00
				Sub Total:	£ 14,725.11
				VAT @ 20.00%:	£ 2,945.02
				Total for this sale:	£ 17,670.13

There would be a requirement to replace both bus shelters as they are not able to take the weight of the sedum roof, particularly as when the sedum is wet from rainwater.

Each shelter would also require a level concrete base to be installed, prior to installation of the shelter. The location could also be subject to traffic management – if approved, the Parish Council will need a project manager to carry out a desktop survey for this work. Both elements would require additional costs.

The current lead time is approximately 8 – 10 weeks from receipt of order.

There are also plans to renew the paving at Claypath but an initial discussion with the Highways Officer indicates that this would not prevent this project from taking place.

In terms of ongoing maintenance, the Parish Council would need to discuss an ongoing maintenance program with the County Council; this may require funding from the Parish Council on an ongoing basis.



**Sedum roofed bus shelters have been installed in other cities across the UK.**

#### **\*Air Quality Management Area for Durham City**

An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Durham City was first declared in May 2011, following a period of monitoring and detailed modelling assessment that identified exceedances of the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean objective.

The extent of the AQMA incorporated the west end of the city at the Highgate Development, the Millburngate Bridge, Gilesgate to the junction with Sherburn Road, and Sunderland Road up to Dragon Lane in east of the city.

However, following the initial declaration, a significantly increased monitoring network indicated exceedances of the objective outside the AQMA. Detailed Assessments undertaken in 2011 and 2013 recommended that the AQMA be extended to include the following roads, mostly to the west of the original AQMA around Crossgate Peth and Nevilles Cross:

- Properties at the western end of Claypath;
- Nevilles Cross Bank as far as Broom Lane, which is at the bottom of the steep hill and marks the edge of this residential area;
- Nevilles Cross junction, including the row of properties to the north-east on Newcastle Road;
- Crossgate Peth;
- Crossgate junction;
- Alexandria Crescent;
- Sutton Street; and
- Castle Chare, where it joins with the existing AQMA.

The extent of the 'amended' AQMA was accepted by Defra and therefore the AQMA was extended in July 2014.

<b>DECISIONS REQUIRED</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) For Members to agree to support the Section 106 application as set out in the above report for the introduction of two sedum roof bus shelters at Lower Claypath.</li><li>2) For Members to agree to delegate responsibility to the Clerk to submit the funding bid for two sedum roof bus shelters, subject to agreements on installation arrangements and ongoing maintenance.</li></ol>
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## **ITEM 7: DCC CONSULTATION ON LOCAL HERITAGE LIST**

As Members are aware, Durham County Council is currently consulting on the production of a local heritage list. Further details of which can be found here: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/localheritagelist>

The Local List is a pilot project funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government. The aim is to connect with communities across the county and take nominations for non-designated heritage assets or NDHA's. These can be buildings, green spaces (such as parks), street furniture (such as benches, street signs, sculptures), archaeological sites, or maritime heritage. Importantly what makes them a non-designated heritage asset is that they have heritage value but are not already covered by existing protection such as a listed building or scheduled monument. Due to the size of County Durham and the vast amount of potential for the list, the decision was made to start with eight pilot areas, this enables DCC to ensure that the processes are correct before making it available to the wider county. These initial pilot areas include:

- Bishop Auckland
- Durham City
- Sacriston
- Seaham
- Sedgefield
- Shotley Bridge
- Staindrop and Raby
- Stockton & Darlington Railway including Shildon

(Durham City has had its own bespoke boundary created for this pilot).

The following are the broad criteria DCC is considering against each nomination.

### **1. Age and Rarity**

Age refers to how old the asset is, rarity is how unique aspects of the asset are within County Durham.

### **2. Group Value**

Does this asset form part of a group of assets which collectively contribute to making an attractive scene or place?

### **3. Architectural or Artistic Interest**

These are assets that are either good examples of architectural or artistic styles, or perhaps utilised a rare material or innovative techniques to make them. Perhaps a locally or nationally important artist or architect designed the asset.

### **4. Historic Interest**

These could be assets that are important to the history of the area. Is it connected with important local people, events, or businesses?

### **5. Archaeological Interest**

These are assets that have archaeological significance or can be shown to have archaeological potential.

Further to October's Full Parish Council meeting, where it was agreed that Members should consider nominations and submit these to the Parish Clerk, a number of Councillors and the Clerk met with DCC officers to discuss this consultation further.

It is clear from the presentation received from officers that the importance of this consultation has been underestimated. With the Government pushing for further relaxations to permitted development rights, the concern is that any assets which are not included as either designated or non-designated heritage assets may be subject to changes by developers under these rights, without the need to submit a planning application. As such, DCC is very keen to get as many assets listed as possible.

The County Council's Conservation Area Character Appraisal (2016) identified a number of existing NDHAs and these can be found on page 141 of our Neighbourhood Plan (attached). Both these and existing listed buildings ( [Listed Buildings in County Durham \(britishlistedbuildings.co.uk\)](http://Listed Buildings in County Durham (britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)) ) are already listed and therefore do not need to be included in submissions.

In addition, DCC has shared with the Parish Council a list of over 470 assets which they are already proposing to be put forward for inclusion in the list.

The City of Durham Trust has indicated that they'd be keen to engage with the Parish Council on this consultation to ensure that there is no duplication of effort in submitting applications.

The deadline for nominations has already been extended to the 17<sup>th</sup> December but Members were asked to submit their nominations to the Parish Clerk by 18<sup>th</sup> November, in order to allow for this to be considered at Full Council in November. Members were asked to do so on the understanding that they would complete their own application form for each asset and submit these to the Parish Clerk.

If agreed at Full Council, it is proposed that application forms be completed by the relevant Member and submitted to the Parish Clerk **by no later than 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

The following nominations have been received:

Painting above 13-15 Silver Street (nominated by Cllrs Carole Lattin and Esther Ashby)

WWII spigot mortar gun emplacement alongside the river banks at Maiden Castle, just before Shincliffe Bridge (nominated by Cllr Carole Lattin)

The Vennels (nominated by Cllr Carole Lattin)

Ancient horse trough at 3 Quarryheads Lane (nominated by Cllr Helen Weston)

Cross Street sign on no 57 Hawthorn Terrace (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)

Observatory Hill (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)

Neville House NX College (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)

JB Principals House South Road (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)

University Physics Centre (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)

Old Pot and Glass (Sainsburys) (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)

DLI Museum (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)  
 DLI Cottages Field House Lane (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)  
 Back Lane to the rear of Flass Street/Mowbray Street (Granite Cobbs) (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)  
 Lych Gate St Bedes Cemetery (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)  
 Sextons Cottage Potters Bank (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)  
 Salvation Army Houses New Street (nominated by Cllr Liz Brown)  
 Holliday Park in Langley Moor (nominated by Cllr Esther Ashby)  
 Railway Cottages 1-5 Quarryhouse Lane (nominated by Cllr Esther Ashby)  
 Fern Hill Newcastle Road (nominated by Cllr Esther Ashby)  
 Peskies Park Laburnum Ave (nominated by Cllr Esther Ashby)  
 Tias brass window frames 84 Claypath (nominated by Cllr Esther Ashby)  
 Leazes Place Street lamps (nominated by Cllr Esther Ashby)

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	For Members to agree that the above proposed list be nominated for consideration as non-designated heritage assets and to task each respective Councillor to draft an application for their nominations, on behalf of the Parish Council.
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## ITEM 8: ALLOCATION OF REMAINING GRANT FUNDING FROM 2021/22

As Members are aware, the Parish Council has committed to providing assistance and support to local community organisations which are set up to promote community life for our residents. The Council's financial support is provided by way of grants, which are decided against criteria set by the Parish Council. In order for the Council to be able to assess each application objectively, it is necessary to assess all applications received against a range of criteria.

- The project to be funded meets the aims and objectives of the Parish Council.
- Assistance will be given on the basis of need, merit and contribution to the local community.
- Applicants must clearly show how any assistance given will benefit the people living in the Parish or will benefit the environment of our Parish.
- Any assistance given will be subject to on-going monitoring and subsequent evaluation of the outcome of the grant.
- Organisations should not make a presumption that funding will continue on a year to year basis.

Members will recall that the Parish Council has agreed a total grant fund of £20,000 and in June this year the Parish Council allocated a total of £17,544 grants to local community and voluntary organisations. In agreeing this funding, Members also agreed to reopen the grant funding window for a second phase later in the year with a decision on further grants being taken at the Parish Council's November Full Council meeting.

The funding window has been advertised for the remaining £2,456 worth of grant funding and the following application has been received:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount requested (£)</b>
Durham Pride	To fund weekly volunteer sessions to support the charity and the Durham LGBT+ community. We have struggled to retain and recruit volunteers due to the Covid measures. This has had a huge impact on the most vulnerable of people who we support such as victims of domestic and sexual violence and hate crime who have been isolated and living in fear.	2400

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	For Members to agree to an appropriate allocation of grant funding from the application set out in the above report.
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## **ITEM 9: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION - MGH CARD LLP APPLICATION**

The Parish Council is currently being consulted on a new Section 106 grant funding application made by MGH CARD LLP for use of £45,000 worth of funding

The purpose of this grant application is for the discharge of planning permissions DM/21/00154/VOC - condition 8 and DM/18/00894/FPA - condition 11.

The proposals include the design and construction of a pedestrian link beneath Milburngate Bridge and elevated above Framwelgate Waterside to connect the Milburngate and Riverwalk sites.

The pedestrian link will have shallow reinforced concrete pad foundations supporting a structural steel frame with composite metal deck walkway complete with resin bound gravel trafficable waterproof surface finish and tactile warning studs at the bottom of the steps, balusters with railings infill along with lighting, security gate, handrail at the steps, CCTV camera and signage.

The proposals also include extending the pedestrian link over/ through the Milburngate gas house and car park entrance / exit access ramp through provision of additional structural steelwork to support the composite metal deck walkway complete with resin bound gravel trafficable waterproof surface finish, balusters with railings infill along with lighting, security gate, signage, blockwork compartment walls over / through the gas house and all necessary mechanical & electrical services alteration works.

The total cost of the scheme is £352,885 (excluding VAT). The remaining capital costs of the scheme will be funded by MGH CARD LLP and the ongoing maintenance costs would be covered by the County Council.

The County Council has indicated that monies are available for this proposed scheme within the Electoral Division and as such the proposal is considered to have merit in principle. However, a final decision on the request will only be made when the application has been considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Council's Section 106 Working Group.

In accordance with standard procedures, we are invited to make any comments on the application inside 21 days.

Details of the scheme have been circulated in advance of the publication of the Agenda.

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	For Members to agree their response to this Section 106 application consultation.
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## **ITEM 10: PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGY – FULL PARISH COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2022/23**

Councillors are reminded that the Parish Council has agreed to formulate its strategy for 2022/23 ahead of the budget setting process in January 2022.

The aim of the Parish Council’s strategy is to give local residents, Councillors and Officers a clear understanding of what the council is trying to achieve and how it intends to deliver its aims and objectives. The strategy sets out what the areas of development or change the Council intends to focus on over the next year outlining those areas of service that are identified as priority aims and objectives.

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.

Last year, the Parish Council agreed the following overarching priorities for Full Council:

- 1.** Being a voice for the city
- 2.** Enhancing the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents and addressing inequalities in our parish
- 3.** Implementing 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 climate damage

In addition to these overarching aims of the Council; a number of the Parish Council’s Committees have agreed their priorities for 2022/23.

An early review of the Full Council’s priorities by the Parish Council’s Planning Committee concluded with a proposal that priority 3 ought to be revised to “*Upholding the Neighbourhood Plan and representing the parish on planning matters*”, given that the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted earlier this year.

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	For Members to agree the overarching priorities for the Full Parish Council for 2022/23.
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## **ITEM 11: PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT A REQUEST FOR THE CONTINUATION OF LIVE STREAMED MEETINGS**

In mid-November Durham County Council announced changes to the live streaming of Council meetings.

Since the council elections in May 2021, Durham County Council's formal meetings reverted to being held in person following changes in legislation. Although there is no mandatory requirement to do so, the Council has continued to live stream all of their meetings to help promote democratic engagement.

Given the increased frequency of meetings as a result of the meeting calendar returning to its pre-pandemic timetable, a review undertaken by the Council has identified that demand and support requirements can be better met through a reduction in the number of meetings being live streamed.

With effect from Wednesday 1 December 2021, it is the Council's intention that only meetings of Full Council, Cabinet and County Planning Committee will be streamed. The Council's stated aim is to maintain democratic engagement in those meetings, that are most frequently accessed online.

In exceptional circumstances and matters of significant public interest, live streaming of meetings may still be provided, though it is unclear in what circumstance and by whom this will be decided in advance of the meeting.

In order to ensure all are aware of the arrangements in place for a particular meeting, any decision made to live stream a meeting will be made well in advance of the meeting papers being published.

The relevant meeting pages on the Council's website will be updated to reflect any change of arrangements. To find out if a meeting is to be live streamed, members of the public are being asked to check the relevant meeting's page once the agenda pack has been published which is usually a week before the meeting.

This issue was raised at a recent meeting of the Parish Council's Planning Committee, during which the Parish Council was asked if they would support a joint letter with the City of Durham Trust, calling on the County Council to reconsider these changes, so as to continue the live streaming of all meetings.

There is a naturally a cost implication for the County Council to live stream all of their meetings.

Prior to making a decision on this matter, Members will need to consider that the Parish Council will be reverting back to full physical meetings from January 2022.

Since 4 April 2020, councils have met virtually as per emergency Coronavirus regulations handed down by Government under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. This came to an end earlier this year on May 7th 2021.

Members will be aware that the Parish Council, along with many other bodies, lobbied Government on the continuation of allowing Councils to meet virtually earlier this year. This request was rejected by the Minister on the basis that there was insufficient parliamentary time in which to pass such legislation.

A claim by ADSO (Association of Democratic Services Officers), LLG (Lawyers in Local Government) and Hertfordshire County Council sought a judgement from the High Court on the matter. They claimed the word 'meeting' in local government legislation can be read as referring to virtual meetings as well as in-person meetings.

The High Court ruling dismissed the claim, pointing to a number of places within the Local Government Act 1972 which refers to the "place" of such meetings, to people being "present" at them and to the persons who may "attend".

Dame Victoria Sharp and Mr Justice Chamberlain heard the case. Their judgement concluded that: *"For these reasons, we conclude that the Secretary of State was correct in November 2016 and July 2019 to say that primary legislation would be required to allow local authority "meetings" under the 1972 Act to take place remotely. In our view, once the Flexibility Regulations cease to apply, such meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location; attending a meeting at such a location means physically going to it; and being "present" at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location. We recognise that there are powerful arguments in favour of permitting remote meetings."*

The live streaming of such meetings is still permissible outside the legislation and ruling set out above.

An agreement on whether to be a co-signatory to a letter to the County Council on the continuation of live streaming of all meetings is not a matter which sits within the Planning Committee's Terms of Reference and therefore this matter has been referred to Full Council for a decision.

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	For Members to decide on whether to be a co-signatory to a letter with the City of Durham Trust requesting that the County Council continues to live stream all of its meetings.
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## **ITEM 12: REPORT FROM THE LANDLORD LICENSING WORKING GROUP**

In 2020, the County Council consulted on a proposed Selective Licensing Scheme for County Durham. At that time, the scheme was strongly welcomed by the Parish Council until it emerged that none of the City of Durham Parish would be included, as it did not meet the criteria set by Government for such a scheme.

The areas for which the County Council presents data are known as Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs). County Durham consists of 66 such areas. Table 2 of the County Council's report lists the top ten MSOAs by proportion of private rented sector properties. Durham City MSOA comes very much at the top of the list with 66.0% of all residential properties being in the private rented sector. The next highest area is Annfield Plain South & South Moor at 48.7%.

The County Council's 2020 consultative report recognises that most of the County's HMOs are in Durham City. It said: *"County Durham is home to Durham University which is regularly ranked in the top ten in the University Guide League nationally, and in the top 100 internationally, and as such attracts many students from around the country and the world. In recent years the University has also expanded its capacity increasing the number of registered students to 18,700 in total from 14,300 in 2003/04. This has led to an increased demand for off-site accommodation mainly found in the form of local residential properties that have been registered as HMOs. More recently there has also been an increase in building single large-scale developments of privately owned and run accommodation blocks within the Durham City area."*

The report went on to note that there are (at the time of publication) 790 registered HMOs within County Durham with 766 or 97% located in and around Durham city centre.

It is self-evident that "existing HMO schemes" do not begin to provide the level of enforcement required for tenant protection and landlord standards here.

At present, Durham County Council runs a voluntary landlord accreditation scheme to attempt to secure improvements in property condition and management practice for those landlords who choose to become a member. As it requires voluntary engagement, rogue or poor landlords are unlikely to participate and a relatively low number of landlords have joined the scheme.

Accordingly, the Parish Council concluded in 2020 that alongside the County-wide Selective Licensing Scheme there needs to be an equivalent compulsory, self-financing scheme for Durham City to address the facts that virtually all of the County's HMOs are in Durham City, that the associated problems are extensively documented, and that the voluntary scheme is demonstrably not adequate.

Since submitting this to the Council, the Parish Council's Landlord Licensing Working Group has been seeking to establish such a scheme for Durham City, with the Sheffield SNUG scheme ([Approved student housing \(Snug\) \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/property-and-housing/tenants/tenants-guide/tenants-guide-to-slug)) – tailored to Durham City – being the preferred option. The Working Group has also received a very positive presentation from colleagues in Sheffield on their SNUG scheme. The Working Group's meetings with the County Council's Portfolio

holder and officers were very positive, and produced an undertaking that the officers would come back in Spring 2021 with a draft Durham version of the Sheffield scheme.

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the Clerk, Councillor Liz Brown and DURF's representative on the Working Group John Ashby met with the relevant DCC officers in order to discuss progressing this scheme further for Durham City.

The meeting was called by DCC to brief representatives of the Working Group about progress with the scheme for Durham City.

DCC officers recounted that their team have been discussing with landlords and representatives from the National Residential Landlords Accreditation Scheme. This is because it is felt that landlords need to be incentivised into joining a scheme. The national scheme is free.

Under the proposed scheme, inspections would be carried out and landlords could lose their license. However, only properties with 5 or more occupants come within the licensing framework, so many or most HMOs in Durham City would not be in the scheme anyway. There are presently 820 licensed properties under the provisions of s.232 of the Housing Act 2004 (i.e. those with five or more separate tenants.) and there are 3,307 properties which have Class N Student Exemption from paying Council Tax, i.e. only 25%. This apparently significant discrepancy is further analysed later in the report. By counting only registered HMOs the County Council is seriously underestimating the problem.

There is also a trend over the past year or two for landlords to sub-divide properties into one- or two-bedroomed properties with self-contained facilities, and so fall below the threshold for HMOs. But they are still in the private rented sector.

Representatives of the Working Group concluded the meeting disappointed that the County Council appears to be retreating from the understandings of 2020. The Working Group is agreed that we need a more thorough examination of what is problematic about having a Sheffield-type scheme in Durham City.

A full analysis of student properties within the parish area is provided by Roger Cornwell below:

#### [Student properties in the Parish](#)

There are 6,763 dwellings in the Parish ranging from self-contained flats to detached houses (details below). There are in addition 1,774 self-contained flats in PBSAs (details also below).

The HMO Register lists 820 properties, but 15 of these are outside the DH1 postcode area and 40 have a DH1 postcode but aren't in the Parish. This leaves 765 large HMOs in the Parish. In total, there are about 2,050 dwellings where one or more university students live. This number is approximate because where there are fewer than five student houses in a postcode, the University reports the number as '<5'. Nevertheless, the true figure will lie between 1,900 and 2,200.

Not all of these properties will have a class N exemption from Council Tax because a non-student may live in the same house.

Something like 7,200 students are living in the community in the Parish (as opposed to in College or a PBSA). This number is also approximate.

The breakdown of Class N exemptions by postcode is awaited, and an update may be given to the Council meeting. But it should be remembered that the flats in PBSAs will qualify for a class N exemption and that goes a long way to explain the apparent discrepancy. Of the 3,307 properties with a class N exemption, there are something like 1,890 in PBSAs (the ones listed below, plus Ernest Place in Belmont). Not all of these will be occupied and eligible for the exemption, but most are.

Assembling this information involved pulling together data from several different sources: principally Durham University student statistics, the HMO Register of large HMOs (Durham County Council) and the Ordnance Survey, who require us to say premises location and address information © Crown copyright and database rights 2021 OS 0100060997.

### **Different types of dwellings in the Parish**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>
Dwelling (unspecified)	291
Detached house	1,244
Semi-detached house	1,184
Terraced	2,218
Self-Contained Flat	1,825
Flats in PBSAs (see below)	1,774
HMO Not Further Divided	1
Care / Nursing Home	5
Residential education (includes boarding schools and University colleges)	398

<b>List of PBSAs in the Parish</b>	<b>Rooms</b>	<b>Residents</b>
Rushford Court DH1 4RY	126	250
The Student Village at the Viaduct DH1 4BJ	118	130
Duresme Court DH1 4FA	275	205
Keenan House DH1 5BN	70	15
Dun Holm House DH1 4SL	159	170
St Margaret's Garth DH1 4DS	22	80
Student Castle DH1 1RH	358	440
New Kepier Court DH1 1NY	231	85
Chapel Heights DH1 1SB, DH1 1SD, DH1 1SH, DH1 1SJ, DH1 1SX	200	150
Houghall Court DH1 3SG	88	160
Elvet Studios DH1 3UA, DH1 3UD, DH1 3US	127	55

**DECISION  
REQUIRED**

For Members to agree to request a full review be undertaken by the County Council setting out a range of alternative options for landlord licensing schemes in Durham City

## **ITEM 13: DCC CONSULTATION ON DURHAM CITY FRAMEWORK**

At its 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 meeting, Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed a set of recommendations in a report set out by the Council's Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth. The purpose of this report was to seek Cabinet's approval to commence public consultation on a number of masterplans across County Durham. One of which includes a Framework for Durham City.

The County Council has previously prepared a number of masterplans and regeneration frameworks for the larger towns in the county, the most recent being the Chester-le-Street Masterplan adopted in 2019. Although this has always been a rolling programme, the County Council has recently accelerated a number of new masterplans to support potential Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bids currently in preparation.

Although a key driver for this round of masterplans is LUF the Council assures that these are being comprehensively prepared and therefore contain other projects and proposals that will either not be suitable for LUF or may ultimately be unsuccessful bids. This will ensure that these projects will be well placed to progress should other sources of funding be identified.

The masterplans identify current and future activities across the public and private sectors in order to provide a coordinated approach to delivery and maximise opportunities for funding.

The purpose of this public consultation is to enable local communities including residents, businesses and other stakeholders to have their say on the content of the masterplans, as well as putting forward their own ideas for consideration. Following consultation, amendments will be made in response to the comments made wherever possible.

The Durham City Framework has a different format to the rest of the masterplans and can best be viewed online here:

<https://durhamcounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=76f264d05387492c93088e6fb0bbe854>

The document includes a vision and objectives, opportunities and challenges but then features an interactive map which identifies all current and future projects in the Durham City area.

Durham City, with its range of housing and employment, the quality of the environment and its unrivalled heritage is an attractive place to live, work and visit. It also has real economic potential. With strategic investment and sensitive planning, Durham can become one of the most important centres for economic growth in the north east. To help realise that potential, we have produced a Framework to outline the strategic context for how we see the city developing, the principles which should guide investment and the programmes of regeneration and investment activity which are underway or planned. The key proposals in the Framework include:

- Major commercial and employment development sites at Milburngate and Aykley Heads;
- A cultural hub at Millennium Place;
- Improved accessibility and public realm improvements on Durham Riverside;
- Heritage improvements at Durham Miners at Redhills, Crook Hall, Belmont Viaduct, Old Fulling Mill, Cornmill;
- Housing developments at Sniperley Park, Sherburn Road, Gilesgate and Gort Place;
- Public Realm improvements on North Road, Boathouse Yard and Fowlers Yard;
- Retail development at Dragonville, North Road and the Former Eddis site;
- Durham University development including new academic buildings and Purpose Built Student Accommodation;
- Cycling and walking projects including improved links from the railway station to the town centre;
- Improvements to and creation of a number of routes in the Durham City Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Great North Cycleway;
- Transport infrastructure including new park and ride capacity, Sniperley roundabout and a number of Active Travel projects including Abbey Road to Rotary Way, Framwellgate Moor Front Street, A181 Gilesgate Access Road;
- Broader city-wide projects including new public Wi-Fi provision and fibre broadband.

**The public consultation will be undertaken on the masterplans from 29 November 2021 to 14 January 2022.**

The consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement and will include a number of ‘face to face’ drop in events. Dates, locations and times for these drop-in events are yet to be confirmed.

The consultation will provide an opportunity to consider the vision and objectives as set out within the respective masterplans, as well as the identified issues, proposals and opportunities. The consultation process will enable local communities including residents, businesses and other stakeholders to have their say on the content of the masterplans, as well as putting forward their own ideas for consideration. Following consultation, the feasibility of suggested projects will be investigated and amendments to the masterplans will be made in response to the comments made wherever possible.

The final masterplans will provide a coordinated approach to delivery and will be used to bid for funds both within the County Council and externally, including informing the business cases that will be prepared for rounds two and three of Levelling Up Fund submissions.

Supporting documentation as part of the consultation for Durham City can be viewed via the links below:

[Microsoft Word - Appendix 7a - Durham City Framework Text.docx](#)

[Microsoft Word - Appendix 7b - Durham City Framework Screenshots.docx](#)

[Microsoft Word - Appendix 7c - Durham City Framework Projects.docx](#)

In view of the timeframe in which to respond to this important consultation, putting this back to a Full Parish Council meeting prior to submitting a response is not practical.

A request has also been made by the County Council that the Parish Council promotes this consultation via its own website to ensure that as many local residents as possible have the opportunity to consider this consultation.

It is therefore proposed that either a) a Working Group be established or b) an existing Committee of the Council be tasked to consider the consultation and be delegated responsibility to respond on behalf of Full Council.

<b>DECISIONS REQUIRED</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) For Members to note the above report and be prepared for the commencement of this consultation.</li><li>2) For Members to agree to either establishing a Working Group to respond on behalf of Full Council to this consultation or for this to be delegated to one of the Council's existing Committees to undertake.</li></ol>
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## **ITEM 14: REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **Durham University Community Covid-19 Liaison Group. 22.10.21**

#### **Report by Cllr E Ashby**

##### Key points

1 Reported cases among students and staff remain at very low level. 6 student reported cases this year compared with +400 same week last year. Over 90% of students have had their first vaccination.

There is a good rate of compliance with the requirement to wear masks in all public spaces on campus. If rates remain low mask wearing requirement may be moderated.

The Test to Participate scheme continues.

2 In response to comments about mask wearing and crowding in city streets The Community Relations Officer said she would ask the Communications team to send out a reminder to students.

3 Responding to an enquiry about monitoring any risks associated with Covid and reports of 'spiking' in city premises, particularly as some are applying to double their capacity, it was confirmed that the University does not liaise with the (public) evening economy on these or other matters.

4 In reply to a question about student and staff response to The Shh campaign feedback was mixed: some said it was generally positive with just some mocking. One Principal said he would like it on campus too but this wasn't picked up. The SU rep. wasn't familiar with the campaign.

5 The Street Lights map was out of date but this has been taken up with the city Safety Group.

6 The next meeting is on Dec 3rd.