

City of Durham Parish Council

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

Telephone 07704 525630
Email: parishclerk@cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk
<http://cityofdurham.parish.durham.gov.uk/>

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 28TH APRIL 2022 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 24TH MARCH 2022**
- 4. DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILLOR ARNOLD SIMPSON ON THE ROLE OF THE DURHAM CHARTER TRUST**
- 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 6. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- **Planning Committee minutes from meetings held on 11th and 25th March and 8th April 2022**

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

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

- Update on the use of the new County Headquarters building at the Sands

- **Environment Committee minutes from meetings held on 8th February 2022**

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

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

- **Licensing Committee minutes from meetings held on 7th February, 21st March and 4th April 2022**

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

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

• **Business Committee minutes from meetings held on 23rd November 2021**

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

7. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair will provide a verbal update on matters arising since the Full Parish Council meeting on 24th March 2022.

8. RECOMMENDED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROVISION FOR THE SNIPERLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT

9. PLANNING FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COUNCIL POLICIES

11. STAFF TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST 2022

12. CONSULTATION ON MAKING DRINKING ALCOHOL IN PUBLIC AND AGGRESSIVE BEGGING IN DURHAM CITY AN OFFENCE

13. REPORT FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS 2021-22

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 24th March 2022 at 17:00 in the Main Hall, Durham Town Hall.

Present: Councillors L Brown (in the Chair), E Ashby, V Ashfield, N Brown, D Freeman, R Friederichsen, C Lattin, G Nair, R Ormerod, S Walker and H Weston.

Also present: Parish Clerk Adam Shanley, Mr Owen Cleugh (DCC Public Protection Manager) and Mr John Ashby (member of the public).

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

Apologies were received from Councillors A Doig, E Scott, G Holland and R Hanson.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received.

3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr John Ashby advised that he was attending the meeting to contribute to item 10 on the Agenda.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Planning Committee

Cllr L Brown presented the minutes from Planning Committee meetings held on 11th and 25th February 2022. There being no questions from Members, Cllr L Brown moved on to Committee reports.

- **Verbal update on the former coach park following a joint meeting with DCC**

The Clerk advised that he, the Chair of the Parish Council and representatives of the City Freeman had met with Cllr Amanda Hopgood, Leader of Durham County Council and the Head of Corporate Land and Property at DCC in order to discuss the situation at the former coach park.

The Clerk advised that the Cllr Hopgood had confirmed that there is a third party interested in potentially acquiring the new HQ building at the Sands. Cllr Hopgood had also confirmed that any sale of this building would not include the former

coach park at the Sands and that this would be retained in County Council ownership.

The Clerk advised that no commitment was given at the meeting on the future use of the former coach park land.

The Clerk also advised that the Freeman had specifically asked about a legal instrument to protect the land against any future development. Cllr Hopgood advised that the protection against development would be in the form of retaining the land in Council ownership. The Freeman have expressed disappointment at this as they fully expected some legal mechanism to protect against further development creep on this land.

Cllr Hopgood has asked the Head of Corporate Land and Property to have a further discussion with DCC legal about various options for the land. The meeting had concluded with both Parish Council and Freeman representatives being disappointed with this update.

A follow up meeting is expected to take place on 31st May 2022 to discuss further developments.

- Report on the production of a Conservation Area Management Plan

The Clerk reminded Members that, in setting the Council's budget for financial year 2022-23, the Parish Council has approved a fund of £10,000 towards the production of a Conservation Area Management Plan.

The Clerk advised that the principal aim of the Management Plan is to improve the understanding of the conservation area and establish a positive strategy for its preservation and enhancement. The Clerk advised that it will include a costed Management and Maintenance Action Plan which specifies the resources which will be required to maintain the upkeep of the conservation area over the longer term and ensure that it is a shared and deliverable vision. A monitoring framework will be included to measure success. The plan will promote a proactive culture for conservation within the local community by which the historic environment will be safeguarded for the enjoyment of future generations. In the process, this can enable appropriate economic growth and bolster cultural identity through emphasising the local distinctiveness of the area.

The Clerk also advised that the Management Plan will outline the risks which are currently facing the conservation area, set out policies and proposals for the area's improvement through regeneration, design and development guidance, tree management and green infrastructure enhancement and development, monitoring and enforcement. The aim of this management plan is to provide guidance through policy statements to enable the effective management of change and secure the preservation and enhancement of the special character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

The Clerk advised that the management plan will be a joint piece of work between the Parish Council and the County Council. The £10,000 funding was originally proposed by DCC in 2021 following discussions with officers.

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council has asked the Parish Council for a formal undertaking that it is committed to the £10,000 funding over 12 months, with a view to agree the job spec by 8th April 2022.

The Clerk advised that the intention is to recruit an expert in this field and that person will work internally within DCC and their sole responsibility will be to see this through from start to finish.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council has asked to be involved in the interview/ recruitment process for this individual. DCC has confirmed that there are no HR/ procedural issues with this and they are happy for us to be involved.

The Clerk advised that DCC is aiming to produce a document to go out to public consultation by the end of 2022, with the intention of moving to adoption by the end of March 2023. DCC is yet to decide if this document should be a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to the County Durham Plan or simply adopted as guidance. The Parish Council's Planning Committee has expressed a hope that this may be adopted as an SPD.

The Clerk advised that the scope of the Conservation Area Management Plan will include:

- A review of the current conservation area boundary.
- A revision of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal accordingly in line with any boundary revisions and updated policy position.
- A review of current management proposals and the development of a full Conservation Area Management Plan.
- To undertake engagement and consultation with DCC, partners, interested parties and public.

It may be that this management plan leads to an amendment within the neighbourhood plan which is deemed so significant, it would require a round of public consultation. The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council's Planning Committee be delegated responsibility to oversee this work on behalf of the Parish Council.

Members unanimously **approved** the allocation of £10,000 towards the production of the Conservation Area Management Plan and **agreed** to commit to a formal undertaking with DCC for this funding.

Members unanimously **agreed** to delegate responsibility to the Parish Council's Planning Committee to oversee this work on behalf of the Parish Council.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update on matters arising since the Full Parish Council meeting on 24th February 2022 as follows:

The Chair expressed her gratitude at seeing the new Ruth First mural unveiled on Providence Row this month. The Chair advised that she thought the event was absolutely fantastic and took the opportunity to thank everyone involved in this hugely successful project. The Chair advised that she understood that the video of the unveiling on the Parish Council's social media page has been viewed over 3,000 times and expressed her happiness at seeing such a positive reaction.

The Chair also her happiness at the update that the PFI Manager of the University Hospital of North Durham has now signed off the mosaic the Parish Council has had commissioned and this has been delivered to the hospital for installing. The Chair advised that she is looking forward to seeing this unveiled and a press release to follow.

The Chair reminded all Members unable to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to please inform the Clerk as soon as possible ahead of the meeting so that we can ensure Committees will be quorate.

The Chair welcomed the news that the Locality grant funding for Neighbourhood Planning has been extended by the Government. The Chair advised that this is particularly relevant for the work which the Parish Council is undertaking on the Conservation Area Management Plan.

The Chair reminded Members that there is to be a University briefing immediately after this meeting regarding an update on University estates and property. The Chair expressed her disappointment that representatives of DURF and community engagement task force groups did not receive an invitation to this meeting.

The Chair advised that the former DLI museum is set to be brought back into public use once more. The Chair advised that the Parish Council looks forward to seeing plans progress on this.

The Chair expressed a huge congratulations to all those involved in the Durham City of Culture 2025 bid. The Chair advised that it is incredible news to hear that Durham has been shortlisted to the top 4 and our bid will be progressing to the next round.

The Chair expressed a very big thank you once more to all those involved in the enormous work of putting on events for the Jubilee this year. It is a huge undertaking, largely led by the Parish Council and the Durham Markets Company and the Parish Council is delighted to be working with Colin and his team once more on events as they really know how to put on a great show in Durham.

The Chair offered her warm congratulations to Councillor David Freeman on becoming the next Mayor of Durham City.

7. PLANNING FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

The Clerk set out a timetable of events currently being worked through as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations this year.

The Clerk advised that the agreed partnership and additional resource for organising the event provided by Durham Markets Company is working extremely well and this has proven to be an essential resource to the Parish Council for these events. The Clerk reminded Members that this is being funded from the budget allocated to an assistant for the Clerk and not directly from the agreed events budget.

The Clerk highlighted that the events for the Jubilee weekend (2nd – 5th June 2022) would be kickstarted with the lighting of a beacon at 9:45pm on Thursday 2nd June. The Clerk advised that all partners involved in the Jubilee organising committee are keen to see that the City has a beacon lighting event on 2nd June 2022.

The Clerk advised that the Freeman have commissioned an artist blacksmith to produce a 4 metre high permanent beacon for the City and that he and Cllr E Ashby, along with relevant DCC officers, have had a site visit at Wharton Park (the Freeman's desired location for the beacon) in order to assess the suitability of this site.

The Clerk advised that the Freeman are extremely keen that the beacon be located in the centre of Windy Hill in Wharton Park and have reduced the original height of the beacon (originally ordered at 5.6 metres) to 4 metres so as to benefit from the Parish Council's Permitted Development Rights (as set out in schedule 12 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015).

The Clerk advised that the proposed location is subject to DCC agreement (Clean and Green who manage the site, Planning and Conservation) and the Parish Council will need to consider that this location has an impact on a view to the World Heritage Site.

The Clerk advised that the issue of ongoing maintenance responsibility and whether the County Council will accept this has yet to be confirmed. The Freeman have recently indicated that they would expect the Parish Council to assume responsibility for the beacon in the event that the County Council is unable to do so.

The Clerk advised that, in order to progress this, a further site visit with relevant DCC representatives, the Freeman and the Parish Council has been arranged for 25th March.

The Clerk recommended that a formal decision on whether to allow this to fall under the Parish Council's Permitted Development Rights be delayed until after this site visit and consultation with relevant officers in planning and conservation, etc.

Cllr E Ashby highlighted that this element of the Jubilee weekend had caused the Clerk a significant amount of work.

Members commended the work done to date on the Jubilee celebrations but **agreed** that the Parish Council should not assume maintenance responsibility for this permanent beacon.

Members also **agreed** to await feedback from the joint site visit of 25th March and thereafter make a decision in writing as to the suitability of the siting of the beacon and this falling under the Parish Council's Permitted Development Rights.

8. EMERGENCY FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR DURHAM CITY'S SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AT NIGHT (SWAN) HUB

The Chair welcomed Owen Cleugh (DCC Public Protection Manager) to the meeting in order to talk through the proposal of emergency funding for the SWaN hub with the Council.

Owen thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak with them today. Owen advised that, in Summer 2021, the Home Office invited applications for the latest round of Safer Streets (SS3) funding. The initiative was aimed at implementing improvements for the safety of public spaces. Shortly after release, another funding opportunity linked to Safer Streets was launched. This opportunity was specifically aimed at the Safety of Women and Girls at Night (SWaN).

Owen advised that, in November 2021, it was announced that the SWaN bid had been successful. Owen highlighted that the SWaN bid had four key elements

1. The appointment of a co-ordinator to oversee and deliver the project
2. Delivering vulnerability training to key staff working in the night time economy and situational awareness training to University Students
3. Deliver a Comms campaign highlighting the issue of safety of women and reporting of sexual harassment
4. Deliver a night hub on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights which could provide a safe space for women should they feel at risk or vulnerable. The Hub would also be manned by staff of DCC who would also assist others in the night time economy when required

Owen advised that, since opening on the 5th February, the hub has proven to be a positive and necessary facility for Durham City on the busiest three nights of the week (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday). Working between the hours of 8pm and 3am they have provided necessary support, assistance, and guardianship not only to females in a vulnerable or at-risk state, but also males in a similar situation.

Owen advised that staff have provided support to several individuals who have had suicidal thoughts and have built up a strong rapport with all of the key licensed premises in the city. Owen advised that it is no exaggeration to say that this hub has saved lives.

Owen advised that officers have engaged positively with many groups to remind them of the need for considerate behaviour when travelling through the city. Staff often walk areas of the City Centre that are resident to students to remind them of the resident-led *Shhh...* campaign and report on other issues such as street cleansing, street lighting, highways etc. Owen also advised that this presence in the city also has a very positive impact with the other areas such as taxi services, takeaways, hotels and shops.

Owen advised that, now that the hub is operating, it would seem a retrograde step for it to end in March as the SWaN funding comes to an end. Owen advised that staff are liaising with a number of organisations and agencies with an interest in the hub continuing. The Police are also hoping to have a permanent presence in the hub going forward. The costs of operating the hub are circa £10,000 per month.

Owen highlighted that there is a Safer Streets 4 funding bid due to be released for June 2022. It is hoped that this could be an opportunity to look at a longer term fund for the continuation of the hub as this project will run until September 2023 but until that funding can be applied for and agreed, funding is needed to ensure its continued operation.

Owen advised that DCC would continue to manage the operation of the hub, but this is intended to be a partnership arrangement and DCC would therefore welcome the support of as many key agencies as possible to maintain this worthwhile facility in the city.

At present, DCC staff are looking for circa. £60,000 worth of funding to ensure that the hub can continue until further funding streams can be accessed.

The Clerk advised that he and the Chair of the Parish Council met with Owen and his colleagues on 16th March to discuss this further and it is hoped that the Parish Council might be able to provide £10,000 worth of funding towards the continuation of the hub.

If Members are agreeable to the proposal of providing emergency funding to the hub, the Clerk advised that the Chair had proposed that £10,000 be allocated from the Council's agreed grants fund for 2022/23 of £15,000. The window for the grant awards opens again on 1st April 2022.

The Clerk advised that, if Members are agreeable to diverting this funding to the hub, it is proposed that this be made payable ASAP in order to allow the hub to continue after the end of March 2022.

The Clerk also highlighted that a longer-term strategy for continued funding for this hub may be for the night-time economy trade itself to provide funding to this service. The Clerk reminded Members that support for a late-night levy on premises has been agreed by the previous Parish Council and this may be an opportunity to re-visit this proposal.

Cllr E Ashby advised that she had seen this hub in operation first hand and expressed her gratitude to all of the officers involved in this. Cllr E Ashby advised that she felt it was essential for this hub to continue.

Cllr L Brown asked Owen if any other partners had agreed some funding towards the continuation of the hub as yet. Owen advised that he and his colleagues are in ongoing high-level discussions with stakeholders such as DCC, the Police, the PCC's office and the University regarding funding but nothing had been confirmed as yet.

Cllr V Ashfield expressed her full support for this proposal and thanked all officers involved with this. Cllr V Ashfield said that she felt that there is enough flexibility in the Parish Council's finances – for instance use of the agreed Shhh...111pm – 7am budget as well as the grants budget to allow the Parish Council to support this scheme.

Cllr S Walker expressed her support for the hub but asked if it might be possible to reduce some of the running costs, e.g. the quite significant cost of room hire at St. Nic's church. Owen advised that this is part of ongoing discussions with the church but the bulk of the costs come from staffing the hub itself so there was limited flexibility in reducing these costs.

Cllr R Ormerod expressed his support for the hub but also expressed concerns that £10,000 was a lot of money for the Parish Council. Cllr R Ormerod asked if Owen could give a percentage probability of securing additional funding from other partners. Owen advised that it would be difficult to put an exact figure on this but he is hopeful that funding could be found to continue this scheme.

Cllr H Weston expressed her full support for this scheme and thanked Owen and his team. Cllr Weston advised that parents of those frequenting the night time economy had also highlighted their appreciation for this hub to her.

Cllr N Brown said that she fully supported the proposal of providing this funding to the hub.

Cllr C Lattin also expressed her support for this proposal and said the hub was providing an invaluable service and if £10,000 saved just one more life, it was absolutely worth it for her.

Cllr D Freeman highlighted that no other partner had agreed to provide funding for this hub but said that he was pleased that the other part of this proposal was to support the introduction of a late-night levy on licensed premises.

The Clerk advised that the City has a rapidly growing night time economy and expressed his shock at some of the reports from this hub, which paint a damning picture of how the night time economy operates at present.

Cllr R Ormerod proposed that the Parish Council agree the following recommendations, this was seconded by Cllr E Ashby and unanimously **agreed** by Members:

Members **agreed** to support the safety hub.

Members also **agreed** to the proposal of providing emergency funding of £10,000 – diverted from the Parish Council's grants fund – to allow this hub to continue.

Members also **agreed** to re-confirm the Parish Council's support for a late-night levy on licensed premises and to make every effort in supporting its introduction.

9. UPDATE ON PAY SCALES FOR 21/22 PAY SETTLEMENT

The Clerk advised that the Local Government Association has confirmed that agreement has now been reached on the pay award for local government services ('Green Book') employees, covering the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The Clerk advised that the overall increase generally is 1.75%, though the first pay point has been increased to reflect the new national living wage rate. The Clerk reminded Members that sufficient funding for this increase was allocated by the Council when the budget was agreed in January 2021.

The Clerk also advised that all other arrears relating to his pay scale were paid earlier in the financial year, as per Council agreement in March 2021.

Cllr E Ashby proposed that a one-off payment be made to the Parish Clerk in recognition of his extraordinary efforts and workload on behalf of the Parish Council. It was **agreed** that HR advice would be sought on this proposal and a report would come to the next Full Parish Council meeting.

Members **agreed** to accept the 1.75% increase to the Clerk's salary payment and also **agreed** to make the necessary arrangements for arrears to be paid in the March 2022 payroll window.

10. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- Report from Community Engagement Task Force – Citizenship sub-group

Cllr V Ashfield provided a report to Full Council from the latest meeting of the CETF Citizenship sub-group as follows:

Homelessness in Durham,

Presentation by Kay Chapman, Durham County Council

This was full, helpful and well received.

It identified ways in which students could be better informed and better protected against aggressive begging.

Student Citizenship Presentation

Rebecca Eves did not give her presentation as the attendance at this meeting was poor. This will be held over to the next meeting.

We had specifically requested that the date be agreed in consultation with the police which it was, but no one attended. Same Dale agreed to make our disappointment known.

Rebecca reported on the use of the community liaison. JG said they were rarely seen and RE assured the meeting that she has nightly reports.

VA asked if more emphasis on the Parish Council's Pinpoint would help their proactive work and it was agreed that it would.

Update from Members

We discussed:

The University's SLA with the Police which is currently being negotiated by Sam Dale and Rebecca Eves. No details could be given at this point.

Durham County Council – Enhanced Warden Service

Belinda reported that they have been covering matters of homelessness, bins / recycling, noise. It is likely that some fines are about to be given in the Viaduct area.

City of Durham Parish Council

VA reported that at the meeting with the PCC there was general agreement that the usually reported £30,000 from the University was far too little: the police need much more and the community expects much more. This message was heard.

Resident Representatives

JG reported that the matters of bins and noise, while not currently a nuisance where she lives, continues to be reported by other residents.

Next meeting – to be confirmed.

End of the report

- Report from Community Engagement Task Force – Economic sub-group

Cllr E Ashby provided a report to the Full Council on the latest meeting of the CETF Economic sub-group, which took place on 8th March 2022. Cllr E Ashby advised that she attended part of this meeting which focused on a presentation by Sarah Slavin, Managing Director of Business Durham, on The County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy. Cllr E Ashby advised that she would make this presentation available to Members for their information.

End of the report

- Community Engagement Task Force

Mr John Ashby provided the following report to the Council in Cllr R Hanson's absence of the latest meeting of the Community Engagement Task Force meeting.

- The Parish Council's reports on the wholly inadequate response from the Police, the University and DCC had been sent to the Secretary of CETF on 10th March 2022.
- In the event, they were not put on the Agenda for the CETF meeting on 18th March, there were just a standard set of updates from partners including Durham University and Residents' Forum (DURF), the Police and the Parish Council.
- DURF is normally represented by Richard Hornby of Gilesgate Residents' Association and Walia Kani of Elvet Residents' Association, but Richard

couldn't attend and DURF had agreed that I be substitute for the CETF meeting.

- I realised that there was no prospect of a proper, substantial discussion of the Parish Council's three papers and suggested that this be deferred to a further CETF meeting. The Chair agreed.
- I'm afraid that I didn't raise this with Cllr Hanson beforehand, which was discourteous of me, and he was kind enough to stay silent when I proposed deferment.
- However, the Police update report re-opened the core issue! The Police representative said at length about the problems of ASB in the city, notably the clash of lifestyles between residents and students- he mentioned rugby players a number of times and said it was a difficult issue and he would welcome ideas.
- That annoyed me, so I said that the Parish Council and DURF had submitted many ideas in the Parish Council papers, and that it wasn't OK for rugby players to do what they do – people's lives are being wrecked by sleepless nights.
- The Police rep seemed to not have any knowledge of the Parish Council's consultation paper nor of the Police response to it.
- My conclusion is to pursue DURF's formal suggestions for CETF to concentrate on the University's project of a Civic Engagement Strategy for the high-level organisations and to work with DURF on the related Community Engagement Strategy.
- I think these are important way-markers as to the way things are and might be going.

End of report

Due to the confidential nature of the following items, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the LGA 1972 Act and section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. At this point in time the press and the public were asked to leave the room.

11. GOOD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2022 AWARD

Members agreed that the Good Citizen of the Year 2022 Awards should be offered to: Mr Roger Cornwell, Mr John Ashby, Mrs Joan Nix and Mr Richard Hornby.

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
(28th April 2022)**

ITEM 6: UPDATE ON THE USE OF THE NEW COUNTY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AT THE SANDS

On 24th March 2022, Members attended a briefing by Durham University at the Radisson Blu hotel where representatives of the University confirmed their interest in acquiring the new County Headquarters (HQ) building at the Sands for use as their new Business School.

The previous planning application for the former Durham City Baths site is still extant but is expected to be withdrawn.

On 16 June 2021, DCC Cabinet agreed to review the options for use of the newly constructed Durham County Council HQ and to set out an approach for reviewing the options for the Council's HQ functions.

The building at the Sands is now complete, however, the common land de-registration process has resulted in additional unforeseen /unbudgeted costs of circa £2.1 million to the County Council having been incurred to practical completion – resulting in an overall development spend of £51.2 million.

On 29 September 2021, DCC Cabinet agreed to a number of recommendations with regard to the future of the Council's estates strategy and Council HQ functions. It was agreed that further work would be undertaken on alternative options for office accommodation and committee space for the Council. The protection of the strategic employment development site at Aykley Heads and future demolition of the existing County Hall building was also agreed.

DCC Cabinet agreed that the viable alternative to the Council occupying the new HQ building on The Sands would be for the disposal of that building or letting of it to a single third-party occupier within a reasonable timescale and to conclude the position by Summer 2022. The September 2021 report identified the difficulties in securing interest in a building of this size, noting that another single occupier would likely be the only viable alternative.

There are a number of key areas that are considered as part of the business case that has been developed:

- demonstrating a strong financial position from progressing the alternative options;
- a clear economic case that meets the Council's aspirations for levelling up and an inclusive economy;
- the connectivity of the development of the Council's estate with broader regeneration master plans for the county including the Aykley Heads strategic employment site development;
- the need to ensure that climate change is considered in the proposals; and
- ensuring that the development of the estate can reflect the needs of the Council to deliver effective services and workforce wellbeing.

DCC has confirmed that the sale of the HQ building at the Sands will only include the building itself and not any adjoining land such as the former coach park and the MSCP.

A report to Cabinet this week sets out the Council's desired objectives and the preferred alternative accommodation strategy for the Council's HQ. This consists of occupation of the building currently under construction at Plot C, Aykley Heads, a new build civic centre incorporating a conferencing facility at Plot D, Aykley Heads and the refurbishment of the former Customer Access Point building at Front Street, Stanley, which are recommended for the following reasons:

- considers the estate as part of a broader plan for regeneration;
- provides flexibility for the Council's office accommodation;
- allows increased use of existing assets;
- provides the option for civic accommodation to be used as a conference facility for the wider Aykley Heads employment site, which will enhance marketing opportunities for the Aykley Heads site;
- overall, the revised estates strategy seeks to deliver against a range of objectives to meet a balanced outcome and ensure value for money.

A planning application has now been submitted (*DM/22/01005/FPA | Change of use of office headquarters (sui generis) to higher education (Durham University Business School) (Use Class F1a) | Durham County Council The Waterside Building Riverside Place Durham DH1 1SL*) in order to support this strategy.

A key stakeholder in the determination of this planning application will be the Environment Agency (EA). The site is on a flood zone and the EA categorise educational establishments as higher risk of flooding to office uses.

The Planning Committee is expected to consider the Parish Council's response to this application at its next meeting on 6th May 2022.

DECISION REQUIRED	For Members to note the above report and await a response from the Parish Council's Planning Committee to this application.
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ITEM 8: RECOMMENDED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROVISION FOR THE SNIPERLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT

Report by Cllrs R Friederichsen and G Holland

Summary

This report proposes that the City of Durham Parish Council adopt the following recommendations on what we believe are essential renewable energy and energy efficiency provisions for the Sniperley Park development. It encourages City of Durham Parish Councillors to demonstrate leadership on this vital matter by calling on such provision, and to engage on it with the city's neighbouring Parish Councils and Durham County Council.

The Parish Council's previous related actions

1. On 10 January 2022, the City of Durham Parish Council submitted their detailed comments on the consultation on the Sniperley Park Masterplan.
2. On 27 January 2022, the City of Durham Parish Council agreed to the Climate Lead Terms of Reference which requires the holder of that role to "provide guidance on, and - where requested to do so - coordinate the actions of the Parish Council as a whole and its committees".
3. Throughout February and March 2022, Cllrs G Holland and R Friederichsen, in their role as a member of the Planning Committee (Cllr Holland) and Climate Lead (Cllr Friederichsen), identified the Sniperley Park development as a site of strategic significance in which low carbon and energy saving solutions to a very high standard should be implemented, reflecting the city and county's determination to confront some of the most critical problems now facing our nation: the high cost of energy to many households, green-house gas emissions from heating, and the long-standing issue of energy security/independence.
4. On 8 April 2022, the Planning Committee reviewed, commented on, and resolved to submit to Full Council the list of energy solutions given below.

Recent external developments relevant to this report

Since completion of the consultation on the Sniperley Park development, significant events and national policy statements, relating specifically to energy, have occurred, in particular:

1. The significant rise of household energy costs.
2. The war in Ukraine with its serious and potentially long-term impact on global energy markets and energy security.
3. The IPCC's Third Assessment Report.
4. The UK government's energy White Paper and its stated direction of travel.

All of these events justify further action by the Parish Council to ensure that current and future residents of the city and its neighbouring parishes are protected

from energy-related threats to both their livelihoods and their well-being, while contributing to the ongoing task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Purpose of this report

This report seeks to offer guidance to the Parish Council concerning improved energy efficiency and security, recognising national and international aims on energy provision, energy efficiency, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

In the immediate vicinity of the Parish, the Sniperley Masterplan has yet to be finalised. The size of this proposed development will have a strong impact on a shared commitment to sustainable housing development in both Durham City and the County of Durham. To reflect this commitment, we propose that the following list of solutions should be implemented in full for the Sniperley development:

1. An Energy Assessment for the entire site designed to minimise energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions with all properties satisfying the 2030 operational energy and embodied carbon targets set by the RIBA 2030 Challenge which identify the optimal set of energy solutions to minimise energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
2. All homes and buildings to be built to EPC A rating standard as a minimum.
3. No connection of the site to the national gas network.
4. Photovoltaic panels / and battery storage in all homes and buildings.
5. Ground and/or air source heat exchange systems for all homes and buildings.
6. District heating system using any potential geothermal energy.
7. All houses to have electricity supply points for electric cars.

DECISIONS REQUIRED	1. For Members to endorse the position that the above energy solutions should be implemented in full at the Sniperley Park Development. 2. For Members to require Cllrs G Holland and R Friederichsen to liaise with Parish Councils of Framwellgate Moor and Witton Gilbert to encourage them to endorse the City of Durham Parish Council's position 3. For Members to request the Clerk to write to Cllr Mark Wilkes, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change at Durham County Council, to relate the Parish Council's opinion and urge him to take action in accordance with it.
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References

Buying or selling your home: Energy Performance Certificates - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Available online at <https://www.gov.uk/buy-sell-your-home/energy-performance-certificates> (last accessed 13 April 2022).

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA): 2030 Climate Challenge. Available online at <https://www.architecture.com/about/policy/climate-action/2030-climate-challenge> (last accessed 13 April 2022).

ITEM 9: PLANNING FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

As Members are aware, the Parish Council, together with the Durham Markets Company, is taking a leading role in the organisation of Jubilee events this year.

Regular meetings with key partners are taking place and the following list represents the updated list of events set to take place this year:

- **Tree planting** set to take place by the Parish Council's Environment Committee (delivered) and this will hopefully be supplemented by the planting of a special oak tree by the community garden in Wharton Park by the Lord Lieutenant (date TBC).
- A "**Clean for the Queen**" City-wide litter picking event is set to take place on Sunday 29th May 2022 ahead of the Jubilee weekend celebrations.
- The national **lighting of the beacon** on 2nd June 2022 at 21:45pm, arranged by the City of Durham Parish Council.
- **Knitted public art** is currently in production by local WI groups, with a coronation theme.
- A **Cathedral service on Saturday 4th June**, prior to which the Parish Council is hoping to host a thank you reception to voluntary and community organisations from the parish.
- On Wednesday 1st June (previously 3rd June), the Parish Council and Durham Markets company are arranging a **tea dance** with local dance leader Dianne Ross in the Town Hall. This will include dancing, afternoon tea (catering provided by New College).
- An **arts project** involving New College producing hats (something for which her Majesty is famed) to be on show at the Jubilee afternoon tea dance on Wednesday 1st June.
- On Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June, Durham BID will be hosting a series of **street entertainment** and a **virtual Beacon trail** in the City.
- On Sunday 5th June 2022, the Parish Council has been working with the Durham Markets Company on an **outdoor street party** involving two live bands (steel drums and big band music), a magician, face painting, storytelling, family treasure hunt, creepy crawly display, arts and crafts and possibly lion dance. The event will also include a bring your own picnic with tables and chairs provided and the ice cream and teas and coffees vans in place. The market place will also be dressed in bloom and (hopefully) bunting.

- On 14th June 2022, the County Council will be arranging **a commonwealth concert** involving local schools in the Gala Theatre.
- On 9th September 2022, the County Council is planning on hosting a **Jubilee medal giving ceremony** in the Durham Room of County Hall along with Sue Snowden for a number of recipients across County Durham.

Miscellaneous

Prince Bishops Place will also have red, white and blue themed umbrellas on Umbrella Street during the year and is also hoping to host a street party of its own.

Local artist Beth Ross is also working with schools on the production of some specialist bunting for the event and this will be displayed at the Clayport library Children's book section.

The events will be advertised to every resident in the parish as well as by Visit County Durham.

A banner is also due to be erected at St. Nic's church to advertise this event further closer to the date and the Clerk is planning a series of press releases and media engagement in order to promote these events.

A photographic display of Her Majesty's reign is currently being organised by Cllr E Ashby in collaboration with a representative of the City of Durham Trust.

Partnership with Durham Markets Company

The agreed partnership and additional resource for organising the event provided by Durham Markets Company is working extremely well and this has proven to be an essential resource to the Parish Council for these events. This is being funded from the budget allocated to an assistant for the Clerk and not directly from the agreed events budget.

External funding

The AAP Coordinator has advised that external funding for the events may fit better with the County Councillors' Neighbourhood Budgets as opposed to any AAP funds. All four County Councillors in the parish have committed £2,000 each towards supporting Jubilee events this year.

The total cost of Jubilee activities across the year is estimated at approximately £12,000 and it is proposed that the Parish Council meet the additional costs for the agreed set of events.

A beacon for Durham City

All partners involved in the Jubilee organising committee are keen to see that the City has a beacon lighting event on 2nd June 2022.

The City Freeman is arranging for a 5.6 metre high permanent beacon for the City to be sited at the top of Jubilee Walk. The joint site visit of 25th March took place with senior officers of the County Council and DCC has agreed to assume

responsibility for this beacon going forwards, in the context that this be part of the wider DLI site.

The Freeman are currently working on a planning application for this beacon but this will not be in situ for the 2nd June beacon lighting event.

The Clerk and Cllr E Ashby have therefore been working on an alternative site for the lighting of the temporary beacon and are currently in discussions with Durham University about lighting a beacon at Palace Green to run alongside a drinks and canapes event (where all organisations involved in the planning of the Jubilee will be invited).

DECISION REQUIRED	For Members to note the above report and to allow work to continue on the planning for Jubilee events, as per the agreed delegation to the Clerk and the Parish Council's Business Committee.
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ITEM 11: STAFF TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST 2022

At the last Full Parish Council meeting, Members approved the pay award for local government services ('Green Book') employees for 2021-22 for the Clerk of 1.75%.

In agreeing this pay award, a proposal was also put to the Council that Members consider making an additional one-off payment to the Clerk in recognition of his outstanding work and support for the Council. It was agreed that specialist HR advice would be sought in order that this proposal could be fully considered by Members at the April Full Council meeting.

Since the March Full Council meeting, the Clerk has circulated an email to all Members to thank everyone for this very generous gesture but in doing so has declined the offer of a one-off payment and has confirmed his intention to do so to the Parish Council Chair.

The Clerk's contract of employment allows for an incremental increase to his pay scales each year and this now happens, as per Council agreement. It is also understood that there is also no precedent for one-off payments being made to Parish Council staff as proposed.

The Clerk indicated in his correspondence that his preference is to be given sufficient time over the month of August to complete his CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification. It is estimated that 250-300 hours is required for this to be completed.

May 2023 marks the 5 year anniversary of the founding of the Parish Council and the Clerk is keen that the Parish Council prioritises seeking some accreditation prior to this date; something which is not possible without the Clerk completing his CiLCA portfolio.

In August 2022, it is proposed therefore that the Clerk be dedicated solely to the task of completing this portfolio and that only the Planning and Licensing Committees sit during this month.

In order to reduce the workload of these committees on the Clerk, the following steps are proposed:

- Where applicable, the Council's Planning Consultant will take responsibility for drafting all planning responses during August – sufficient funding has been allocated to this year's budget to facilitate this arrangement.
- A member of each Committee be nominated to draft the minutes of each Committee meeting.
- The Clerk's out of office will be on throughout August 2022 and all urgent matters be directed to appropriate Members of the Council.

Both the Chair of the Parish Council and the Chair of the Council's Personnel Committee are content with this proposed arrangement.

DECISIONS REQUIRED	1) For Members to agree that a one-off payment will not be made to the Clerk, as per his request. 2) For Members to agree to the proposed procedure for August 2022 as set out in the above report, in order to allow sufficient time for the Clerk to complete his CiLCA portfolio.
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ITEM 12: CONSULTATION ON MAKING DRINKING ALCOHOL IN PUBLIC AND AGGRESSIVE BEGGING IN DURHAM CITY AN OFFENCE

Durham County Council has recently launched a public consultation seeking views on the extension of the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Durham City which bans the drinking of alcohol in public spaces. DCC is also seeking views on a potential new PSPO to make aggressive begging in the City an offence.

A PSPO can be an effective tool to tackle anti-social type behaviour in areas where it has been evidenced that there is a persistent and ongoing problem that is having an adverse impact on residents, businesses, and visitors. PSPOs are put in place to make sure that people can use and enjoy public spaces safely away from anti-social behaviour.

The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 was introduced in October 2014 which, amongst other things, brought in a range of powers that included Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). The PSPO replaced dog control orders, designated public place order (DPPO) and gating orders, and create area-based restrictions on quality-of-life issues with the penalty for not complying being a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or prosecution.

Introducing a PSPO for specific activities does not guarantee that the problem will be completely eradicated and should only be used along with a range of other intervention methods including education and, consideration should also be given to the resources to enforce such an order.

Drinking alcohol in Durham City

Following consultation in 2019, a PSPO came into force for three years. The order restricts the consumption of alcohol in public places within the defined area of Durham City and can require the surrender of such alcohol for immediate disposal. Any person who fails to comply without reasonable excuse commits a criminal offence but in practice the sanctions for breaches of the order are dealt with by fixed penalty notice which can be issued by “authorised officers” of the local authority, or any person authorised by Durham Constabulary. A county wide PSPO for dog fouling also exists.

An advantage of a PSPO over other forms of byelaw is the instant and proportionate availability of enforcement by way of out of court disposal through a Fixed Penalty Notice.

A public spaces protection order is an order that identifies the public place and prohibits specified things being done in the restricted area and/or requires specified things to be done by persons carrying on specified activities in that area. It can make normally legal behaviours and actions illegal.

The order may have effect for up to 3 years and the Local Authority must consult with the chief officer of the police, the local policing body, and local communities before issuing the order.

Aggressive begging in Durham City

DCC considers begging in Durham City centre as a persistent and continuing issue and there has been a reported increase in the severity and volume of this problem. Persistent beggars who deploy aggressive begging techniques have been identified in the city centre area by other partners, such as Durham Police.

It is understood that the Police do not record reports of begging. They have information which suggests that daily their staff are approached by members of the public advising that individuals in the city are asking for money. Some of these occasions involve an element of aggressive or anti-social behaviour.

Existing legislation has and can be used to act against those who are begging, but sanctions seem more proportionate and necessary if the begging is of an aggressive nature. Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) and Notices (CPNs) can and have been used. It is also an offence under the Vagrancy Act which states that anyone found to be sleeping in a public place or trying to beg for money can be arrested. In addition to those sanctions, it is also possible to obtain injunctions against individuals as well as Criminal Behaviour Orders, which the Warden service have secured against several individuals in the city over the period.

We appreciate we have genuine people who are homeless and require support. We have good and effective services in Durham to support people who are rough sleeping and they are encouraged to take up this support.

This order would not be targeted at those people who are begging in a peaceful manner but at those whose actions may be viewed as aggressive, intimidating or threatening by the person being approached for money, such as:

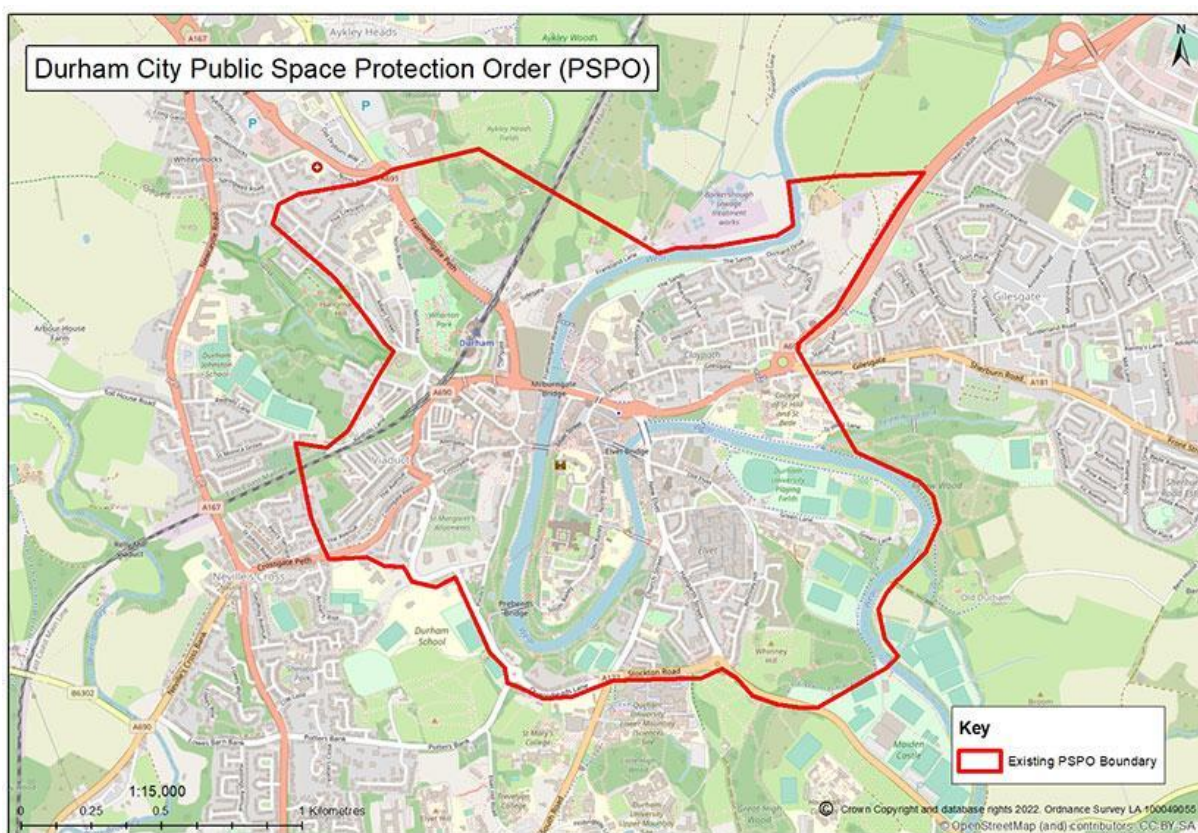
- trying to intimidate a person into giving money or goods by repeatedly asking
- continue to beg from someone even after the person has said no
- following somebody with intent to beg

- begging using false or misleading information
- begging using activities that are unsafe or dangerous to people or property
- exploiting children to beg
- providing or trying to provide services not requested and then asking for payment

Three north east authorities have introduced a PSPO to control/tackle forms of begging – Middlesbrough, Sunderland and Gateshead.

The area the PSPOs cover

Both PSPOs would cover the same area.



The deadline for comments is 5.00pm on Friday 29 April 2022. All comments will be considered by our Cabinet Spring 2022. If supported, both Public Space Protection Orders would be introduced by 30 June 2022.

DECISIONS REQUIRED	1. For Members to consider their response to the consultation on the PSPO relating to drinking in public spaces (outside premises) in Durham City. 2. For Members to consider their response to the consultation on the PSPO relating to aggressive begging in Durham City.
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ITEM 13: REPORT FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS 2021-22

As Members are aware, in June 2021 the Parish Council agreed to support local voluntary and community organisations with a grant.

All applications were considered in line with the Parish Council's agreed Grant Awards policy and all successful organisations were advised accordingly of the outcome of their applications.

Members are reminded that, under the terms of the Council's Grant Awards policy, organisations have up until June 2022 to spend the funds as per their original application. The Clerk continues to monitor progress on each application and has brought this report to Council in order to allow Members to consider the impact this funding has had on partner organisations. The below is the feedback received from all successful applicants:

Harbour

The funding awarded contributed to enabling up to support clients in the Durham Area with a hardship fund to help them move or settle into a new home on as part of a resettlement project. From the money that was awarded from your organisation, we were able to help 15 families (and a total of 40 people when we include parents and children). As we capped the spend to £250 per family, it enabled us to help more people fairly. Some families needed less than the £250 limit so we could make this stretch even further and help even more people. Here are some examples as to how the money has made a difference to some of our clients.

Laura * was sexually assaulted in her bed at home by her ex-partner. She was not physically able to sleep in the bed and was sleeping on the floor or her sofa as she was having panic attacks at the thought of this. We were able to purchase a new bed for her along with new bedding as well as pay for the disposal of the old bed. This was life changing for her and she was able to get a restful nights sleep without feeling the trauma and impact of what she had sadly experienced.

Jessica * explained her 10 year old had been placed on the school football team, in a new school after resettling in the Durham area. She had no trainers or kit so we were able to purchase her child a full kit and pair of trainers. Her daughter was so delighted, she now proudly wears the kit to her football club and is doing incredibly well, this has been excellent for her physical and mental well-being as she was sexually abused as a child and is now free from that abuse and rebuilding her confidence and self-esteem. Jessica had only approached us to ask us for second hand donations we may have had but we felt it important to purchase her child brand new clothing and training shoes as she needed that self-worth and to know she was believed in. We are informed that Jessica's daughter is thriving, and who knows, one day she may end up a professional footballer! Wouldn't that be something, that we collectively helped her on that journey?

We have helped many clients relocate offering them support with removal fees, essential household goods such as crockery, cutlery and cooking equipment and

in some instances clothing when they have fled with nothing. This gives our clients a sense of security, support and help and boosts their self-esteem and self-worth.

*names have been changed for anonymity. Sadly, we have no pictures due to the nature of the fund and items purchased for people in their own homes. We can provide receipts for some of the items if you wish to see them.

This project has been ongoing since December 2020 and we have been seeking more and more funding for this purpose as it really has made a significant difference to many clients' lives. Enabling them to move on and build a new comfortable space. With the success of this and the secured funding from City of Durham Parish Council, we have been awarded similar grants from other organisations such as; Believe Housing, St James Knott, Hadrian's Trust. We then pooled the money together, from all organisations and have been able to help almost 100 families. Each funder has different criteria to meet but we work around this the best way we can, such as Believe housing funds must be allocated to tenants of Believe housing, and we manage this well between the funding pots. Collectively the Durham Community are much 'richer' in the sense of wellbeing, supported and their self-esteem has improved as they can see people believe in them, they are worth investing in and are in a safe space, settled in a new home starting a new comfortable life, recovering from the trauma of domestic abuse with our support. Your funding really has made a world of difference to so many people. As the application of these funds I manage the monies/spends of this by checking the client meets the criteria and that we look at all sources of funding, as it is centrally managed this also prevents duplicate applications from the same client. We then look at organisations such as Furniture schemes in order to recycle preloved goods to protect the environment and also save on costs, meaning we have more available spends for the clients. In some instances, we do need to purchase new goods.

Your continued support has meant that this project has been a success and we have continued to collectively help even more people get back on their feet. It is a project we hope to have longevity, for as long as we offer practical and emotional support to our clients, we would always like to be able to offer them some funding to re-settle.

St. Cuthbert's Hospice

Project Details

The Hospice gardens have provided a haven of tranquillity for staff and visitors during the pandemic. The stress of continued restrictions has brought about an even greater need for several therapeutic outdoor spaces within the Hospice grounds for staff, volunteers, patients and bereaved families. The loss of regular volunteers also meant that the gardens were in desperate need of refreshment and repair to ensure that the therapeutic benefits were to continue.

Functioning with a reduced workforce, the Gardening Team volunteers identified several areas which needed refreshment and restoration. Namely the Sensory

Garden, the in-patient bedroom patio areas, and the bridge over the pond in the Memory Garden.

St Cuthbert's Hospice sought the support of the Parish Council for the supplies needed to sustain the tranquillity and therapeutic benefits of the Hospice gardens. The Grant application in May 2021 recognised the ongoing implications for visitors, volunteers, staff and patients in light of continued Covid restrictions.

The Hospice gardens are a key contributor to our strategic aim of creating a safe, compassionate and healing environment for patients and their families, as well as staff and volunteers in coping with the stress of working during the pandemic.

How has the Grant been used?

The much needed renovation of the Memory Garden was very kindly supported by the Parish Council last year, and again has been a centre of attention this year as it is used by staff, volunteers, and bereaved families. The bridge over the pond was very old, had no safety rail, and had become unsafe to walk on with no possibility of a user with impaired mobility being able to access this area. The bridge has been completely renewed by our volunteer team making this tranquil area of the Memory Garden accessible by those less able for the first time in many years.

The in-patient bedrooms all have their own private patio areas which were accessed from the outside of the building when visiting restrictions were in place. This meant that visitors were unable to visit patients physically in their room, with visits taking place on the patio areas at the height of Covid restrictions. Each patio area has its own flower bed which became another focus for the gardening team in making sure these flower beds were filled with bright, colourful and therapeutic plants.

The final area needing refreshment was the Sensory Garden. This garden is a significant area of serenity which receives daily use by staff, volunteers, patients, visitors and, in particular, children receiving bereavement support. The Sensory Garden has four raised plant beds containing plants to stimulate the senses; taste, touch, smell and sight. The flower beds have not been refreshed for many years and were in need of invigoration. The Sensory garden has seating areas as well as a Summerhouse where our Day Hospice patients complete activities. These areas needed refurbishment to make the most of the therapeutic benefit.

The City of Durham Parish Grant funded plants, materials for the new bridge such as timber, dolomite, paint, and other essential supplies, as well as funding for an external power supply which has been mounted on a sunflower painted base, as seen in the photo of the new bridge. This funding has enabled our volunteer team to sustain and improve the therapeutic benefits of the Hospice gardens.

Staff, volunteers, patients and their families are suffering enormous stress. The peaceful tranquillity of nature in the gardens is an important therapy and a key element in St Cuthbert's strategic goal of "making every day count".

In-Patient Bedroom Patio area



Memory Garden Bridge – Before and After Photos



Sensory Garden



Alington House

PROJECT

REFURBISHMENT OF RITSON HALL

GRANT RECEIVED

£1500

IMPACT ON THE ORGANISATION

The hall has been tastefully decorated and freshened up along with new pictures adorning the walls.

This has helped us to attract new groups to our facilities and create a sense of pride in our organization.

IMPACT ON USERS

Members and other users of the centre love the new look and are more confident about using the hall, this has created a sense of pride and raised spirits after the pandemic.

HOW THE FUNDING HAS HELPED

Having the hall refurbished has helped our strategic plan to offer a comfortable, warm and inviting space for groups to learn, perform and carry out their business without any distractions.



Durham Hospital Radio

The project is a mixture of improvements to the DHR studios and also the siting of ceiling speaker systems in a number of areas within the hospital in order to improve the quality of the service to the patients and their families. The project would allow for the installation of an additional studio in the DHR location providing more flexibility for the presenters for training and broadcasts in a safer working socially-distant environment.

The ceiling speaker installations in 5 areas would allow the station to reach a wider audience within the hospital. Improvements of studio soundproofing is also included in the project.

The vast majority of the physical studio improvements have been completed by our Technical Manager Tony Taulbut introducing a more accessible working area for the different presenters which allows multiple effective options for the station.

Subject to final system testing the Myriad Full License will be activated for use. We are still awaiting clearance from the hospital management to allow Engie to install the ceiling wiring and speakers. Due to the pandemic and resulting ongoing hospital restrictions this has been delayed but we continue to press for an early resolution.

The studio sound proofing improvements have also proved very effective.

Many thanks for your invaluable support.



Durham Community Association (Shakespeare Hall)



Carpeting for the Office at Shakespeare Hall. The Grant allowed us to purchase a new carpet for the office at our Centre in Shakespeare Hall. It replaced an old and worn carpet which had seen much better days. It has transformed the appearance of the room and presents a clean and fresh front of house appearance for both staff, clients and potential users.





A Brother Multi-Function Device. The grant enabled us to purchase an all in one printer with Wi-Fi Connectivity, remote connection and a host of useful features. It represents a modern and professional way in which to carry out multi tasked administrative duties. The Unit replaced a previously expensively leased and dated piece of equipment with a one off payment, thus saving us a significant amount of needless expenditure.



Hand Dryers x 4. We were able to purchase and install four new hand dryers. These efficient and modern units replaced items, which we previously under a leasing contract and were quite expensive to run. These sleek and modern units were of great benefit during the Pandemic. They present a modern and cleanly efficient appearance in our washrooms.

All of the items have given the Centre quite a face- lift and have helped us move forward in our recovery from the effects of COVID 19. The all represent great

value and have created a fresh and clean environment which is appealing to all, especially potential clients and customers who are our life - blood.

Trustees and staff from Durham Community Association remain extremely grateful for the grant funding and we are all proud of our Centre and Facilities.

Durham Merryoaks WI

Durham Merryoaks WI are very pleased and grateful to have now received two grant awards and even more pleased that as we are able to meet in person, we can use what we bought for the benefit of all our members. The past two years have shown us that inclusivity and keeping in touch are vital. With the grants we have bought a laptop with the necessary programmes which means we are able to use it in our meetings benefiting members and visiting speakers. We have also bought a wireless microphone and speaker so all members can hear and take a full part in every aspect of our meetings. The grant has also enabled us to buy a full Zoom license so we can, if necessary, revert back to meeting on line without relying on several 40 minute sessions but more importantly we can now begin to have hybrid meetings with a speaker or members who aren't in a position to attend in person enabling them to be able to take a full part in the proceedings. All of this means we are able to continue to fulfil our objective to advance the education of women and girls and to advance health with particular reference to members mental health as a number of our members do live on their own.

Another of our aims is to advance citizenship by promoting civic responsibility and with the Parish Council's continuing support, we are soon to complete our third knitting/crochet project for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the Neville's Cross area.



St. John's Brownies

Purpose of Grant - The 4th Durham City St John's Brownies Neville's Cross 91st Birthday Celebrations

Grant Received - £250

Introduction

The 4th Durham City St John's Brownies Neville's Cross is a thriving unit of 24-28 girls and 5 volunteer leaders, which meets on a weekly basis. There is also a long waiting list to join the unit.

We provide a programme of activities, which encourages our members to make friends, learn skills and try out new challenges but most importantly, to have fun! These activities also help the girls grow in confidence and provide them with the opportunity to serve the community. For example; the unit works closely with St. Cuthbert's hospice by providing flower tubs each summer and supporting its fundraising projects. We visit St Margaret's Nursing home to sing for the residents and help to clean and decorate St John's church for special occasions such as Harvest Festival.

In 2021 The 4th Durham City St John's Brownies Neville's Cross celebrated their 91st birthday on 30 September. We had planned to celebrate this special occasion in 2020, with a Service of Thanksgiving in St John's church followed by a special birthday party for the brownies and their parents. Sadly, due to the pandemic, our party was cancelled.

Details of the Project

Advertisement of the Event

The event was well advertised. Invitations were issued to former leaders and Brownies. Posters were displayed in the local Sainsbury's in Crossgate Moor, the windows of St John's Church Centre and at the entrance to St Margaret's Primary School. Notices were also placed in the Parish Newsletter. As a result, the event was well attended and enjoyed by both the current members of the unit and their families as well as a number of former leaders and Brownies.

Acknowledgement of the grant received from the Parish Council was included in the Brownie Birthday Programme, an image of which is attached to this report.

The Birthday Celebration

The event began with a service of Thanksgiving led by the Rector, Barnaby Huish. This included a review of the changes that have taken place since the unit began and a reminder of how St John's Brownies have served their community over the years.

There was also the opportunity for visitors, parents and members of the unit to renew their Promise.

Activities

The activities undertaken during the birthday celebration included:

- Bunting – Wooden bunting was purchased and each Brownie had the opportunity to create her own flag. The bunting was displayed in church for a period of time and is now displayed in the meeting place.
- Mug – Each Brownie received a plain white mug to decorate as a souvenir of this special occasion
- Badge – Each member of the unit past and present, received a special Brownie Badge
- Wooden Decoration – St John's Brownies collaborated with St Margaret's Centre which resulted in the creation of a special Christmas tree style decoration for all current and former members of the unit.
- Brownie Crafts – There was the opportunity to remember some of the crafts made by the unit during Brownie Holidays by making a bracelet and a memo clip
- The celebration closed by singing a number of campfire songs chosen by the Brownies.

Images of the crafts and programme are attached to this report

- Memories - A PowerPoint presentation was displayed during the festivities which reminded the Brownies of how they had served their community by helping the hospice, making cakes and providing entertainment at Macmillan Coffee parties and participating in challenges for many different charities. The presentation also recorded the different Brownie adventures undertaken by the unit, including trips to the theatre, visits to the cathedral to see the Lindisfarne Gospels and the Magna Carta, helping to create the Rose Window installation for Lumiere and of course, the favourite, Brownie Holiday.

Financial Report

The purchase of the bunting mugs, badges, wooden decorations and materials for the bracelets and memo clips amounted to £246. The cost of additional craft materials such as card and porcelain pens for the mugs were met from unit funds. The celebrations also included a special birthday cake and flower arrangements presented to the leaders as a 'thank you' for their time given to the unit, again funded separately from the grant.

The Impact of Grant Funding Received

The grant received enabled the unit to celebrate this special milestone by commissioning gifts of badges, wooden decorations and exciting crafts which the Brownies and visitors will remember for the foreseeable future. Some of the activities, such as decorating the bunting, funded by the grant also contributed to Badge work within the Guiding Programme.

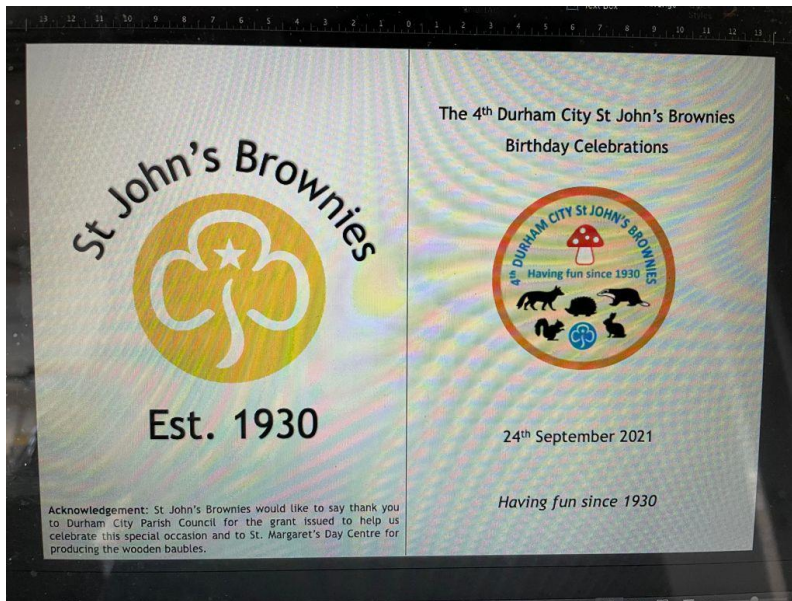
Whilst the main purpose of advertising the event was to invite as many former leaders and Brownies to join in the celebration, the posters displayed within the community also provided the opportunity to promote Girlguiding itself.

Appreciation

The 4th Durham City St John's Brownies Neville's Cross unit is very grateful for the funding received. Members are asked to note that that the unit would welcome the opportunity to work with the Parish Council on any future community projects deemed appropriate.

Mrs Annette Geragusian

Leader - The 4th Durham City St John's Brownies Neville's Cross



St. Margaret's Centre

Details of the project/ events funded.

Funding contributed to the cost of raw materials/supplies for the centre's arts and crafts activities in the 2021/22 financial year.

What impact has this funding had on your organisation?

Funding enabled us to purchase materials to deliver a varied selection of arts and crafts sessions, which was especially beneficial due to both rising costs and increased demand for the service following the pandemic. We ran over 300 sessions across the year, teaching a wide range of arts and crafts, such as watercolours, scrapbooking, and a range of textiles crafts.

What impact has this funding had on users of your services/ facilities?

The centre's activities are available for adults from across County Durham who need support with their mental health and wellbeing. Arts and crafts activities are delivered in social group environments at the centre, which provide individuals with an opportunity to be around other people who understand at least part of what they are going through. Learning new crafts can provide people with rewarding hobbies that can provide a distraction from sources of stress in their lives, as well as boosting self-esteem and creating a sense of personal achievement. Working in a small group has immense benefits for mental health, helping people to build friendships and reduce social anxiety, which was especially needed to combat the isolation felt by many as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

How has this funding helped you to achieve your organisation's strategic objectives?

St Margaret's Centre aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people in County Durham. This funding contributed to the purchase of materials that enabled us to deliver activities that have a direct positive impact on people's lives. Feedback has been immensely positive, and it is common for attendees to tell us that the centre plays a key role in their mental health recovery, management of symptoms, and prevention of relapse.





St. Oswald's Institute

Details of the project funded

We requested funds to convert an existing toilet and baby change area to a fully accessible unisex one with wheelchair access. The toilet was in a small separate cubicle from the handbasin and there was room for a large old fashioned baby change table but no capacity for a wheelchair user. The area was grimy, damp, unattractive and difficult to clean. We wanted to create a light, bright space suitable for children and babies and people with mobility, sight and confusion issues. We now have a single large room with an easily accessible toilet for a wheelchair user, a low level handbasin with temperature-controlled lever taps, grab handles and hinged supports to allow transfer from chair to toilet and a wall-mounted baby change table. The bright yellow floorcovering is lapped up the walls for hygienic cleaning and the equipment is highlighted by contrasting grey textured tiles on the white tiled walls to aid identification of the light switch etc.

The roof and Velux windows have been replaced and the walls resurfaced following the demolition of the interior wall.

What impact has this funding had on your organisation?

The Institute offers community space for meetings and events. It has a large hall, kitchen, storage space for regular user groups and is connected to the facilities offered by Kings Church Durham (the Appleby Rooms) which shares the toilet facilities with the Institute in a central corridor. The facilities were ugly, unhygienic, awkward to use and did not meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and Disability Discrimination Act 2010. We plan to convert the remaining toilets and washbasin area into a urinal (separated by a door) and 3 cubicles in a single unisex space which will promote the safety of children and vulnerable people as there will be little opportunity for potential abusers to hang around, given the increased traffic in a unisex area and improved sightlines.

Overall the Institute is already more attractive to potential user groups as it has one clean, attractive toilet and is clearly in the process of improving the rest to the same high standard. It demonstrates the organisation's determination to embrace inclusivity and provide good quality facilities.

What impact it has had on the users of your services or facilities

As the improvements become known, user groups and individuals will feel comfortable in booking the hall, knowing that all needs are catered for. All users will feel respected and able to take part in activities held in the Institute on an equal basis, encouraging participation by disabled people in public life.

How the funding has helped you to achieve your organisation's strategic objectives.

In an area of heavy footfall but without many community spaces, we aim to offer a congenial, attractive, adaptable venue, used by all ages. Appropriate, up-to-date facilities are an essential part of our inclusive service.



Old toilet



New



New