

Durham County Council
Planning Development
Central/East Room 4/86-102
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

City of Durham Parish Council
c/o Room 103
Floor 1
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UF

6 August 2018

Dear Mr Hopper,

Planning application DM/18/02118/FPA

I am writing on behalf of the City of Durham Parish Council regarding the above planning application for 27 apartments on land to the North East of Holly Street, Durham DH1 4ER. This was considered at our Planning Committee meeting on 27 July, prior to which members had been able to view the Public Access file, which is currently unavailable.

This is an application which we welcome in principle, since it offers the opportunity to provide homes for longer term residents close to the City Centre. Since this is the stated aim of the applicants, we hope the following conditions that we suggest can be agreed:

- Every apartment must be use class C3 only. A condition that no applications for change of use may be made is suggested.
- The plans show slightly more two bedroom apartments than one bedroom. We would welcome amendments to increase the number with two bedrooms at the expense of one bedroom apartments.
- On the contrary, amendments to increase the number of one bedroom apartments should be refused. Specifically, applications for a Variation of Conditions to this effect should not be allowed.
- Apartments should provide for disabled access, and some on the ground floor should be suitable for people with disabilities.

It would be helpful if a minimum age for the occupants could be specified. We suggest 55, since this site is well placed for people at or nearing retirement age.

Finally, we noted that Miss Allen has argued that the Council cannot demonstrate a five year supply of dwellings. Her report was written in April 2018, since when the Council has adopted the Government's standard methodology and can demonstrate a supply of between six and seven years.

We hope the Council can agree to these conditions. If it can we would support this application.

Yours sincerely

ROGER CORNWELL

Chair, Planning Committee

