

Crossgate Community Partnership

Annual report 2018

Crossgate Community Partnership (CCP) is a charity whose objects are:

- to promote the conservation and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Crossgate and the surrounding area in Durham City
- to promote the establishment, continuation, and improvement of local amenities
- to build and maintain a strong, safe, healthy, and balanced community by encouraging the residents of Crossgate and neighbouring areas to participate in community activities.

The principal way we do this is to hold monthly residents meetings to identify current issues and address them. We are grateful to the North Road Methodist Church for hosting these meetings for a modest charge. We also have an email list where members can exchange views between meetings.

We have 138 local residents registered as members (a slight increase from 136 last year). Attendance at our meetings ranged from 6 to 22. The median was 12, plus guests, and the average was 13.3.

Parish Council

The City of Durham Parish Council came into being on 1 April, but existed in name only until the elections on 3 May. It is now starting to tackle local issues, notably planning, licensing and the environment. Parish Councillors, some of whom are also County Councillors, have been regular attenders at our meetings.

PACT meetings

Our attempts to attend these meetings have often been frustrated by poor publicity and meetings being cancelled at short notice. Matters are complicated by the fact that our area is split between two beat teams (and so two PACT meetings) in a way that defies logic. Policing resources are stretched and regrettably evening patrols can only be done at the expense of daytime ones.

Council Consultation on Letting Boards

Last year's annual report said that "a ban is probably still a year away". The County Council has submitted all the paperwork to the Secretary of State and a decision is awaited on the Regulation 7 Direction. Regrettably this autumn we have seen the return of lettings boards, including quite a number announcing that the property had been let, which are of questionable legality.

Planning issues

Less CCP time is now being spent on Planning applications, as the Parish Council has picked up this issue. The trend noticed last year, of developers bringing forward proposals for one and two bedroom flats to avoid the Article 4 by being too small to be an HMO, has continued. We are also continuing to see applications to extend existing HMOs. We are seeing a number of student lets where the landlord has not sought the necessary permissions, and are reporting these to Planning Enforcement.

Neighbourhood Plan

Responsibility for this has been assumed by the new Parish Council and work has continued throughout the year to address issues raised in the consultation held a year ago. A consultation on bringing the Plan area into line with the Parish is running till the end of January, and this will be followed by a further consultation on the revised Plan. Adoption now seems to be a year or more away.

University expansion

The University continues with its expansion plans, which it informs local residents of rather than consulting with them. We remain convinced that this is more than the City can take. The autumn term saw the opening of Duresme Court (former Berendsen laundry), Rushford Court (ex County Hospital) and Dun Holm

House, which has moved into a block at the Riverwalk development which is still scaffolded, and which lacked heating and a proper entrance when it first opened. The University has just announced that they have reached an agreement with Rushford Court to house John Snow College for the 2019/20 academic year. We hope they can attend a meeting in early 2019 to expand on this.

We continue however to participate in the Durham University / Residents Forum (DURF) which meets senior University staff several times a year.

Student behaviour

This is a continuing problem, and peaked at the end of the summer term and again at the start of the autumn term. Calls to the 101 non-emergency number are not being dealt with quickly enough.

In conclusion...

The January meeting elected six trustees to look after matters between monthly meetings. They were Liz Brown, Roger Cornwell (chair), Alan Doig, Ann Evans, Simon Priestley and Simon Squires (treasurer). The Forum remains without a secretary, and secretarial tasks were shared around. Our thanks are due to Jean Rogers who has taken minutes of our meetings throughout the year, and published them on the CCP website.

This annual report is necessarily a summary of our activities during 2018. A fuller account of the work of CCP is on our website at crossgate.durhamcity.org.uk which includes the minutes of our monthly meetings (see crossgate.durhamcity.org.uk/minutes) and how to apply to us for small grants to enhance the area.

Roger Cornwell (Chair)

5 January 2018

Crossgate Community Partnership Financial Statement Year to 30 September

	2017/18	2016/17
Income		
Interest Received	£0.00	£0.00
Total Income	£0.00	£0.00
 Expenditure		
Meeting Expenses	£234.00	£234.00
Subscriptions (NORA)	£25.00	£25.00
Total Expenditure	£259.00	£259.00
Surplus/Deficit for Year	-£259.00	-£259.00
Balance Brought Forward	£1,508.60	£1,767.60
Balance Carried Forward	£1,249.60	£1,508.60
 Represented By:		
Co-op Bank Account	£1,249.60	£1,434.35
Cash Balance	£0.00	£74.25
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
Creditors	£0.00	£0.00
Total Assets	£1,249.60	£1,508.60

Note: Cash balance paid into bank account Feb 2018