

Crossgate Community Partnership

Annual report 2019

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 142 local residents registered as members (a slight increase from 138 last year). Attendance at our meetings ranged from 10 to 24. The median was 14.5, plus guests, and the average was 16.

Parish Council

The City of Durham Parish Council appointed its permanent clerk at the turn of last year and has taken an active role in planning, licensing and environment matters. There is a good flow of information to and from the Parish Council, and Parish Councillors are regular attenders at our meetings. The *Good Neighbour* scheme has recruited student volunteers to clear snow when necessary, with Parish funding.

Policing

Policing resources are stretched and neighbourhood police have attended only two of our meetings, both near the start of the year. Police have handed over responsibility for noise issues to the Council's neighbourhood wardens, who do not work evenings. However, after the Parish Council-organised meeting on anti-social behaviour, police officers will now call on houses where there are parties that are both noisy and late, if resources permit.

Regulation 7 on Letting Boards

This was finally approved by the Secretary of State and came into force on 17 October.

Planning issues

The majority of planning applications have been for the expansion of student accommodation, either by converting family homes to HMOs, or by adding extra rooms to existing HMOs. We have supported the Parish Council's objections, which have had a patchy success. An unwelcome development has been the gradual lowering of the threshold above which such conversions would not be resisted. It now stands at 61%. Other issues have included an ongoing saga of the pub sign outside the Revolution Bar, and the new County HQ on the Sands which, despite over 1,000 objections, was approved by the County Planning Committee. We contributed £250 to a crowd-funding appeal for a judicial review of this decision, but the review was not granted.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan was amended to take account of comments received during its pre-submission consultation in May/June. It was then submitted to the County Council and a final "Regulation 16" consultation started on 6 January 2020.

University expansion

We have welcomed Louise Fowler from Unite Students to many of our meetings, and she has been

accompanied by representatives of John Snow College, which is resident in Rushford Court for the 2019/20 academic year. This has smoothed relationships.

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

In conclusion...

The January meeting elected five trustees to look after matters between monthly meetings. They were Liz Brown, Roger Cornwell (chair), 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 2019. 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)

6 January 2019

Crossgate Community Partnership

Financial Statement: Year to 30 September

	2018/19	2017/18
Income		
Total Income	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure		
Grants to Local projects	£304.00	
Meeting Expenses	£195.00	£214.50
Subscriptions (NORA)	£25.00	£25.00
Total Expenditure	£524.00	£239.50
Surplus/Deficit for Year	-£524.00	-£239.50
Balance Brought Forward	£1,269.10	£1,508.60
Balance Carried Forward	£745.10	£1,269.10
Represented By:		
Co-op Bank Account	£745.10	£1,308.10
Cash Balance	£0.00	£0.00
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
Creditors	£0.00	£0.00
Total Assets	£745.10	£1,308.10