

# Crossgate Community Partnership

## Annual report 2021

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 and Unite Students Rushford Court for hosting these meetings. We also have an email list where members can exchange views between meetings.

We have 143 local residents registered as members (a very slight increase from 142 last year). Attendance at our meetings ranged from 11 to 16. The median was 12.5, plus guests, and the average was 13.2.

### **Covid-19**

Our meeting schedule was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. In 2020 we met in January, February and March. Covid regulations prevented any meetings until summer 2021, however our previous meeting place could not make the necessary arrangements. We are very grateful that Unite Students stepped up and hosted our monthly meetings in Rushford Court from October.

During this hiatus the Google Group enabled members to stay in touch, raise issues and share information, by emailing [CrossgateCP@googlegroups.com](mailto:CrossgateCP@googlegroups.com) In addition, Simon Priestley and Roger Cornwell took part in online meetings of the Durham University / Residents Forum (DURF) and also an *ad-hoc* Durham University C19 Community Group which was convened to enable a two-way flow of information about the pandemic and to coordinate efforts to keep infection rates down across the city. Members were kept informed via the Google Group.

### **Parish Council**

There continues to be a good flow of information to and from the Parish Council, particularly short-term and local news about Covid-related measures. Parish Councillors have been regular attenders at our meetings. The May 2021 elections saw a turnround in representation, with Roger Cornwell and John Ashby failing to secure re-election. Invitations have been issued to new and returning councillors to attend our meetings.

The Parish has provided plants and bulbs on several occasions. These have been distributed in a socially-distanced way for planting in areas viewable by the public, and much appreciated.

### **Planning issues**

The County Durham Plan was formally adopted by the County Council on 21 October 2020, and the City of Durham Neighbourhood Plan passed its referendum in May and was adopted by the County Council on 23 June 2021. Together they the development plan for the City and both are being used to justify planning decisions.

A welcome consequence is that the Planners are now refusing under delegated powers applications for conversions to HMOs where the percentage within 100m is high but below 90%. However, a number of long-standing applications remain undetermined. These include those for 19 Mistletoe Street, Tower Cottage, and Farnley Tower. The last-named is for an eight-bedroom extension which was joined in July 2021 by an incompatible application for a conservatory, which CCP has objected to.

There are two developments where although permission has been granted, construction has not yet started. These are the site adjacent to 24 The Avenue, where three "town houses" each containing four apartments, and the development at the top of John Street and fronting Holly Street, for 27 apartments. The latter has now acquired an entirely unofficial skateboard park.

### **New Bus Station**

CCP objected to the repositioning of the North Road taxi rank to outside the Santander bank, as this would increase traffic on Crossgate. We have also asked for the temporary bus stops to be reorganised to move congestion to less frequented parts of North Road.

### **University**

We continue to participate in the Durham University / Residents Forum (DURF) which meets senior University staff several times a year. An initiative in both 2020 and 2021 has been the production of a targeted leaflet *Living Out, in Durham* which has explained to students, largely second years who have moved from college accommodation to HMOs, what the arrangements are for things like rubbish and recycling, and also what the responsibilities and expectations are for livers-out.

An innovation has been the introduction of a Community Response Team who, in term time, are operative between 8:30pm and 3:30am. Residents can report issues to the Police via 101 who will then, if they are unable to deal with it, will hand details to the CRT to pay a visit. A problem has been that the call-handlers on 101 are not always aware of the arrangement to forward on these messages.

### **In conclusion...**

The January 2020 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 the past two years. A fuller account of the work of CCP is on our website at [crossgate.durhamcity.org.uk](http://crossgate.durhamcity.org.uk) which includes the minutes of our monthly meetings (see [crossgate.durhamcity.org.uk/minutes](http://crossgate.durhamcity.org.uk/minutes)) and how to apply to us for small grants to enhance the area.

Roger Cornwell (Chair)

12 January 2022

## Crossgate Community Partnership

### Financial Statement: Year to 30 September

	2020/21	2019/20
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£25.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Meeting Expenses	£0.00	£117.50
Subscriptions (NORA)	£25.00	£25.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£25.00</b>	<b>£142.00</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit for Year</b>		<b>-£142.00</b>
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	<b>£564.10</b>	<b>£706.10</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£564.10</b>	<b>£564.10</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Co-op Bank Account	£564.10	£564.10
Cash Balance	£0.00	£0.00
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
Creditors	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£564.10</b>	<b>£564.10</b>