

Speaking at the Development Control Committee

Would you like to have your say on planning proposals which directly affect you or your property?

Applicants, their supporters and objectors have an opportunity to address the Development Control Committee.

Are there any other ways I can comment on planning proposals?

Responses to planning proposals can be made in writing and submitted to the Planning Department, City of Durham, 17 Claypath, Durham City, DH1 1RH

You may wish to let your local City or Parish Councillors know about your views.

Councillors who are members of the Committee or intend to speak are bound by a Planning Protocol. Listening and fact finding should not be interpreted either as an indication of support...or the lack of it!

Who can speak?

People who can claim to be directly or significantly affected by the outcome of the proposals.

How do I register?

Contact the Director of Legal & Administration Services' Office in writing at City of Durham, 17 Claypath, Durham City, DH1 1RH, telephone on 0191 301 8870, or email [HYPERLINK "mailto:legal.services@durhamcity.gov.uk" legal.services@durhamcity.gov.uk](mailto:legal.services@durhamcity.gov.uk) no later than 48 hours before the time of the Committee at which the proposal is due to be considered.

If I register, will I be able to address the Committee?

The time allocated to either supporters or opponents of the proposal is strictly limited and offered on a priority basis. Interested parties should be prepared to nominate a spokesperson.

How much time is available?

A total of 5 *minutes* is allocated to supporters of a proposal. The same amount of time is allocated to objectors. This time can be shared amongst those who have expressed their interest.

If I have submitted written comments, will these carry less weight than if I address the Committee?

No – all responses will be taken equally into account.

Are there any restrictions on what the Committee can accept?

Only *verbal information* will be accepted. You may ask questions, but the Committee is not obliged to reply to these.

Only relevant planning issues will be taken into account. These could include:-

- Planning law & guidance
- Development plan policies
- Traffic and highway safety
- Noise, disturbance and smells
- Design, appearance, privacy and layout
- Special protection eg trees, wildlife, heritage

No additional comments should be tables.

The following are not planning issues and should not be raised:-

Legislation which is not relevant
Civil issues relating to property and/or access
Peoples' morals or motives (including financial benefits)
Speculation eg about future developments
Loss of local views
Impact on property values

Is advice available to those who may wish to address the Committee?

Independent advice can be sought from the Planning Aid Service. Contact the Royal Town Planning Institute Regional Office on 0191 222 8772 for further details. Consultancy advice can also be obtained from outside the Local Authority. The Royal Town Planning Institute can again provide details, although consultants will usually charge a fee for their services.

To register your interest to speak at Committee, please contact:-

Director of Legal and Administration Services' Office
City of Durham
17 Claypath
Durham City
DH1 1RH

Tel: 0191 301 8870

Email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:legal.services@durhamcity.gov.uk" legal.services@durhamcity.gov.uk](mailto:legal.services@durhamcity.gov.uk)

For further information on planning matters and queries concerning individual planning proposals, please contact:-

Planning Services

In Person: Byland Lodge
Hawthorn Terrace
Durham

By Post: 17 Claypath
Durham City
DH1 1RH

By Telephone: 0191 301 8792

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