

DARLINGTON OPEN SPACES STRATEGY 2007-2012

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: DARLINGTON OPEN SPACES AUDIT INFORMATION COLLECTED

Type of information	Source of Information
Site Address	OS Maps
Ward	DBC
Street Scene Sub Area	DBC
Rural or Urban	DBC
Site Area	OS maps
Site Owner	Local Knowledge/ Council records
Quality rating	Desk based / public consultation
Quality score	Site visit
Value rating	Desk based / public consultation
Value score	Site visit
Value details	Site visit / DBC records
Primary purpose of open space	Site visit / aerial photographs
Secondary purpose of open space	Site visit / aerial photographs
Tertiary purpose of open space	Site visit / aerial photographs
Tier of use	Site visit
Children's play area details	Council records / site visits
Community Use	DBC records / site visits / telephone survey of facilities.
Current use	Site visit

APPENDIX 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CARRIED OUT DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

Method of Engagement	Date of Consultation	Type of Feedback Obtained	Number of Respondents
Telephone Survey carried out by NEMS	Autumn 2003	A cross-section of residents views about how satisfied they are with parks and open spaces, likes and dislikes, levels of usage and accessibility.	1000
Young People's Skateboarding and Leisure Users Consultation Event, Dolphin Centre.	December 2003	Views of young people about what facilities they want in open spaces.	About 200.
Councillors Questionnaire	Autumn 2003	Elected Members views about issues around the Borough's open spaces.	25.
Parish Council/ Parish Meetings Questionnaire	December 2003	Audit information about open spaces in rural areas	14.
Community representatives appointed to Open Spaces Strategy Steering Group.	Spring 2005 and ongoing	Community perspective at key stages of strategy preparation.	3
Darlington Assembly	June 2005	Comments on the draft vision and the issues around particular types of open spaces.	About 40.
Separate Consultation Events for Local Stakeholders and Interest Groups, and the general public. Also Questionnaires.	November/December 2005	Public feedback on the how close they want each type of open space, comments on the accuracy of the audit information and additional sites suggested.	About 50 local stakeholders/interest groups. About 20 members of the public. 48 questionnaires returned.

Other Community Engagement Providing Feedback on Open Spaces

Name of Consultation	Date of Consultation
Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy	2003/04
Neighbourhood Action Plans (priority wards)	2004/05.
Local Development Framework: Darlington Partnerships Representatives Group Workshop	July 2004.
Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Consultation on preferred options. Involved a series of drop-in surgeries across the Borough, Planning Forum, and opportunity to return questionnaires.	October-December 2005.
Community Survey	Annually in August.
Community Services Customer Complaints Hotline	Permanent.

APPENDIX 3: SITES OF BELOW AVERAGE QUALITY AND LOW VALUE IN THE URBAN AREA

Site No.	Site Name	Area (ha)	Primary Purpose	Quality Rating
Darlington North-west				
383	Rear of Bates Avenue (east)	0.79	Informal recreation	*
235	Alverton Drive (South)	0.36	Informal recreation	*
372	Balancing pond, West Auckland Road	0.72	Informal recreation	**
361	Rear 84 Whitby Way	0.22	Informal recreation	**
	TOTAL	2.09		
Darlington Central				
None				
Darlington South-west				
318	South of Greyfriars Close	0.38	Informal recreation	***
Darlington South-east				
252	North of Patons Sports Ground	1.16	Informal recreation	*
83	John Dixon Lane open space	5.43	Informal recreation	**
	TOTAL	6.59		
Darlington North-east				
379	Haughton Bridge (NE)	1.34	Landscape amenity	*
391	Coombe Drive kick about	0.1	Children and Young People	*
214	Adj. To Green Lane allotments and ECML	0.51	Natural and semi-natural green space	*
87	Land at Belsay Walk	0.54	Informal recreation	**
412	Rear of Edinburgh Place/Alnwick Place	0.3	Informal recreation	**
360	Whinfield Walkway	0.79	Green corridor	**
	TOTAL	3.58		
	TOTAL OF ALL SITES	12.64		

SITES OF LOW VALUE BUT AVERAGE OR BETTER QUALITY

Site No.	Site Name	Area (ha)	Primary Purpose	Quality Rating
Darlington North-west				
52	Land South of Fmr Barnard Castle rail line	0.83	Informal recreation	***
218	Rear of Bylands Way	0.23	Informal recreation	***
216	Richmond Close	0.26	Informal recreation	***
174	Malvern Cres/Branksome Park	0.67	Informal recreation	***
Darlington South-west				
318	South of Greyfriars Close	0.38	Informal recreation	***
Darlington North-east				
88	Land at Salters Close/Lyonette Road	0.57	Informal recreation	***
406	East of Moray Close	0.11	Landscape amenity	***
405	Junction of Thompson St E. and Salters Lane North	0.13	Landscape amenity	***
402	Green Lane, Harrowgate Hill/Haughton	1.26	Green corridor	***
	TOTAL OF ALL SITES	4.44		

APPENDIX 4 - OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN 2007-2012

Note: Short term = 1-2 years
 Medium term = 3-5 years
 Long term = 6-10 years

Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Funding	Lead Officer/Agency
AIM 1: TO PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE AMOUNT OF HIGH QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACES ACROSS THE BOROUGH TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF LOCAL PEOPLE, NOW AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.				
Protect existing valued open spaces				
1. Identify on a Proposals Map all Locally Important Open Spaces.	Short term.	By December 2007.	D&E revenue	Planning Services (Steve Petch)
2. Adopt up to date planning policies to protect valued open spaces.	Short-medium term	Adopt interim planning policies by January 2007. Adopt new Local Development Framework policies on open space, 2008-2010.	D&E Revenue	Planning Services (Steve Petch)
3. Prepare management and maintenance plans for all strategic parks and cemeteries.	Short-medium term	Plan for South Park completed. Completion of a further 4 plans by end 2008.	Community Services	Street Scene
Address quantitative deficiencies in open spaces				
4. Designation of 3 additional Local Nature Reserves at Cocker Beck, Red Hall and West Park.	By April 2008	Community engagement in 2007. Official designation announcements: winter 2008.	D&E	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)
5. Through the planning process, facilitate the provision of 3 new playing pitches at West Park for Mowden Rugby Club, and 2 new playing pitches at Darlington College, Haughton Road.	Underway-short term	College opens for use, September 2006.	Yuill Homes DFES, Darlington College, TVR, ONE, DBC.	Mowden Park Rugby Club and Darlington College of Technology (Planning Services, Steve Petch)
6. Identify and implement two additional sites suitable for equipped children's play – see No. 22 below.				
7. Identify and implement four sites suitable for young people's recreation and implement necessary works, in consultation with young people, the local community and neighbours.	Short-medium term	Identify 4 sites by April 2008. Community engagement – during 2007-10. Implementation 2008-2011.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)

Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Funding	Lead Officer/Agency
Secure quality improvements to existing open space				
8. Improve and enhance North Park.	Short term	Draft Master plan for site 2006-7. Implement master plan 2007-9.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
9. Improve and enhance the Denes as a strategic park.	Short term	Draft Master plan for site 2007-8. Implement master plan 2007-9.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
10. Enhance the quality of landscaping and the quality and range of facilities at the following parks: Sugar Hill, The Denes, North Park. and Springfield Park.	Short term	Rolling programme, completion of enhancements in period 2006-2008.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
11. Secure high quality parkland as part of Central Park redevelopment.	Medium term	Reserved matters planning permission. Works start on site. Opening ceremony.	One North East, Tees Valley Regeneration, DBC	Tees Valley Regeneration (Tim Crawshaw DBC)
12. Possible park provision if houses approved at Lingfield Point.	Long term	Outline Planning permission. Reserved matters. Works start on site. Adoption by DBC.	Private developer	Private Developer (Planning Services, Steve Petch)
13. Widen the range of facilities at West Park	Short term	Implement four cross (downhill cycle) track by 2007. Establish Rangers Centre by April 2008.	External (landfill levy, Lottery funding)	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)
14. Upgrade the children's/youth play provision at Gouldsmith Gardens, Haughton	Short-medium term	Community engagement 2006-7. Implementation 2007-9.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
15. Work with Maidendale LNR Trust to establish a Rangers Centre on the site.	Short term.	September 2007.	EU and lottery funding for capital works. LAA funding for revenue	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)
16. Provide changing accommodation for sport and recreation activity at South Park	Short term	Planning application 2007. Implement 2007.	Section 106 (planning) agreement.	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
Periodic review of open space supply against demand				
17. Review level of cemeteries provision, and reflect any areas required for new provision in the emerging LDF.	Short term	Carry out review, 2007/08. Input into LDF, 2007-09.	D&E Revenue	Julie Cooper (D&E) Planning Services (Steve Petch)
18. Update open space audit	Short-medium term	Re-assess the quality and value of one third of sites annually. Update quantity and accessibility data annually (1 st April).	D&E Revenue	Planning Services (Steve Petch)
19. Identify surplus open spaces.	Short term	Autumn 2007.	D&E Revenue	Planning Services (Steve Petch)
20. Remove play equipment at Sparrow Hall Drive, in tandem with enhancements at Springfield Park.	Short-medium term.		Community Services revenue	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
21. Review current allotment provision and investigate possible further provision within a new allotments strategy.	Medium term		D&E Revenue and Groundwork	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)

Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Funding	Lead Officer/Agency
AIM 2: TO PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OPEN SPACES AND FACILITIES WITHIN THEM THAT ARE EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE BY ALL.				
Address areas of deficiency on a geographical basis				
22. Provide children's play equipment at 2 sites within the following general areas: Faverdale, Skerne Park and Haughton East.	Short term	Identify 2 sites by April 2007. Community engagement, 2007/8. Implementation by April 2008.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
23. To investigate opportunities for equipped children's play provision in the Haughton south and College/Hummersknott areas	Medium-long term	Identify possible sites. Consult local community. Install equipment.	Community Services Revenue	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson), Planning Services (Steve Petch)
24. Identify opportunities for additional recreation areas for young people in the Faverdale, Skerne Park, Harrowgate Hill, Haughton south and College /Hummersknott areas, and implement four schemes.	Short-medium term	Implement 1 scheme per year, 2006/07 to 2009/10.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
25. Provide a new football pitch at Skerne Park	Short-medium term	Community consultations. Implement scheme.	Section 106 monies	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson), Planning Services (Steve Petch)
26. Work with the local community to identify an alternative to land at Alverton Drive, Faverdale for children's play provision.	Short-medium term	Community Engagement. Implementation.	Developer contribution	North-west Street Scene Team Leader.
Increase the amount of public use of existing open spaces				
27. Work with local schools, through the Council's Extended Schools Co-ordinator, to secure more out-of-hours community access to school open spaces	Throughout plan period	4 more schools with community access agreements by 2009/10. At least 1 community access agreement secured on a DBC school sites in Hurworth by April 2007.		Sports Development Officer, Community Services. Children's Services.
Improving the accessibility of sites, e.g. footpath links, new entrances				
28. Programme of works including a new path across green space along the Skerne.	Throughout plan period	Secure Planning permissions. Secure external funding.	DBC Countryside and Transport programmes. Cycling England.	Transport Policy Manager Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)
29. Maintenance and improvement of footpath links, and footway maintenance – Lets Get Cracking	Short term	Underway.	DBC	John Ray (D&E)
30. To ensure that when replacing old/damaged gates, new gates adhere to BS 5709 design standards and are installed	Throughout plan period	As a replacement is required.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
AIM 3: TO SECURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACES, SO THAT THEY ARE ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE FOR EVERYONE, THEIR BIODIVERSITY IS ENHANCED, AND THE BOROUGH'S DISTINCTIVE HISTORY AND CULTURE IS CONSERVED.				

Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Funding	Lead Officer/Agency
Enhance existing open spaces				
31. Raise the quality of 8 green corridors.	Short-medium term	2 per year	Town On the Move	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer in consultation with Transport Policy
32. Raise the quality of 4 landscape amenity sites.	Short-medium term	1 per year	LAA/Section 106	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
33. Improve the quality of 6 natural and semi-natural green space sites to at least 3*, and an additional 3 sites to at least 4*.	Short-medium term	2 per year	D&E Capital Programme	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer
34. Improve the quality of North Cemetery.	Short-medium term	Use of the lodge	External Funding	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
35. Improve the quality of the 3 civic spaces (Market Place, High Row, Railway Museum)	Short-medium term	High Row: Pedestrian Heart milestone 2007. Market Place. Railway Museum 2008.	DBC Capital Programme	Development & Environment (John Buxton)
36. Work with Middleton St. George Parish Council to enhance the quality of the Water Park for informal recreation and youth provision.	Short term.	Improvements 2009/10	Section 106 funding	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
37. Maintain play areas to at least the minimum EU standards.	Throughout the plan period	New inspection regime 2007. Maintenance programme 2007.	Community Services Revenue Programme	Street Scene (Brian Graham)
38. To investigate and implement Dog Control Orders under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environmental Act 2005.	Throughout the plan period	Investigation 2007. Implement 2007/08.		Anti Social Behaviour (Nicky Rowland)
39. To make improvements to the churchyard at the Holy Trinity Church currently managed by DBC to create an area of community interest.	Medium term	Setting up of steering group. Secure capital/revenue funding. Undertake works.		Environmental Services and Holy Trinity Church Development Group
Improve community safety measures				
40. Investigate the feasibility of providing CCTV overlooking open spaces where local communities report particularly acute anti-social behaviour.	Throughout plan period.	2006/07 Lascelles Park 2007/08 Nightingale Avenue	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson) with the Community Safety Partnership.
41. Offer advice on designing schemes to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.	Short term	Prepare and consult on draft Design of New Developments Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), winter 2006/07. Adopt SPD, summer 2007.	D&E revenue	Planning Services (Steve Petch)
42. Work with local communities and community safety officers to reduce the misuse of facilities located on open spaces.	Throughout plan period	In response to complaints	Community Wardens CDRP	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)

Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Funding	Lead Officer/Agency
Introduce sustainable management practices and the promotion of biodiversity across a wider range of open spaces				
43. Prepare a Countryside Strategy to set priorities and policies for the management and maintenance of natural and semi-natural green spaces, to identify opportunities for further habitat creation, and to identify source of future funding.	Short term	Draft Countryside Strategy by mid 2007.	DBC	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer
44. Identify areas of open space where more sustainable management practices to encourage biodiversity could be introduced.	Short-medium term	Implement on 3 sites by April 2008 South Park, Skerne Restoration, Cocker Beck.		Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer and Street Scene Team Leaders
AIM 4. TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND OTHER AGENCIES TO HELP SHAPE CHANGE ON OPEN SPACES.				
Involve local people in the management and maintenance of parks				
45. Sustain the existing Friends Groups and establish further groups to look after other parks and open spaces.	Throughout plan period	Establish 6 new Friends Groups by 2009/10.	Local Area Agreement	Street Scene Team Leaders, in partnership with Sure Start, Groundwork, Community Partnerships
46. Maintain countryside volunteering in the existing Local Nature Reserves.	Throughout plan period	Currently 1450 volunteer days.	D&E revenue funding	Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Phil Roxby)
47. Establish volunteer groups in newly designated Local Nature Reserves.	Short-medium term	5 currently existing. 4 group established by mid 2008.	D&E revenue funding	Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Phil Roxby)
Engaging with local people to develop responsibility/ownership of their local environment.				
48. Undertake youth engagement to establish a pool of Junior Rangers/Caretakers	Short-medium term	20 environmental projects involving young people, 2006-08.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson) in partnership with Groundwork.
49. Implement a 'Pride' campaign to engage residents in environmental awareness and enhancement.	Short-medium term.	200 Street Champions.	Local Area Agreement	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson) in partnership with Groundwork
50. Continue to support the Maidendale LNR Trust.	Throughout plan period	None	Revenue support	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer
51. Support existing allotment associations, and create new allotment associations.	Throughout plan period	Create 3 new allotment associations by end of 2006/07.	Revenue support	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer.
Ask local people for their views and respond to them				
52. Continue to provide Environmental Services Complaints Hotline for registering of complaints/comments about open	Throughout plan period	Update methods of reporting, text/Web 2008.	Community Services revenue	Street Scene (Brian Graham)

Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Funding	Lead Officer/Agency
spaces.				
53. Engage with local communities to establish any demand for allotments in locations (Cockerton West, Faverdale, College and Red Hall) remote from existing provision.	Short-medium term	Undertake community engagement 2007/08.	D&E revenue, Groundwork	Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)
54. Work with local communities to establish how and if low value or and surplus open spaces can be made into community assets, and to investigate alternative uses where they cannot.	Short-medium term	Undertake consultations on alternative uses from 2007.	Groundwork/DBC	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)
Raising Awareness of Open Spaces and the Opportunities They Present				
55. Publicising Events and Activities in the Town Crier	Throughout plan period	On a monthly basis.	Community Services Revenue D& E Revenue	Community Services (Steve Thompson); Principal Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)
56. Publish and Distributing leaflets about Local Nature Reserves and other countryside sites	Throughout plan period	Ongoing	D& E Revenue	Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Rob George)
57. Develop the range of public information about the Borough's open spaces on the Council's website.	Short-medium term	Publish draft strategy, action plan and associated documents on the website.	Community Services	Environmental Services (Ian Thompson)