



# Darlington Borough Council

## Open Spaces Strategy Draft

### *Regulation 18(4)(b) Statement\**

***A statement of representations made, the main issues raised and how they have been addressed in the finalised strategy***

February 2007

\*The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004

# Contents

| <b>Subject</b>                        | <b>Page Number</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Introduction                          | 3                  |
| Consultations Carried Out             | 3                  |
| General Response to the Consultation  | 3                  |
| Key Issues Raised in the Consultation | 3                  |
| Table 1 Key Issues Raised             | 4                  |
| Sustainability Appraisal              | 5                  |
| Equalities Impact Assessment          | 6                  |
| <br>                                  |                    |
| <b>Appendices</b>                     | <b>Page Number</b> |
| Appendix 1 List of Respondents        | 8                  |
| Appendix 2 Comments Received          | 11                 |
| Appendix 3 List of Consultees         | 36                 |

## **1. Introduction**

This document sets out the responses that were received during the period of public consultation on the Darlington Open Spaces Strategy Draft document. The public and other consultations were carried out during the period from Tuesday 3rd October to Friday 3rd November 2006 inclusive. The consultations were carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement and in accordance with Regulations 17 and 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004.

Additionally, this document sets out how the findings of both the Sustainability Appraisal report and the Council's own Equalities Impact Assessment have been taken into account in finalising the adopted version of the Open Spaces Strategy.

## **2. Consultations Carried Out**

Open publicity was given to the consultations by:

- Public notices in local newspapers the Northern Echo and in the free Darlington Advertiser.
- A news item about the consultation on Alpha 103.2, a local radio station.
- A full page of editorial publicising a synopsis of the document and the opportunity to comment in the November edition of the Town Crier, the Council's monthly magazine to all households.
- Adverts about the drop-in consultation events and other public meetings in the Darlington Advertiser and the Herald & Post.

## **3. General Response to the Consultation**

In total there were 66 responses received during the public consultation period received via email, web-based comments forms, paper copy comments forms, written letters and transcribed verbal comments taken at public meetings and events.

The events which attracted the most attention and comments were the manned displays at the Cornmill Centre and the Darlington College. A specially arranged meeting of the Community Partnerships was poorly attended however we did get valuable feedback from partners who did attend the session. In the main, comments were received independently of the arranged events, i.e. from the notified consultees and the general public.

## **4. Key Issues Raised in the Consultation**

Table 1 illustrates the key issues that were raised during the consultation process. The table also suggests how the Strategy will be changed as a result of the responses to the consultation.

**Table 1 Key Issues Raised During Consultation**

| Key Issues Raised   | How the adopted strategy will tackle this   |
|---|---|
| Disparity in open space in the West End of the Darlington urban area.   | Agree there is a shortage of open space in this area. The Council is seeking to encourage more community use of schools facilities.   |
| Park wardens or park keepers would be desirable to reduce anti social behaviour and help manage open spaces effectively.  | Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff. |
| Local residents need to be encouraged to be involved in the care of open spaces so that they can join forces with the authorities to look after these precious open spaces. | Points 42-52 in the Action Plan aim to involve local people in the management and maintenance of parks and open spaces. Will include policy around community engagement   |
| Need to manage the issue of dogs using open spaces.   | A specific reference to Dog Control Orders will be included in the Action Plan of the document.   |
| Darlington has a severe deficiency in terms of local woodland access and the various quality of life benefits it provides.  | The development of community woodland sites around the urban fringe (South Burdon, Skerningham and Merrybent) will significantly improve public accessibility to trees and woodland   |
| New development should include open spaces.   | Policies 5,18,19 and 20 in the Strategy will hopefully provide more green spaces with new development.  |
| All open space should be retained.  | The Council needs to balance people's desire that all open spaces be protected with their wish that their quality be improved. With the Council's budgetary constraints, this could not be achieved at the same time as improving the quality of existing open spaces.  |
| The play provision in South Park is not sufficient for it's usage.  | The Council intends to extend the play provision within South Park.   |
| The play provision in Green Park is not sufficient for it's usage.  | Council intends to update Green Park in the near future, utilising external resources when they become available.   |
| The promotion and protection of biodiversity needs to be at the forefront of the Strategy.  | Inclusion as a main strand of the document; realising its importance.   |

## **5. Sustainability Appraisal and Equalities Impact Assessment**

The SA was prepared by planning consultants BDP, with the assistance of an officer working group. It looked at the social, economic and environmental effects of the Strategy. Sustainability appraisal is a statutory requirement of the Open Spaces Strategy preparation process.

In accordance with Council policy, an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqA) was also carried out, and the results will feed into the finalized Open Spaces Strategy document.

**Table 2 Sustainability Appraisal**

| <b>Impact Assessment</b>  | <b>Mitigation</b>   |
|---|---|
| Increased car use due to a lack of links between public transport, homes and open spaces and a lack of pedestrian and cycle routes to open spaces                   | Include policies that will promote use of public transport, cycling and walking to open spaces rather than by car, taking account of the important role of the Local Transport Plan and the Development Plan in achieving this. |
| Does not improve access into open spaces from residential areas for pedestrians, people with disabilities and cyclists  | Include policies for the incorporation of access considerations for people with disabilities or small children for some types of open space, for the open space types it would be appropriate to do so.                         |
| Does not encourage community cohesion through better community involvement in open spaces for all community groups  | Include policies in the OSS that will encourage community events at open spaces, and promotes activities to give the local community ownership of and involvement in planning the management and maintenance of open spaces.    |
| Disposes of open spaces with low value, but some low value open spaces could be of higher value if better maintained or hold importance at the neighbourhood level. | Careful investigation is required to determine if low value sites should be disposed of by undertaking a site-by-site analysis of each open space, considering all these issues.  |
| Loss of some open spaces with biodiversity value  | The disposal of sites should exclude any sites with identified biodiversity value and all sites of biodiversity value should be enhanced to at least 3* quality.  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Loss of some sites within Conservation Areas and surrounding listed buildings | Ensure open spaces with listed buildings, conservation areas, SAMs and village greens are not disposed of due to low quality and they are improved to be within the 70% of sites that are to be 3* or 25% of open spaces that are to be 4* or 5* under this option. |
|---|---|

## **6. Key Issues Arising out of the Equalities Impact Assessment**

The impact assessment looks at how a strategy is planned and how it promotes, monitors and consults in respect of equalities. Table 3 reflects the 2 key issues arising from the impact assessment where changes to the draft Open Spaces Strategy document needed to be made:

**Table 3 Equalities Impact Assessment**

| <b>Assessment Finding</b>                            | <b>How the adopted strategy will tackle this</b>   |
|--|--|
| Race (inc. culture and nationality)                  | There may be an issue around some BME groups not using open spaces. There are a number of actions in the action plan relating to raising awareness of open spaces and the opportunity they present. However need to specifically mention in the strategy the importance of holding events / promoting the open spaces and countryside. |
| Impairment (inc. physical and/or mental impairments) | Need to put an action into the action plan to ensure that gates are replaced with accessible gates.<br><br>Need to put an action in the action plan to review the surfaces of paths to formal play areas to ensure that wheelchairs (or pushchairs) can use them.  |

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 List of Respondents Resulting from the Consultation Process (03/10/06 to 03/11/06)

| Ref No | Contact Name            | Organisation                                  |
|--------|-------------------------|---|
| OSS01  | J Rodwell               |   |
| OSS02  | Eric King               | Darlington Society for the Blind              |
| OSS03  | Norman Welch            | Archdeacon Newton Parish Council              |
| OSS04  | Rev. G Price            | RC Church                                     |
| OSS05  | John Monkhouse          | Smithfield Road Allotments                    |
| OSS06  | Peter Dixon             |   |
| OSS07  | Ross & Pauline Chisholm |   |
| OSS08  | Anon                    |   |
| OSS09  | Mrs Minikin             |   |
| OSS10  | J W Minikin             |   |
| OSS11  | David Gaskell           |   |
| OSS12  | Andrew Allison          |   |
| OSS13  | Phillipa Sjoberg        |   |
| OSS14  | Granville Gibson        | Holy Trinity Church Development Group         |
| OSS15  | Peter Middleton         |   |
| OSS16  | Anon                    |   |
| OSS17  | Margaret Fowlen         |   |
| OSS18  | Tony Millet             |   |
| OSS19  | Harry Abbott            | GOLD (Darlington Senior Citizens Association) |
| OSS20  | Mrs P Dore              | National Council of Women                     |
| OSS21  | John Lumsden            | GOLD (Member)                                 |
| OSS22  | Kendra Ulliyart         |   |
| OSS23  | Norman Crockit          |   |
| OSS24  | E Robertshaw            |   |
| OSS25  | Robert Ackroyd          | Friends of North Park                         |

| <b>Ref No</b> | <b>Contact Name</b>                             | <b>Organisation</b>                       |
|---------------|---|---|
| OSS26         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS27         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS28         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS29         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS30         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS31         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS32         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS33         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS34         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS35         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS36         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS37         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS38         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS39         | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments |   |
| OSS40         | GOLD Meeting Comments                           | Growing Older Living in Darlington (GOLD) |
| OSS41         | Tara Garlick                                    |   |
| OSS42         | Nick Sandford                                   | The Woodland Trust                        |
| OSS43         | Mrs J Shecear                                   |   |
| OSS44         | Mrs Shirley Winter                              | Friends of North Park                     |
| OSS45         | Mark Wilson                                     | Darlington Friends of the Earth           |
| OSS46         | Heather Hebden                                  |   |
| OSS47         | Irene McBride                                   |   |
| OSS48         | Yvonne Richardson                               |   |
| OSS49         | Frank Bozic                                     | Northumbria Water                         |
| OSS50         | Dave McGuire                                    | Sport England                             |
| OSS51         | Mrs Brenda Bell                                 |   |
| OSS52         | Leo Oliver                                      | Natural England                           |
| OSS53         | Ian Bond  |   |



| <b>Ref No</b> | <b>Contact Name</b> | <b>Organisation</b>                  |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| OSS54         | Beverley Lambert    | Environment Agency                   |
| OSS55         | Yvonne Richardson   | Friends of North Lodge Park          |
| OSS56         | Anon                | Independent GOLD comments            |
| OSS57         | D Whitfield         |                                      |
| OSS58         | Alan Hunter         | English Heritage                     |
| OSS59         | Anthony Millet      |                                      |
| OSS60         | Wendy Richardson    | New                                  |
| OSS61         | Kath Cheadle        |                                      |
| OSS62         | Jan Cossins         | Cockerton East Community Partnership |
| OSS63         | Paul Davison        | Darlington Primary Care Trust        |
| OSS64         | Andrea Campbell     |                                      |
| OSS65         | G Gibson            | CPRE                                 |
| OSS66         | N Campling          | Central Ward Partnership             |

## Appendix 2 Comments Received During Consultation Process (03/10/06 to 03/11/06)

### Open Spaces in General

| Ref No | Contact Name               | General Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|----------------------------|--|--|
| OSS05  | Smithfield Road Allotments | <p>A link ie. Cycle tracks, walkways ect. should be set out to encourage people to lead a more healthy lifestyle away from the car.</p> <p>There should be more green areas in the vicinity of the "central" area of the town.</p> <p>People should be made more aware of the green spaces available to them ie. maps and more information on pathways and cycle tracks and nature reserves.</p> | <p>Agreed and noted.<br/>Noted. Comments to be passed on to Cycling Officer.</p> <p>Agreed and noted. Policies 5 and 19 will strive to agree an element of open space with new developments.<br/>Pass comments onto officers dealing with Town Hall/Feethams proposals.</p> <p>Noted. Points 53-55 in the Action Plan address this issue with regard to raising awareness.</p> |
| OSS06  | Peter Dixon                | Support sport not football.  | Refer comment to Playing Pitch Strategy staff.   |
| OSS07  | Ross & Pauline Chisholm    | There is no public open space between Woodland Road and Coniscliffe Road to the west of Stanhope Green as far as Carmel Road South. This shortfall could be remedied by creating a suitable play area on part of Abbey Road Junior School playing field.   | Agree there is a shortage of open space in this area. Whether school grounds are developed for public uses such as a play area is a matter for the schools themselves, though the Council is seeking to encourage more community use of schools facilities. Refer comment to Extended Schools Co-ordinator.  |
| OSS08  | Anon                       | Could we have a proper public path on people's land opposite the White Horse, which people think it is Council land to roam their dogs to do their business.   | Not clear exactly which site this is referring to. No action proposed.   |

| Ref No | Contact Name     | General Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|------------------|--|---|
| OSS09  | Mrs Minikin      | <p>Once the open spaces have gone, they are lost forever so we have to consider this point.</p> <p>More warden patrols would ensure the open spaces are kept in good condition.</p> <p>No dogs in some areas.</p> <p>Please keep as many open spaces no matter how small.</p>  | <p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff.</p> <p>Noted. Need to include in Action Plan, reference to implementing Dog Control Orders.</p> <p>Noted.</p> |
| OSS10  | J W Minikin      | At all times good supervision is needed.   | Noted and agreed. Points 42-52 in the Action Plan help to address this issue.   |
| OSS12  | Andrew Allison   | Suggest appointing community officers who are specifically responsible for patrolling the parks and dealing with problems.   | Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff.   |
| OSS13  | Phillipa Sjoberg | How can you talk about commitment to the countryside when you are involved in the building around the football stadium, destroying fields behind a nature reserve and used extensively by those of us that need the countryside but don't have access to a vehicle, or just want to give our dogs a nice safe run without worrying about children in a park. | Noted.  |

| Ref No | Contact Name                                    | General Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|---|---|--|
| OSS17  | Margaret Fowlen                                 | Open spaces provide breathing spaces for residents.<br><br>Need to be well maintained and well monitored.<br><br>Local residents need to be encouraged to be involved in the care of these important assets so that they can join forces with the authorities to look after these precious open spaces. | Agree and noted.<br><br>Agree and noted.<br><br>Agree. Need to add policy with regard to community engagement. There are a number of opportunities for this to happen.   |
| OSS27  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Playing Pitches - Some of the pitches at Hundens get very muddy during the winter need draining or should have less games on them.  | Refer comment to Playing Pitch Strategy staff.   |
| OSS28  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Like having lots of open spaces.  | Noted.   |
| OSS29  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Would like more cycle routes through open spaces, should be possible to ride through the town without having to use any main roads. Specifically links in the Hummersknott area.  | Comments to be passed on to Cycling Officer.   |
| OSS34  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Skerne Park - Should be more for the older children to do on the estate. The youth club isn't open often enough.  | Noted. Refer comment to the Youth Service. Point 25 of the Action Plan indicates that a new football pitch will be created at Skerne Park with residual S106 monies from the Cleveland Bridge site.<br><br>An Environmental Improvement Plan will be developed for Skerne Park, working with the local community, identifying required facilities. |
| OSS38  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Land to the north of John Dixon Lane. This is very well used by dog walkers, by local children for kickabout, and has lots of wildlife around the edges. Concerned about the loss of open space with the Central Park proposals.  | Consultations have already been carried out around the master planning of Central Park. The scheme includes significant areas of informal and formal open space around the southern end of the site.   |
| OSS40  | GOLD Meeting Comments                           | Teething problems with Streetscene "a disaster", a decline in management/maintenance standards and a decline in the level of contact with "friends of" groups.  | Noted, though cannot be addressed through this strategy.   |

| Ref No | Contact Name       | General Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|--------------------|--|---|
| OSS41  | Tara Garlick       | <p>Many of the open spaces are OK but they need continuing input for them to be maintained at this standard. Stanhope Park was given a reasonably high star rating presumably on the basis of things like seats and bins, however many are vandalised and litter is a problem.</p> <p>If the Council does spend money getting spaces up to scratch, how are you going to ensure that this is sustained?</p> <p>Is there any provision for increasing for example, community officers to police some of the problems?</p>   | <p>Agree that many open spaces need more funding to sustain them to a high quality. Policy 4 allows for the redevelopment of some open space sites to provide some of this funding.</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff.</p> |
| OSS42  | The Woodland Trust | <p>Darlington has a severe deficiency in terms of local woodland access and the various quality of life benefits it provides. Woods near to people provide accessible natural greenspace, giving a good experience for visitors, and wider benefits such as encouraging exercise and reducing stress, thereby improving health, encouraging learning and recreation, improving air quality, encouraging wildlife, providing shade, reducing flood risk, enhancing landscapes, providing raw materials and improving property values. Woods and trees, being as visually prominent as buildings, are also able to compete structurally with the built environment, thus affording a degree of balance between the built and natural worlds.</p> <p>We have developed a Woodland Access Standard for local councils, that we hope you will include to enhancing your open spaces strategy. It is that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size; and that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people's homes</p> <p>Darlington has a severe deficit of accessible woodland, both relatively and absolutely against this standard. Less than 5% of Darlington residents have access to a local woodland and less than 2% have access to a larger woodland. There is a significant need for woodland creation within the district. *See table on hard copy of response.</p> | <p>Policies 13-15 of the Open Spaces Strategy indicate the Council's commitment to enhancing the quantity and quality of natural and semi-natural open spaces, and community woodland in particular. Whilst the Council is committed to increasing the amount of tree and woodland cover as a means to increasing the variety and biodiversity of its open spaces, the standards suggested here are unrealistic.</p> <p>The development of community woodland sites around the urban fringe (South Burdon, Skerningham and Merrybent) will significantly improve public accessibility to trees and woodland.</p>                                      |

| Ref No | Contact Name          | General Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|-----------------------|---|--|
| OSS43  | Mrs J Shecear         | <p>Open spaces are vital to the quality of life. They should be inviolate.</p> <p>There are insufficient green areas around the Abbey School area, school sites are not available. Land which was used - Abbey playing field, Darlington Tech College and All Saints playing field, unofficially, has now closed access.</p> <p>Young children will not cross the busy road to South Park, where else do they play football and use their bike off the road?</p> <p>Plan in more green spaces.</p>  | <p>Not all open spaces contribute positively to quality of life; some attract anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>There is a gap in open space provision in this area, but there are no sites available there that could be redeveloped as open space. Access to the playing fields has been restricted to help to maintain the quality of the playing surfaces for the school's own use.</p> <p>The Council would expect young children visiting the park to be accompanied by an adult or older child who could supervise safe crossing of the road.</p> <p>Policies 5,18,19 and 20 will hopefully provide more green spaces with new development.</p> |
| OSS44  | Friends of North Park | <p>Question 5 Concerned about wording and what the overall outcome would be.</p> <p>Question 7 I would aim for all top quality * rating.</p> <p>In general I am worried this may mean selling off land near some minorities to pay for others and leave out some people and lose some of our open spaces.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned about our cemeteries. North Cemetery is almost full, will it be extended?<br/>West Cemetery, the add on doesn't seem to be as natural as main part, the lack of trees, means that it is not integrated to the main cemetery.</p> | <p>Noted. One objective of the strategy is to reduce the existing disparities in access to quality open spaces that arises out of where people live in the Borough.<br/>Noted.</p> <p>See comment above.</p> <p>The Council's Cemetery Officer has identified burial space for at least the next ten years, providing areas for Church of England, Catholic and continuing the Muslim sites. Pass comment to Cemeteries officer.</p>   |
| OSS45  | Mark Wilson           | <p>All open space should be retained.</p> <p>We need more green space in the town centre, especially along the river.</p>   | <p>Noted, though with the Council's budgetary constraints, this could not be achieved at the same time as improving the quality of existing open spaces.</p> <p>Noted – pass these comments to officers looking at the future of the town hall and former bus station site (who is this?).</p>   |

| Ref No | Contact Name    | General Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| OSS47  | Irene McBride   | <p>All open spaces should be protected - why are there no references to the "environment", wildlife, trees &amp; plants etc in your policy?</p> <p>We want access to the Abbey School &amp; QE College playing fields to kickabout.</p>   | <p>The Council needs to balance people's desire that all open spaces be protected with their wish that their quality be improved. It is unrealistic to commit to do both given budgetary constraints. Para 81 indicates that wildlife is important in all open spaces. Will upgrade para. 81 to a policy</p> <p>Access to the playing fields has been restricted to help to maintain the quality of the playing surfaces for the college's own use. Access for community groups is at the discretion of the college. Refer comment to the Extended Schools Co-ordinator.</p>  |
| OSS52  | Natural England | <p>The strategy should include more provision for the protection, maintenance and enforcement of "stepping stone" green open spaces, as part of the network of green infrastructure and to prevent further fragmentation of the resource.</p> <p>Greenspaces will only encourage wildlife if appropriately managed.</p>   | <p>All open spaces are provided protection based upon their individual merits. The mention of "biodiversity" in relevant policies covers the concept of "stepping stone" spaces without specifically mentioning it. Para. 81 commits the Council to working towards securing some natural and semi-natural areas within all open spaces. Will upgrade para. 81 to a policy</p> <p>Noted. However, management is not critical; many untended Greenfield and previously developed land sites have seen increased biodiversity without management. The issue is how much/diversity of wildlife you want on the site.</p> |
| OSS53  | Ian Bond        | <p>I think that all accessible greenspace is "quality" and that it is the location and connectivity that is important rather than quality in terms of the infrastructure, i.e. bins, equipment, etc. of each piece of greenspace. I would be very concerned if certain areas of greenspace were sold off so that the remaining areas could be improved.</p> <p>The Council and its partners have already been very successful in attracting funding for certain parks so it is possible that the funding issue can be resolved by other means. Darlington has much less greenspace than in former years and I would like to keep or, where possible, enhance the remaining areas.</p> | <p>The Council needs to balance people's desire that all open spaces be protected with their wish that their quality be improved. It is unrealistic to commit to do both given budgetary constraints. Also, the audit found that a number of open spaces are both of low value and of low quality, and can be the focus for anti-social behaviour – as such, these are not assets to the community.</p>   |

| Ref No | Contact Name                | General Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| OSS55  | Friends of North Lodge Park | The value of historic items can be seen as only a drain on resources given the way finances are allocated nowadays. However this view may not always prevail, and history may be given more value than simply financial by future generations.  | Noted and agree. Point 2 of the Action Plan advises the adoption of up to date planning policies to protect valued open space. Open spaces that are within conservation areas and/or provide the setting for a listed building will still be afforded the protection of the relevant environment policies in the adopted Local Plan. |
| OSS56  | Anon                        | All should be protected and are of importance.  | Noted. However, some open spaces can be the focus for anti-social behaviour, and as such, these are not assets to the community.   |
| OSS59  | Anthony Millet              | Mowden RFC<br>I hope the plans for the development include improved access over a wider grasses area and through the development in sympathy with those at either end.<br><br>The recent decline in the number of green spaces in Darlington is eroding its character. The implementation of "Your Places" will be quite crucial in raising public appreciation and through improved access and increasing usage. | As part of the Yuill application there is a proposed "greenway" footpath/cycleway running the length of Baydale Beck on the eastern bank from Staindrop Road through into Baydale Meadows.<br><br>Noted and agreed.  |
| OSS60  | Wendy Richardson            | Nearly all brownfield sites are used, where will space be found?<br><br>The spaces within 300m of dwellings 0.1ha must be "owned" by the houses around and the users around it. It is very important if it is to be fully used and kept in good order.  | Noted. Policies 5,18,19 and 20 will help provide more green spaces with new development.<br><br>Noted and agreed. Action points 42-52 aim to foster the idea of "ownership" in order to manage and improve existing or new open spaces. Add new policy to embed community involvement in open spaces in the strategy.                |
| OSS61  | Kath Cheadle                | Not at the expense of selling.  | The Council needs to balance people's desire that all open spaces be protected with their wish that their quality be improved. It is unrealistic to commit to do both, given budgetary constraints.  |
| OSS65  | CPRE                        | Some sites may not rank at Borough level, but very important to a locality and that is important in it's own right.   | Noted and agree. This has been taken into account when given the "value" rating as part of the baseline assessment survey, and will emerge from public consultations on specific sites.  |
| OSS66  | Central Ward Partnership    | Need more urban trees on/along streets.   | Actively dealt with as part of the emerging Tree Strategy. Where an opportunity for planting of new "highway" trees occurs, the public will be consulted and new planting sought.  |



## Parks and Gardens

| Ref No | Contact Name                     | Parks Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| OSS02  | Darlington Society for the Blind | It is good that provision is being made to have sensory gardens for the visually impaired.   | Noted and agreed.  |
| OSS06  | Peter Dixon                      | No more football pitches.  | Unsubstantiated. Therefore, propose no action.   |
| OSS07  | Ross & Pauline Chisholm          | Green Park has a few swings, but no slide or climbing frame. There is no seat with a back rest for tired grandparents. The grass around the swings is frequently boggy and some people do not control their dogs properly.<br><br>What will the Council do to upgrade the provision at Green Park? The nearest reasonably equipped play areas are at Broken Scar and South Park, but these involve an unsustainable car drive. | Noted. Comments to be passed on to Environmental Services/Street Scene team.<br><br>Council intends to update Green Park in the near future, utilising external resources when they become available.  |
| OSS10  | J W Minikin                      | All parks and open spaces to be available to anyone.<br><br>Park keepers to allow total access for all and to stop dogs fouling/rubbish/kids drinking, and to make the parks cost effective.   | Noted. Points 27-29 in the Action Plan deal with improving accessibility, but there are some types of sites, e.g. allotments, some playing fields and nature reserves where access is necessarily restricted for good management reasons.<br><br>Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff. |
| OSS12  | Andrew Allison                   | Major reason people are put off visiting parks is the threat of intimidation/confrontation with drunks/drug users and young thugs.<br><br>When visiting parks you are inevitably faced with swearing, drunken behaviour etc. which if you have young children is obviously very off-putting.   | Noted. Points 37-39 in the Action Plan aim to improve community safety measures, with specific regard to involving communities and using CCTV.<br><br>Council continue to roll CCTV out across parks and open spaces and are currently looking at utilising mobile CCTV technology in addition to fixed cameras.   |
| OSS15  | Peter Middleton                  | Council developments have been excellent.  | Noted.   |

| Ref No | Contact Name          | Parks Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|-----------------------|---|---|
| OSS17  | Margaret Fowlen       | Newly refurbished South Park suffers from a shortage of grandness. It would be wonderful to see the rose garden and areas matching the bright flowerbeds which greet you as you walk through the main entrance.   | Noted. The rose garden will be more impressive as it matures.   |
| OSS22  | Kendra Ulyart         | Green Park is a natural auditorium surrounded by magnificent trees. The swings are welcomed by everyone, but could the Council install some tree swings in the park to make it different from all the others, they are cheap and cheerful so why not!<br><br>Segregated areas where no dogs are allowed.<br><br>Events in the park would be good, like the days before the park became Council owned. | Council intends to improve Green Park utilising external funding when available and will consult with park users and residents.<br><br>Need to include in Action Plan, reference to implementing Dog Control Orders.<br><br>Noted. Point 42 in the Action Plan endeavours to sustain and expand the "friends of" groups. This public "ownership" gives potential for parks to host events run by local interested residents.  |
| OSS23  | Norman Crockett       | What I find missing in Darlington is a boating lake/pool suitable for model ships. The lakes at West Park, Newton Aycliffe, could be used as a guide. The sides and base are concrete, being easy to clean and the water need to be no more than 45cm deep. The lake could also be used for small rowing boats. It needs to be reasonably near road access.   | Noted. Comments to be passed on to Environmental Services   |
| OSS24  | E Robertshaw          | Provide more seats in Tommy Crooks Park please.<br><br>The important thing in all parks is to have a visible presence similar to the park keeper. This would help look after children and expensive equipment alongside the CCTV.   | Noted. Comments to be passed on to Environmental Services.<br><br>Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff. |
| OSS25  | Friends of North Park | Regarding the proposed hall in the NE corner of Rise Carr Primary School: can gates be provided through the existing fence, and through the existing brick wall with iron railing, and for an external door in the proposed new hall, all to connect with the junction to the transverse (N-S) asphalt path across North Park ?   | This idea has been investigated, but there was not enough time in the project programme to address this. Comments to be passed onto the Head of School Place Planning and Assets Team.  |

| Ref No | Contact Name                                    | Parks Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|---|--|---|
| OSS26  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | North Park - Nothing there for young people. The shelter that has been provided is very basic, we were expecting something more, as they were told £15,000 was being spent on youth facilities there.  | The Council is currently working with the Friends of North Park, young people in the area and residents on developing a master plan for improvements to be implemented during 2007.   |
| OSS28  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Stanhope Park needs to be improved, as it is heavily used by young people.   | The Council intends to improve Stanhope Park once external funding becomes available.   |
| OSS30  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | South Park - Improvements are good, the rose garden will be very nice when it has matured.   | Noted and agreed.   |
| OSS31  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | South Park - There should be park keepers there as well as CCTV.   | Within South Park there is a dedicated Park Ranger, Events & Education Officer and Manager.   |
| OSS32  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | South Park - The new kids play area is good, but too small for the volume of users.  | The Council intend to extend the play provision within South Park.  |
| OSS33  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | South Park - Not happy about using the kids play area as there is sometimes a large group of older children drinking, shouting and messing about there. The older children's play equipment was removed when the park was refurbished and nothing put back for them. | The Council intend to extend the play provision within South Park.  |
| OSS35  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | The Denes - A no-go area after dark, due to poor lighting and overgrown bushes.  | Noted. Action Plan points 9 and 10 seeks to improve and enhance The Denes in the short term (1-2 years) with specific regard to its landscaping and facilities.   |
| OSS36  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Dog dirt still a problem in many open spaces, Tommy Crooks Park, where people from beyond the neighbourhood come to exercise their dogs - sometimes the dog bins are overflowing, needing emptying more often.   | Need to include in Action Plan, reference to implementing Dog Control Orders.   |
| OSS37  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | North Park - Anti-social behaviour an issue, particularly in the areas around the bowling green, where young people urinate in the bushes.   | Noted. Point 8 in the Action Plan is seeking to improve and enhance North Park in the short term (1-2 years). Points 37 and 39 in the Action Plan advocate the use of CCTV where feasible and working with the community and community safety officers to reduce the misuse of open spaces. |

| Ref No | Contact Name                                    | Parks Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|---|---|---|
| OSS39  | Cornmill Centre & D'ton College Events Comments | Are there any plans to improve the Water Park at Middleton St. George?  | The Water Park at Middleton St George is owned by MSG Parish Council who are looking at improving.  |
| OSS40  | GOLD Meeting Comments                           | <p>Like the trees and flowers, animals and birds, getting away from the traffic and being in a more natural environment.</p> <p>Specific things that might encourage more use of parks and open spaces by older people are more lighting, toilets, seats and benches and indoor community venues in parks to bring in more activity.</p> <p>Like social aspect of open spaces - meeting people, having human contact and watching others play sport.</p> <p>Also like dogs, the history and culture and the play equipment.</p> <p>Dislikes include mini-motorbikes, cyclists, groups of youngsters, squirrels, alcohol consumption, litter, drug litter, dog dirt, bins overflowing, open gates at night, lack of maintenance, lack of public access to the bowling greens, vandalism and lack of wardens.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> <p>The Council will consult residents across the age profile when improving open spaces and take on board proposals as appropriate.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Open gates are at the request of the emergency services. Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff.</p> |
| OSS41  | Tara Garlick                                    | <p>South Park is obviously a major part of the plan and the new play area is great, however, given the number of people it serves and the lack of other play equipment around, it is very small and very crowded at weekends or in holidays.</p> <p>Will there be any further play equipment provision in Green Park ?</p> <p>No cycling signs were put up in Stanhope Park – it's the only place nearby where we can take young children to ride bikes. A backward step given the local motion campaign in the town. In addition it has failed to address teenage skateboarders who are much more of a hazard in the park.</p>   | <p>The Council intend to extend the play provision within South Park.</p> <p>Council intend to improve Green Park utilising external funding when available and will consult with park users and residents.</p> <p>The Council try to encourage cycling as a means of transport throughout the Borough and will review its policy on cycling in parks, although should this change it needs to be done responsibly.</p>   |
| OSS43  | Mrs J Shecear                                   | Parks and green spaces attract people, visitors etc. All parks are important.   | Noted.  |

| Ref No | Contact Name                | Parks Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| OSS47  | Irene McBride               | <p>Like Green Park but want more play equipment and less dog mess and less teenagers causing a nuisance.</p> <p>South Park play area is not big enough, we would prefer a separate area for teenagers. You cannot make a strategic park unless it has sufficient facilities.</p>  | <p>Council intends to update Green Park in the near future, utilising external resources when they become available. Need to include in Action Plan, reference to implementing Dog Control Orders.</p> <p>The Council intend to extend the play provision within South Park.</p> |
| OSS48  | Friends of North Lodge Park | <p>Possible inclusion of North Lodge (and Stanhope) Park as strategic on the grounds of wide use and as setting for listed building.</p> <p>* For more detailed description of recommendations see hard copy.</p>   | <p>Agree that Stanhope Park and North Lodge Park should have higher status. Not quite sure whether they fit strategic park. Need to discuss, is there a level down?</p>  |
| OSS55  | Friends of North Lodge Park | <p>We are concerned that North Lodge Park is not considered of strategic importance to the town.</p> <p>The reasons are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) It is within Northgate conservation area and contains 2 listed buildings, a beautiful old fountain and has connections with the town's railway heritage. Should be of strategic importance. CABE "Green Spaces Strategies" p10 recommends protecting the historical, cultural and archaeological heritage.</li> <li>2) The park has potential for improving the economy through tourism. It is very near the railway museum, Westbrook Villas and the town centre. CABE "Green Spaces Strategy" says the importance of boosting the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities should be considered.</li> <li>3) It is already of value to the many people who come to work in Northgate.</li> <li>4) The park has always been used as a cut through to the town centre, this will increase with the new Commercial Street shopping centre.</li> <li>5) The park has a massive potential value to regenerate the community.</li> <li>6) It is the only park in the town centre.</li> </ol> <p>For similar reasons Stanhope Green should have strategic value. *See OSS48 for more details.</p> | <p>Agree that Stanhope Park and North Lodge Park should have higher status. Not quite sure whether they fit strategic park. Need to discuss, is there a level down?</p>  |
| OSS56  | Anon                        | <p>Not at the expense of any green open space loss.</p>   | <p>Noted, though with the Council's budgetary constraints, this could not be achieved at the same time as improving the quality of existing open spaces.</p>   |

| Ref No | Contact Name                  | Parks Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| OSS57  | D Whitfield                   | Supervision to prevent hooligans damaging and threatening behaviour is essential.  | Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff. |
| OSS59  | Anthony Millet                | The Denes: the through footpath is a valued amenity but is spoiled by having to cross a number of roads with quite poor arrangements for users.  | Noted. Refer comment to Transport Policy and Town on the Move team.   |
| OSS61  | Kath Cheadle                  | But do not lose natural feel regarding North Park.   | Noted.  |
| OSS63  | Darlington Primary Care Trust | There may be opportunities to encourage community participation in preserving and developing local parks - with targeted help to secure grants and funding from other sources to add value to DBC investment.<br><br>The general upkeep and tidiness of parks, as well as good maintenance, lines of sight and lighting will be key to encouraging more people to make better use of our open space. | Points 42-52 in the Action Plan aim to involve local people in the management and maintenance of parks and open spaces. Will include policy around community engagement<br><br>Noted and agreed.  |
| OSS64  | Andrea Campbell               | West Park: not suitable for young children. I have a 15 month old son but we have to travel by car to South Park to use equipped play.   | The Council are currently looking at type of play provision to be provided within West Park, although it is not intended to be a formal type of play that is available at other areas. Also Faverdale is being considered as one potential location for additional equipment.   |

## Equipped Children's Play

| Ref No | Contact Name                     | Equipped Play Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| OSS02  | Darlington Society for the Blind | I think that the children's play area on Whinfield Road is remote and encourages teenagers to vandalise.<br><br>More care should be taken to keep dogs out. Teenagers should have their own places.   | The Council is currently updating a number of play areas across the Borough and where appropriate including CCTV. Also working with young people in the area to identify exactly what they want.<br><br>Need to include in Action Plan, reference to implementing Dog Control Orders.   |
| OSS09  | Mrs Minikin                      | These facilities are widely used when we visit the parks.   | Noted.  |
| OSS10  | J W Minikin                      | Park keepers to allow total access for all and to stop dogs fouling/rubbish/kids drinking, and to make the parks cost effective.  | Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff. |
| OSS15  | Peter Middleton                  | More places for strategic equipment.  | The Council have identified two strategic play equipped sites at South Park and North Park. A number of other sites across the Borough will be updated with improved equipment and level of equipment.  |
| OSS17  | Margaret Fowlen                  | Children's play areas are extremely important. It is disappointing that the superb area at South Park is not twice the size; in the summer holidays it was overflowing.   | The Council intend to extend the play provision within South Park.  |
| OSS40  | GOLD Meeting Comments            | More consultation should be carried out before new play equipment is provided, this should have been done for the Bensham Road site, Harrowgate Hill regarding the location and type of provision. Suggest consulting different ages of children in the local schools and the neighbours of the site. | The Council is working closely with local residents, young people and Friends Groups where available on improving play equipment and the locations and style of equipment.  |

| Ref No | Contact Name          | Equipped Play Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|-----------------------|---|---|
| OSS43  | Mrs J Shecear         | Equipped sites tend to be geared to the young and neglect the adolescent.<br><br>What about tennis courts and walls for football as an open access.           | Noted. Policy 10 specifically aims to provide areas for young people, including fishing and kickabout, skateboarding and downhill cycling. Point 7 in the Action Plan indicates that 4 schemes for sites will be implemented in the short to medium term (1-3 years).   |
| OSS44  | Friends of North Park | As long as it is not at the expense of exclusion for the 15% regarding question 4.  | Noted.  |
| OSS47  | Irene McBride         | Better if within reach of more homes e.g. 99%. Also, how well equipped is equipped? South Park facilities not sufficient for use. Green Park only has swings. | The lack of potential sites in some areas of the town makes wider coverage than the 85% target proposed difficult.<br>For budgetary reasons, it would be unrealistic to suggest that the full range of play equipment could be provided in every location.  |
| OSS56  | Anon                  | Q3. 4 strategic parks should be equipped play sites.<br><br>Q4. Should be 100%.   | South Park and North Park already have play equipment. West Park is being considered for one of two new play sites being in an area of identified need. A play area in the Denes will be upgraded as part of planned works to improve that park ( Action Plan point 9 refers).<br>The lack of potential sites in some areas of the town, e.g West End, makes wider coverage than the 85% target proposed difficult                    |
| OSS57  | D Whitfield           | Again supervision is essential.   | Although the Council does not have a Park Warden scheme across the Borough, there are Park Warden/Rangers at West Park, South Park and Firthmoor Fishing Ponds. In other parks and open spaces across the Borough, although no dedicated Park Warden service, the Council works closely with the community and has a range of services available such as Uniformed Wardens, Street Scene Team Leaders and Community Engagement staff. |
| OSS60  | Wendy Richardson      | Essential to have small play space much nearer homes. See Dutch designs for play space within new homes areas. Very good.                                     | This is currently unrealistic given the level of resources available.   |



| Ref No | Contact Name    | Equipped Play Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|-----------------|--|--|
| OSS61  | Kath Cheadle    | Should be 6-8 mins 85% and 10 mins 100%. More sites need to be allocated as the town grows.<br><br>Also include equipment for over 12's.   | The lack of potential sites in some areas of the town, e.g. West End, makes wider coverage than the 85% target proposed difficult As the town is growing, we are implementing new play areas, such as Tintagel Drive in Harrowgate Hill.<br><br>Policy 10 specifically aims to provide areas for young people, including fishing and kickabout, skateboarding and downhill cycling. Point 7 in the Action Plan indicates that 4 schemes for sites will be implemented in the short to medium term (1-3 years). |
| OSS64  | Andrea Campbell | Is there a possibility of a children's play/park area on either (or both) High Grange and West Park? There are two green areas on High Grange so why cannot one be used to home a children's play area. The two estates are dominated by young families so I know I'm not alone in my quest. | An additional 2 equipped play sites will be provided to meet the quantity standard set out in Policy 9. Faverdale ward is highlighted as one of the areas that is deficient in play provision.   |
| OSS65  | CPRE            | If more sites can be available closer to homes, that could be beneficial.  | Noted.   |

## Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace

| Ref No | Contact Name               | Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|----------------------------|--|--|
| OSS05  | Smithfield Road Allotments | Areas should be accessible, not like the old Cleveland Site where open spaces have been fenced in looking like a zoo.  | Noted. Sites can be fenced in if they are in private ownership, or for management reasons.   |
| OSS08  | Anon                       | I wonder if Skerningham/Barmpton Lane area belongs to the Council?   | The area is not currently owned by the Council. Community woodlands can be secured through agreements with landowners.   |
| OSS09  | Mrs Minikin                | Yes, to encourage more people to exercise.   | Noted.   |
| OSS11  | David Gaskell              | In full agreement in developing a new countryside site in Skerningham/Barmpton lane area.<br><br>Would support a pedestrian and cycle path along the Skerne. Improved lighting and anti-motorbike barriers would help to stop undesirable use.   | Noted.<br><br>A foot/cycle way scheme is at the planning application stage and proposes to link Stockton Road to Mill Lane along the west bank of the Skerne. Lighting is not being considered, but strategically placed steel fencing and kissing gates should eliminate motorcycle use.                    |
| OSS15  | Peter Middleton            | Good for children to experience wildlife.  | Noted.   |
| OSS18  | Tony Millet                | Widen greenspace along Baydale Beck to be in sympathy with the Parkland Dene and Baydale Meadow environments.<br><br>Access to greenspace through any future development of Mowden Park site.<br><br>Cycleway provision needed between Coniscliffe Road and Baydale Meadows. The footpath alongside Baydale Beck should be upgraded to cycleway to Staindrop Road. | Noted. Comments to be passed on to Countryside.<br><br>As part of the Yuill application there is a proposed "greenway" footpath/cycleway running the length of Baydale Beck on the eastern bank from Staindrop Road through into Baydale Meadows.<br><br>Noted. Comments to be passed on to Cycling Officer. |
| OSS42  | The Woodland Trust         | We welcome this policy but would like to see it extended to include a standard for public access to woodland.  | Noted. However, this national target is unrealistic in Darlington as the vast majority of woodland is found on the fringe of the urban area or along the Skerne river corridor.  |

| Ref No | Contact Name     | Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace Comments  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|------------------|---|--|
| OSS47  | Irene McBride    | Should be accessible to a higher percentage, otherwise you are denying access to some and encouraging car use by others.<br><br>Does "accessible" include improving cycleways and building new cycle paths?                       | By their very nature, these sites are located primarily on the outskirts of the urban area or along the Skerne river corridor. However, Policy 14 aims to get 60% of the urban population within 9 mins walk of a natural or semi-natural greenspace, by including some natural areas within other existing open spaces.<br><br>This kind of work is being led by the Town on the Move and Transport Policy teams – refer comment to them. |
| OSS53  | Ian Bond         | The Council has already made some significant improvements to its natural greenspace which I very much welcome and I would like to see this continue. The opportunity for contact with "nature" is very important to many people. | Noted.   |
| OSS56  | Anon             | Of 90% to 100% I would strongly agree.  | Noted.   |
| OSS59  | Anthony Millet   | Baydale Beck: Currently a public footpath joins the adjoining roads, it is in places badly located and also has a poor surface. An engineered surface would be better, also an off road addition would enhance the cycle network. | Noted. Comments to be passed on to Countryside and Town on the Move/Transport Policy.  |
| OSS60  | Wendy Richardson | Where will this kind of space be found?   | The Countryside team will work closely with Community Services and Planning to introduce and maintain more semi-wild areas within existing and new urban open spaces. Habitat creation as part of the Central Park development, and proposed areas at Merrybent and Skerningham/Barmpton Lane represent significant opportunities.   |
| OSS61  | Kath Cheadle     | All would be better.  | "All" is unrealistic and would be misleading.  |
| OSS65  | CPRE             | The more homes that can have a facility of this type close by the better.   | Noted.   |

## Comments on OSS Main Document

| Ref No | Contact Name                          | Comments on Open Space Strategy Main Document  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| OSS14  | Holy Trinity Church Development Group | HTCDG is looking at making improvements to the churchyard currently managed by DBC to create an area of community interest. Not looking to improve the area straight away but may be in the next 3-5 years. Can this be added to the Action Plan?  | Happy to include in Action Plan. Council will work in partnership with Holy Trinity Church Development Group on improving site.   |
| OSS42  | The Woodland Trust                    | <p>Welcomes Policy 2. We would like to see this concept of all open spaces having the potential to contribute to biodiversity and the need for landscape scale management of them to be more fully and explicitly stated in the strategy.</p> <p>We strongly support Policy 14 but would like to see it extended to include a standard on public access to woodland. We note the recognition in paragraph 82 that you are currently some way short of the target and that you are thinking of ways to address the problem.</p> | <p>Noted. Consider adding substantial aspect of biodiversity to Policy 1.</p> <p>Noted. The Woodland Trust standards are unrealistic in Darlington as the vast majority of woodland is by its very nature found on the fringe of the urban area or along the Skerne River corridor.</p> |
| OSS43  | Mrs J Shecear                         | I was unable to access your website.   | Noted.  |

| Ref No | Contact Name  | Comments on Open Space Strategy Main Document  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
|--------|---------------|--|--|
| OSS47  | Irene McBride | <p>Para 42 (a) Disagree. Wording of questionnaire encouraged people to expect to travel 15 minutes to park, but we would like/prefer to travel there in less time, e.g. 10 mins.</p> <p>Para 42 (d): How is a 10 min walk measured? For what age of child is this? To walk to South Park it is 10 mins, but to the play area inside it is 15 mins.</p> <p>Para42 (d): West End is lacking in play provision. Specifically Stanhope Park and Green Park are lacking in play equipment.</p> <p>Para 72: Safe &amp; Clean need to increase warden patrols due to noticeable increase in antisocial behavior.</p> <p>Para73: Upgrade to Green Park would help, local residents would be keen to start a "friends" group.</p> <p>Para92: College site should have provision in plans for a play area. Also an allotment could be created on the site.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. 10min walk is measured through a standard conversion to distance that is used in the Council's Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>An additional 2 equipped play sites will be provided to meet the quantity standard set out in Policy 9. The College/Hummersknott area is highlighted as one of the areas that require increased play provision, but there is a lack of available sites there.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Point 42 in the Action Plan endeavours to sustain and expand the "friends of" groups. As part of the planning permission granted on both college sites section 106 agreements totalling £125,000 have been secured to improve play equipment at Stanhope Park and Green Park, but there are no plans for play or allotment provision on the College site.</p> |

| Ref No | Contact Name                | Comments on Open Space Strategy Main Document   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| OSS48  | Friends of North Lodge Park | <p>Cannot see any mention of Stanhope Park.</p> <p>See 2.29: The improvement work at North Lodge, 'Transforming Your Space', was funded by New Deal for Communities/Fair Share. The work at South Park was funded by Heritage Lottery.</p> <p>RESOURCES: Possible S106 contribution from Commercial Street developers. Also suggest contributions from major employers around the park, and from the 2 clubs opposite the park whose clients cause litter and damage to children's play area.</p> <p><b>ACTION PLAN</b><br/> 2. Adopt up to date planning policies.<br/> Is this where Conservation Status and Protection should be included?</p> <p>17. Review level of cemeteries provision.<br/> Muslim burials: need to look at their requirements following the ceremony in North Lodge Park in March. Hindu funeral pyres: there was one reported recently in Northumberland.<br/> Woodland burial: Carlisle Council made this provision about 20 years ago and I have an account of how they did it if its of any use to anyone.</p> <p>33. North Cemetery<br/> The buildings are by Hodgkin and are considered to be some of his best designs. This would be a good local heritage initiative to get them restored as an asset to the town and would complement the strategic status of North Park and be an added attraction for visitors.</p> <p>49. Environmental Services Complaints Hotline.<br/> Is this the customer services number. If so it is unreliable and messages are not responded to. I have experienced this myself and others have too. Would a timescale for a response be possible, and/or a reference number?</p> | <p>Agree- Stanhope Park is missing from Figure 5 – this will be amended.</p> <p>Noted. Amend document.</p> <p>There is no S106 agreement in place regarding provision of open space resulting from the scheme. Sponsorship money from local employers/associations could be looked into, but cannot be achieved via S106 for existing uses. Comments to be passed on to Environmental Services.</p> <p>Updated conservation area policies will be included in the emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Development Policies documents.</p> <p>The Council's Cemetery Officer has identified burial space for at least the next ten years, providing areas for Church of England, Catholic and continuing the Muslim sites. Comment regarding woodland burial and Hindu funerals to be passed on to Cemeteries Officer.</p> <p>Noted. New uses for the buildings are currently being considered.</p> <p>Improvements have been made in responses to customer requests/complaints with regard to Street Scene services.</p> |
| OSS49  | Northumbria Water           | No comments except to support the general principles of the strategy for open spaces.   | Noted.  |

| Ref No | Contact Name    | Comments on Open Space Strategy Main Document  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|-----------------|--|---|
| OSS50  | Sport England   | <p>Supports the Vision (para 51)</p> <p>Supports Policy 2: What is not clear is what the Council means by the term "strategic outdoor sports provision". Sport England would welcome further dialogue on the definition and whether between them Policies 2&amp;3 meet Sport England's requirements and the test set down in PPG17 p15.</p> <p>Supports Policies 10,11 and 20</p> <p>Remaining Matters: PPG17 advises that a robust assessment of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreation facilities. The OSS and PPS will meet part of that requirement but it is important to highlight that these strategies do not cover indoor sports nor outdoor sports facilities. The former point is recognised in para 14 of the draft. It will be imperative that this work is carried out in line with the preparation of the LDF Core Strategy.</p> <p>Also concerned that some outdoor sports facilities may be missed out altogether. The OSS mentions MUGA's in passing, but not synthetic turf pitches or tennis/basketball courts. Would welcome further dialogue with the Council on this matter so that it does not become a problematic omission from the Core Strategy's evidence base.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> <p>These are the main outdoor sports sites in the Borough. Need to do Glossary in document explaining terms for footpath pitches, possibly need to meet and talk with Sport England.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Remaining matters for PPG 17 will be addressed in 2007/08. IT to discuss with ST, timeframe and confirm in writing to Sport England.</p> <p>Agree, regarding outdoor provision.</p>           |
| OSS52  | Natural England | <p>The strategy's aim to provide "a sustainable amount of high quality, accessible green spaces across the Borough..." should explicitly mention accessibility by sustainable means, such as walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>The identification of locally important open spaces on LDF proposals map is commendable. It would be useful, however, to refer to the publication "Biodiversity by Design - A guide for sustainable communities" TCPA 2004.</p> <p>Policy 3: Should be re-worded to incorporate biodiversity and nature conservation value of sites. This should recognise integrated use, mixed use including nature conservation with other uses should be possible in most situations and should be strongly advocated. Add on to the existing 6 points:<br/>7. The site's biodiversity value<br/>8. The site's nature conservation</p> <p>Policy 4: Concentrates primarily on recreation and sport. It should be re-worded to incorporate landscape and biodiversity concerns also. Amend first bullet point to "...is unsuitable to meet any identified deficiency in open space, landscape</p>  | <p>Noted. Include a glossary in the document explaining the specific meaning of key terms like "accessible" or "sustainable".</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Add biodiversity and conservation value as an extra bullet point on Policy 3 criteria list.</p> <p>Noted. Change Policy 4 bullet points as illustrated in the wording to the left to reflect the biodiversity and landscape quality merits of the site.</p> |

| Ref No | Contact Name | Comments on Open Space Strategy Main Document   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|--------------|---|---|
|        |              | <p>amenity, biodiversity, nature conservation, sport or recreation provision....." and amend second bullet point to "...usefulness landscape quality and attractiveness is made...."</p> <p>Policy 5: re-word to explain that it its achievement can also be through a combination of retaining existing provision and making compensatory provision.</p> <p>Policy 6: Suggest that the open space is not necessarily "natural". We therefore wish to see a more aspirational target, in line with our campaign.</p> <p>Policy 7:We wish to see the inclusion of biodiversity aims.</p> <p>Policy 14: Inclusion of a more aspirational target (80-90% within a 5 min walk), in line with our Health Campaign's aim of everyone being within 300m of an accessible natural green space.</p> <p>Policy 20: Should include and reflect the approach taken in the document "The Countryside In and Around Towns".</p> <p>Policy 21: Expect this to be an LDF policy. The policy is also short and needs expanding so that it gives due weight to this issue in villages. Should read after opening paragraph:<br/>"This approach will include the formulation, where appropriate, of Village Design Statements, and the assessment of the contribution of open spaces to local distinctiveness and character".</p> <p>The strategy does not address geological conservation and interpretation aspects of green space use and management.</p> <p>Strategic Green Routes: the strategy should recognise that these provide habitat as well as migratory routes for wildlife, and can be managed and maintained to enhance this role.</p> | <p>Noted. Change Policy 5 as illustrated in the wording to the left.</p> <p>A higher target is likely to be unachievable and would raise false expectations. The targets are not for all time, and would be open for review towards the end of the strategy period, or earlier, if considered necessary. Biodiversity is covered under the "attractions" aspect of the wording in the policy.</p> <p>This national target is unrealistic in Darlington as by its very nature, the vast majority of natural green spaces are found on the fringe of the urban area or along the Skerne river corridor. The achievement of Policy 14 ( natural and semi-natural open spaces) will depend on the introduction and maintenance of more semi-wild areas within existing and new urban open spaces.</p> <p>Agree. Consider inclusion in Core Strategy or Development Policies documents.<br/>Which is ??????Noted.</p> <p>The policy already identifies the generic policies that also apply to the villages. Further "expansion" of the policy will not make it any more relevant to villages.</p> <p>There is very little geodiversity of any merit in the Borough. The management regime of specific open spaces is too detailed to be included in this strategy.</p> <p>Noted. By incorporating a biodiversity aspect to relevant policies, this topic has been covered</p> |



| Ref No | Contact Name                  | Comments on Open Space Strategy Main Document  | Proposed Action or Response to Comment   |
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|        |                               |  | adequately without specifically mentioning it.   |
| OSS54  | Environment Agency            | The Agency welcomes the strong emphasis that is being placed on protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of existing open and green spaces within the Borough, along with the need to identify opportunities for further habitat creation and achieve more sustainable management practices to encourage biodiversity to be introduced.   | Noted.   |
| OSS58  | English Heritage              | <p>Policy 2: The heritage value of any open spaces and their associated buildings, structures and features should be more overtly identified as a factor to be considered when drawing up plans to protect and manage those open spaces.</p> <p>Policy 3: The third bullet point is incomplete, unless the bullet points which follow are an integral part of it. Policy drafting may need review. The definition of what may constitute harm should include reference to assets of heritage value, and care needs to be exercised in the use of the concept of "net" harm. For example, the loss of a listed building could not be mitigated by enhanced habitats for wildlife.</p> | <p>Noted. However, this is covered under the definition of "local distinctiveness" – glossary will expand further on this.</p> <p>Noted. Insert colon after "net harm on"<br/>The historic environment is protected separately through the adopted Local Plan policies that will be considered concurrently with this strategy in determining planning applications.</p>   |
| OSS61  | Kath Cheadle                  | <p>Action Point 20: Play equipment is still much in use by locals.</p> <p>Paragraph 25: criteria for value misses the actual value of the space by the public. Your evidence of use/abuse is sometimes because the area has not been maintained satisfactorily over a long period.</p> <p>Policy 2: Is High Row a footpath and a road rather than an open space?</p>   | <p>Noted, but Springfield Park is equally accessible.</p> <p>Noted. Public value is taken into consideration, but very few of the public came forward with views on the value of open spaces during consultations on the open space audit in December 2005.<br/>High Row, after Pedestrian Heart will be a Civic Space similar to the Marketplace.</p> <p>To include Policy on Community Involvement in Open Spaces.</p> |
| OSS63  | Darlington Primary Care Trust | Page 27: Recreational infrastructure clearly needs investment given the run-down state of some of the play equipment in some parks. Key to success is not just good maintenance, but also children and families feeling that they are safe places to be - there is a clear link here with the wider young people's agenda and the creation of a range of services that provide young people with the opportunity to engage in meaningful recreational activities.  | Noted. Point 45 of the Action Plan is to specifically increase the involvement of young people in looking after open spaces.   |

## Other Comments Relating to OSS Process

| Ref No | Contact Name | Other Comments   | Proposed Action or Response to Comment  |
|--------|--------------|--|---|
| OSS56  | Anon         | Note to chief Executive & Director of D&E<br>Not a true consultation as the agenda of the strategy is already massively underway prior to consultation. It must be recommended on those issues.                            | It is true that work to improve parks and open spaces is an ongoing activity. The idea of consulting on a draft is to give people something to respond to. Many people find it difficult to come up with informed ideas, views and suggestions without this.  |
| OSS61  | Kath Cheadle | This consultation should automatically have been sent out to all "friends" groups.<br><br>Local community involvement is clearly needed to resource and implement the plans, full consultation is paramount at all stages. | All the chairs of friends groups for which we had address details were consulted. Fill gaps in "friends groups" data on the consultation database.<br>Noted and agreed. Points 49-52 in the Action Plan aim to involve the community to a greater extent. Consider whether a new policy is needed to embed this idea in the strategy. |

### Appendix 3 List of Consultees Contacted for the Consultation Process

| Category              | Respondent   |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agent                 | Browne Smith Baker & Partners                      |
| Agent                 | Alpha Plus Architects                              |
| Business              | St Modwen Developments Ltd                         |
| Business              | National Farmers Union (North East)                |
| Business              | North East Chamber of Commerce                     |
| Business              | Cleveland Bridge                                   |
| Business              | Cummins Engine Company                             |
| Business              | Darlington Chamber of Trade                        |
| Business              | Darlington Building Society                        |
| Community Group       | Sadberge Village Hall                              |
| Community Group       | Branksome Youth & Community Centre                 |
| Community Group       | Community Development Worker - Cockerton East Ward |
| Community Group       | Heighington Action Group                           |
| Community Partnership | Lingfield Community Partnership                    |
| Community Partnership | Red Hall Community Partnership                     |
| Community Partnership | Skerne Park Community Partnership                  |
| Community Partnership | Darlington Partnership                             |
| Community Partnership | Bank Top Community Partnership                     |
| Community Partnership | Northgate Community Partnership                    |
| Community Partnership | Lascelles Community Partnership                    |
| Community Partnership | Cockerton West Community Partnership               |
| Community Partnership | Central Community Partnership                      |
| Community Partnership | Central Ward Partnership                           |
| Community Partnership | Firthmoor Community Partnership                    |
| Councillor            | Cllr Harker  |
| DBC                   | Greg McDougall                                     |
| DBC                   | Sarah Still  |
| DBC                   | John Williams                                      |

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| DBC                | Morvyn Sanderson                            |
| DBC                | Susan Storey                                |
| DBC                | Robert Young                                |
| DBC                | Yvonne Rennard                              |
| DBC                | Katy Reay                                   |
| DBC                | Dawn Burnip                                 |
| DBC                | Amy Bladen                                  |
| DBC                | Lynne Groves                                |
| Developer          | Charles Church                              |
| Developer          | Circus Investments Ltd                      |
| Developer          | Marchday Group plc                          |
| Education          | Surestart Wave 5                            |
| Education          | Hummersknott School                         |
| Education          | Surestart                                   |
| Education          | Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College          |
| Education          | Darlington College of Technology            |
| Education          | Polam Hall School                           |
| Emergency Services | Durham Constabulary                         |
| Env Local          | The Ramblers Association - Darlington Group |
| Env Local          | Mr John Griffiths                           |
| Env Local          | John Richardson                             |
| Env Local          | Martin Wilson                               |
| Env Local          | Mr Stephen Hopper                           |
| Env Local          | Butterfly Conservation (NE England)         |
| Env Local          | Mr B Denham                                 |
| Env Local          | Mr S Jones                                  |
| Env Local          | North East Civic Trust                      |
| Env Local          | Mr C Chapel                                 |
| Env Local          | Darlington & Teesdale Naturalist Field Club |
| Env Local          | CPRE, Darlington District Committee         |
| Env Local          | Mr Tim Stahl                                |

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| Env Local    | Mrs Barbara Shorney                       |
| Env Local    | Ms Heather Hebden                         |
| Env Local    | Mr Laurent Lemaitre                       |
| Env Local    | Darlington Civic Trust                    |
| Env Local    | Darlington Wildlife Group                 |
| Env Local    | Tees Forest                               |
| Env Local    | RSPB (North of England Office)            |
| Env Local    | Ramblers Association, Darlington Group    |
| Env Local    | University of the Third Age               |
| Env Local    | Mr P Dixon                                |
| Env Local    | Ramblers Association                      |
| Env Local    | British Trust for Conservation Volunteers |
| Env Local    | Durham Wildlife Trust                     |
| Env Local    | Clare Hinton                              |
| Env Local    | Mr C Merrick                              |
| Env Local    | Mr Race                                   |
| Env Local    | Mr T Beer                                 |
| Env Local    | Mr I Bond                                 |
| Env Local    | Cleveland Arts                            |
| Env Local    | Mr C Evans                                |
| Env Local    | Mr C Burgess                              |
| Env Local    | Mr Ian Doogle                             |
| Env National | Friends of the Earth                      |
| Env National | Woodland Trust                            |
| Env National | Open Spaces Society                       |
| Env National | CABE                                      |
| Govt         | North East Assembly                       |
| Govt         | Heritage Lottery Fund                     |
| Govt Agency  | Environment Agency                        |
| Govt Agency  | Sport England North East                  |
| Govt Agency  | Countryside Agency (NE Region)            |

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| Govt Agency   | English Nature                                   |
| Govt Agency   | Big Lottery Fund                                 |
| Govt Agency   | Forestry Commission                              |
| Govt Agency   | English Heritage                                 |
| Hard to Reach | Punjabi and Hindi Association                    |
| Hard to Reach | Sikh Community Welfare                           |
| Hard to Reach | Sikh Cultural Society                            |
| Hard to Reach | Sikh Missionary Society                          |
| Hard to Reach | Islamic Women's Forum                            |
| Hard to Reach | Islamic Society - Darlington                     |
| Hard to Reach | Gypsy & Traveller Community                      |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington Sikh Association for Women            |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington & Durham County Race Equality Council |
| Hard to Reach | Age Concern                                      |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington & District West Indian Association    |
| Hard to Reach | Sikh Gurdwara                                    |
| Hard to Reach | GOLD Members                                     |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington Association on Disability             |
| Hard to Reach | Hindu Women Cultural Association                 |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington Bangladeshi Association               |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington Chinese Association                   |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington & District Deaf Club                  |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington Society for the Blind                 |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington Coronary Support Group                |
| Hard to Reach | Sure Start                                       |
| Hard to Reach | Early Years Team, Children's Services Department |
| Hard to Reach | Investing in Children                            |
| Hard to Reach | Darlington MIND                                  |
| Hard to Reach | Chief Executive's Office                         |
| Health        | Ruth Brown                                       |
| Health        | Darlington Primary Care Trust                    |

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| Health        | Health Development Agency                    |
| Health        | NHS Estates                                  |
| Health        | Darlington Senior Citizens Association       |
| Health        | Jonathan Smith                               |
| Health        | NHS Executive - Northern & Yorkshire Region  |
| Housebuilder  | Clarion Homes Ltd                            |
| Housebuilder  | Persimmon Homes (NE) Ltd                     |
| Housebuilder  | Broseley Homes                               |
| Housebuilder  | Bussey & Armstrong Ltd                       |
| Housebuilder  | Shepherd Homes Ltd                           |
| Housebuilder  | McCarthy & Stone (Dev'ts) Ltd                |
| Housebuilder  | Briery Homes Limited                         |
| Housebuilder  | Bellway Homes Ltd                            |
| Housebuilder  | Home Builders Federation (North East Region) |
| Housebuilder  | Cussins Limited                              |
| Housebuilder  | Miller Homes                                 |
| Housebuilder  | Darlington Homes                             |
| Housebuilder  | Thoroughbred Homes Ltd                       |
| Housebuilder  | Haslam Homes                                 |
| Housebuilder  | Keepmoat plc                                 |
| Housebuilder  | Alfred McAlpine                              |
| Housebuilder  | Barratt Newcastle Ltd                        |
| Housebuilder  | Yuill Homes                                  |
| Housebuilder  | Beckside Properties                          |
| Housebuilder  | George Wimpey Strategic Land                 |
| Housing Assoc | Endeavor Housing Association                 |
| Housing Assoc | Three Rivers Housing Group                   |
| Housing Assoc | Railway Housing Association                  |
| Housing Assoc | Home Housing Association                     |
| Housing Assoc | Bradford & Northern Housing Association      |
| Housing Assoc | Salvation Army Housing Association           |

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| Housing Assoc | Hanover Housing Association           |
| Housing Assoc | Darlington Housing Association        |
| Housing Assoc | Stonham Housing Association           |
| Housing Assoc | Tees Valley Housing Association       |
| Housing Assoc | Banks of the Wear Housing Association |
| Housing Assoc | Two Castles Housing Association       |
| Housing Assoc | North British Housing Association     |
| Housing Assoc | YMCA Housing Association              |
| Landowner     | Mr. David A Gent                      |
| Landowner     | Church Commissioners for England      |
| Landowner     | Rail Property Limited                 |
| Landowner     | High Point Estates                    |
| Local Govt    | Sedgefield Borough Council            |
| Local Govt    | Hambleton District Council            |
| Local Govt    | Tees Valley Regeneration              |
| Local Govt    | Hartlepool Borough Council            |
| Local Govt    | Tees Valley Rural Community Council   |
| Local Govt    | Richmondshire District Council        |
| Local Govt    | Middlesbrough Council                 |
| Local Govt    | Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council    |
| Local Govt    | North Yorkshire County Council        |
| Local Govt    | Durham County Council, Environment    |
| Local Govt    | Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit       |
| Local Govt    | Teesdale District Council             |
| Local Govt    | Wear Valley District Council          |
| Local Govt    | Stockton on Tees Borough Council      |
| Media         | Alpha 103.2                           |
| Media         | Evening Gazette                       |
| Media         | Darlington Advertiser                 |
| Media         | Hospital Radio                        |
| Media         | Darlington & Stockton Times           |



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| Media          | BBC Radio Cleveland                        |
| Media          | BBC Radio Cleveland                        |
| Media          | TFM  |
| Media          | BBC North East                             |
| Media          | Herald & Post                              |
| Media          | Tyne Tees Television                       |
| Media          | Northern Echo                              |
| MP             | Stephen Hughes, MEP                        |
| MP             | Alan Milburn, MP                           |
| MP             | Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP                    |
| Parish Council | Houghton-le-Side Parish Meeting            |
| Parish Council | Heighington Parish Council                 |
| Parish Council | Coatham Mundeville Parish Meeting          |
| Parish Council | Archdeacon Newton Parish Council           |
| Parish Council | Brafferton Parish                          |
| Parish Council | Great Stainton Parish Meeting              |
| Parish Council | Killerby Parish Meeting                    |
| Parish Council | Morton Palms Parish Meeting                |
| Parish Council | Walworth Parish Meeting                    |
| Parish Council | East and West Newbiggin Parish Meeting     |
| Parish Council | Denton Parish Meeting                      |
| Parish Council | Bishopton Parish Council                   |
| Parish Council | Summerhouse Parish Meeting                 |
| Parish Council | High Coniscliffe Parish Council            |
| Parish Council | Hurworth Parish Council                    |
| Parish Council | Low Coniscliffe & Merrybent Parish Council |
| Parish Council | Low Dinsdale Parish Council                |
| Parish Council | Middleton-St-George Parish Council         |
| Parish Council | Neasham Parish Council                     |
| Parish Council | Piercebridge Parish Council                |
| Parish Council | Sadberge Parish Council                    |

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| Parish Council      | Whessoe Parish Council             |
| Parish Council      | Barmpton Parish Meeting            |
| Parish Council      | Sockburn Parish Meeting            |
| Parish Council      | Great Burdon Parish Meeting        |
| Parish Council      | Little Stainton Parish Meeting     |
| Planning consultant | Ward Hadaway                       |
| Planning consultant | Carter Jonas                       |
| Planning consultant | Walker Morris                      |
| Planning Consultant | Development Planning Partnership   |
| Planning Consultant | Stewart Roff Associates            |
| Planning Consultant | Terrace Hill                       |
| Planning consultant | Smiths Gore                        |
| Planning consultant | Signet Planning                    |
| Planning consultant | W A Fairhurst & Partners           |
| Planning consultant | Wardell Armstrong                  |
| Planning consultant | Padgett Lavender Associates        |
| Planning consultant | Wilson & Womersley                 |
| Planning consultant | Davis Planning Partnership         |
| Planning consultant | Niven Architects                   |
| Planning consultant | England & Lyle                     |
| Planning consultant | Blackett Hart & Pratt              |
| Planning consultant | Entec UK Ltd                       |
| Planning consultant | Barton Wilmore                     |
| Planning consultant | Bryant Homes Northern Ltd          |
| Planning consultant | Wardell Armstrong Consulting Group |
| Planning consultant | Tesco Stores Ltd                   |
| Planning consultant | RPS Chapman Warren                 |
| Religion            | Grange Road Baptist Church         |
| Religion            | Baptist Tabernacle                 |
| Religion            | St Herbert's Church                |
| Religion            | All Saints Church                  |

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| Religion | St Matthew & St Luke Church                       |
| Religion | Holy Family RC Church                             |
| Religion | Holy Trinity Church                               |
| Religion | The Mosque  |
| Religion | St Anne's RC Church                               |
| Religion | Religious Society of Friends (Darlington Meeting) |
| Religion | St Mark's Church                                  |
| Religion | Cockerton Methodist Church                        |
| Religion | St Cuthbert's Church                              |
| Religion | All Saints Church                                 |
| Religion | St Augustine's RC Church                          |
| Religion | Elim Pentecostal Church                           |
| Religion | St Columba's Church                               |
| Religion | Elm Ridge Methodist Church                        |
| Religion | St James' Church                                  |
| Religion | St Thomas Aquinas RC Church                       |
| Religion | Sikh Temple                                       |
| Religion | St Andrew's Church                                |
| Religion | St Theresa's RC Church                            |
| Religion | Geneva Road Baptist Church                        |
| Religion | St Mary's Church                                  |
| Religion | United Reformed Church                            |
| Religion | Salvation Army Citadel                            |
| Religion | Bondgate & Pierremont Methodist Church            |
| Religion | Assembly of God Pentecostal Church                |
| Religion | Harrowgate Hill & Haughton Methodist Church       |
| Religion | Darlington Methodist District                     |
| Religion | Northland Methodist Church                        |
| Religion | St William's Church                               |
| Resident | Joanne Scott                                      |
| Resident | Anne Charlton                                     |

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| Resident         | K Cheadle                               |
| Resident         | Steve Rose                              |
| Resident         | Kevin Dolan                             |
| Resident         | J P Rodwell                             |
| Resident         | Mr M Landers                            |
| Resident         | Kevin Raby                              |
| Resident         | G L Jones                               |
| Resident         | Ron Lewis                               |
| Resident         | John Monkhouse                          |
| Resident         | C V Johnson                             |
| Resident         | Jeremy Smith                            |
| Resident         | Ms Y Richardson                         |
| Resident         | Mike Crawley                            |
| Resident         | Eric Roberts                            |
| Resident         | Don Moody                               |
| Resident         | Mike Haw                                |
| Resident         | Bill Parry                              |
| Resident         | Jan Finn                                |
| Residents assoc  | Skerne Park Youth & Community Centre    |
| Residents assoc  | Blackwell Grange Area Residents' Assn   |
| Residents assoc  | Branksome & Cockerton Residents Assoc.  |
| Residents Assoc  | Cockerton East Community Partnership    |
| Residents assoc  | Rise Carr Residents Assoc.              |
| Residents assoc  | North Road Community Partnership        |
| Residents assoc  | Westbrook Villas Residents' Association |
| Residents assoc  | Parkside Residents Assoc.               |
| Residents Assoc. | Whinfield Residents Association         |
| Residents Assoc. | Red Hall Residents Assn                 |
| Residents Assoc. | Springfield Residents Assn              |
| Residents Assoc. | Lascelles Residents Assoc.              |
| Sport            | Disability Sport England                |

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| Sport       | Middleton St George Cricket & Social Club        |
| Sport       | Disability Sport England                         |
| Sport       | Railway Athletic Club                            |
| Sport       | Darlington Cricket Club                          |
| Sport       | Darlington Golf Club Limited                     |
| Sport       | National Playing Fields Association              |
| Sport       | Central Council of Physical Recreation           |
| Transport   | Rail Property Limited                            |
| Utility     | Northumbrian Water Ltd                           |
| Voluntary   | Soroptimist International, Darlington & District |
| Voluntary   | Darlington District Youth & Community Council    |
| Voluntary   | Darlington Federation of Towns Womens Guilds     |
| Voluntary   | Durham County Federation of Women's Institutes   |
| Voluntary   | Age Concern & Bowling Club                       |
| Voluntary   | National Council of Women                        |
| Voluntary   | National Council of Women of GB                  |
| Voluntary   | WEA Darlington Branch                            |
| Voluntary   | Darlington Council for Voluntary Service         |
| Voluntary   | Citizens Advice Bureau                           |
| Youth group | Haughton Youth Centre                            |