

# Darlington Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2012

## FLOOD RISK FACT SHEET



### WHAT THE LOCAL PLAN SETS OUT TO DO

- Guide new development to places where flood risk to people and property can be avoided or mitigated, both on site and upstream or downstream of any proposed development.

### WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

**Flood Management:** The Environment Agency has spent £3.6 million on a flood mitigation scheme at Neasham, south of Darlington. The works commenced in Autumn 2011 and recently reached completion stage. Funding has been spent on building new flood walls and flood banks around Neasham Abbey, the village green, the Tees Way and the road bridge over Kent Beck has been replaced so that it forms part of the new defences. The works will provide protection from events with a 1% probability of flooding in any given year on both Kent Beck and River Tees.

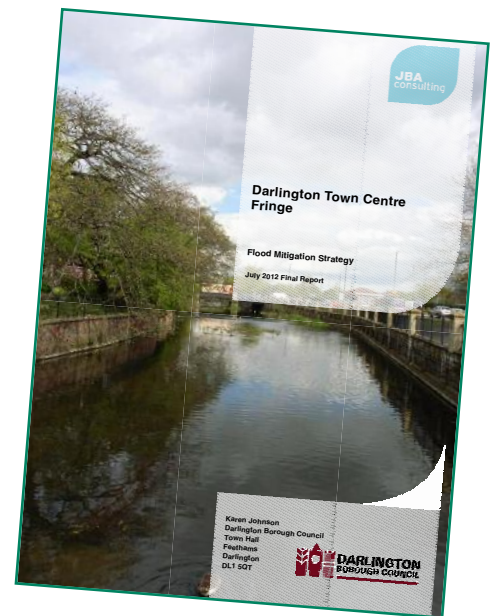
During 2011/12, the Council prepared the Town Centre Fringe Flood Risk Mitigation Strategy. The Final report was published in July 2012. The strategy provides a detailed assessment of flood risk for the Town Centre Fringe Masterplan area and supported the Council bid for Regional Local Levy funding.

These additional resources are being used to establish detailed plans and costs for a flood management scheme for the Town Centre Fringe, between Victoria Embankment and Skerne Bridge. This will provide details of properties and land which will benefit from improved flood mitigation along the River Skerne.

**Surface Water Management:** During 2011/12, Northumbrian Water has completed a £2.2 million project to upgrade the sewerage network in the Bedford Street area of Darlington, including a 1.75 million litre capacity underground storm water storage tank in South Park. This will reduce the risk of flooding to South Park and the adjacent housing.

Sustainable drainage ponds have been incorporated alongside West Beck to manage surface water run off from the new Park View development (the former Alderman Leach school site). Collection of surface water run off in two large ponds will reduce flood risk to West Beck.

This is one example of several Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) implemented in the Borough during the last year.



Example of Sustainable Drainage Ponds



### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Flood risk is being addressed according to the priorities identified and as resources permit. Climate change will continue to be a key factor impacting on flood risk. Flood management will be a pre-requisite of new development in areas at risk of flooding. Flood risk areas are identified on the Environment Agency's website.

Sustainable drainage systems can help reduce the impact of surface water flooding from new development. These are expected to be required from most new developments in future. These will be an important part of the design of new development.

### MOVING THINGS FORWARD: KEY ACTIONS

- Continue to work with developers to ensure, when appropriate, most new developments include sustainable drainage schemes.
- Continue to ensure that developments at risk of flooding provide details of appropriate flood mitigation as part of the planning application.
- Development will be located, in the emerging Local Plan document 'Making and Growing Places' in parts of the Borough and within each development site according to a sequential approach; development will be located in areas of low flood risk (Flood Zone 1 and 2) before areas of high flood risk are considered (Flood Zone 3a).
- Set out detailed policy guidance on sustainable drainage requirements for new development sites within the emerging Making and Growing Places Local Plan document.
- Progress work to establish the feasibility of and access to funding for flood risk management work of the River Skerne as part of the Town Centre Fringe Mitigation Plan.

**Contact Us:** You can access more information on planning policy in Darlington at:

[www.darlington.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

If you are particularly interested in statistics and data for Darlington borough, you can view these at:

<http://lis.darlington.gov.uk/>

Alternatively, contact the Planning Policy Team on **01325 388644** or email [planning.policy@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@darlington.gov.uk)

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