Daring 2022 Carling to the second se



Learning & Skills Darlington



Study programmes SIGN UP NOW!

Those who ioin the **Study Programme** may be entitled to free lunch and free travel

Aged 16-18 years old? Not in employment or education?

Make 2022 the year you develop your personal, social and employability skills. Gain some real-life work experience with an employer to increase your chances of gaining employment, further training or an apprenticeship. You may even qualify for free lunches and free weekly travel with Arriva North East.

Apprenticeship vacancies

Becoming an apprentice is easy! Employers across the Tees Valley are looking to employ new apprentices across a variety of industries and sectors.

EMPLOYERS NEED YOU!

Apprenticeships allow you to earn while you learn. You will be paid at least the Apprenticeship National Minimum Wage as you learn new skills and knowledge through high quality on and off the job training. There's no upper age limit either, anyone 16+ can apply.

What are you waiting for? View local apprenticeship vacancies today. Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/apprenticeships





Adult learning

Free learning opportunities for those aged 19 upwards, helping adults learn new skills and boost career opportunities in a variety of subject areas. We offer online and in centre courses for:

- Functional Skills maths, English and ICT
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- GCSEs in maths and English
- Level 3 Diplomas (free subject to eligibility)

- Further Education
- Community Learning
- Family Learning
- Distance Learning
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) modules
- And lots more!

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> **WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU. SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE** INFORMATION.



SCAN ME

Learning & Skills

Terms and conditions apply.

CALL 01325 405601 TEXT 07932 869325 **EMAIL** l&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

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Welcome to One Darlington



Welcome to the first One Darlington of 2022 – we hope you had a fantastic Christmas and are looking forward to an optimistic new year.

The decorations may have gone back in the loft for another year, but it will only be a few more weeks until spring is in the air.

Hang in there for the last few weeks of winter – our featured picture, of the River Tees between Broken Scar and Blackwell, shows the kind of weather we'll hopefully be enjoying before we know it.

We take a look back at some of the highlights from 2021 on page 26, while the centre spread is full of information about some of the great events coming up this month and next.

If it's reasons to be cheerful you're looking for, head to pages 4 and 5 to find out about the £1.6m investment in grassroots facilities at Eastbourne Sports Complex.

This year will be an important one for the council's efforts to become environmentally friendly. Climate change officer Emma Moore is profiled as part of our #50Faces series, showcasing some of the council's dedicated staff and their roles. Find out more on page 16.

Elsewhere, if you have the desire to find a new challenge this new year, turn to page 34 to read more about this month's police recruitment drive. Could you become a police officer?

Thank you for reading One Darlington, we hope you enjoy this issue. See you in March!

Inside this issue

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The next issue will be out in early March. If you haven't received your copy by mid-March, please call 0800 160 1552.

An audio version of One Darlington is also available at www.darlington.gov.uk/onedarlington

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Eastbourne Sports Complex o

Eastbourne Sports Complex has scored an investment of £1.6m for improvements to its outdoor facilities.

The investment agreed by the council's cabinet includes the refurbishment of the the athletics track and an increase in parking facilities to allow for more visitors.

A new artificial grass pitch will also be added if additional funding is awarded by the Football Foundation.

Opened in 1999, Eastbourne Sports Complex provides a range of facilities for several athletic and football clubs across the town which use the site on a weekly basis. In addition to schools, partners and casual use, there are approximately 170,000 visits a year.

As one of the town's most popular sporting hubs, the investment at Eastbourne Sports Complex will have a positive impact on our community's health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, which is more important than ever for anyone

who has felt an impact on their health due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The proposed upgrades to the running track will mean that Darlington schools will again be able to host accredited national school competitions, helping us to inspire and motivate future generations of young people.

In addition, by improving access to and increasing the parking offered at the complex, more people across the town will be able to use and enjoy the outdoor facilities.

Partners of the complex have welcomed the investment, including Darlington Locomotives Football Club, the Martin Gray Football Academy and Darlington Harriers & Athletics Club.



Councillor Kevin Nicholson on the track at Eastbourne Sports Complex

n track for £1.6m investment



As managing director of the academy, which has been using the complex for the last 12 years, Martin Gray was especially ecstatic about the funding.

Reacting to the news, he said: "It's really exciting that the approval for the £1.6m funding has happened.

"So many people, including our partners and the council, worked extremely hard to pull together an achievable proposal.

"Now that the work can go ahead, we can see more people get involved with grassroots sports, bringing together people from across our communities to enjoy the facilities on offer at the complex."

As well as updating and extending the outdoor facilities, the site will also be made more secure with improvements to the fencing surrounding the pitches and running track. This will mean that when a match or race is on at the complex, visitors and participants will be safer on site.

To see how the improvements are keeping on track, visit our website and follow our social media channels.



Coach Lee Hutton

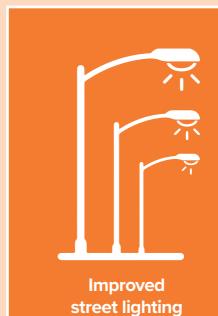
www.darlington.gov.uk one Darlington 05



Keeping us all safe

Introducing Safer Streets - a campaign aimed at making us all feel safer in public.

Last year, more than £450,000 was awarded to the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office from the Home Office's Safer Streets 3 fund. Working with partners including Durham Constabulary and the council, the money will support a variety of activities including:





E-bikes so police can respond to incidents quickly and patrol cycle tracks, parks and woodlands



A special team in town centre to respond to incidents



Specialist training for licensed premises and door staff



Teaching young people about relationship safety, stalking and coercive behaviour



Helping sports clubs make their members feel safer

Almost 1,300 people responded to a police-led survey last year which aimed to find out how safe women and girls in the area felt and what could be done to improve the situation.

We hope these measures will help address the issues raised. If you have any other ideas on how things can be improved please email andrew.allison@darlington.gov.uk

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Budget plans will help

The council's budget for the next financial year – and its four-year medium term financial plan (MTFP) – are out for public consultation.

Recent years have seen a growing demand for services in relation to social care across both adults and children's services.

Roughly two thirds of the council's spending is in these areas, and this is expected to increase over the coming years.

The pandemic put significant pressure on these and other service areas. Despite this, the council has risen to the challenge by continuing to provide vital core services, supporting our residents and businesses throughout the pandemic and investing resources available in growing the Darlington economy, which will benefit all.

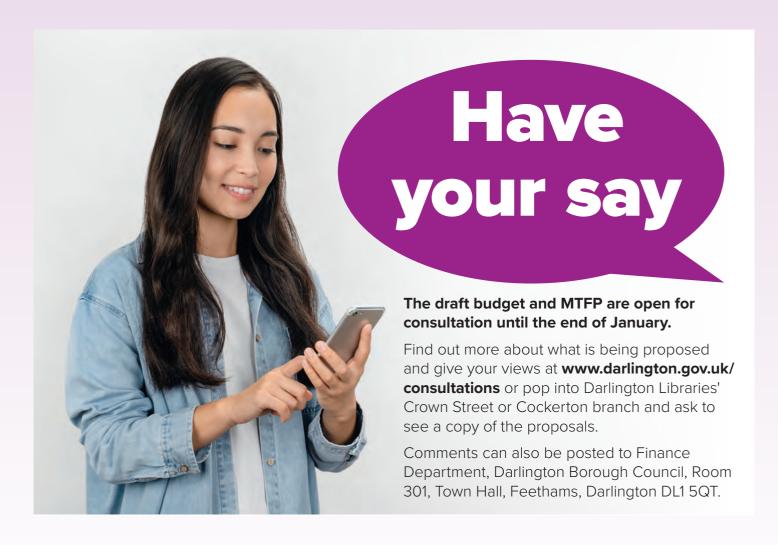
The council has taken early action to ensure it is in

a strong financial position and is able to continue to invest in areas such as community safety, the street environment and our town centre events programme.

Not only does the MTFP allow net revenue investment of more than £100m per year over the next four years, there is also capital investment of £157m in our roads, housing and community assets, which creates the conditions and opportunities for further growth.

The proposals include a 1.99 per cent Council Tax increase for 2022/23 to continue to fund vital services, and a further one per cent precept to help fund the critical area of adult social care.

Once the consultation is over, the plans will be reviewed again, and a final version will be voted on by councillors in the coming weeks.



deliver success



Where will your money





Adult Social Care

£38.9m



Children's **Services**

£28.1m



Environment grass cutting, parks

£6.1m



Highways

£4.6m



Education and Learning

£4.1m



Arts, Culture and Leisure

£3.4m



Waste **Management**

£3.3m



Concessionary Fares

£3.4m



Planning, **Development** and Regeneration

£1.7m



Housing, Welfare and Benefits

£1.5m



Democratic Services

£2m



Councillors' Allowances

£0.7m

Looking ahead with optimism

Leader of the council Heather Scott and deputy leader Jonathan Dulston reflect on last year and look ahead to 2022 and beyond

Happy new year everyone, we hope you all had a relaxing Christmas and feel refreshed, ready to take on all 2022 brings.

We start with a renewed sense of optimism as we look forward to another year focusing on delivering your priorities.

Although the pandemic still casts a shadow, we truly hope that this will be the year when the world starts to recover from Covid and bounce back.

In Darlington, there is so much to look forward to - and it won't be long until the days start getting longer and spring is in the air.

With that in mind, the green agenda remains a priority for the council in 2022 and beyond.

We've set out our ambition to become carbon neutral by 2050 and this year we'll be calling on everyone to play their part in helping to tackle climate change. Turn to page 29 to find out more about how you can do your bit.

Elsewhere, we'll be bringing a paper to cabinet in February setting out our plans for levelling up communities across Darlington – you'll be hearing lots more about that over the course of this year.

The last couple of years have been unbelievably tough, but we've been incredibly impressed with the resilience and community spirit people have shown across Darlington. It was fantastic to be able to reward some of those who make our town sparkle at the Stronger Communities Awards last year. Turn over for a full round-up of all the winners. The awards will be back again later this year — watch this space.

Despite the challenges we face, there is lots to smile about and every reason to go into the new year feeling positive.





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Contact your councillor

Key: (C) Conservative (G) Green (I) Independent (L) Labour (LD) Liberal Democrats

Your councillor is there to listen to you and find out about the issues that are affecting life in your ward. If there are no ward surgery details listed for your local councillor(s), you can email or call them.

Find out more at

www.darlington.gov.uk/your-council/democracy

Emailing councillors

To email your councillor, their email address is firstname.

lastname@darlington.gov.uk

For example, if you want to email Heather Scott, type in heather. scott@darlington.gov.uk

The only exceptions are Andy Scott (Haughton and Springfield), lan Bell (Harrowgate Hill) and Anne-Marie Curry (North Road). Their email addresses are shown with their contact details.

BANK TOP AND LASCELLES

Helen Crumbie (L) Tel: 07743 191014. Wendy Newall (L) Tel: 251574. Darrien Wright (I) Tel: 07724 384264.

BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE

Scott Durham (C) Tel: 07805 505156. **Rachel Mills (C)** Tel: 482906/07786 077189. Lisa Preston (C) Tel: 07793 662154.

COCKERTON

Paul Baldwin (I) Tel: 07515 814007. Jan Cossins (L) Tel: 241124. Eddie Heslop (L) Tel: 406444.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553. Matthew Snedker (G) Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, 17 January, 14 February & 21 March 6-7pm

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07775 555251; Firthmoor Community Centre, 26 January, 23 February & 30 March 3-4pm. Kevin Nicholson (I) Tel: 07791 807629. Steven Tait (I) Tel: 07825 303036. Firthmoor Community Centre, 20 January, 17 February & 17 March.

HARROWGATE HILL

lan Bell (C) Tel: 07581 300111, ian.bell2@darlington.gov.uk. By appointment only. Jon Clarke (C) Tel: 07875 057253. By appointment only, Whessoe Parish Hall, 12 January, 9 February & 9 March 6-7pm. Lynn Paley (I) Tel: 07963 706171. By appointment only, Harrowgate CIU Ltd, 12 January, 9 February & 9 March 6-7pm.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 283262. Andy Scott (L) Tel: 253707, andrew.scott@darlington.gov.uk; Nick Wallis (L) Tel: 07960 247554. Asda Foyer, 5 February & 5 March 10-11am.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622. Paul Crudass (C) Tel: 374537. Summerhouse Village Hall, 5 February 10-11am, High Coniscliffe Church Hall 5 March 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Charles Johnson (C) Tel: 463712. Jack Sowerby (C) Tel: 07730 480295. By appointment only, Hummersknott Academy, 24 January, 28 February, & 28 March 6-7pm.

HURWORTH

Christy Chou (C) Tel: 405998. Lorraine Tostevin (C) Tel: 333382. By appointment only. Hurworth Grange Library, 7 February & 7 March 6-7pm.

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482. Alan Marshall (C) Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, 7 February, 7 March 6.30-

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998. Eleanor Lister (L) Tel: 406444.

NORTH ROAD

Hilary Allen (LD) Tel: 480277. Nigel Boddy (LD) Tel: 07583 174104. **Anne-Marie Curry (LD)** Tel: 07531304050, annemarie. curry@darlington.gov.uk. Morrisons (Café), 11 January, 8 February & 8 March 6-7pm. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 25 January, 22 February & 22 March 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975; Libby McCollom (L) Tel: 07910 369887; Michael Nicholson (L) Tel: 240750. The Forum, 11 January 6-7pm, St Columba's, 18 February 6-7pm & St Augustines, 1 March 6.30-7.15pm.

PARK WEST

Bob Donoghue (C) Tel: 07767 294194. Heather Scott (C) Tel: 468547. By appointment only.

PIERREMONT

Stephen Harker (L) Tel: 380039. Linda Hughes (L) Tel: 07904 772387; Mary Layton (L) 491802 or 07460 980776. Reid Street Primary School, 5 January, 2 February & 2 March 6-7pm

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Hilary Lucas (L) Tel: 249215. Ward surgeries: Red Hall Community Centre, 12 January, 9 February & 9 March 6-7pm. David Willis (C) Tel: 0113 3280943.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Brian Jones (C) Tel: 332820. Doris Jones (C) Tel: 332820. Deborah Laing (C) Tel: 07747 863297. By appointment only.

STEPHENSON

lan Haszeldine (L) Tel: 496548. Mike Renton (C) Tel: 07495 697592. St James the Great Church 26 January 6-7.30pm, Wesley Court, 23 February 6-7.30pm St James the Great Church, 30 March 6-7.30pm.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651. Andy Keir (C) Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, 5 February & 5 March 11-12am.

MPs' SURGERIES:



Peter Gibson (Darlington MP)

can be contacted through his constituency office at 34 Duke Street, Darlington, DL3 7TZ. Call 711711 or email peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk



Paul Howell (Sedgefield MP)

can be contacted by email at paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk



Ben Houchen – TEES VALLEY MAYOR

Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park, Stockton-on-Tees, Tees Valley, TS17 6QY Tel: 01642 524401 or email mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Stronger Communities

The Stronger Communities Awards are an annual opportunity to recognise residents, volunteers, businesses and entrepreneurs who have made a significant contribution to the local areas.

A huge congratulations to all the winners and nominees from the 2021 awards which took place at the Dolphin Centre!

Award Winners

- 1. **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** Sponsored by Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College Elena Capbun
- 2. **EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT** Sponsored by Teesside University Rachael Brown
- 3. **VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE** Sponsored by Darlington College Mario Krupa
- 4. **BRINGING SUCCESS TO DARLINGTON** Sponsored by Darlington Building Society The Bread & Butter Thing
- 5. **ABOVE & BEYOND BUSINESS AWARD** Sponsored by Darlington Council Simon & Rachel Leadbetter, Mowden Pub
- 6. **BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY** Sponsored by EE On Track Learning
- 7. **CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY** Sponsored by County Durham Community Foundation Joanne Hammond
- 8. **CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT** Sponsored by Cummins Darlington Forest Project
- 9. **CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS** Sponsored by Creative Darlington James Watson, Darlington Film Club
- 10. **CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT** Sponsored by Darlington Football Club Sharon & Craig Graham, Mount Pleasant Rangers
- 11. **PERFORMANCE IN SPORT (TEAM)** Sponsored by Move More Darlington Darlington Cricket Club Under 17s
- 12. **PERFORMANCE IN SPORT (INDIVIDUAL)** Sponsored by Move More Darlington Morgan Curtis
- 13. **EXCEPTIONAL CARE** Sponsored by Primary Healthcare Darlington Lifeline Services
- 14. **PUBLIC SERVICE HERO** Sponsored by County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Graham Hall
- 15. **EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEER** Sponsored by Durham Police & Crime Commissioner Michael Taylor
- 16. **EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG VOLUNTEER** Sponsored by HSBC UK Ethan Partis
- 17. **CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION** Sponsored by DBC Education & Inclusion Team Red Hall Primary School
- 18. **COVID HERO** Sponsored by Public Health Darlington Craig Shields
- 19. **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** Sponsored by Darlington Rotary John Appleton
- 20. **YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** Sponsored by Darlington Council Daisy Simpson



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Stronger



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14.



Awards **2021**



| DARLINGTON | Borough Council

Alasdair MacConachie received a special commendation for his years of dedicated service to Darlington

































Looking for something rewarding to do in 2022?

Become a volunteer and help tackle loneliness in Darlington's Elderly Community.

To make a difference in someone's life you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect... You just have to care. Join our team of trusted volunteers. There are lots of different ways that you can get involved:

Volunteer visitor

Dropping in for a chat and a cup of tea with one of our "Friends" in their own homes can brighten up their day or maybe you can help out with the grocery shop or visit a "Friend" in hospital.

Volunteer driver

If you like driving why not help with taking someone to their hospital or medical appointment, or out on a shopping trip. We also have a programme of social events including lunch clubs and day trips so you can join in on the fun.

Volunteer Fund Raiser

Join the Fund raising team, all you need is enthusiasm, ideas and some organisational skills.

How much time do I need to commit?

Finding spare time can be difficult so we make it easy for you. You choose the days and times when you are free to help.

Visit the "Get involved" section on our website or call 07943 251357 and join us today.

We look forward to seeing you soon.





Missioner 0794 3251357 © dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk
7 / Darlingtontownmission www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

A local charity trusted since 1838

Registered Address 2 Davison Road, Darlington, DL1 3DR - Reg.charity no. 235572



Helping to tackle domestic abuse PARLINGTON BOTOUGH COUNCIL

One in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic abuse in their lives.

It is important that every member of our community knows what domestic abuse is and how to get support.

No one should live with abuse and there are services and support available to help everyone.

The council supported the national 16 days of action to tackle domestic abuse, which ran throughout November and into December.

A programme of events took place across Darlington including events run by the council, partner organisations and charities.

For details of support services available, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/domesticabusesupport

If you would like to feedback to the council or get involved in the domestic abuse awareness raising campaign, please email domestic.abuse@darlington.gov.uk

Download our apparent and do it online!



Since its launch, hundreds of you have downloaded our new app.

The app allows residents to use their smartphone or tablet to quickly report issues, check bin collections, see where roadworks are and much more.

Using the My Darlington app you can report fly tips, potholes and anti-social behaviour on your phone, pinpointing exactly where the issue is on a map. You can also send photos to show what the problem is.

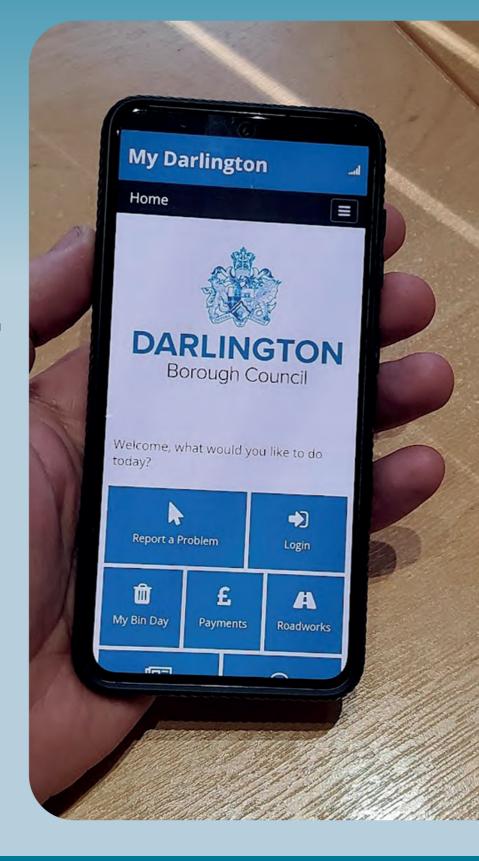
The information is then sent straight to the relevant team who can investigate and sort the problem.

You can use the app on a phone, tablet or desktop to make payments via a MyDarlington account, check out the latest news, take part in consultations and see what's on in your neighbourhood.

There are plans to add more features to the app in the future.

The app makes it quicker and easier for many people to contact us but of course, if you still want to ring us or make an appointment to come to the customer contact centre, you are more than welcome to do so. See page 22 for contact details

To download the app go to www.darlington.gov.uk click on the 'install our app' button and follow the on screen instructions.



www.darlington.gov.uk one Darlington 15

"I am passionate about the environment and want to do everything I can to tackle climate change"



Emma Moore, climate change officer

"I joined the council in October 2021. My work involves helping to monitor and reduce the council's carbon emissions and look at ways that we, as a council, can adapt to climate change. I am part of a small team dedicated to helping the council achieve its aim to become carbon neutral by 2050.

I am passionate about the environment and want to do everything I can to tackle climate change. My job is important because climate change is the most pressing problem we all face. Everyone must do their bit to tackle, mitigate and reduce climate change; it is a global effort that requires local action.

I love being able to learn something new every day, and research a topic I am very interested in; talking to people about climate change and hearing their thoughts and ideas on the subject. I am especially keen to work with younger people to help them understand these issues and how they can get involved. I'll also be working with our team of climate change champions, volunteers from across the council who are passionate about helping us achieve our carbon neutral goal.

I believe a lot more people now understand what climate change is, and what it means for them, and future generations. However, there is still some belief that it isn't happening, or it isn't really a big problem as there have been climate fluctuations in the geological past, so some people ask why is this any different?

Yes, climate has fluctuated in the past, but it is the rate that it is now happening which is so

Borough Council

alarming and the reason it is an emergency, that we need to tackle now, and into the future. I want to help people realise the severity of the climate change emergency and help them tackle it.

One of my personal passions is our coral reefs. They are being hit hard because of climate change, with ocean acidification, sediment, and bleaching caused by rising ocean temperatures; they simply don't have the time to adapt to the rapidly changing climate. I also enjoy gardening and have learnt a lot about the natural

world, and how to reuse things instead of throwing them away. I hope to be able to use these skills in my work."

Find out more about the council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050 and how you can help to play your part at www.darlington.gov.uk/ sustainable

You can also take a look at Emma's blog on gardening and other blogs by clicking the link on the page.

How can you help tackle climate change?

Turn to page 29 to find out more



Take the lead – make sure your dog is microchipped and tagged!

Losing a cherished pet can be heart-breaking but by making sure your dog is microchipped and wears a tag you have a better chance of being reunited.

By law, any dog over eight weeks old must be microchipped and you could be fined up to £500 if your pet is unchipped or your details are not up-to-date.

If you're buying a puppy make sure it's microchipped before you take it home as dog breeders, whether or not they run a business, are responsible for ensuring puppies are microchipped.

Your local vet can microchip your dog and some animal charities and organisations offer the service for free. They can also check if your dog is microchipped.

As well as being microchipped, your dog must also wear a collar with your name and address on when



in a public place. Your details can be on the collar or on a tag attached to the collar. You can also add your phone number so you can be contacted if your dog is found.

More details can be found on our website at www.darlington.gov.uk/communitysafety



www.darlington.gov.uk one Darlington 17



Working together to make our streets safer

Cutting back overgrown hedges and trees not only makes your garden look better, it could help keep our streets safe.

The recent 'Call it Out' survey by the police, which focussed on the concerns of women and girls, revealed that overhanging foliage and branches make some residents feel unsafe.

Overgrown branches can block out streetlights and get in the way of CCTV. They can also make it difficult for people to stay on the pavement, potentially blocking the route for people in wheelchairs or with pushchairs, and forcing others into the road, which is especially dangerous when there is less daylight and conditions can be treacherous.

The council cuts back hedges and shrubs on its land between September and the end of March to make sure the work is done before nesting season.

Don't be part of the problem, please cut back your hedges and shrubs, if you don't the council can, and does, take action.

Chief Superintendent Adrian Green, of Durham Constabulary, said: "This is just a small part of the work we and our partners are doing to help reduce crime and improve public confidence, but it can make a big difference and I hope it's something residents will support."

Don't forget you can report safety issues on footpaths and road at www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit or on the My Darlington app.



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Step Forward into 2022



Our free, one to one support could help you take your next steps.

Call us to see how we can help: 01325 525 100

Our support for you:

- Improving your mental health
- Developing your digital skills
- Easing your money worries
- Learning new skills
- Getting into volunteering
- Considering moving into work

Step Forward get support, and thrive

Darlington

Find out more by visiting us online at: www.sfteesvalley.co.uk







ENJOY WHAT'S O

Christmas may be a fading memory for another year, but there's still plenty going on to keep us entertained. Please be aware the events may be subject to change/postponement if government guidelines change. You should always check with event organisers/venues before travelling. For more details of what's on, visit enjoydarlington.co.uk or follow #LoveDarlo on Facebook

Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington?

Email your events for March and April to communications@darlington.gov.uk

parkrun and junior parkrun – weekends, South Park. A free, weekly, timed run, walk or jog. The 5km event is on Saturdays at 9am. The 2km junior event, for those aged 4-14, is on Sundays at 9am.

JANUARY

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S

Rocky Horror Show – Monday 3-Saturday 8, Darlington Hippodrome. Get your suspenders on and get ready to do the Time Warp as the cult classic returns to town.

Beatlemania – Friday 7, 7.30pm, The Forum. One of the world's leading Beatles tribute acts for more than 20 years, playing all the hits. Tickets £12.50.

Station Scamps – Fridays, 10am-noon, Head of Steam Railway Museum. A weekly programme of under 5s activities. Included in family annual passes, and £2 per adult for non-members. Children aged 5 and under are free.

John Verity Band – Friday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum. A veteran performer on the blues/rock circuit, John Verity has opened for Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. Tickets £13.50.

Youth Theatre – Monday 17 and Thursday 20, various times, Darlington Hippdrome. A new term of Youth Theatre classes, with separate weekly 90 minute sessions available for children aged 7-10, 10-13 and 13+. To book a course of 20 lessons contact the theatre.

Arts classes – Monday 17, various days and times, The Bridge Centre for Arts. The spring term schedule of classes will begin on 17 January, including painting and drawing, ceramics, jewellery making and photography. For a full course list and information on how to sign up for a class, visit www.thebridgedarlington.org.uk



Saturday Night Fever – Tuesday 18- Saturday 22, various times, Darlington Hippodrome. Featuring the Bee Gees greatest hits, follow Tony Manero and his reckless road to dance success.

Dementia Café – Wednesday 19, 11am-noon, Head of Steam Railway Museum. For people living with dementia and their family and carers. Join us for a friendly chat. Free admission, includes entry to the museum.

IN DARLINGTON

McFleetwood – Friday 21, 7.30pm, The Forum. A rearranged date from July 2021, Scotland's hit tribute to Fleetwood Mac will perform all the classics. Tickets £14.

Royal Northern Sinfonia – Sunday 23, 4pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Making a welcome return to Darlington, with new principal conductor Dinis Sousa. Featuring audience-favourites by Bach and Mozart and a new commission written and performed by RNS and Hippodrome volunteers.

Railway Coffee Morning – Thursday 27, 11-1.30pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Open to all former railway employees, join us for a cuppa, guest speakers and trips to railway heritage sites. Free admission, includes entry to the museum.

Holocaust Memorial Day – Thursday 27, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. The free event in the college's Victorian Hall is open to all. See page 23 for more details.

CONTACTS

Darlington Hippodrome visit:

www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call 405405

The Hullabaloo – call 405405 or visit www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum – call 405060, visit www.head-of-steam.co.uk or email headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk
Entrance fees apply in most cases and booking is essential.

Darlington Libraries – call 349610 or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/library.

Dolphin Centre – call 406000 or email healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk

The Forum Darlington – visit www.theforumonline.co.uk

FEBRUARY

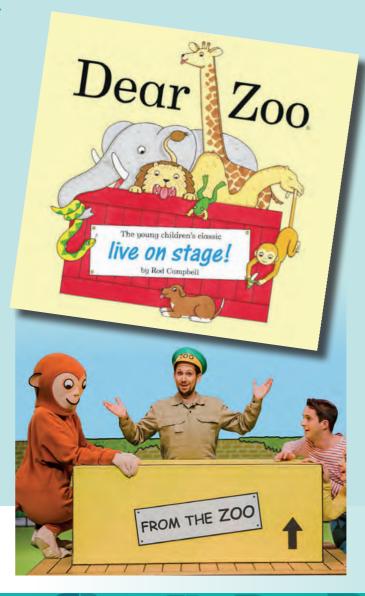
Blood Brothers – Tuesday 1 - Saturday 5, Darlington Hippodrome. Bill Kenwright's classic tells the captivating tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences.

Harry Potter Night – Thursday 3, Darlington Library. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first Harry Potter book. Witches, wizards and muggles are invited to join in some bewitching activities including a magic show and to view some spectacular birds from the World Owl Trust. Recommended for children aged 6+, themed fancy dress is welcome. Tickets £2 and must be purchased in advance. Everyone attending must have a ticket. Tickets go on sale via the Eventbrite website from 9am on Thursday 27 January.

The Monocle – Thursday 10, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. A newly created piece by Rendez-Vous dance is inspired by the secretly notorious 1930s Parisian lesbian club Le Monocle. VIP on stage tickets are available by calling the theatre.

Half term fun – Wednesday 23 – Friday 25, 11-3.30pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Visit the museum and enjoy our half term holiday activities. Included in normal admission and annual passes.

Dear Zoo – Monday 28, various times, Darlington Hippodrome. Rod Campbell's much loved lift the flap book is brought to life in this stage play suitable for children aged two and up.



How to contact the council



If you need to get in touch with a council department over the phone, here's a handy cut-out-and-keep guide to the numbers you need. All numbers start with 01325 unless stated.

Adult Social Care **406111**

Children and Families Social Care **406222**

Benefits 405444

Business Rates **405666**

Civic Enforcement **406999**

Complaints **406777**

Council Tax 405555

Democratic and Electoral Services
406444

Education (including school admissions)
406333

Environment and
Street Scene
(including the tip,
refuse and bulky

waste collection)
405111

Housing
405333
(out of hours homelessness)
01642 524552

Licensing 405888

Lifeline **406888**

Planning and Building Control

405777

Register Office **406400**

Trading Standards

03454 040506

Transport
and Projects
(including parking,
highways, Blue Badges
and bus passes)

405222

Dolphin Centre – 406000

Eastbourne Sports Complex – **243177**

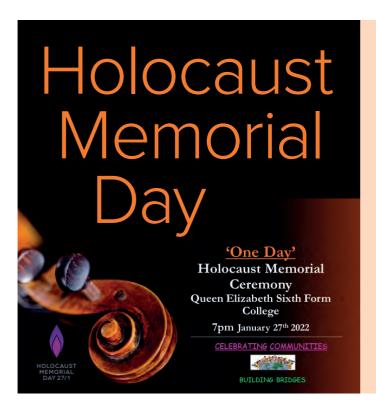
Head of Steam - 405060

Hippodrome - **405405**



Many council services can be accessed via our website. Visit

www.darlington.gov.uk/doitonline



Students at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College will join forces with Darlington Celebrating Communities group to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) on 27 January.

This year's theme is 'One Day' which is also the title of the Holocaust Memorial Ceremony being held in the college's Victorian hall on Thursday 27 January, from 7pm. The event is free and refreshments will be available courtesy of the college.

For more information email Councillor Gerald Lee at gerald.lee@darlington.gov.uk or call 07876 216182

HMD is a day for us to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution, and in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. You can find out more at www.hmd.org.uk

Support for carers

Many people are taking on more caring responsibilities for relatives and friends who are disabled, ill or older and who need support.

Whether you are a new carer or have been caring for someone for a while, it's important that you understand your rights and can access the support available to you.

If you have caring responsibilities of any kind, you can call Darlington Carers Support on 0300 030 1215 or visit www.dccarers.org

Carers can also access the Jointly App, a tool to help manage your loved one's care.

The app has e-Learning modules, factsheets and personalised support on managing your own health and wellbeing, how to use technology to help you care and information on balancing being a carer with work and finances.

There is also a section dedicated to young adult carers, including support around accessing education and work opportunities.

To access the free app visit www.carersdigital.org and create a new account using code DGTL1931.



www.darlington.gov.uk one Darlington 23





Parents and carers! Discover careers inspiration for Tees Valley students

If you're supporting a young person to think about their future career or next steps, Tees Valley Careers is here to help! Whether they know exactly where they want to be or are still unsure what's next for them.

Access tools, information, and inspiration to help young people get informed and make key decisions about their futures with confidence.

Head to our website to:

- > Explore the different career pathways
- ▶ Find local sixth form colleges, colleges, or training providers
- ▶ Get top tips to help with preparing for an interview
- ▶ Discover all the exciting career opportunities available locally, now and in the future
- > Find inspiration and hear from employers in the Tees Valley



Visit www.teesvalleycareers.com























Looking for a safe and green way to recycle your old tech?

Many of us have phones, tablets or computers at home that connect us to the digital world.

However lots of people in our town and surrounding villages have no way of getting connected.

We are working with partners to help people get online by providing them with a device and access to training and support, but we need your help!

There are four steps to helping:

- **1.** Check if you have any devices lying around your home that you no longer use - smart phones, tablets, or laptops
- 2. Make sure they are in reasonable, working condition (still usable, but a couple of scratches are fine) and ideally have working chargers
- **3.** If possible carry out a factory reset (this clears your personal data, search reset in your settings or instructions on our website)
- **4.** Take them along to a donation point

Donation points

Drop your reset, working devices and chargers at the following reception areas:

Dolphin Centre

Darlington Libraries - Crown Street and Cockerton branches

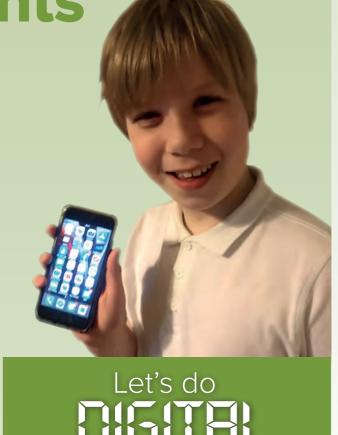
Head of Steam Railway Museum

Please check the opening times on the council website before donating.

All devices will be professionally wiped of data before being passed on.

If you have lots of devices we can arrange to collect them.

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/letsdodigital or email letsdodigital@darlington.gov.uk for more information.



Make RECYCLING RIGHT your New Year's resolution!

Our crews regularly attend blazes where rubbish and wheelie bins have been deliberately set on fire.

These fires delay our crews from getting to emergencies, can quickly get out of hand and lead to much bigger fires.

You can help to reduce the fire risk by following some simple steps:



Make it thin to fit in the bin - flatten packaging and squeeze the air out of plastic bottles so they fit in your recycling bin or bag and don't spill out.



If possible, put your bins out on the morning of your collection, and bring them back onto your property as soon as possible after they've been emptied.



Think about where and when you dispose of your rubbish and recycling. It may be waste to you, but it's fuel to an arsonist.



If you regularly have more recycling than will fit in your bin, contact the council and they will get you another bin free of charge. Try not to leave extra recycling next to your bin. If possible, store it until the next collection day or take it to the household waste recycling centre on Whessoe Road which is open every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day (weather permitting).



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

Firefighters from your local fire station offer a free Safe and Wellbeing Visit to chat about how to keep you and your family safe from fire. This includes checking you have working smoke alarms to using electrical items and planning a safe escape in an emergency.

If you would like to book a visit, please call us on:

0345 223 4221

Monday to Friday 08:30-16:30.

28 www.ddfire.gov.uk

Happy New Year

- let's make it a green one



Back in 2020, the council made a declaration to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Why not start 2022 with a resolution to help tackle climate change – even small changes add up. Take a look at our suggestions and see how you can play your part.



Buy your fruit and veg loose and from a local market if you can

Did you know? Plastic can take hundreds of years to break down. Each year, 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced and nearly half of that is only used once. Lots of supermarkets now sell reusable mesh bags for fruit and veg and some meat and fish counters let you take your own pots. If you shop in a local market, your fruit and veg will have travelled less miles to get to you.



Turn your thermostat down a notch

Did you know? According to Uswitch, turning down your thermostat by just one degree could save you £80 a year. One tenth of UK households heat their homes to more than 25C - that's hotter than Tenerife! Age UK recommends older people keep the rooms they use most at 21C.



Switch off lights if you're not in the room

Did you know? This could save you around £15 a year, a little habit that can add up to big savings.



Plant wildflowers and grow herbs or vegetables

Did you know? Butterflies, moths, bees and hoverflies all act as pollinators in our gardens, parks and countryside. Without them it would cost UK farmers nearly £2bn every year to pollinate our crops, meaning higher food prices. Even having a planted patio pot is a great help.



Make sure you're recycling and reusing everything you can

Did you know? 5,748 tonnes was recycled from the kerbside in Darlington last year thank you if you already recycle what you can. Find out more at darlington.gov.uk/ recycleright

If you have a spare digital device such as a phone, tablet that you're not using, why not donate it to our Let's go Digital team. Find out more on page 27.



Use the car less

Did you know? In 2020, 25% of car journeys were under one mile and over 70% were under five miles. If you are able to walk or cycle for shorter trips you will save money, help towards cleaner air and boost your health and wellbeing.

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable for more details and to read our latest blog

TEES VALLEY BUSINESS

Tees Valley Business is here to help local SMEs with expert advice, support, and access to finance and funding. Support is impartial and fully funded, which means there is no cost to your business.



Tees Valley Business Growth Fund

If you're a SME based in the Tees Valley, including Darlington, with plans to grow or take on more employees, then you may be eligible to access grant funding through the Tees Valley Business Growth Fund.

You could access up to **55% grant** funding for business improvement projects up to a maximum grant of £20,000.



Plastic Recycling Plant Does the Double with Tees Valley Business Growth Fund

Darlington based North Yorkshire Polymer Compounds (NYPC) convert PVC plastic materials into commercially viable products by utilising environmentally friendly recycling and manufacturing methods from its bespoke recycling and production facility.

With customers requiring increasingly large quantities of recycled products, the business recognised a major opportunity for business growth over the next 12 months.

To meet increasing demand, the business needed to install more machinery to double the amount of recycled plastic produced each month from 500 tonnes to 1,000 tonnes.

The business's new site required a full electrical upgrade to install the new machinery, along with the installation of a second 'pulverising' phase to the recycling plant. This is the process that turns old plastic materials into plastic pellets for remoulding into new products.



With plans to double turnover, boost productivity, and grow its team, NYPC accessed more than £38,000 through the Tees Valley Business Growth Fund to support its growth project.

The improvements also brought the opportunity to grow the team, with ten new members of staff employed to operate the machinery, along with office staff and members of the sales team.

Shaun Hering, Managing Director of NYPC, said: "The scope of investment would not have been possible without the backing of Tees Valley Business and its support. The team have worked in partnership with us and have played a crucial role in supporting us throughout the process."

Visit www.teesvalleybusiness.com to find out how we can support your business growth journey.

The Tees Valley Business Growth Fund is managed by Tees Valley Combined Authority and is receiving funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014 – 2020.









The indoor market

Looking ahead to 2022

Following the opening of the new food hall in the indoor market with its bar, events stage and street food, work will now focus on the final two phases of the redevelopment.

Shop fronts and units will be given a revamp and there will be work on the clock tower and central entrances, with new doors, better lighting and heat curtains as part of a warm welcome to the indoor market.

The council has provided grant funding to the market traders so that they can invest in their units by improving displays, signs, lighting, and decoration. Refurbished retail space and new toilets for traders and customers are also included in the exciting second phase.

The final phase of works will see a dramatic transformation of the east side with a stunning temperate garden area. Artist impressions give an eye-catching

glimpse of the new feature with its huge open-air feel. This phase will see the old canopy replaced and huge glass panels installed showcasing plants and shrubs. There will be a new relaxing area of seating and tables allowing people to take time out from the hustle and bustle of shopping.

Also, large sections of the underground market vaults will be redeveloped into a bar and restaurant.

A host of exciting events are planned for 2022 ranging from showcasing local DJs and singers to a Young Traders Market and the popular and award-winning Pease Pudding night markets. Check out Darlington Market on Facebook for more details.

The indoor market is operated by Market Asset Management (MAM), who leases the building from the council.



www.darlingtonmarket.co.uk one Darlington 31

On the road of to success PARLING BOTOLOGIC COURT

Last year, millions of pounds were spent maintaining and improving our roads and a series of exciting projects saw moves to make it easier, safer and greener to get around the borough.

Here we have a look back at some of the projects from the last 12 months of great work.

Over £2,600,000 spent on maintaining and repairing more than 25km of roads and paths at 80 sites. This is £500,000 more than was spent in 2020.



New Report It scheme has made it easier for residents to report potholes. Over the last 10 years the number of potholes needing repair has dropped by a third. All potholes that meet our repair criteria are fixed.

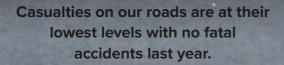
www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit



Work completed on Victoria Road to create a safer, greener route for walking and cycling.



Work started on Woodland Road as part of a major new walking and cycling route from West Park to the town centre.





Innovative recycling of road materials to carry out repairs at two sites meant that 2,000 tons of material was reused rather than sent to landfill.



Road safety lessons in schools and school crossing patrols returned after lockdown.



Traffic calming measures and new footpaths created at Neasham Road, Hurworth.



Tees Valley is one of the first areas to join the National Underground Asset Register which maps vital services such as gas, water, electricity and telecommunications. This helps companies plan work more effectively to reduce the time roads are closed.

Bulky Maste Collection Borough Council

Don't get caught out when paying someone to get rid of larger items of rubbish.



We know some disreputable carriers charge hundreds of pounds to take away rubbish and then simply dump it – but did you know we can take it away for less than £20?

SO WHY PAY MORE?

With our bulky waste collection service you pay just £18.80 for up to six items, including bedframes, baths, chairs/stools, doors, cookers, electrical items, play equipment and sofas.

For a full list of what we can take and to book your collection visit www.darlington.gov.uk/bulkywaste



New year, new job?

Fancy kicking the new year off with a brand new job?

Durham Constabulary is launching a major recruitment drive for new police constables.

The force is looking for individuals who are hardworking, relish a challenge, can apply common sense and who have a minimum of two A levels.

In return, the force is offering a generous benefits package including the chance to complete a police constable degree apprenticeship in conjunction with Northumbria University.

Under the degree apprenticeships, student officers will study towards a degree in professional policing practice as part of a three-year training programme while working as a police officer.

Your university fees will be paid by the force and you will be a paid police officer from day one, with a starting salary of £24,780.

Graduates who apply may be able to complete a twoyear shortened diploma course.

Successful candidates will join the force from May.

PC Subhaan Ali is a response officer based in Darlington. He joined Durham Constabulary two years ago and has never looked back.

"Do it – it's the best job you're ever going to do," he said.

"I joined and I love it. Policing is a marathon not a sprint – that's something the chief said to me on my very first shift and it's just trying to understand that every day is a learning day."

Think you've got what it takes to join us?

Recruitment opens on Monday 10 January for two weeks.

Visit www.durham.police.uk for more information.

34 www.durham.police.uk



She may look small but she's mighty and can handle a lot more than you think!

To get more into your cardboard and paper caddy, please break down and fold boxes and stack your recycling as neatly as you can.

These pictures show all the paper and cardboard produced by a family of four in a fortnight!

We know that many of you want to recycle as much as you can and we need your help to increase our recycling rates.

Recycling is not only good for the environment – we also get paid for every tonne of recycling we collect from you. This is money that can be spent on a wide range of services to make Darlington a great place to live, work and visit.

So please remember you can get much more than you think in your paper and cardboard caddy!

Please help us to make your bin (and caddy!) happy and #recycleright.



www.darlington.gov.uk/benji one Darlington 35

National award for our social work team





Members of the Keeping Families
Together team have scooped a national
award for their work.

They were gold award winners in the team of the year category at the social worker of the year awards.

Held virtually, the awards recognise the outstanding efforts of social workers up and down the country.

Interim service manager Joseph Robb said: "This would not have been possible without the dedication, courage and personal approach of each member of the team. I am so proud of their can-do attitude."

Councillor Jon Clarke, cabinet member for children & young people, said: "This is an incredible and prestigious achievement. To have this talented team recognised in this way, on a national level, is a real testament to the work they are doing with families and the positive outcomes being achieved.

"I want to personally congratulate each and every member of the team for their drive, vision and commitment – not to mention a great deal of hard work. It's fantastic their efforts have been recognised."

The awards have 12 categories in total across children's and adult services – for individual social workers and teams.



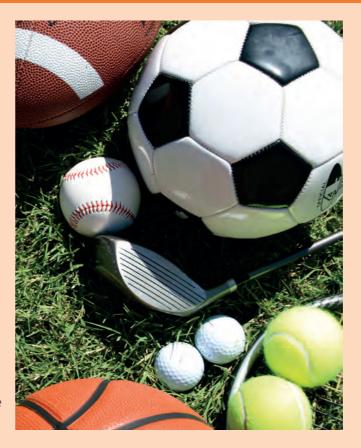
Clubs and Societies

Thinking about joining a club?

If your new year resolution was to get more active, you're spoilt for choice. There's something for everyone, whatever your fitness level or interests.

From netball to badminton, from running to walking football, there's a club for all ages and abilities. Joining a sports or active club will help you become more active, fitter and meet new friends. Check out our active clubs page at www.darlington.gov.uk/activeclubs

If you have any club news for us, whether it's a sports club or hobbies and interests, and you would like your club or society mentioned in One Darlington, email editor@onedarlington.org.uk





The adoption of Darlington's Local Plan is making progress as the independent planning inspector's report is finalised in preparation for a meeting of full council in the coming months.

His report follows a series of hearings and a public consultation on modifications to the plan which will cover the period up to 2036. Once adopted, the plan will set out how, and where, future new homes and jobs that are needed will be located, along with policies to guide development, including the protection of the natural and built environment.

The purpose of the Local Plan is to ensure that development takes place in sustainable locations, supported by community facilities and infrastructure. It will also help the council to restrict development in less suitable locations.

The plan will be reviewed at least every five years and updated if necessary.

More details can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/localplan



www.darlington.gov.uk one Darlington 37

Putting climate change at the heart of policing



Joy Allen, Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, talks about her commitment to the environment and green issues.

"As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' joint lead for environment and sustainability, I am committed to driving the local and national agenda for climate change.

The pandemic has changed the way we operate and I actively support the use of policies and technology that improve the delivery of policing services and reduce the carbon footprint of my office, as well as Durham Constabulary. The constabulary takes every opportunity to be energy efficient in the use of our buildings and fleet. The use of new technology has enabled the sharing of information to officers and staff while they work in your communities, making mobile working more effective.

We know it is really important to our community to address climate change - 80% of you have said you either strongly agree or agree that climate change is a key issue for public leaders to address.

There are unique opportunities to make progress including investing in new technology and reviewing and developing the infrastructure of existing and new buildings.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have a big responsibility, as national and local leaders, to provide a voice for the public in policing and criminal justice to ensure that we are playing our part in tackling the climate emergency we face. The pandemic has changed the way we operate, and I actively support the de-carbonisation agenda, including developing our infrastructure in terms of buildings and fleet in order to contribute to legislative requirements and carbon reduction targets.

I am encouraging the workforce of my office and in the force to work more sustainably and I am working with the community and partners to achieve better environmental outcomes.

Ambitious targets have been set by the government including being net zero by 2050 and stopping the sale of new diesel and petrol cars by 2030. To meet these targets there are lots of new, exciting technologies being piloted. Durham Constabulary, along with other police forces, are testing a Tesla vehicle for use in police activities and to better understand what infrastructure is needed to maintain a fleet of electric vehicles.

I think the key thing is for PCCs to think and talk about the environment and sustainability as a mainstream issue for policing and the criminal justice system. We need to drive this agenda which is so important for the public we represent.

Short-term, there are lots of smaller actions PCCs can implement now, whether that might be thinking about the environment in commissioning services or supporting community payback and youth diversion projects that improve the environment for our communities.

If you have any concerns in your local area please contact me via our website www.durham-pcc.gov. uk or our social media pages."



www.durham-pcc.gov.uk

Win two tickets to Snow Maiden

Based on a traditional folk-tale and set in the snow covered landscape of rural Russia, follow Snow Maiden as she dances into the human world and is swept up by feelings of love, temptation and betrayal...

Russia's acclaimed State Ballet of Siberia will be in Darlington from Thursday 27 January to Sunday 30 January presenting their iconic and classical repertoire of *The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Snow Maiden, Cinderella and Romeo and Juliet*, all brought to life with magical special effects and accompanied by the Russian State Ballet Orchestra.

We are offering one lucky reader two tickets to see Snow Maiden on Thursday 27 January at 7.30pm. For your chance to win the tickets email your name, phone number and address to editor@onedarlington.org.uk or post your details to One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT. The closing date for entries is 5pm on Monday 17 January and the winner will be drawn at random on Tuesday 18 January and be contacted immediately.



To book tickets for any of the ballets www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call 01325 405405.

The prize is for two tickets to the Snow Maiden ballet on Thursday 27 January at Darlington Hippodrome. Prize is non-transferable.





DH

Monday February 07 and Tuesday February 08

DARLINGTON HIPPODROME www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk
Box Office: 01325 405 405