

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**

**COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING      PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR:  
BRIAN BAILEY  
DATE: 30.08.2012**

**FLOODS IN DARWEN**

The wettest June and July on record saw three successive flooding events on 22nd June, 28th June and 6th July which damaged properties and infrastructure. Whilst there were numerous areas affected across the Borough, the worst areas of flooding were at four locations in Darwen - A666 at Blackburn Road and Duckworth Street, A666 Bolton Road and Grimshaw Street, Hilton Street and Knott Street Railway Road and Atlas Road

Throughout this period Council staff across a number of departments worked tirelessly to deliver 4,200 sandbags to residents and businesses in order to prevent internal flooding and minimise impact. Post flooding, substantial cleaning work and repair to unsafe highways and structures is being carried out. Officers are investigating all flooding incidents and are working closely with the Environment Agency and United Utilities.

**MARKET IN THE MALL**

Slaters, the external consultants handling the marketing and promotion of the market have now submitted their marketing plan which includes a programme of promotional events for the next few months to increase footfall and improve the shopper experience. Improved external signage is also now in place on Church Street and Ainsworth Street. Stall lettings now total 98 stalls occupied which is a total of 77% let which includes the stalls being offered under the 'New Freshapproachin' business banner. This gives budding traders the chance to try their hand at retailing in a market environment without having to make a huge investment and is one of the main strands of the Mary Portas Review of the high street.

**DARWEN TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE (THI) PLANNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has awarded the Darwen THI Scheme a Commendation for Town Centre Regeneration and Conservation. The Institute agreed that the Darwen THI Programme demonstrated close collaboration between the Council, Darwen Town Centre Partnership Board, the local community and the private sector to deliver the programme. The Council has been invited to a RTPI presentation in December to formally accept the Commendation.

**FORMER BLACKBURN ROYAL INFIRMARY SITE - THE ROYALS**

An official launch of The Royals development took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012 attended by Jack Straw MP. The David Wilson Homes development was kick started following resolution of a number of planning issues and will include 123 homes for sale with the majority comprising 2 and 3 bed units.