SuDS – Minimising Risk and Maximising Opportunities Within the Planning Process

John Rumble
Environmental Resource Planning Team
Hertfordshire County Council

www.hertsdirect.org
Susdrain – SuDS not duds – interactions with spatial planning

Overview

• The Hertfordshire approach
• Working with the Planning System
• Avoiding the one-size fits all solution
• Maximising multiple benefits
• Empowering planners and building capacity
• Some key uncertainties
• Questions

www.hertsdirect.org

The Hertfordshire Approach

• Mimicking natural drainage systems
  – Increase natural losses
  – Slowing flow
  – Using the landscape to store water
  – Discharge to groundwater/watercourse
  – Visible

• Not
  – Out of sight
  – Underground
  – Somebody else’s problem!

www.hertsdirect.org
SuDS Design Process

- SuDS master planning
- Conceptual SuDS design
- Outline SuDS design
- Detailed drainage design

Working with the planning system
(some common responses)

- We do that already don’t we
- That’s a matter for building control
- That’s for the landscape strategy
- Our priority is to get affordable housing
- The EA have not said anything so it must be OK
- The site is not in the flood plain
One size fits all!

- Engage early
- Obtaining creative solutions
- Maximising the use of green space
- Habitat creation
- On-surface management and treatment
- Use of sub-catchments
- Ease of maintenance
- Information to promote understanding

Maximising multiple benefits

- Landscape and green space
- Habitat creation
- Water quality
- Amenity benefits
- Public open space
### Empowerment and capacity building

- **Training** –
- **Different professions** –
- **Politicians** -
- **LLFA** –
- **Others** -

- 11 half-day sessions – one in each LPA
- Planners, building control, highways, green space managers, landscape officers
- DC Committee, others?
- Resources
- Developers, consultants...

---

### ??????????

- **National**
  - What will the NPPF guidance say?
  - What weight will be given to drainage concerns?
  - Is the expert advice necessary going to be funded?
- **Local**
  - What impact will the political process have?
  - How can we address viability arguments?
  - How do we deal with cumulative impact of small developments?
  - Adoption and maintenance – what happens when it goes wrong?

www.hertsdirect.org
Questions

www.hertsdirect.org