



Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code For Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton

Supplementary Planning Document Statement of Consultation

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
Regulation 12
March 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires a local planning authority to consult the public and stakeholders before adopting a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Regulation 12(a) requires a Statement to be prepared setting out who has been consulted while preparing the SPD; a summary of the main issues raised; and how these issues have been addressed in the final SPD.

1.2 This statement is a record of consultation undertaken prior to the adoption of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton, Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

2. Background

2.1 The Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD has been prepared to provide supplementary guidance on policies within Cambridge City Council's adopted Local Plan (October 2018). Once adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

2.2. In 2023, as part of a National Design Code Pathfinder Programme, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) secured government funding to develop a design code for Arbury, Kings Hedges and West Chesterton. This is a pilot project focusing resources to work with communities and neighbourhoods with the most need, that doesn't have any guidance in place. It aims to help raise design standards, tackle inequality, inform and help assess small and large-scale planning applications that may come forward in the future in this area. Lessons learned will be shared nationally to guide the production of other district and citywide design codes that councils may be required to produce in the future.

3. Preparation of the draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD

3.1. The Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code is a pilot design code that tests the process of consultation led area design coding. It has been central to the creation of the Design Code, informing both its structure and content. GCSP commission Pollard Thomas Edwards as the lead consultant to collaboratively develop the design code working with the community.

- 3.2. The draft design code was produced through a combination of community participatory events, workshops and surveys, complimented by frequent internal meetings and workshops with a core group of strategic stakeholders and decision makers from across local authorities. The core group included officers from Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service: Development Management, Built and Natural Environment and Policy teams, Cambridge City Council Parks and Open Spaces, Communities, Housing team and Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 3.3. Community engagement was conducted in three phase and was conducted online and in person.
- Phase 1 asked the community what they valued about the neighbourhood.
 - Phase 2 developed principles of the design code based on the responses received.
 - Phase 3 tested the detail of the document based on what people told us in the earlier phases
- 3.4. Online engagement was carried out using Cambridge City Council Citizen-Lab website from August 2023 to March 2024. There were 3 in-person workshops with residents at the Meadows Community Centre that mirrored these three phases online. In addition, the team engaged with mothers, the elderly, disability group, ethnic minorities and children at in-person events held at Arbury Court, Baptist Church, Good Shepherd. It also engaged with 67 children and their parents at the local Gove Primary School. The team also engaged with a small group of resident volunteers online to test some of the emerging ideas in the code.
- 3.5. The draft principles and code were reviewed jointly by the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and Cambridgeshire Quality Panel. The design code was also reviewed by the Cambridge City Council's disability consultative panel.
- 3.6. The various stages of engagement culminated in the 'Draft Design Code, Feb 24' document which went out for community consultation online using the Cambridge City Council Citizens-lab website from 13th February 2024 to 11th March 2024. The communities' comments have further informed the design code which is being put forward for formal consultation.
- 3.7. The table below sets out the timeline of the online and in person events, workshops and meetings:

Phase 1 Understanding the neighbourhood and establishing a vision 4th August to 24th September 2023:

Date: 29th August and 24th September 2023.

Event: Site visit, Structure and programme.

Group / participants: Core group

Date: 4th August to 24th September 2023.

Event: Online survey using Citizenlab.

Group / participants: 113 participants.

Output: Inspired Living - Phase 1 findings and results - see appendix A. Online map and comments - see Citizens Lab website.

Date: 4th August to 24th September 2023.

Event: Online mapping.

Group / participants: 103 participants. 126 comments.

Output: Inspired Living - Phase 1 findings and results - see appendix A. Online map and comments - see Citizens Lab website.

Date: 27th September 2023.

Event: Exhibition and workshop 1 at the Meadows centre, Arbury Road, 3pm to 6.30pm.

Group / participants: 5 participants (residents).

Output: Inspired Living - Phase 1 findings and results - see appendix A. Online map and comments - see Citizens Lab.

Date: 27th September 2023.

Event: Thematic meeting on movement.

Group / participants: Core Group.

Output: Inspired Living - Phase 1 findings and results - see appendix A. Online map and comments - see Citizens Lab.

Phase 2 Articulating the vision and emerging principles of the design code 9th October to 5th November 2023:

Date: 9th October 2023 and 5th November 2023.

Event: Online survey using Citizens-lab and In-person survey (In person survey were conducted at arbury town center and churches. It captured the views of families, particularly women, mothers with children and minority ethnic groups).

Group/Participants: 72 Responses – online (above 20 years), 68 (15 full and 53 short surveys) In-person: Mix of.

Output: Inspired living – Phase 2 findings and results – See Appendix B.

Date: 12th October 2023.

Event: Thematic Meeting on Green Infrastructure (2 hrs).

Group/Participants: Core group

Output: Inspired living – Phase 2 findings and results – See Appendix B.

Date: 18th October 2023.

Event: Exhibition and Workshop 1 at the Meadows Centre, Arbury Road 4:00pm to 8.00pm.

Group/Participants: 5 Participants.

Output: Inspired living – Phase 2 findings and results – See Appendix B.

Date: 2nd November 2023.

Event: Thematic Meeting on Housing and Character (2 hrs). Group/Participants: Core Group.

Output: Inspired living – Phase 2 findings and results – See Appendix B.

Phase 3: Testing, exhibition, and presentation of Design Code 13th November 2023 and 12th February 2024:

Date: 15th November 2023.

Event: Exhibition and Workshop 1 at the Meadows Centre, Arbury Road 4:00pm to 8.00pm.

Group/Participants: 6 Participants. Output: Testing the code.

Date: 1st December 2023.

Event: Online Meeting with Volunteer groups (2 hrs).

Group/Participants: 5 Participants.

Output: Testing the code.

Core Group Document Review and Feedback:

Date: 9th and 17th January 2024.

Event: The Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service (YES) team - 2 Design Workshops.

Group/Participants: 67 pupils (year 5 and 6) of the Grove Primary School.

Output: See Report in Appendix E.

Date: 25th January 2024.

Event: The Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and the Cambridgeshire County Council Quality Panel.

Group/Participants: Design Code Project Team Presented the code to the panel.

Output: See GCDRP and CQP report in Appendix C.

Date: 30th January 2024.

Event: Disability Consultative Panel.

Group/Participants: Design Code Project Team Presented the code to the panel.

Output: See DCP report in Appendix D.

Date: 13th February 2024 and 11th March 2024.

Event: Online consultation, using the Citizen Lab on the Draft Design Code Feb 2024.

Participants: 55 responses.

Output: See Inspired living – Phase 3 Analysis of community comments and Design code Response : Appendix F (summary) and Appendix G (Detail).

4. Formal Public consultation on the draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD

4.1 A formal consultation with key stakeholders, statutory and non-statutory consultees was carried out from the 6th January 2025 to the 17th February 2025 for a statutory minimum period of six weeks. The consultation approach reflects the requirements of national regulations and the adopted Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (2024).

4.2. The following documents were made available with the Draft SPD

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Consultation Statement (Draft SPD stage)

5. Consultees, Consultation Process and Methodology

5.1. A range of stakeholders and consultees were directly notified of the draft Design Code SPD consultation via email, or by post where no email address was available in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).. In summary the organisations and bodies contacted included, but were not limited to were:

- Specific Consultation Bodies
- Local Parish Councils and resident associations
- Local Members
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- Adjacent Local Authorities
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Delivery partners, including landowners, developers, infrastructure providers, transport providers
- Community organisations
- Local businesses
- General Consultation Bodies: including bodies which represent the interests of different diversity groups including based upon age, race, religion, disability; and organisations representing other interests such as environment, sports, heritage.

5.2. In addition to the statutory consultees and organisations, the consultation was also sent to others in the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service database who wish to be informed.

5.3. In order to engage more widely with residents and business across the city the consultation was publicised on the Cambridge City Council and Greater Cambridge shared planning service's webpages, the Go Vocal community consultation platform used by Cambridge City Council (formerly called as Citizen's lab), and advertising on social media platform. In order to get a good response, a door-to-door leaflet drop to residents and businesses in Arbury, Kings Hedges and parts of West Chesterton was organised during the weekend commencing 10th January 2025. A public notice was also published in the Cambridge Independent newspaper on Wednesday 15th January 2025. Posters of the consultation were distributed to be displayed at various public and commercial premises in Arbury, Kings Hedges and parts of West Chesterton. An exhibition panel was displayed at the Arbury Community Centre from the 6th January 2025 to 20th January 2025 and in Mandela house from 21st January 2025 to 17th February 2025.

5.4. In addition to the above, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning held in-person and online events to maximise participation in the consultation. These events included:

- An online webinar which was held on Monday 20th January 2024 at 18.00 – 19.30. It was attended by 20 participants.
- An in-person drop-in event was held on 14th January 2024 and 28th January 2025 from 16.00 to 19.00 at the Meadows Community Centre, 299 Arbury Rd, Arbury, Cambridge CB4 2JL. This was attended by 9 and 14 participants respectively.
- Three youth engagement events with young people were carried out with 3 schools in the area: 54 School children/parents at Kings Hedges Education Federation (29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025), 56 School children/parents Mayfield Primary School and 42 school children and parents from North Cambridge Academy (10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025). A report is included in appendix J

5.5. The draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, Kings Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD and supporting documents could be viewed online on Cambridge City Council's Go Vocal Platform and on the Greater Cambridge Shared planning website. The draft documents could also be viewed in-person at:

- Cambridge City Council's Customer Service Centre (Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY) between 9am-5.15pm Wednesday to Friday.
- Cambridge Central Library, 7 Lion Yard Cambridge CB2 3QD.
- Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2LD.
- Meadows Community Centre, 299 Arbury Rd, Arbury, Cambridge CB4 2JL.

- Arbury Court Library, Arbury Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 2JQ.

5.6. A contact email address, phone number was included on all publicity materials allowing those experiencing difficulties accessing the documents online to seek assistance. Alternative formats of the consultation document were made available upon request. Respondents were able to be notified of the adoption of the SPD. Comments could be made online, via email and via post.

5.7. The consultation on the design code asked respondents 10 key questions based on the context of the design code, the 5 principles and the supporting evidence base. A summary as well as detail of the responses are provided,

6. Representations received

6.1 We received 63 individual consultations on the draft design code via the Cambridge City Councils Consultation Platform Go Vocal (formerly called Citizen's Lab). We also received three formal comments from the Tree, Accessibility and Public Art teams at Cambridge City Council, a response from Cambridgeshire County Council, Historic England via email and a response from a resident by post.

6.2. These responses need to be seen in the context of all the informal engagements that have been carried out from the start, which has involved of 300 individual comments over the lifetime of the code.

6.3. The majority of the comments received were detailed request for making amendments to the document, many of which were already incorporated into the text. There were some which made some positive suggestions which were considered beneficial for improving the documents. There were quite a few that did not think that the code would be a useful document. Our Summary response is captured below. The detail comments are attached in Appendix H. The green colour represents, modifications that have been made while the grey represents no change.

7. Main issues raised during formal Consultation and how they have been addressed

7.1. Question 1: Do you have any comments to make about the background and context of the design code?

Respondents to the 'draft Cambridge neighbourhoods design code: Supplementary Planning Document' project expressed a range of concerns and suggestions. Whilst there were some that suggested that the document was of little use nor clear what it was trying to achieve, there were others that found the document very good, inspiring and supportive. There was a

concern for car drivers unfairly targeted, a feeling that it was based on ideology and wanted better consideration for disabled access and inclusive design. The consultation process was criticized for the lack of representation from the population. There was also a concern, about the absence of budget information and data accuracy, particularly regarding the energy performance of council properties. There was also a clarification requested about vehicular movements from Roseford Road to Alex Wood Road.

Response: As mentioned earlier, we have tried to reach out to as many people to engage their thoughts on the design code with over 300 individual comments on the proposals in person and online, engaging well over 200 children. The design code has no funding attached and hence no implementation plan but is a policy document that tries to capture the priorities of the community. We have tried to make the document short compared to other design code but will also add a executive summary to help succinctly explain what the document is trying to cover. The diagram showing the EPC ratings was taken at a point in time and hence acknowledge that it isn't accurate but illustrates the point of low energy performance of buildings which need to be assessed before any works may be carried out. Only cycle and pedestrian movements area suggested in the design code from Roseford Road to Alex Wood Road.

7.2. Question 2: Do you have any comments to make about Principle 1: Make space for nature?

Respondents to the 'Cambridge neighbourhoods design code: Supplementary Planning Document' have shared a variety of opinions on Principle 1: Make space for nature. A recurring theme is the concern for the maintenance and practical use of green spaces, with several respondents noting that existing green areas are poorly maintained or underutilized. There is also a call for more trees and wildlife planting, but with careful consideration of species selection and the impact on nearby properties.

Some respondents' express scepticism about the project's compatibility with urban living, suggesting that cities are for people, not nature while others advocate for taller buildings to reduce land use and increase density. The need for adequate parking and accommodation for private vehicle ownership is emphasized, particularly in relation to the rights of residents and the needs of an aging population.

There are also concerns about the potential for green spaces to become areas of crime and anti-social behaviour. A few responses suggest that the focus should be on building more homes, particularly council houses, rather than shared ownership schemes. The importance of solid pathways for pedestrians and adequate lighting is also mentioned.

Overall, while there is support for making space for nature and increasing greenery in urban areas respondents emphasize the need for practicality, maintenance, safety of green spaces. There are a few comments that have been made by the Cambridge City Council tree officer

Response: The design code has already addressed the management and maintenance issues with regard to streets and opens space, highlighting the concerns of residents. Although these responsibilities sit outside the scope of the code, we refer to these issues as they are important for stakeholders to take notice. Whilst reference to tree species and biodiverse planting is included in this chapter, further changes/amendments are proposed based on the comments of the tree officer in terms of retention of trees of value, references to tree strategy, tree shading studies, selection of tree species etc. Although not within this chapter, the code introduces scope for height in certain locations subject to justification, although most of it will need to be in keeping with the existing context using gentle density principles. In principle 2, the code whilst prioritising cycle movement balances the needs of vehicle users such that the public realm isn't dominated by cars whilst being accessible to all. There are various references within making space for nature and enhance public space principles on the need to improve natural surveillance by improving walking and cyclin routes, providing visibility under tree canopy, improving lighting, providing active frontages overlooking streets, parks and open spaces. The development of council homes is outside the scope of the design code as it is not an implementation but a planning policy tool. Additional references are also made on the guidance for footway designs, noisy activity to be located away from buildings, incorporation of appropriate front garden treatment rather than just hedges and an inclusion of glossary of terms at the end.

7.3. Question 3. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 2: Prioritise walking and cycling?

Respondents to the 'Cambridge neighbourhoods design code: Supplementary Planning Document' have expressed a range of views on Principle 2, which prioritises walking and cycling. A common theme is the need for balance between different modes of transport, with several respondents highlighting the importance of not demonising car users. Concerns were raised about the safety and legality of cycling, suggesting that cyclists should use lights and bells and follow traffic laws.

The need for improved infrastructure was mentioned, including better roads and pavements as well as specific facilities for disabled people. Some respondents felt that walking and cycling are already well catered for in the

area while others called for more education on road safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Several responses highlighted the need to consider the practicalities of everyday life, such as family needs and shopping, which may necessitate car use. The issue of car parking provision was also raised, with some arguing against reducing parking spaces in new developments.

There were suggestions for modal filters and staggered cycle gates to reduce car dominance and improve safety but also calls to ensure that any traffic calming measures do not adversely affect cyclists. The importance of connectivity in walking and cycling paths was emphasised as was the need for clear guidance to ensure that walking routes are safe and separate from cycling routes.

Some respondents strongly agreed with the principle of prioritising walking and cycling while others did not see it as an issue or felt that it does not bring in revenue. There were also concerns about the impact of certain plants on those with allergies. Some suggestions were made about LTN 1/20.

There are some queries about the comprehensiveness of the Routes and destinations page (16) drawing.

Overall, while there is support for improving walking and cycling infrastructure, many respondents stress the need to consider the diverse needs of all residents, including those who rely on cars, and to ensure that changes do not negatively impact other road users.

Response:

For concerns raised about the safety and legality of cycling, the design code is a policy document concerned with influencing the design of places that takes account of best practice and guidance on walking and cycling.

For points requesting improved infrastructure, the design code is a policy document influencing the design of travel infrastructure. Whilst some infrastructure is in place, there are other areas that can benefit from prioritising cycling and walking. Early engagement with the community brought pedestrian footpaths, cycleways and safety as a key issue in the area which the code has tried to address. Traffic calming measures have been specified in the design code. Education/outreach, management and enforcement of traffic and transport matters sit outside the remit of the code which is a planning policy document. On Green and Active travel, text and reference for design of footways has been amended for pedestrians, which are not the same as cyclists. The design of footways for pedestrians must

follow the guidance on 'Inclusive mobility'- A guide to best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting, parking). For the purposes of short trips, for health and wellbeing and reducing our impact on the environment, active travel options are encouraged.

For comments about reducing car dominance and improving safety, within the movement opportunities page, text has been amended to write that traffic reduction such as modal filters, as well as traffic calming measures may be used to prioritise pedestrian and cycle network.

For concerns about the impact of certain plants on those with allergies, there is a relevant note in the code about species of trees to be planted.

Some suggestions were made about LTN 1/20. Corrections to LTN1/20 will be made. Also, the text is tightened so that 'where possible' has been removed so that LTN120 must be applied and Staggered gates should be avoided.

The comprehensiveness of the Routes and destinations page (16) drawing has been improved with more text and references.

7.4. Question 4. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 3: Thriving public spaces?

Respondents expressed a variety of views on Principle 3: Thriving public spaces. Some suggested the need for taller buildings to increase density and land use efficiency while others were concerned about the lack of basic information and expected expenses related to the project. A few respondents showed support for the principle.

The maintenance and upgrade of existing public spaces were highlighted, with concerns about antisocial behaviour and vandalism potentially undermining investments. Accessibility for disabled individuals was mentioned as an area needing more attention.

Some respondents were wary of the impact on private vehicle owners and opposed the "5-minute city" concept. The provision of local shops to encourage walking over driving was also suggested.

There were calls for more green spaces, especially for those with children and no gardens and concerns about public spaces being misused by youth gangs and criminals. The need for shelter from weather conditions was mentioned as well as the importance of consulting residents when repurposing space to avoid noise issues.

Issues with traveller camps, litter, and damage in public spaces were brought up, emphasizing the need for preventative measures. The concept of play corridors for children's independent play was praised.

Respondents also stressed the importance of community amenities like shops, cafes, and healthcare facilities in creating thriving public spaces. Finally, tackling antisocial behaviour, drug dealing, and improving street cleanliness were seen as prerequisites for successful public spaces.

Response:

In terms of a lack of basic information of what is planned, the purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered.

Respondents had concerns about the management and maintenance regime of open space, but this sits outside the scope of the Design Code. The subject is referenced on page 5 of the code to ensure coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted. For concerns about antisocial behavioural aspects in public spaces, any responses to address this from the council sit outside the planning policy framework and cannot be directly incorporated in the code. The document makes significant references to inclusive access in all chapters of the code.

The design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling. The Design Code is not proposing a "5 minute city" or a "15 minute city".

The design code is promoting more space for nature for all residents, including children. Reference to the need for shelter is included in the 'must' sections on pages 38 and 39 of the Design Code. In response to the comment about the importance of consulting nearby residents when repurposing space to avoid noise issues, we will add this to the wording on page 34 of the Design Code.

For traveller camps, the Design Code does not address this issue and instead the council refers the resident to Local Plan Policy 49 (Provision for Gypsies and Travellers).

In terms of community amenities, the 'cultural sociability' section (page 36) of the Design Code does highlight how public space design should support surrounding community and retail uses.

7.5. Question 5. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 4: Enhance character?

Respondents expressed a variety of views on Principle 4: Enhance character, with some advocating for taller buildings to increase density and reduce land use while others emphasized the need for character to develop naturally. Concerns were raised about the affordability of living in Cambridge for lower-income workers and the potential negative impact on private vehicle owners.

Several respondents questioned the existing character of specific areas like Arbury and Kings Hedges and some suggested that the focus on enhancing character might not be as important as other issues. The quality and longevity of new builds were critiqued, with a call for better integration of older architectural styles to improve attractiveness and character.

The need for better road surfaces and cleaner environments was mentioned as well as a preference for pitched roofs in new buildings to maintain the city's character. The balance between traditional and modern styles was highlighted to appeal to all age groups.

Some responses included specific concerns about policy statements regarding pedestrian priority, car-free characteristics, and the visibility of entrances from the street, suggesting these could lead to increased deprivation, isolation, or theft. The term 'enhance' was debated, with suggestions to replace it with 'improve' or 'transform' to better reflect the goal of addressing existing flaws in character.

The impact of property development on character was discussed, with examples of large gardens being used for single occupancy properties that may not be affordable or enhance the area's character. The importance of engaging local communities in activities to improve the area's character was also mentioned.

A concern about incorporating front garden hedges (mentioned on page 42 of the Design Code) becoming overgrown.

There were calls for more social facilities like cafes or bars to prevent areas from looking bland and suggestions for enhancing specific locations like the Tesco express area on Campkin road. The idea of encouraging replanting in gardens that have become 'deserts' was proposed.

Overall, while some respondents were generally in favour of enhancing character others expressed scepticism about the effectiveness of the survey.

Response:

On page 44 of the Design code, it addresses building heights and writes that the areas must retain the low-midrise character. The Design Code stresses the importance of providing affordable homes on pages 5, 13 and 40.

Pages 12-15 of the Design Code writes about local history and establishes the key characteristics of the areas and how the 5 principles in the Design Code can enhance the local character of the areas. Page 40 writes about how resident surveys indicated that residents want to strengthen the green character of the area combined with a varied but gentle building scale. New developments need to work with the local scale of buildings and contribute safe, sociable streets and spaces, with focal points and memorable but harmonious buildings in key places.

The Design code endorses better street surfaces. Pitched roofs are supported but also flat roofs, depending on context. The Design Code has not been prescriptive about favouring a traditional or contemporary approach to architecture.

For new buildings, front doors and building entrances should be included that are visible from the street or public space to provide safety for the public realm by addressing it with building frontages to provide eyes on the street, establish legible fronts / backs.

In terms of concern about the recommendation for front garden hedges, there may be instance in more urban parts of the neighbourhood that a hedge may not be appropriate and hence the Design Code will be amended to suggest an appropriate response in some instances.

The Design Code does write about the value of gardens on page 42 but does not go into discussing replanting. Elsewhere on page 15 it encourages 'positive use for green spaces such as community gardening and food growing'.

Pages 14-15 of the Design Code writes about the positive characteristic of the areas. It provides an opportunity to put planning guidance in place to manage change in a positive and sympathetic way that is based on the people's priorities. Page 41 identifies key opportunities for strengthening the sense of place, the opportunities to enhance frontages, routes, quality of public space and urban greening whilst taking the opportunities to retain the distinctive characteristic of Arbury and Kings Hedges.

7.6. Question 6. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 5: Increase sustainability?

Respondents to the Design code expressed a variety of views on Principle 5, which focuses on increasing sustainability. A recurring theme was the concern over costs and financial implications, with several respondents questioning where funding would come from for sustainability improvements. There were also comments on the potential negative impact of increasing population and urbanisation on sustainability.

Some respondents were supportive of sustainable initiatives, such as the use of solar panels while others were critical or sceptical of the feasibility and impact of such measures. The idea of taller buildings to increase density and reduce land use was mentioned as was the importance of not compromising the needs of people with private vehicles.

Traffic management and reducing vehicle emissions were also discussed, with suggestions to avoid unnecessary traffic lights and queues and to improve public transport routes and reliability. The idea of car sharing to reduce congestion was proposed.

There were also calls for more greenery, such as tree planting in gardens for cooling and water conservation and concerns about the protection of existing trees on bus routes. The need for a collaborative approach to design that considers safety, affordability, accessibility, and wellbeing was highlighted.

Lastly, some respondents disagreed with the requirement for homeowners to make energy performance improvements when carrying out property developments or improvements, citing high costs and potential discouragement from making such changes.

Response

In terms of costs, the design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any spending plans attached for implementation. The design code is intended to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and It will support the existing policies of Cambridge City

Council adopted 2018 local plan which relate to managing the anticipated population growth in a sustainable way that minimises the carbon footprint.

The design code prioritises improving sustainability by taking opportunities to reduce energy use and carbon emissions to improve health and wellbeing for residents. Therefore, the design code intends to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling movements.

The guidance in the Design Code is in accordance with policies in the Cambridge City Local Plan in regard to building extensions and conversions and also in accordance with 'Retrofitting Your Home' by Cambridge City Council.

7.7. Question 7. Do you have any comments to make about Planning Checklists?

Respondents have expressed a variety of concerns and suggestions regarding the checklists with many comments more focused on wider issues in the whole Design Code rather than specifically the planning checklists e.g. the affordability and cost implications of the Design Code, concerns about the potential reduction of community feel due to increased housing density and the preference for flats over houses are noted. Several respondents are worried about the environmental maintenance and sustainability of green initiatives, as well as the control of antisocial behaviour and fly-tipping in public spaces.

The implementation and enforcement of the checklists are questioned, with doubts about whether they will be followed properly or just meet minimum requirements.

Accessibility and inclusivity are also mentioned, with a call for checklists to consider wheelchair users, sensory impairments, and neurodiverse individuals.

A minor correction to a reference is also suggested.

Response

This compliance checklist has been prepared to assist design teams and planning officers. The council intends the Design Code to become a supplementary planning document which will have material weight in planning decisions made by the council. Using the planning checklist is a way of demonstrating how planning applications have complied with the principles outlined in the code. Page 7 of the Design Code states that a completed Compliance Checklist and accompanying proving illustrations must be included as part of future Reserved Matters Applications and we suggest this is incorporated within the Design and Access Statement (DAS).

There is a resident consultee concern about the maintenance regime but this sits outside the scope of the Design Code.

Inclusive access and inclusive design features heavily throughout the Design Code, particularly the Identity of Home page. The checklist is a short summary and so this would not seem to be a suitable place criteria for requirements for all those with the 9 protected characteristics.

The references to "LTN/120" on pages 31, 33 and 55 of the Design Code will be corrected to read "LTN 1/20",

7.8. Question 8. Do you have any comments to make about the statement of consultation document?

Respondents have raised concerns about the lack of specific information in the consultation document, such as missing details on the budget dates for consulting with residents and a definition of inclusive design. Some feel that the consultation process is biased or manipulated. The length of the document was criticized for being too long, making it inaccessible for those with limited time. Some respondents expressed satisfaction with the consultation process while others criticized the methods used as dull and innovative. There were also neutral or non-specific responses. Concerns about the consultation process being a waste of money were also voiced, and some respondents highlighted the limitations of consultations in reflecting true public opinion.

Response

The dates of all the recent consultation events will be included in the statement of consultation document. The Design Code will be revised to include a definition of inclusive design.

For resident consultee concerns about whether the proposals are skewed against owners and users of privately owned vehicles, this is not the intention of the Design Code. The design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

The resident consultee is critical of the consultation. It is not the intention of the council to manipulate the process of producing the Design Code. The Cambridge City Local Plan provides the overall plan for the area. The purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered, how principles can work together, and where appropriate include key targets. The Design Code has evolved in relation to consultation with local residents throughout the process.

The council has publicised the consultation activities with leaflets delivered to residents' home and used its social media tools. The team has made a significant effort to reach out and engage with the community both online and in-person through online surveys, in-person events at the Meadows Community Centre, various places within the community, 4 schools in the area, taking it to the Disability Panel, Cambridgeshire Quality Panel and Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel.

A resident consultee was critical of the length of the statement of consultation, but this was necessary to fully capture the residents' responses and all the consultation activities in the document.

7.9. Question 9 Do you have any comments to make about the Equality Impact Assessment document?

A couple of consultees queried the inclusivity of the consultation process, with some respondents feeling that not all voices are being heard, particularly those who rely on private vehicles and others suggesting that the process seems biased or excluding certain demographics, such as white men. There is also criticism about the perceived lack of equality in the plan and the suggestion that labelling individuals by characteristics such as gender or disability is unnecessary.

Concerns were raised about the representativeness of the consultation, with one respondent noting that the 250 conversations held to develop the code do not adequately represent the approximately 29,000 people affected. The same respondent also objected to homeowners potentially being required to pay for accessibility improvements.

Response

The council has made efforts to disseminate information about the consultation using online tools and provided in-person events to ensure that is promoted to all residents as widely as possible.

The code has been developed based on 250 conversations, comments and detailed survey over the lifetime of the project using Citizen Lab, a user-friendly digital engagement platform together with in-person meetings and workshops. It has engaged with women, the elderly, disability groups ethnic minorities at local events held at Arbury Court, Baptist Church, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Meadows Community Centre and with children and parents at The Grove Primary School. The Cambridge Neighbourhoods code has been developed in collaboration with a core group of officers/stakeholders from Cambridge City Council, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, Cambridgeshire County Council, reviewed by the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel, the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel and the Disability Consultative Panel.

During the consultation period between 6th January 2025 to 17th February 2025, leaflets providing a hotlink to Citizen lab (recently renamed Go Vocal) and promoting the events were delivered to residents' homes; Physical copies of draft consultation documents and the EqlA have been made available in the council office, Arbury community centre, the Meadows centre and Arbury County library; there has also been further engagement with the children and parents of Mayfield Primary School, Kings Hedges Education Federation and the North Cambridge Academy during this period.

Page 42 of the 'Enhance character' chapter of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code in the 'Should' section writes "The design of new homes should adhere to local plan policy (47) for 'specialist housing' (for older people, disabled people, and vulnerable people with specific housing needs) and policy 51 for accessible homes". Policy 51 in the Cambridge City Local Plan states criteria for achieving planning permission for creating new accessible homes (to meet Building Regulations requirements) rather than this being a responsibility for owners of existing homes.

The design code has made a special effort to ensure that the guidance gives due consideration to equality and is consistent with Cambridge City Council's policies on Equality. The Public Sector Equality Duty, introduced under the Equality Act 2010, requires all public bodies, including local authorities, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. Consequently the council's Equality Impact Assessment for the Design Code has assessed positive and negative impacts of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code on each of these protected characteristics.

7.10. Question 10 Do you have any comments to make about the SEA/HRA screening report document?

Respondents to the 'Cambridge neighbourhoods design code: Supplementary Planning Document' project provided varied feedback, with some expressing concerns about the complexity of the SEA/HRA screening report document suggesting it could be too complicated for the general public to understand. There were also opinions that the measures proposed might not significantly impact the environment. A number of respondents did not have any comments to make about the document indicating either satisfaction with the content or a lack of opinion at the time of response.

Response

The SEA/HRA is a technical document that is required by legislation and it isn't one of the main documents that the community will need to consider. Considerable effort has gone to make the design code short and concise whilst being useful as a technical document.

The resident consultee is sceptical about the environmental impacts of the proposals. However the SEA report concludes that it rules out the potential for significant effects from the content and remit of the Design Code and with no identified development proposals that could give rise to significant effects on the environment. The SEA/HRA report also considers the Design Code is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any habitats site.

7.11. Comment from JH (resident) received via post

1. The value of a design code is in its application, precise language used, trained officer, member usage and rigorously insisting on its compliance.
2. The draft design code has some good observations but fails to explain the point clearly or make it narrowly for example: the point on management and maintenance of spaces is made but not buildings
3. It complements the code to correctly draw on the areas local character but mentions that it is dated and of its time and not repeated elsewhere in the area but also cautions on imposing 21st Century fashion architecture or clone towns.
4. The principle on Enhancing Character has worthwhile intentions but are ill defined and imprecise. Why are materials only mentioned for public spaces?
5. Roofscape are vital. the design code must be firm that flat roofs are inappropriate around Arbury and there is no justification for increase in building height.
6. Backs and fronts should be linked to readable entrances and clearly defined wayfinding around both sides of buildings via good landscape design.

7. Whilst the section on detailing correctly mentions openings, window reveals, sills, eaves, it doesn't mention other details such as ridges, block corners, chimneys, flues, vents etc which can lead to cost cutting and reduction in quality.
8. The importance of memorable building design at key focal points could be joined to the need for buildings not screaming for visual attention but subtle vernacular using sustainable local materials, with the use of materials rigorously enforced.

Response

1. Agree with the points made and will be providing training to planning officers and specialist design comments based on this code as schemes come forward.
2. The code has tried to be succinct sharp and focused and sometimes the points made cut across chapters, topic and principles. However, the example made is relevant and hence will add the point around building maintenance.
3. These comments are well made, and the intention of the code is not to repeat the historic character of the area but rather use the positive characteristics of the place for example car free environments but build up the areas shortcoming. It isn't just about the appearance of buildings but the functional design of the place. However, your point of creating buildings with an authentic character of its time will be reinforced.
4. The document has tried it hardest consulting with all stakeholders to make the wording of statements as tight as it can in the context of the policies within the existing local Plan. There is a mention of materials on pg. 44, 47 but will also make the point on materiality for buildings on page 41 - Materiality and elements.
5. There are situations on flats for example where a flat roof may be acceptable, but the code has caveats to ask for a varied townscape and roofline. The aim on height here is to keep it contextual, look at gentle density as an approach to intensify use but in keeping with the open/green character of the area, justifying height in key locations like the town centre.
6. The design code mentions the creation of active frontages, active uses, front doors facing streets and public spaces.
7. The aim of the design code is to keep the points focused and there is a danger of missing out on details that are not listed. So, the points mentioned are not an exhaustive list. However, within the identity of home section we will add a catch all phrase 'other features important to the design, agreed with planning in advance'
8. Here the aim is to keep the point around memorable building general, open and succinct, as it could relate to landmarks, corners. It can for

example include community uses such as faith in which case the design could be elaborate.

7.12. Cambridgeshire County Council Comments

There are a number of Schools in the area that need to be referenced in the document which are key destinations that should be safe, attractive and accessible for walking and cycling. Deterring traffic and reducing speeds should also be an explicit aim.

- P16 Routes and Destination- does not include key existing walking and cycling routes in the areas, suggests changes in wording to para 1 on cul-de-sacs to make them better and asks for clarification on desirable east-west movement route between Rosewood Road and Alex wood Road not for vehicular traffic.
- P29 Movement Opportunities - There is a suggestion for adding and elaborating text for cyclist and pedestrians with rational for when segregated and mixed routes can be provided.
- Detail Comments: The comments ask for more detail on the measures that could be used to improve existing roads that are not going to be changed, how movement may take place within Arbury Town Centre and which new active travel routes may be create and which may be improved

Response

All non-residential buildings including schools are identified within the document.

Pg 16- We have included reference on Pg 16 the Cambridgeshire County Council documents on walking and Cycling routes in this area. This chapter talks about the key issues rather than solutions and hence have not incorporated comment on cul-de-sacs but does clarify the east west movement route between Rosewood Road and Alex Wood Road for pedestrians/cycle connections.

Pg 29 - Whilst we have added addition text to clarify key cycle and walking improvements when development opportunities arise we haven't included when segregated or mixed cycle routes should be provided as there is a mixture of the two happening in the area which needs a detail masterplan/framework to resolve.

Detailed Comments - There are three detailed comments requesting for more information on the type of measures that could be used to improve existing and new roads/streets, how movement through Arbury Town Centre will be provided and identification of new active travel routes and

improvement of existing ones. As this pilot Design Code is not based on a masterplan, it sets out principles based on the priorities of the community, it cannot provide more detail which will need to be set out at a masterplanning stage.

7.13. Accessibility, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning- Comments

The language used around disability is all good. Comments which might be included are:

- All development should be in accord with inclusive design principles.
- Accessibility means including the needs of people with any disability.
- Reference BS 8300 and BS9622 for most inclusive and accessible design.

Response

We have consulted with the accessibility officer throughout the production of the design code and have included references to policy and inclusive design. We accept all the recommendations made and have incorporated them in the document

7.14. Public Art Officer, Cambridge City Council - Comments

There are detailed comments made on the design code which are summarised here. The officer wasn't aware of this work and does not feel that the code properly includes public art which would be a missed opportunity to properly integrate Cambridge City Councils Public Art policies, including Public Art Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Cambridge Perspective: A Manifesto for Public Art, which are designed to promote best practices and innovative, artist-led public art.

There is a concern that what is included in the design code particularly within the Cultural Sociability section on public art, fails to comply with the Council's policies and best practice. This is due to the terminology around 'community-led public art installation' and the policy text on 'public art with community involvement' which doesn't recognise the role of artists in developing/leading public art who are the best enablers of engagement with the community.

The consultation text also treats art as objects in the public realm which doesn't reflect best practice. There is also a lack of application of how public art enables high quality place outcomes and how it can enhance and be linked to the five principles established in the design code. The design code also doesn't mention the Cambridge City Council Cultural Strategy and importance cultural infrastructure in public space.

Response

The design code project has sought to engage as many officers' and teams within the council incorporating their expertise into the document. It is unfortunate that this opportunity was missed but agree that the points made by the officer in her comments have merit but need to be articulated in a succinct way. The team's intention on the design code was to ensure that the voice of the community is heard at all times and 'community led' is a term that is used throughout the design code to ensure their voice is heard first. However, we understand how this reads from a specialist and public art perspective and hence will make amendments to the text to ensure that all public art is artist led. We have modified the text in consultation with the public art officer. The design code is a focused document and hence the commentary around application of public art using the 5 principles will be captured at a strategic level. There will be reference to the Cambridge City Council Public Art Policy documents as well as the Cultural Strategy. Points made on cultural infrastructure will also be added.

7.15. Arboricultural officer, Cambridge City Council Comments

There have been various comments made by the Arboriculture officer from Cambridge City Council with regard to referencing and citing the Tree Strategy and other policy documents, the importance of retaining trees of value explicitly mentioned in various element of the document, referring to Miyawaki method of planting to create miniature woodland and the qualitative criteria for the spacing of trees.

Response

The code tries to take a balance approach to the conversation of trees to protect the ones of value whilst balancing the other needs of placemaking in an area that needs a different response to create active streets. Most of the changes suggested has been accepted.

7.16. Historic England Comments

We welcome the production of this Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton, but do not consider it necessary for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of the code. We have general advice on good design in the historic environment on our website, which can be found here:<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/design-in-the-historic-environment/>.

Response: Comments are welcome. The document will seek to reference buildings of local interest which are published by Cambridge City Council

7.17. Cultural Services and City Events Team, Cambridge City Council

Towards the end of the formal consultation period, the project team met with Culture team, CCC who were not sighted on the design code. The key points of the discussion was to highlight within the document the CCC Cultural strategy and the importance of cultural infrastructure in placemaking. This was to ensure that the infrastructure is there to support residents with spaces to connect culturally but also to ensure that public spaces have adequate power supplies, adaptable layouts, storage, and lighting whilst designing spaces that are functional, adaptable, and inclusive.

Response

The project team has taken notice of the comments and have tried to reach out to as many officers/departments in the council. It will make amendments to the design code to highlight the points raised.

Appendix H: Detailed comment, assessment, and proposed modification to individual comments on the draft Design Code

Formal Consultation 06.01.2025 to 17.02.2025

Q1. Do you have any comments to make about the background and context of the design code?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 25

[Representation eff704ea-02ff-4168-83d6-039d72a1ea12](#)

Main issues raised in representation

How many more houses do we need? I understand trying to make it look nice, but concreting the green spaces will lead to flooding and reduction of the 'nice' places to live.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee questions how many houses are needed and seems to have fears that the Design Code will mean excessive numbers of houses being built. However, the code doesn't automatically mean more homes will be built. Rather, it seeks to ensure that if homes are built, it is well considered and meets the priorities of residents with their involvement at key stages of the development process. Where development isn't proposed, it also assists to make improvements on environmental sustainability to improve design quality for existing residents.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

[Representation ae110cf1-fc4c-46f6-b40a-f8f3e492b133](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Totally useless. Whole lot of information that actually gives very little specific information of what you intend to do. Colourful plans that don't give what your actual aims are for people to comment on.

Councils' assessment

The aim of this consultation and design code is to establish the priorities of its residents that can provide the background for change, co-ordinate investment and improvements. An area wide code is a pilot that seeks to trial a new tool that can raise quality. The purpose of the code is identified in the introduction and applying the code sections. It will become a material consideration when adopted as a supplementary planning document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

[Representation 55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Yes. I do not see anywhere the expected spend budget

Councils' assessment

The design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any funding attached for implementation. However, it seeks to influence positive change through the planning application process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8ea463e7-cde7-4c27-87bc-a29eff451c6d

Main issues raised in representation

Yes

Councils' assessment

No detailed information provided

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

More specific mentions of disabled people and disabled access is needed and a definition of what inclusive design means is needed.

Councils' assessment

There are 12 separate instances where the document refers to inclusive access/design and 3 instances to disabled people. However, a Glossary which provides a definition of terms will be provided at the end.

Proposed modifications

Glossary of terms which include inclusive design will be provided.

Representation efe9862d-1777-494e-9003-290ac6c4b93a

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q1 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

Moving away from local communities and making isolated groups of flats

Councils' assessment

It is unclear what this comment is trying to achieve. A mix of Flats and homes are integral to creating mixed communities

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac

Main issues raised in representation

Yes leave car drivers alone people buy cars to drive not to look at.

Councils' assessment

The code tries to introduce a balance of prioritising pedestrian and cycle movements which in recent history has not received sufficient attention. The code takes account of the needs of the car users as well.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4b30f636-f6c7-43c3-b89d-94abcb89879b

Main issues raised in representation

Why isn't there data for all properties owned and managed by the council on page 17

Councils' assessment

The design code is intended to be policy/guidance document rather than an implementation tool.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

Yes.

Councils' assessment

No detailed information provided.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

1. Page 9 "Engagement process and the core group" states "The team recorded almost 250 conversations, comments, and detailed surveys over the life on the project." Clearly this consultation is not well-advertised. Tens of thousands of people live in the area and only a couple of hundred responses were received. This is absolutely inadequate and doesn't represent the population in the area.

2. Page 12 "Context and History": I appreciate reading about the history of the area

3. Page 13 "Age and Condition of Buildings": It is very concerning as a homeowner regarding houses redevelopment in the area. King's Hedges consists of mixed social housing and privately owned houses. Any redevelopment of social housing to meet the new Design Code will greatly impact privately owned houses. This Design Code draft document and previous consultations and surveys do not give assurances or protections for private house owners from redevelopment or demolition of their houses.

4. Page 17 "Sustainable Homes - EPC Ratings" states "When improvement works or development is proposed, an up-to-date assessment of the building's energy performance should be carried out. Building owners should be encouraged and assisted to improve energy performance, with a particular focus on buildings with ratings below "C"". I disagree with this statement. House owners should be allowed to carry out improvement work to their houses without requirements of costly energy improvements. Majority of the houses in the area are very old, and many require significant amount of work to be modernized. Requiring energy improvements will discourage house owners from carrying out improvement work on their properties.

5. Page 17 "Sustainable Homes - EPC Ratings" states "Where buildings with the poorest energy performance overlap with other challenges to delivering the code principles (such as poor existing urban design, weak movement networks, and lack of urban greening) this can be indicative of larger-scale problems to tackle than basic

refurbishment can deliver. Where this is the case then both refurbishment, partial, and full new development options must be explored ". This is statement is concerning for me. As a house owner, I should not be required to redevelop or demolish my house to meet energy requirements.

6. Page 21 "The Five Principles" states " one of the highest priorities for residents is a safer and better connected cycling and walking network for local trips." Is this true? Please provide the data that support this statement. Kings Hedges is mostly a quiet residential area with 20m/h max speed and traffic reduction measures. It is a generally safe area to cycle since traffic levels are very low.

Councils' assessment

1. The team has made a significant effort to reach out and engage with the community both online and in person through online surveys, in person events at the Meadows Community Centre, various places within the community, 4 schools in the area, taking it to the Disability Panel, Cambridgeshire Quality Panel and Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel. This has been the most comprehensive community engagement done on a design code in Greater Cambridge.

2. No comment

3. The design code does not suggest redevelopment but is created to ensure that if development is proposed by individuals, private or public sectors, community priorities are taken account of.

4. Page 17 - The statement here is to encourage owners or applicants to carry out energy saving measures when doing improvements and hence the word should is used. For planning applications coming forward they would need to meeting planning policies in the local plan for sustainability.

5. Page 17 - The statement in paragraph 4 refers to when development proposals are being considered and if energy performance certification is low the different development options be considered rather than various development options considered if the energy certification is low.

6. Please see survey results carried out in phase 1 and 2 that helped the team capture the priorities of the area including safer and better-connected streets which include better surfacing of cycle and footpaths as well as lighting.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I think much of the information presented is based upon an ideology, for Net zero and active travel. I do not think the majority of Cambridge believe development should follow this ideology.

Page 14 you mention "Encourage retention and reinstatement of front garden planting and hedges and avoid excessive paving over front gardens" but you're building no spaces for parking so people have to concrete their front garden. If someone has to prioritise a front garden they have to maintain or somewhere to park their car, of course they'll choose the later. This is also why we have fly parking and it is only going to get worse. Stop thinking you can make people's lives so inconvenient they'll give up using their cars, they won't and it will end very badly.

Councils' assessment

The design code is based on the priorities of residents captured in phase 1, 2 and 3 of the project. It is also compliant with policies in the local plan.

Page 14: is an encouragement statement and is identified in later chapters as a should. Hence if there is a justifiable reason why front gardens cannot be kept in a scenario where the works require planning consent, deviation would be accepted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f6ded926-2a59-4a1e-b668-b466abd6a41b

Main issues raised in representation

p.14 As a resident on Roseford Road I feel that there needs to be clarification on the increased movement plans from East to West. Whilst the road is a 20-mph road, it's already intensively used as a rat run from Histon Rd towards Carlton Way and Mere Way with many vehicles speeding and accidents taking place (both with bikes and cars!). My worry is that the plan seems to want to increase traffic by creating a road straight to Kingsway Flats and connecting Alex Wood rd. and Roseford Rd. A plan that says it is focused on increasing more walking and cycling seems to be doing exactly the opposite for Roseford Road (where now there is a walking route through (Kingsway Flats)). I would be very worried if the plans as they are will be going ahead.

Councils' assessment

The design code has a focus on improving pedestrian and cycle connectivity to make it easy and safe to move via cycle and foot from East to West. There isn't a mention of increasing traffic but clarification will be added to ensure that the improvement is for pedestrian and cycle connection between Roseford Road and Alex Wood Road, the detail of which cannot be developed at this stage but will need to be consulted with the community in the future, should there be proposals coming forward for the area.

Proposed modifications

Paragraph 2 under Poor Connectivity and legibility on page 18 corrected to:
Improve the layout of the Kingsway Flats blocks desirable east-west pedestrian/cycle movements between Rosewood Road and Alex Wood Road and connections to Arbury town centre.

Representation 4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb

Main issues raised in representation

It's ridiculous to expect people to wade through all the nonsense. Your surveys are always biased and contain limited multiple-choice answers with no option but to agree with the GCP.

Councils' assessment

This is a Greater Cambridge Shared Planning document and not a Greater Cambridge Partnership document. The engagement on the design code has sought to genuinely establish the priorities of residents and articulate principles that can guide positive change for the area.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc

Main issues raised in representation

There is a lot of words! This is off-putting for users. Have the authors not appreciated that in most circumstances 'less is more'?! For example, there is some (unnecessary) duplication (e.g. on pages 14 and 15 there is repetition of policies later included in section 4, pages 40-45). Is all the material necessary?

Councils' assessment

A design code document generally runs to over 100 pages. We have kept the document short up to 68 pages with appendices. We appreciate that all aspects of the document will not be relevant to all and hence the colour coding has been used. We have also focused on five principles. whilst pages 14/15 provide a context of the places, pages 40-45 set out the guidance and coding that can inform future developments. An executive summary is also included at the start.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 212e16a7-d294-4729-a9ab-c339c900758f

Main issues raised in representation

Page 13 - Arbury Court shops could be better publicised.

Councils' assessment

Agree

Proposed modifications

We will incorporate the positive attributes of Arbury Court in the text in context and history section of the document.

Representation 829695b6-b949-4b7e-9ad2-8ad6d1f359e8

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q1 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb

Main issues raised in representation

It's a great aim, I'm grateful that it's been given such thought.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your positive comments.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4802be18-a86d-4e00-ba33-21b1aad4e22a

Main issues raised in representation

Sustainable Homes - agree that is a big issue. I am a private homeowner. I need assistance in making the right decisions to upgrade my home's EPC rating. I will probably need to pay for this myself but at least getting specific advice on how to do this would be very valuable. I don't want the focus to only be on social housing/very low-income households. It's not fair on the majority of private homeowners.

Routes and Destinations - need better cycle routes from Arbury Court into Redfern Close, and the east end of Arbury Road past the older Victorian houses.

Local Character - Arbury Court. It's nice to have independent shops nearby. However, the court is unattractive and feels intimidating at night, particularly the alleyways near the betting shop and greengrocers. Would be great to encourage a local cafe or bar into one of the units. There's a lack of meeting space in the area.

Councils' assessment

Sustainable Homes - Agreement on issues noted. noted

Routes and Destinations - Slightly amended wording to capture improvements to local walking and cycling routes in Movement Opportunities Chapter bullet 5. East end of Arbury Road already captured within the design code. code.

Local Character - Agree with comments. Will incorporate positive as well as negative characteristics of Arbury Court in the Local Character or History and Context section of the design code.

Proposed modifications

Slightly amended wording to capture improvements to local walking and cycling routes in Movement Opportunities Chapter bullet 5. Replace wording to - Prioritise, improve existing or create new walking and cycling routes, making them safe and integrate them with new development.

We will incorporate positive as well as negative characteristics of Arbury Court in the Local Character or History and Context section of the design code.

Representation 69256156-0204-4de6-bdfc-f36764c65861

Main issues raised in representation

Does the person or persons who wrote this love in the cb4 area ? Do they shop and eat here. Do they walk play and dog walk here. If not. Go get someone who does.

Councils' assessment

The team over the last two years have spent a great deal of time in understanding and speaking to residents and businesses in the area which has informed the production of this document. See Statement of Community Involvement

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 135603c4-11ce-42c0-a030-90a5dca88c4c

Main issues raised in representation

Thank you for undertaking this creative and people-focused work. The whole thing is very inspiring.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your positive comments

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c096eb9d-bf07-42d0-8c79-04c1c3d63c0a (Cambridge Past, Present & Future)**Main issues raised in representation**

Much of Cambridge PPF's work revolves around protecting and enhancing nature and ecology. We therefore support the aims of this Design Code in ensuring that development and place-making is delivered with people and nature in mind.

As advocates for the people of Cambridge, over many issues, we are particularly supportive of the community involvement in the preparation of this Code. We hope that this will lead to community buy-in of the code so that people think about how they should improve their homes and gardens.

We are particularly supportive that 'Making Space for nature' is the first of the five principles; and we support the 5 areas in which this is to be achieved (Greening Opportunities; Urban Greening; Nature Conservation; Living Landscapes and Water Responsiveness).

On the matter of presentation, a final online version which avoids columns of text is easier to read.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your positive comments. Columns of text is only located within the Planning checklist to make it easier for the planning officer.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2d021222-3af2-4234-91aa-ea7044b8b197**Main issues raised in representation**

I would like to raise a serious concern that the Energy Performance data on the Council's building shown on page 17 stock is inaccurate, and fails to take into account improvements made over the past decade. I believe that the Council should ask for this part to be reassessed and corrected before approving the document. Failure to do so may result in bad decisions based on misleading data. It appears that HM Land Registry's data has been misused and misunderstood.

In detail, the problem is that the Energy Performance Certificates for many council-owned properties sourced to 'HM Land Registry Data 2022' pre-date improvement work. Energy Performance Certificates last ten years, and don't need to be redone after improvement works. So this data can go back to 2012. In this time window, the City Council undertook a major programme of cavity wall insulation to many of its flats in the area.

As an example, you can consider my own postcode, CB4 2RP. You will see there that most of the Energy Performance Certificates date from 2014 and have now expired. At that time, my property - and those of most of my neighbours - were rated

'D', a few worse. However, recent Energy Performance Certificates are coming in as an acceptable 'C' rating.

What happened here is that in 2014, Council was preparing to bid for a grant to install cavity wall insulation. EPCs were obtained, showing that installing cavity wall insulation would bring the properties up to 'C' standard - I understand this was a condition of the grant. The cavity wall insulation was indeed installed - by a company called Aran Services. No new certificates were obtained, but the properties were all improved to 'C' standard. As the properties are re-certified, we see them getting 'C' ratings'.

In your design code document, my block is shown on your flats as being of a mixture of D-F rating (with something coded in G - which doesn't seem to be in the data at all). But - thanks to modernization works - it is actually a 'C'. Our block is a common archetype, and they have all had similar improvement works so it will not be an isolated thing.

The risks in leaving errors like this uncorrected is that they create false perceptions that perfectly good buildings 'need redevelopment'. While there may well be some buildings in the area that do genuinely need redevelopment, I think it is important that we don't falsely identify the good buildings. These are after all people's homes, and we don't want to put people at the mercy of redevelopers unnecessarily.

I'd suggest re-doing this part of the plan before adopting it. A better way to do this would be to concentrate on the more recent EPCs in an area. The council will have access to the dates of the insulation works across its properties, so this would be quite easy to do.

Councils' assessment

As a result of this comment, but also similar comments at the informal consultation stages, we have introduced within the text and diagram caveats that the Data is taken from HM Land Registry 2022, the diagram is illustrative and should improvements be needed to be made, an up to date assessments of the buildings energy performance should be carried out. This is stated on page 19 and page 49 of the document.

Proposed modifications

Further text is introduced in the diagram on page 19 and 49 as follows: Diagram of relative EPC ratings (based on publicly available HM Land Registry data 2022). Please note this is intended for illustrative purposes only.

[Representation fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0 \(fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0\)](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Very good design code and set of principles. I'm happy this area is getting some well-deserved attention and care. I like that the code is ambitious and inspiring!

I'd like to see more on how to make this a reality- what are the mechanisms being put in place to actually make this happen – policy or other options for decision makers. Also, are there any actions for local people to make this all a reality. Perhaps add a 'how can I help' page in the document (community funding/grants etc.)

I would have liked Hurst Park Estate included in the study area as it is geographically a key part of this urban block. Hurst Park Estate is also very well-used as a cycle and walking route for those heading into the city. Even though it is not in the study area... these well used routes through Hurst Park Estate should be added to the consideration of strategic movement routes (i.e. on the diagram in Page 29).

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome. The design code is a policy guidance document that is proposed to become an SPD and will have material weight in determining planning applications. There are reference documents that provide information on funding opportunities. Even though Hurst Park Estate is not included in the study area, strategic pedestrian and cycle links to it will be shown.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation External Written Comment 1 (JH)

Main issues raised in representation

1. The value of a design code is in its application, precise language used, trained officer, member usage and rigorously insisting on its compliance.
2. The draft design code has some good observations but fails to explain the point clearly or make it narrowly for example: the point on management and maintenance of spaces is made but not buildings
3. It complements the code to correctly draw on the areas local character but mentions that it is dated and of its time and not repeated elsewhere in the area but also cautions on imposing 21st Century fashion architecture or clone towns.
4. The principle on Enhancing Character has worthwhile intentions but are ill-defined and imprecise. Why are materials only mentioned for public spaces?
5. Roofscape are vital. the design code must be firm that flat roofs are inappropriate around Arbury and there is no justification for increase in building height.
6. Backs and fronts should be linked to readable entrances and clearly defined wayfinding around both sides of buildings via good landscape design.
7. Whilst the section on detailing correctly mentions openings, window reveals, sills, eaves, it doesn't mention other details such as ridges, block corners, chimneys, flues, vents etc which can lead to cost cutting and reduction in quality.
8. The importance of memorable building design at key focal points could be joined to the need for buildings not screaming for visual attention but subtle vernacular using sustainable local materials, with the use of materials rigorously enforced.

Councils' assessment

1. Agree with the points made and will be providing training to planning officers and specialist design comments based on this code as schemes come forward.

2. The code has tried to be succinct sharp and focused and sometimes the points made cut across chapters, topic and principles. However, the example made is relevant and hence will add the point around building maintenance.

3. These comments are well made, and the intention of the code is not to repeat the historic character of the area but rather use the positive characteristics of the place for example car free environments but build up the areas shortcoming. It isn't just about the appearance of buildings but the functional design of the place. However, your point of creating buildings with an authentic character of its time will be reinforced.

4. The document has tried it hardest consulting with all stakeholders to make the wording of statements as tight as it can in the context of the policies within the existing local Plan. There is a mention of materials on pg. 44, 47 but will also make the point on materiality for buildings on page 41 - Materiality and elements.

5. There are situations on flats for example where a flat roof may be acceptable, but the code has caveats to ask for a varied townscape and roofline. The aim on height here is to keep it contextual, look at gentle density as an approach to intensify use but in keeping with the open/green character of the area, justifying height in key locations like the town centre.

6. The design code mentions the creation of active frontages, active uses, front doors facing streets and public spaces.

7. The aim of the design code is to keep the points focused and there is a danger of missing out on details that are not listed. So, the points mentioned are not an exhaustive list. However, within the identity of home section we will add a catch all phrase 'other features important to the design, agreed with planning in advance'

8. Here the aim is to keep the point around memorable building general, open and succinct, as it could relate to landmarks, corners. It can for example include community uses such as faith in which case the design could be elaborate.

Proposed modifications

Add on pg. 44 Identity of Home - The design of buildings should take account of their long-term management and maintenance, avoiding poor detailing, construction and need for constant repairs.

Add on pg. 43 - Placemaking Opportunities - Developments must provide diversity of built forms, having a distinct identity, of its time, avoiding it looking like everywhere else.

Amend wordings on pg. 41 to include the application of materials to elevational design.

Add on pg. 44 - Identity of Home, additional bullet - Other features important to the design, agreed with planning in advance.

Q2. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 1: Make space for nature?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 32

Representation 21d76e77-2bbd-444e-a69c-772fda8eb060

Main issues raised in representation

Buildings should be much taller. It would help with all the relevant aims by decreasing land use, increasing density, looking cooler.

Councils' assessment

Height is dealt with in the Character chapter where there is potential for height explored in the right location such as centres with justification

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation eff704ea-02ff-4168-83d6-039d72a1ea12

Main issues raised in representation

You are building on nature, that, in itself, is reducing the space.

Councils' assessment

The design code does not propose any development but suggest exploring opportunities.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ae110cf1-fc4c-46f6-b40a-f8f3e492b133

Main issues raised in representation

Again great pictures that don't say what is actually planned.

Councils' assessment

The design code does not propose any development but suggest exploring opportunities. It is a policy document that seeks to influence change when it is proposed

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08

Main issues raised in representation

I would like to see the expected expenses

Councils' assessment

The design code does not propose any development but suggest exploring opportunities. It is a policy document that seeks to influence change when it is proposed

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 563b4418-2a5f-4e8b-a290-f4508146ad83

Main issues raised in representation

Good thing.

Councils' assessment

Comments are Welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8ea463e7-cde7-4c27-87bc-a29eff451c6d

Main issues raised in representation

Cities are for people, not for nature.

Councils' assessment

As part of creating a positive place, Nature has a role to play even in cities for people's health and wellbeing, addressing climate change, managing water as well as for wildlife. The design code is aimed at achieving all these elements and more.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0f38c4d8-cf74-456c-a5bc-ef802648f69e

Main issues raised in representation

All terribly middle class. How about build more homes, council houses not shared ownership.

Councils' assessment

The design code does not propose any development but suggest exploring opportunities

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

x

Councils' assessment

. . The consultee has not left any comments about Q1 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation efe9862d-1777-494e-9003-290ac6c4b93a

Main issues raised in representation

All looks great.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f

Main issues raised in representation

Green spaces are in short supply throughout the city and surrounding areas/villages. However, whilst aesthetically pleasing, current green spaces in and around the city serve little to no practical purpose and are generally poor maintained by the respective councils, making them significantly less appealing to use. This should be addressed as a priority now and for any future green space installations. Also, any and all additional green space installations should, under no circumstances, come at the cost of resident's rights to own, use and park private vehicles (including the potential for multiple vehicles per residence), as well as the right for said residents to receive multiple visitors (including the potential for multiple for vehicles per multiple visitors per residence). Adequate on AND off road parking must be provided in order to accommodate such situations AS WELL AS accommodating the needs of an

increasing ageing, and in many case increasing infirm, population reliant on privately owned vehicles due to their inability to partake in "activate travel" options and also who cannot use public transport services to poor design of vehicles and inappropriate, and in many cases insufficient and unreliable, public transport routes.

Councils' assessment

Whilst the design code is a policy document it refers to management and maintenance of green space as well as reviewing incidental green spaces that do not serve any particular function when development comes forward.

The design code is prepared trying to balance different issues but tries to shift the priority for pedestrians, cyclist and those on wheels including disabled, the elderly promoting active travel and public transport, whilst at the same time taking account of the needs of necessary vehicle trips.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

The use of the wider green space as it is, would be better than trying to make more smaller areas to make more room for houses, paths and cycleways

Councils' assessment

Agree with the comment. There are a mix of large and small open spaces in the area that need to work better and is promoted with the code

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b9d00652-cd48-4aee-9bc3-49f3f0b09172

Main issues raised in representation

Basically good

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac

Main issues raised in representation

Less house would be a great idea demolish so of the eye soar flats

Councils' assessment

The design code does not propose any development but suggest exploring opportunities for improvements in areas.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

Pathways for pedestrians must be of solid stone or tarmac, and wide enough to fit a pram for twin babies, large shopping trolleys, walkers and wheelchairs. Benches and bins must be provided, with good lighting please.

Councils' assessment

There are design parameters that guide the widths of pathways for pedestrians, wheelchair, prams users which is covered in the Department for transport's Inclusive mobility- A guide to best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure which will be included in the text.

Proposed modifications

The design of footways for pedestrians must follow the guidance on Inclusive mobility- A guide to best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

1. Page 22 "Make Space for Nature" states "Encourage and assist community management of local spaces and food growing". It is concerning that residents will be required to pay for maintenance of the local spaces. And what would the council do if residents do not or cannot manage the food growing spaces?

2. Page 24 "Urban Greening" states "Community nature areas could include raised vegetable beds, play areas and wildlife habitats". Existing green courts directly in front of houses should not include play areas and food growing areas. It is important to keep these areas quiet to reduce noise. Residents should be able to enjoy quiet weekends and working from home without noise from people using the play areas directly in front of their houses. The illustrative diagram in Page 25 is a better example of where these play/community areas should be provided.

3. Page 24 "Urban Greening" states "Encourage large, native trees along main roads." While having more trees is good, currently the area suffers from lack of maintenance of existing public trees. Fallen tree leaves and branches are not cleared from pavements. Planting more trees without provision of adequate maintenance will have a detrimental effect to the character of the area.

4. Page 24 "Urban Greening" states "Encourage hedges rather than fences in front gardens." While I agree that hedges are better than fences in front gardens, the area suffers due to extremely overgrown hedges that cross house boundaries and extend into the pavement. Overgrown hedges reduce the width of the pavements. Additionally, some house owners plant hedges with sharp thorns, and when overgrown, scratch pedestrians or cyclists on pavements. On so many occasions, I had overgrown hedge branches scratch my eyes or face with sharp thorns.

Councils' assessment

Page 22 - The aim of the design code isn't for communities to pay for maintenance of their local spaces but to empower communities, should they wish, through consultation, to take active care of components of open spaces perhaps in the immediate surroundings, the details of which will need to be worked through on specific proposals as they come forward as part of development proposals or community initiatives.

Pg 24. Whilst raised vegetable beds will help communities come together within open space, the code needs to protect against noisy play next to home and hence will incorporate the guidance.

Pg 24 'Urban Greening' - There is a need for more trees to increase the tree canopy cover and address the heat island effect particularly on streets that have no trees,

identified within the design code with maintenance and management requirements understood at the outset.

Pg24 'Urban Greening and Hedges' - Many parts of Kings Hedges and Arbury are green in character and hence a hedge treatment is considered appropriate. However, there may be instance in more urban parts of the neighbourhood that a hedge may not be appropriate and hence is recognised as a should rather than a must.

Proposed modifications

On Pg39 the following additional text is introduced - Noisy play must be located away from home.

Representation c9337fa2-b543-408b-b016-8af7523e69f5

Main issues raised in representation

I strongly agree with this.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2

Main issues raised in representation

Making space for nature is a good thing but the space for nature we already have is poorly maintained and riddled with crime/anti-social behaviour. Before spending money ask yourself how you will counter these issues, how much will it cost and can you afford that ongoing cost (considering you're already in debt!).

Councils' assessment

The design code is a planning policy/guidance document and even though the management is outside the scope of the document, it references the management issues. The code seeks to improve natural surveillance and public realm and in doing so aims to tackle crime/anti-social behaviour. Finally, the design code is not an implementation tool that has funding attached, but rather an enabling tool to ensure resources are co-ordinated.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb

Main issues raised in representation

If the Milton Road area cycle path is anything to go by it will be a shambles with a few spaces for weeds to grow.

Councils' assessment

The design code is not a delivery tool but a planning policy document which seeks to enable, influence and guide positive change in the area.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc

Main issues raised in representation

No. There doesn't seem to be a place to make some comments, being of a general kind, so I shall put them here: Whilst I applaud that the document has generally been written in plain English (as it should be), there are occasional slips into technocratic or obscure language (e.g. what is meant by a 'gentle density', 'co-location of uses', 'integration of flat blocks', 'active frontages', 'scale and form must be carefully composed', 'celebrate their location', 'design in the impact'. These are just a few examples; I suggest someone goes over the document, filtering out non-plain English.

Also the document includes some pretty dubious concepts. What is meant by a building's 'end of life' (buildings can survive for very long times if they are adequately maintained and updated. Sustainability generally supports maintenance/updating)?

Councils' assessment

We will include a page that has a glossary of terms that make some of this terminology accessible and clear to those reading it.

Proposed modifications

Glossary of terms provided at the end to include: Gentle Density, Co-location of uses, Active Frontages, Scale and Form and Building's 'End of Life'.

Representation 8158f535-601d-4d11-8e34-cec29414746b

Main issues raised in representation

Harris Road playground - this is a fair space which needs proper use. There's currently a few bits of play equipment for very young kids. Never used.

Councils' assessment

The problem you mention is exactly what the code is trying to solve i.e. making existing spaces more accessible, usable and safe.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 212e16a7-d294-4729-a9ab-c339c900758f

Main issues raised in representation

Restrict driveways to be fully paved over, although I understand with more houses having more than one car, it's better that they are off roads rather than parked on them. If the council is not going to cut the grass verges so much, then at least don't allow cars to churn them up with parking. I like hedgehog highways. Arbury has lots of foxes, so there's wildlife.

Councils' assessment

The design code seeks to prioritise pedestrians and cyclist, whilst providing space of nature and catering for essential car use and hence has to balance various competing priorities which will be dealt on a case-by-case basis.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3a75b661-85ba-4a83-af24-81546a3771dd

Main issues raised in representation

Harris Road playground - this is a fair space which needs proper use. There's currently a 'never used' few bits of play equipment for very young kids.

Councils' assessment

The problem you mention is exactly what the code is trying to solve i.e. making existing spaces more accessible, usable and safe.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f76336-7f75-45d9-891a-26d0e792d930

Main issues raised in representation

The "nature" effect is also about the air. And smells. Many streets stink with rubbish bins standing at literally every step. No point having more plants if the air is full of rotten smells. Please address integration of rubbish bin storage locations into a "greener" layout.

Remember, more green and more little boxes/bird feeding places also means more hidden storages for drug dealers which are well presented in the area. Please avoid hidden corners and shady narrow paths for those people.

Also consider noise. The biggest noise pollution in modern Cambridge is from shamelessly loud motorbikes. Without having noise cameras and strict enforcement in the area it doesn't really matter what trees are you planting for "relaxation when down and tired".

Councils' assessment

Bins are incorporated in page 42 of the code but a note about quality specification on integrated design for bin storage will be incorporated. The design code seeks to create safer areas with visibility from homes on the street. The design code is a planning policy document and is not able to suggest enforcement measures outside its planning remit.

Proposed modifications

Integration of bins within the design is incorporated within pg 44 –identity of homes.

Representation be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb

Main issues raised in representation

It's a really good thing to want to do.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 135603c4-11ce-42c0-a030-90a5dca88c4c

Main issues raised in representation

This is all really encouraging, and thank you for what has been begun already. The new hedges and increase in trees at Arbury Town Park and the St Albans Recreation Ground is a wonderful improvement.

One thought about Living Landscapes and community gardening (p.26) A group has taken on the responsibility for the piece of garden at the entrance to Arbury Court and it looks really cared for. People help on Saturday mornings and the lady who co-ordinates the work is very encouraging. By contrast, the area called Circus Drive Gardens which was beautifully planted when Orchard Park was new is now a disappointing mess. Most of the plants have died and it is often full of rubbish. What was lovely planting in front of The Meadows Community Centre is deteriorating fast. Planting will kind of look after itself when it becomes more mature but new planting needs care for the first five years or so, and if there is to be community care, as it were, there needs to be some co-ordination.

Councils' assessment

It is encouraging to hear of improvements being carried out already, be it new hedge planting, increase in trees or management of open space. Management of planting within developments can be controlled by condition which requires care for the first 5 years. Any community provision will need to be

Proposed modifications

Add planning condition to be used to ensure the maintenance and management of planting schemes on page 26.

Representation [fab196f4-fea5-49e9-b78c-cb700b33fc8c](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Support proposals

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [c096eb9d-bf07-42d0-8c79-04c1c3d63c0a](#) (Cambridge Past, Present & Future)

Main issues raised in representation

We support the ambition to increase canopy cover but wish to make the following suggestions

- Species of new trees needs to be carefully considered that the location is suitable to allow it to grow to full maturity.
- The impact of roots on the foundations of nearby properties needs to be understood.
- Trees planted near car parking can lead to complaints of leaves, sap or aphids on the car. We note that under Living Landscapes, verge parking is discouraged.

We support that a target of 20% biodiversity net gain is mentioned. We are also supportive that BNG should be delivered onsite in the first instance and only if this is not feasible, the identification of suitable sites should cascade out from the site.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome but will need to be condensed. We will incorporate your comments on Tree species within the urban greening chapter of the code as indicated in the proposed modification text.

Proposed modifications

Add text on page 26 within the Must section: Species selection must take account of underground tree infrastructure required, foundations, suitable to the function of the space.

Within the should section on pg 26, bullet 1 add further text - Spacing should balance ecological needs, safety, infrastructure considerations, street function and aesthetic goals to ensure trees can grow and thrive.

Representation [d87fc28e-f21a-4df2-8559-e1799a2e9995](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Lovely ideas but I didn't see anything about maintenance. At present there are streets and parks in the area that are not well maintained. The long term maintained and care for feels very important. It might be more cost effective to employ a team to grown and plant and care for the area over time, than to spend large amount on big planting schemes without the ongoing care that needs. I do like the greening of streets and existing green areas. There are more pockets of green space than even the plans show, for example at the end of Wavell Way past the garages is a large grass square in the shade of a big tree, this could be improved in line with the design guide but wasn't highlighted on the map.

Councils' assessment

There is text in the introduction chapter of the design code about management and maintenance that sit outside the scope of planning, but there also exists guidance in the design code for the management and maintenance of new trees in the Urban Greening chapter. The design code will not be able to show or cover all areas of green and the maps are indicative of the areas and polices they cover.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145

Main issues raised in representation

Wildlife planting needed. Litter is beyond belief daily in Chesterton especially Green End Rd by the Co-op and John's Kebab van. Nuffield Rd is appalling as is Nuffield Rd and the length of the Bus way. Bramblefields nature reserve has a major drug dealing and drug addicts and alcoholics that litter daily. Not pleasant for anyone. Not safe. Much work needs to be done here.

Councils' assessment

Many of the areas mentioned sit outside the redline of the document, and issues of management and maintenance are noted and referenced in this document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2945a914-94bc-4983-bc24-2009be3c530d

Main issues raised in representation

Generally, in favour.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0

Main issues raised in representation

I care about the environment and think the multiple benefits of making this area more green, with attractive public spaces and more large trees will be hugely desirable to us that live here.

Lots of great work could be down to green and improve exposed 'back areas', large parking areas and other forgotten, scruffy places. 'Play on the way' and other 'greening' ideas can be achieved in relatively small spaces. Additional trees needed... but making sure they are given sufficient space and underground rooting volume to be able to grow to maturity. Many trees get felled as soon as they start

disrupting pavement surfaces. Provide something in the code about what is required in terms of space/ underground systems for successful tree planting.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome We will incorporate your comments on Tree species within the urban greening chapter of the code as indicated in the proposed modification text.

Proposed modifications

Add text on page 26 within the Must section: Species selection must take account of underground tree infrastructure required, foundations, suitable to the function of the space.

Within the should section on pg 26, bullet 1 add further text - Spacing should balance ecological needs, safety, infrastructure considerations, street function and aesthetic goals to ensure trees can grow and thrive.

Representation (Arboricultural Officer, Cambridge City Council)

Main issues raised in representation

General observations

1. Inclusion of Trees: We welcome the inclusion of trees throughout the document.

2. Reference to 'Tiny Forest / Earthwatch' pages 22 and 25 We recommend excluding the mention of "Tiny Forest / Earthwatch" and instead using the term "Miyawaki microwood."

- Reason: "Tiny Forest" is a proprietary product, and Earthwatch is a private organization.

- Suggested Definition: Miyawaki method planting is an approach for rapidly creating miniature woodlands in urban areas or on degraded land. It involves planting mixed native species at close densities to replicate natural forest regeneration. Advantages include higher growth and survival rates, minimal maintenance after two years, higher diversity, and reduced vulnerability to vandalism. Disadvantages include higher costs due to intensive soil preparation, mulching, watering, and more trees required per area. (LATF grant manual - GOV.UK)

3. Tree Strategy Reference: We suggest including a reference to the Cambridge City Council's Tree Strategy as a resource on the Urban Greening Page 24

- It is noticeably absent, especially when other council strategies (e.g., Biodiversity on p. 5, OS & Recreation on p. 38) have been cited.

4. Remove 'Trees for Streets' Page 24 We recommend removing the mention of 'Trees for Streets,' as it refers to a charity encouraging private sponsorships in existing streets and parks, which is not relevant to development.

Councils' assessment

1. Comments are welcome

2. Will replace text 'Create Miyawaki Microwoods: Miniature woodland in urban or degraded land'. And include the definition in the glossary of terms.

3. Will add the 'Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026, Cambridge City Council: Part 1 and Part 2' into the reference text.

4. We will keep this reference as the document seeks to help private individual owners, councils and developers.

Proposed modifications

2. Will replace text 'Create Miyawaki Microwoods: Miniature woodland in urban or degraded land'. And include the definition in the glossary of terms.

3. Will add the 'Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026, Cambridge City Council: Part 1 and Part 2' into the reference text.

Representation (Arboricultural Officer, Cambridge City Council)

Main issues raised in representation

5. Citation of Tree Shading Work (p. 18): Please cite or acknowledge the resource for the Tree Shading work mentioned on page 18

- Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge
- Note: The resource is called "Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge".
- Page 50 references the 'shady streets' study; please use the correct title and provide a link for easy access.

6. Street Tree Spacing 22, 24, 50 Please remove the reference to planting street trees every "10m." Reason: A fixed spacing requirement is too specific and may lead to compliance issues.

Factors to Consider:

- Species and Mature Size: Different species have different canopy and root sizes.
- Site Conditions: Consider exposure, wind, microclimate, and soil conditions.
- Rooting Volume: Ensure enough space for tree roots to thrive.
- Utility and Infrastructure: Account for underground and overhead utilities.
- Aesthetic and Design Goals: Ensure trees fit within the urban design framework.

General Principle: The spacing of new street trees should balance ecological needs, safety, infrastructure considerations, and aesthetic goals to ensure trees can grow and thrive.

7. Retention of Existing Trees: The retention of existing trees is not sufficiently highlighted. For example, in the Urban Greening section page 24. There should be clearer distinctions between new planting to sustain and enhance tree canopy and the retention of mature trees.

Key Considerations:

- Diversifying tree species to protect the canopy from pests, diseases, and climate change.
- Retaining existing trees with significant canopy volume and life expectancy, which immediately contribute to climate resilience and biodiversity.
- New planting will take many years to match the benefits of an established tree.

Councils' assessment

5. Will acknowledge the study from where the map is taken from: Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge, Cambridge City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council.
6. The statement includes the phrase 'where possible' and hence is acceptable. However, the intention is to add some guidance that is listed above on the criteria on how to select trees but see how we can make it short.

7. Add a sentence after bullet 3 musts: Existing trees of value must be retained.

Proposed modifications

5. Will acknowledge the study from where the map is taken from: Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge, Cambridge City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council.
6. Add text on page 26 within the Must section: Species selection must take account of underground tree infrastructure required, foundations, suitable to the function of the space.

Within the should section on pg 26, bullet 1 add further text- Spacing should balance ecological needs, safety, infrastructure considerations, street function and aesthetic goals to ensure trees can grow and thrive.

7. Add a sentence in bullet 2 pg 26 musts: Existing trees of value must be retained wherever possible.

Representation - External written comment (Arboricultural Officer, Cambridge City Council)

Main issues raised in representation

Other Recommendations

8. Living Landscapes page 26 Please remove the reference to "broadleaf" as limiting species diversity. There is no reason coniferous species should not be considered.
9. Placemaking Opportunities page 41 Under priorities, include the retention of existing trees of value.
10. Identity of Home page 42 In the second bullet under "must," replace "tree groups" with "trees" to make this requirement more realistic and achievable.
11. Enclosure and Focal Points page 43 Include under "must" the retention of existing trees of value that can act as instant focal points and provide a sense of enclosure.

12. Sustainable Opportunities page 47 Add a resource to help determine planting priorities:

- Tree Equity Score UK (launched in 2023) helps determine equitable tree distribution across urban areas, generating scores for neighbourhoods and local authorities.
- This tool helps address disparities in tree cover and ensures that all communities have access to the benefits of trees.

Councils' assessment

8. Replace broadleaf with 'a variety of'

9. Will include retention of existing trees of value in placemaking opportunities.

10. This refers to groups of trees rather to make it more meaningful.

11. This is the built environment section of the code and hence it is not included, but tree protection is already within making space for nature principle.

12. Will add reference to the above document but as there isn't any space for text on page 49 will need to add it on pg. 52

Proposed modifications

8. Replace broadleaf with a variety of' on pg 28

9. Will include retention of existing trees of value in placemaking opportunities on pg 43.

12. Will add reference to the above document but as there isn't any space for text on page 49 will need to add it on pg. 52

Representation - External written comment (Arboricultural Officer, Cambridge City Council)

Main issues raised in representation

13. Climate Change Resilience page 50

Include under "must" the consideration of retaining existing trees of value.

14. Local Character page 14

Include mention of retaining existing trees as part of the local character list.

15. Opportunities Framework page 20

Include the retention of existing trees alongside new planting to improve canopy cover.

16. Five Principles page 21 Specifically mention the retention of existing trees under "making space for nature."

Councils' assessment

13. As this is already included in the making space for nature, will not be including it again in sustainability chapter to avoid repetition.

14. Will include in this on page 16

15. Will include in this on page 22

16. This is a high-level principle but incorporated most comments in the detail chapters.

Proposed modifications

14. Will include retention of high-quality trees on page 16

15. Will include retention of high-quality trees on page 20

Q3. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 2: Prioritise walking and cycling?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 35

Representation 21d76e77-2bbd-444e-a69c-772fda8eb060

Main issues raised in representation

Buildings should be much taller. It would help with all the relevant aims by decreasing land use, increasing density, looking cooler.

Councils' assessment

Height is dealt with in the Character chapter where there is potential for height explored in the right location such as centres with justification

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation eff704ea-02ff-4168-83d6-039d72a1ea12

Main issues raised in representation

if cycling is 'prioritised' make sure they use it legally - bells, lights etc rather than bullying pedestrians out of the way

Councils' assessment

The design code is a policy document concerned with influencing the design of places that takes account of best practice and guidance on walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ae110cf1-fc4c-46f6-b40a-f8f3e492b133

Main issues raised in representation

This bit is fine as infrastructure already in place for this

Councils' assessment

Whilst some infrastructure is in place, there are other areas that can benefit from prioritising cycling and walking

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08

Main issues raised in representation

I would like to see the expected expenses.

Councils' assessment

The design code is a policy document and does not have any funding attached for implementation.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 563b4418-2a5f-4e8b-a290-f4508146ad83**Main issues raised in representation**

How about other people these are a minority.

Councils' assessment

The design code has taken a balanced approach to consider the needs of all users.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8ea463e7-cde7-4c27-87bc-a29eff451c6d**Main issues raised in representation**

There are no problems with walking and cycling around Arbury and Kings Hedges. I have been cycling for the last 17 years to work and around with no issues. Focus on repairing roads. Nothing discourages more walking and cycling than damaged pavements, potholes and cracked roads

Councils' assessment

Management and maintenance of pavements have been mentioned as a key issue during early consultations

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0f38c4d8-cf74-456c-a5bc-ef802648f69e**Main issues raised in representation**

People need to drive for various reasons, again terribly middle class to suggest everyone has time to walk or bike.

Councils' assessment

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15**Main issues raised in representation**

More specific mentions of disabled people and disabled access is needed.

Councils' assessment

There have been significant changes to the text since Feb 2024 version of the code to incorporate inclusive access and design

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation efe9862d-1777-494e-9003-290ac6c4b93a**Main issues raised in representation**

Strongly agree.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f

Main issues raised in representation

The respective councils need to stop demonising the use of privately owned vehicles in favour of "active travel" and public transport options. Private vehicle owners are not "the enemy", ignorance and entitlement are.

The ignorance of many cyclists and pedestrians needs to be by way of proper education in safe road usage. You cannot own or use a private vehicle without first undergoing significant training and testing and prove that you are competent. The same is not true for cyclists. Any fool with the ability to spend money can purchase and use a bicycle with many having little to no knowledge of how and where to safely and correctly use it, including why they should have stop to at red lights like other road user, why they should have to indicate like other road users, why they should use lights when required like other road users, and why they should make themselves otherwise suitably visible like other road users. Many years ago, many primary schools held cycling proficiency tutoring to students in order to set them on the correct path to safe of proper road usage. This doesn't seem to happen any more.

Likewise, many pedestrians are also ignorant with regards to safe and correct road usage, with many favouring to cross roads whenever and wherever they choose, in many cases less than 20ft from either zebra or pelican crossings because they either do not know how to use them correctly (zebra) or they cannot, and don't see why they should have to, wait for the lights to change for safe traffic stoppage (pelican).

This ignorance must be addressed as a high priority by bring back sufficient education at a primary school age, whilst also enforcing proof of proficiency for cyclists, instead of the constant and unwarranted penalisation of private vehicle owners.

Many residents in the city and surrounding areas/villages own and use private vehicles for a large number of reasons including, but not limited to:

* Households where families including young children where local amenities are, in many cases, non-existent, resulting in a need to travel several miles in order reach suitable shopping facilities (for example). Again, for families with young children wishing to venture out, "active travel" and public transport options are not always viable due to reasons I have previously mentioned.

* For households with ageing and/or more infirm members, privately owned vehicles that can and are used as and when wanted/needed are a significant lifeline from potential loneliness and isolation, as well as attending much needed GP, and in many cases hospital, consultations on top of the aforementioned need for reaching suitable shopping facilities.

After all, the general population is not made up solely of young, single, able-bodied individuals....

Councils' assessment

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting

etc). However, for the purposes of short trips, for health and wellbeing and reducing our impact on the environment, active travel options are encouraged. The design code is a policy document influencing the design of travel infrastructure and behavioural change management sits outside the scope of this document. Your ideas for education and outreach are good and can perhaps be taken up in implementation strategies and plan by partners and stakeholders.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

This is already covered in the area.

Councils' assessment

Whilst some infrastructure is in place, there are other areas that can benefit from prioritising cycling and walking.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b9d00652-cd48-4aee-9bc3-49f3f0b09172

Main issues raised in representation

Yes, but there must be constraints on cycle and scooter speeds. On Milton Rd redevelopment these are causing serious problems. Many cyclists use the track as if it is a velodrome and have openly said they should not be stopped at junctions. They often have no regard for pedestrians' need to cross the cycle track to cross to the road, cycle on the pedestrian path both with and against other cyclists and pedestrians, and after dark cycle in dark clothes & with no lights.

If reasonable provision for cars is not made people will not live in or visit the City. Residents need cars for various things e.g. purchasing heavy goods from the Beehive, visiting families in local villages and need a car.

Traffic signals at junctions must only be put where genuinely needed. NOT as at the Milton Rd-Elizabeth Way roundabout where the long queues on all roads 75% of the day mean highly increased emissions from queuing vehicles. In many areas in Cambridge where traffic lights have been put the traffic moves much more safely and smoother when the lights are turned off/not working. The message here is try not to put traffic lights in any alterations. This will help the environment and air quality hugely.

Councils' assessment

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting etc). However, for the purposes of short trips, for health and wellbeing and reducing our impact on the environment, active travel options are encouraged. Education/outreach, management and enforcement of traffic and transport matters sit outside the remit of the code which is a planning policy document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac

Main issues raised in representation

Walking and cycling dose not bring in revenue.

Councils' assessment

The design code is not an implementation tool but rather a planning policy document aimed to raise the quality of development in the area.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

As above. There are those who are allergic to pollen, hence care must be taken as to what specific plants, flowers and trees are to be planted.

Councils' assessment

There is a note in the make space for nature section code about how species of trees to be planted are to be selected.

Proposed modifications

6. Add text on page 26 within the Must section: Species selection must take account of underground tree infrastructure required, foundations, suitable to the function of the space.

Within the should section on pg 26, bullet 1 add further text- Spacing should balance ecological needs, safety, infrastructure considerations, street function and aesthetic goals to ensure trees can grow and thrive.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

Page 31 "Cycle and Wheeling Trips": While I support encouraging cycling, the biggest obstacle to taking up cycling is the proliferation of cycle thefts in Cambridge. Cycling infrastructure will be better utilized if police tackle cycle theft crimes.

Page 33 "Reducing Car Dominance" states "Minimise car parking provision based on Cambridge Council standards" and "Minimise car parking provision on new developments where possible". I disagree. Majority of the houses in Kings Hedges do not have private driveways. Provisions of adequate off-road parking facilities is essential in the area.

Page 33 "Reducing Car Dominance" states "De-prioritise vehicles from outset of design". I disagree. While I support using active travel and public transport, a car is still an essential mode of transportation. Sustainability is not about eliminating car usage completely, rather sustainability is to encourage reduction in car usage by replacing some car trips with cycling, walking, or public transport. However, not all trips can be made by cycling or walking specially long distances, in bad weather, or need to carry heavy shopping. Kings Hedges area is covered by one bus route that connects the area to Cambridge city centre. This makes Kings Hedges isolated from other essential areas such as North Cambridge train station and Histon Road shops. Clearly current public transport provision is inadequate and risks isolating residents if the area severely restricts car usage.

Page 33 "Reducing Car Dominance" states "Look to provide car free development where this can be justified based on accessibility and existing car ownership/use data". I disagree. Even if current data show low car ownership, the demographics change, and residents should be able to obtain cars if needed in the future. If

households are unable to obtain cars due to lack of parking or vehicle infrastructure, it will increase deprivation in the area.

Page 33 "Reducing Car Dominance" states "Provide infrastructure for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points at all developments." Considering that majority of the houses in Kings Hedges have no private driveways, it is important to provide pavement charging for EVs. It is equally important that the cost of public charging is equal to charging EVs at home.

Page 33 "Reducing Car Dominance" states "Re-prioritise road space to encourage safe and convenient active travel movements." This should not be at the expense of affecting car travel. Roads in the area are already too narrow.

Councils' assessment

Pg31 Cycling and Wheeling Trips - The code also seeks to deal improving safety through natural surveillance, good lighting, robust/safe cycle parking facilities, frontages of buildings and pedestrian activity.

Pg 33 - Reducing Car Dominance: The statement intentionally uses the word where possible as there will be situations where minimising it may not be possible. However, should development proposals come forward where it is possible to review car parking, then this policy guidance will be important.

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting etc). However, for the purposes of short trips, for health and wellbeing and reducing our impact on the environment, active travel options are encouraged.

Car free development is identified as a should rather than a must and hence is flexible based on the needs of individual developments. Examples include 'Marmalade Lane'.

Infrastructure for EV charging - Many of the policies within the design code will come into force on new development proposals that would need planning consent. There are also other stakeholders who may wish to take notice of the policies here and provide.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c9337fa2-b543-408b-b016-8af7523e69f5

Main issues raised in representation

I personally do not feel this is an issue

Councils' assessment

Early engagement with the community brought pedestrian footpaths, cycleways and safety as a key issue in the area which the code has tried to address.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2

Main issues raised in representation

Cambridge is one of the easiest cities in the country to walk and cycle, your constant battle on car drivers is damaging the city. Stop prioritising one mode of transport over everything else, plenty of cities have infrastructure for cars, cyclists and pedestrians.

Parking spaces with protected trees? Whoever thought of this doesn't drive because if they did, they'd know you spend your whole life cleaning bird shit off your car! Create solar shelters, solar power facilities and give back to the grid. There is plenty of open space for trees. We also saw along Milton Road what the tree roots do to the pavements and roads.

Reduce car dominance? I promise you; this will end in civil unrest if you do not stop this lunacy. People are being driven mad by this council, people talk about nothing else.

Councils' assessment

Early engagement with the community brought pedestrian footpaths, cycleways and safety as a key issue in the area which the code has tried to address.

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting etc).

Tree species and solar shading have been dealt with in greening and sustainability principles of the design code

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f5c794db-29a6-4c00-886e-5a8d9d5a52a8

Main issues raised in representation

On page 33 "Reducing Car Dominance" you say "Minimise car parking provision on new developments where possible and prioritise wheelchair users." I think if developers do not provide enough car parking for 1 car per family, then it will create a problem in other areas because people will start parking wherever they could find parking in adjacent areas. While active travel should be encouraged households should be able to have 1 place per family for their car to park. Car sharing is not going to work for the majority.

Councils' assessment

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting etc). However, for the purposes of short trips, for health and wellbeing and reducing our impact on the environment, active travel options are encouraged.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb

Main issues raised in representation

There is a need for better cycling and pedestrian routes, unfortunately a 2-year-old could have come up with a better design and would not have cost millions of pounds.

Councils' assessment

Comments noted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

Comments noted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 212e16a7-d294-4729-a9ab-c339c900758f

Main issues raised in representation

Current speed bumps on Carlton Way are not clearly marked and drivers don't stay at 20mph without them. Maybe have raised crossings for people to make things safer. Pedestrians have to battle with cyclists sometimes as they like to use the pavements.

Councils' assessment

Traffic calming measures have been specified in the design code. Specification of these measures such as raised tables etc are context led and are matters of detail.

However, your points are noted

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 829695b6-b949-4b7e-9ad2-8ad6d1f359e8

Main issues raised in representation

The principles of the design code are excellent, and I welcome the priority given to walkers (page 30) but this is not our experience and it requires more specific guidance if it is going to be more than lip service. There is no page on walking. Our needs are not the same as those of cyclists and are not met by guidance which puts walking and cycling together. In order to encourage people to walk, walking paths need to feel safe. We feel intimidated and dominated by cycles, scooters and 'enhanced' cycles. Walking routes need to be separate from cycle routes and wide enough, this is mentioned on page 28 in a box. But this needs to be enforced so that cycles/scooters etc do not assume a right to cycle/scoot on walkways: this requires much better signage and a change in attitude through public information and education.

Councils' assessment

On Green and Active travel, we have included text and reference for design of footways for pedestrians, which are not the same as cyclists. See amended text in proposed modification. The design code is a planning policy document. Enforcement sits outside the scope of the code or the remit of the planning authority.

Proposed modifications

On Page 32 add under musts - The design of footways for pedestrians must follow the guidance on Inclusive mobility- A guide to best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure

Representation 03f76336-7f75-45d9-891a-26d0e792d930

Main issues raised in representation

Please consider bike lanes not only before the junction but after it as well. Many areas will benefit from the plan as long as in reality cyclists won't be forced to jump back on the road with cars. Also if there are obstacles for bikes further down the road in neighbouring district, cyclist will less likely use the new routes.

Also please put your traffic calmers and those "trees in the middle of the road" "calmers" somewhere deep inside those who suggested them. They don't calm, they don't make road safe especially for cyclists.

Please stop thinking that making more obstacles for cars is a great idea. Many people for many occasions need cars. People have it not for their pleasure.

Councils' assessment

Junction design for cyclists is covered within the LTN1/20 guidance and hence reference to the document is made in the code so that it doesn't need repeating here. Traffic calming measure are matters of detail and hence are not included in the code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb

Main issues raised in representation

Again, great aim

Councils' assessment

Your comments are welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 63e4f2c8-63c1-4070-826f-814d9945f9cb

Main issues raised in representation

Installation of Modal Filters/Staggered Cycle Gates.

When creating a safe joined-up network for walking and cycling routes please can I stress the importance of the use of modal filters/staggered cycle gates across the area to reduce car dominance and make our streets much more livable. This would prevent the extensive rat-running/speeding vehicles which reduces the quality of life and would improve the safety of the area for playing children, other residents, walkers and cyclists alike. This approach has been used across the city and has transformed many neighbourhoods, even in recent years.

Recent examples include:

-The Luard Road modal filter, to stop rat-running between Long Road and Hills Road, and to ensure Luard and Sedley Taylor Roads remain quiet and peaceful streets.

-The Storeys Way modal filter, to stop rat-running between Huntingdon Road and Madingley Road, and to protect busy cycle routes.

-A number of changes in the New Town area to reduce rat-running and enable people to step off pavements and socially-distance more easily, including modal filters on Bateman Street, Coronation Street and Pemberton Terrace.

-The Carlyle Road modal filter, a popular walking and cycling route to Jesus Green.

-The Nightingale Avenue modal filter, to reduce rat-running and improve the safety of a busy cycle route to Addenbrooke's hospital.

There is a distinct lack of these filters/gate in the Arbury area and we would like a similar approach to be use in our area too.

Councils' assessment

Traffic reduction and speed control features are already introduced in the chapter. However, what these measures may be are a matter of detail that would need to be tackled at the detailed design stage of the document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation e71a7fff-b4e1-404a-9150-dc94e7237581

Main issues raised in representation

If the plan gets enacted by different parties in bits over time, how is the connectivity of paths going to be worked out so that it's effective?

Councils' assessment

Now that there are principles identified in the design code, different stakeholders and delivery partners understand the priorities of residents. For this existing area change will be brought forward in different ways and yes it is going to be challenging but not impossible to co-ordinate its implementation. We hope that the coding process has help start the conversation about the need for joined up thinking between multiple stakeholders.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 135603c4-11ce-42c0-a030-90a5dca88c4c

Main issues raised in representation

This all looks great. Thank you. It is good to see the development in planning for safe cycling routes on developments between the building of Orchard Park and say, what has happened at Marleigh or Eddington.

Councils' assessment

Your comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation fab196f4-fea5-49e9-b78c-cb700b33fc8c

Main issues raised in representation

Support proposals

Councils' assessment

Your comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a740d938-b7d1-4750-bca0-d8f8370ad23b

Main issues raised in representation

NHSPS supports the Council's commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles and development which improve overall health and wellbeing. This includes the encouraging of active travel such as providing safe and attractive walking and cycling routes and ensuring developments are connected by these routes to local services.

Councils' assessment

Your comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d87fc28e-f21a-4df2-8559-e1799a2e9995

Main issues raised in representation

great

Councils' assessment

Your comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145

Main issues raised in representation

Stop the anti-car campaigns in closing roads. 11 to-date. This is discrimination against disabled people and the vulnerable in society along with our emergency services causing gridlocks. Both can be achievable without closing roads. Keep Mill bridge open. Move the Beehive to Cambridge North development.

Councils' assessment

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting etc). However, Implementation of these measures sit outside the scope of the design code or the planning authority's remit.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2945a914-94bc-4983-bc24-2009be3c530d

Main issues raised in representation

Generally in favour, but with the following qualifications:

Several references to "LTN/120" on these pages should be corrected to "LTN 1/20".

Statements on p.31 that "New ... proposals must _aim_ to achieve compliance with LTN/120 [sic] design requirements" (headline, my emphasis) and about "applying LTN/120 [sic] _where possible_" (4th bullet under 'Must', my emphasis) appear to give too much 'wiggle room' for pleading that compliance with LTN 1/20 is 'too difficult'. Given that LTN 1/20 itself recognises that its preferred standards may not be possible to be met in some (limited and exceptional circumstances) I can see no reason for not simply stating that proposals must comply with it. It is particularly

important that the minimum standards in LTN 1/20 are met - otherwise facilities which fall short will not be sufficiently usable / attractive to form part of a coherent network.

On p.31 there are two references to the use of "staggered cycle gates" (diagram, and 4th bullet under 'Should'). It is difficult to know quite what is meant by this term, but it seems most likely to mean the kind of chicane barriers which LTN 1/20 states should not be used (LTN 1/20 §1.6 Principle 16, with more details at §8.3). If that is the meaning, then the statements that their use should be 'rationalised' (diagram) or avoided 'where possible' are not strong enough: compliance with LTN 1/20 means avoiding / removing them entirely. (If, alternatively, chicane barriers are not what this term means, then its meaning needs to be clarified.)

Councils' assessment

Corrections to LTN1/20 will be made. Also, the text is tightened so that 'where possible' has been removed so that LTN120 must be applied and Staggered gates should be avoided.

Proposed modifications

References to LTN1/20 are corrected.

On pg 33 4th Bullet under Musts -Where possible has been deleted.

4th Bullet under should - Where possible under should has been deleted

Representation [fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Linking up and connecting pedestrian and cycle routes is possibly the greatest priority for me. Lots of the green spaces in Arbury are inaccessible (and may need to remain so) ... but it would be so nice to have routes through or alongside them at least - offering borrowed views of openness if not actual 'access'.

Page 29. Is there anyway to create a route through or alongside the large playing fields of Milton Road primary school (into the Orchard Park Estate or Arbury court)? It's a huge area of land and blocks a possible key movement route. Wider footpaths where possible.

I would have liked Hurst Park Estate included in the study area as it is geographically a key part of this urban block. Hurst Park Estate is also very well-used as a cycle and walking route for those heading into the city and so close to the hub of Arbury Court. Even though it is not in the study area... these well used routes through Hurst Park Estate should be added to the consideration of strategic movement routes (i.e. on the diagram in Page 29).

Councils' assessment

Comments on linking up pedestrian and cycle routes are welcome. Will add text to ensure views to open spaces are exploited.

Pg 29- At the moment it is difficult to see how these connections can be made, however should there be a redevelopment opportunity in the future these points can be raised.

Hurst Park Estate is geographically outside the study area although a strategic cycle and pedestrian link connecting it to Arbury Court is shown on pg. 29.

Proposed modifications

Add text on pg 25 at the end of paragraph 1 - Views to open spaces should be exploited.

Strategic cycle and pedestrian link connecting it to Arbury Court is shown on pg. 31

Representation - External written comment (Cambridgeshire County Council (Summary of comments))

Main issues raised in representation

There are a number of Schools in the area that need to be referenced in the document which are key destinations that should be safe, attractive and accessible for walking and cycling. Deterring traffic and reducing speeds should also be an explicit aim.

P16 Routes and Destination- does not include key existing walking and cycling routes in the areas, suggests changes in wording to para 1 on cul-de-sacs to make them better and asks for clarification on desirable east- west movement route between Rosewood Road and Alex wood Road not for vehicular traffic.

P29 Movement Opportunities - There is a suggestion for adding and elaborating text for cyclist and pedestrians with rational for when segregated and mixed routes can be provided.

Detail Comments: The comments ask for more detail on the measures that could be used to improve existing roads that are not going to be changed, how movement may take place within Arbury Town Centre and which new active travel routes may be create and which may be improved

Councils' assessment

All non-residential buildings including schools are identified within the document.

Pg 16- We have included reference on Pg 16 the Cambridgeshire County Council documents on walking and Cycling routes in this area. This chapter talks about the key issues rather than solutions and hence have not incorporated comment on cul-de-sacs but does clarify the east west movement route between Rosewood Road and Alex Wood Road for pedestrians/cycle connections.

Pg 29 - Whilst we have added addition text to clarify key cycle and walking improvements when development opportunities arise we haven't included when segregated or mixed cycle routes should be provided as there is a mixture of the two happening in the area which needs a detail masterplan/framework to resolve.

Detailed Comments - There are three detailed comments requesting for more information on the type of measures that could be used to improve existing and new roads/streets, how movement through Arbury Town Centre will be provided and identification of new active travel routes and improvement of existing ones. As this pilot Design Code is not based on a masterplan, it sets out principles based on the priorities of the community, it cannot provide more detail which will need to be set out at a masterplanning stage.

Proposed modifications

Pg 18 - Routes and Destination: Under poor connectivity and legibility, bullet two - added pedestrian/cycle and after bullet 3 added Refer to the Cambridge Cycle Map for Cycle Network in Arbury and Kings Hedges and Kings Hedges walking route 1, 2, 3 here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/active-travel-in-cambridgeshire/getting-started/cycle-routes-and-maps>.

Pg 31 - Amended text para 1: Opportunities for improving these routes for walking and cycling whilst improving access for all users should be incorporated into designs when development opportunities arise.

Representation - (Accessibility Officer, GCSPS)

Main issues raised in representation

1. The language used around disability is all good. Comments which might be included are:
2. All development should be in accord with inclusive design principles.
3. Accessibility means including the needs of people with any disability.
4. Reference BS 8300 and BS9622 as they are the documents mostly used for inclusive and accessible design.

Councils' assessment

1. Comments welcome
2. Will add text below the five principles on pg. 23
3. Will add a definition of terms in the Glossary around Inclusive design.
4. Will add reference to BS8300 and BS9266 on pg. 8

Proposed modifications

2. Will add text below the five principles on pg. 23
3. Will add a definition of terms in the Glossary around Inclusive design.
4. Will add reference to BS8300 and BS9266 on pg 8.

Q4. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 3: Thriving public spaces?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 33

Representation 21d76e77-2bbd-444e-a69c-772fda8eb060

Main issues raised in representation

Buildings should be much taller. It would help with all the relevant aims by decreasing land use, increasing density, looking cooler.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee comments that buildings should be taller. On page 44 of the code, it addresses building heights and writes that the areas must retain the low-midrise character. It allows for a range of heights from 2 to 6 storeys and writes that heights need to be driven by context and suggests avoid clustering of tall buildings and significant height within the range proposed.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [eff704ea-02ff-4168-83d6-039d72a1ea12](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Often result in 'precincts' - see Eddington!

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee suggests that this principle (or maybe they mean whole Design Code) will lead to the formation of a 'precinct' in the 3 areas by which I think they mean an area of the city designated for specific or restricted use. The existing area has a mix of uses including residential, retail and educational. The Design Code proposes design principles for the whole area. It has no intention of creating a precinct with a specific use or perceived boundaries.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ae110cf1-fc4c-46f6-b40a-f8f3e492b133](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Again pretty pictures with no actual basic information of what is planned.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries a lack of basic information of what is planned. The Cambridge City Local Plan provides the overall plan for the area. The purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered, how principles can work together, and where appropriate include key targets.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I would like to see the expected expenses. I also see that in the survey most people are satisfied with current state.

Councils' assessment

The design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any spending plans attached for implementation. It seeks to influence positive change through the planning application process. Pages 14-15 of the Design Code writes about the positive characteristic of the areas. It provides an opportunity to put planning guidance in place to manage change in a positive and sympathetic way that is based on the people's priorities. It can help tackle the area's inequity by enabling co-ordinated improvements and investments in the area, the delivery of better-quality buildings, improvement in health and wellbeing, and incorporation of climate resilience and adaptation measures.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [563b4418-2a5f-4e8b-a290-f4508146ad83](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Good thing all for it.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your positive comments

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8ea463e7-cde7-4c27-87bc-a29eff451c6d

Main issues raised in representation

Present public spaces just need upgrade. But all of the investment will be wasted if antisocial behaviour is not tackled. All of it will be vandalised. Burned kids castle on Pulley playground recently is a great example of it.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee points out antisocial behavioural aspects but any responses to address this from the council sit outside the planning policy framework and cannot be directly incorporated in the code. However, the Design code points out to the outcomes that these behavioural, community action would seek to achieve.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0f38c4d8-cf74-456c-a5bc-ef802648f69e

Main issues raised in representation

Again great idea but the city of Cambridge neglects a lot of areas, streets aren't swept gulleys not cleared, can you say that more open spaces will be looked after ?

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee has concerns about the management and maintenance regime of open space, but this sits outside the scope of the Design Code. The subject is referenced on page 5 of the code to ensure coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

More specific mentions of disabled people and disabled access is needed.

Councils' assessment

The consultee requests more references to disabled people and accessibility of the built environment. The document makes significant references to inclusive access in all chapters of the code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation efe9862d-1777-494e-9003-290ac6c4b93a

Main issues raised in representation

Agree

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your supportive comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f

Main issues raised in representation

Much needed, however, should not come at the aforementioned expense of those with privately owned vehicles nor should the intention be to facilitate a "5 minute city" or "15 minute city" mentality.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries whether the proposals are at the expense of privately owned vehicles. This is not the intention of the Design Code. The design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling. The Design Code is not proposing a "5 minute city" or a "15 minute city".

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [9aa0a94d-ad54-4cff-a6f5-b755e8149371](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I see absolutely no reference to ensuring provision for shops. The best way to make sure residents walk more and drive less is the ability to quickly and easily access corner shops. We need to learn from the past!

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries the lack of reference to providing shops. The Design Code has been updated to include reference to shops and other active uses within the 'cultural sociability' section (page 36) of the Design Code and highlight how public space design should support surrounding community, and retail uses and that public destination spaces, such as play, community uses, and shopping should provide secure and well-located cycle parking using Sheffield stands.

Proposed modifications

Add text on pg 38 - A diverse offering of shops, other active uses that cater to the needs of all ages must be enhanced and co-located in the town centre

Representation [35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef](#)

Main issues raised in representation

There is public spaces already, but left open no investment within this area

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee points to a lack of investment in existing public spaces. The Design Code is not an implementational tool with funding attached, but the public space opportunities (page 37) section of the Design Code does highlight locations of existing community uses and opportunities to make improvements e.g. improving the public realm and to improving the visibility of shops and other facilities.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b9d00652-cd48-4aee-9bc3-49f3f0b09172](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Look good

Councils' assessment

Thank you for the positive comment

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac

Main issues raised in representation

Remove some houses.

Councils' assessment

The consultee writes that some homes need removing. The design code is not recommending the removal of houses but instead a process that every proposal need to go through to establish the best strategy, using a retrofit first approach.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

Some shelter from wind, rain and scorching sun rays should be provided please.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee advises that there should be reference to the need for shelter from the elements is provided. However, reference to the need for shelter is included in the 'must' sections on pages 40 and 41 of the Design Code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

Page 34 "Thriving Public Spaces" states "Re-purpose left over Space". This should be done in consultation with nearby residents to make sure development of the leftover space doesn't result in areas with increasing noise levels

Page 36 "Cultural Sociability" states "Low level lighting sensitive to surrounding homes and ecology". I disagree. The area suffers from lack of adequate lighting. This increases risks for pedestrians from collisions with cars and cyclists due to poor visibility in narrow alleys and main roads alike.

Councils' assessment

1. The resident consultee advises that re-purposing left over Space (page 34 in the Design Code) should be done in consultation with nearby residents. The council agrees with this and have continuously mentioned the importance of community engagement.

2. The resident consultee is concerned that the area suffers from lack of adequate lighting and that the Design Code is reinforcing this by proposing low level lighting. The Design Code is not dismissing the provision of lighting.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c9337fa2-b543-408b-b016-8af7523e69f5

Main issues raised in representation

I feel there should be more park and green areas especially for people that have children and no gardens.

Councils' assessment

The design code promotes more space for nature for all residents, including children.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2](#)

Main issues raised in representation

We live in a very polarised country, Cambridge is becoming more and more polarised by the day. The only people using these public spaces will be youth gangs and criminals which are thriving in Cambridge because the police walk by daily. Just like open spaces, it sounds great but you're building a breeding ground. It is very clear, no one who wrote this document lives anywhere near Kings Hedges or Arbury.

Councils' assessment

The design code is based on the priorities of the community established through surveys. The resident consultee points out groups with antisocial behavioural aspects in public spaces but any responses to address this from the council sit outside the planning policy framework and cannot be directly incorporated in the code. However, the Design code points out to the outcomes that these behavioural, community action would seek to achieve. Page 43 of the Design Code writes that a priority is ensuring public spaces and parks are framed with attractive active frontages and eyes on the street to improve the safety of public spaces.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb](#)

Main issues raised in representation

See above

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee refers to comments made earlier (about questions 1, 2 and 3) in their response that the council's survey is biased, and they give the view that there is a need for better cycling and pedestrian routes. The council has no intension of placing any bias for its survey. The consultee's support for improvements for cycling and pedestrian route is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc](#)

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No response

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [8158f535-601d-4d11-8e34-cec29414746b](#)

Main issues raised in representation

The space in the back of the Perse flats is a lovely area with trees and seating. It's a way of improving and using the space to avoid it becoming a dumping ground. Needs etc.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee is complimenting the place qualities of the space at the back of the flats at Perse Way in Arbury. The Design Code does not specifically provide guidance about this area but does highlight some of the positive characteristics of the open spaces in Arbury on page 16.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 212e16a7-d294-4729-a9ab-c339c900758f**Main issues raised in representation**

Car parks are important for shops and community centres at Campkin Road and Arbury Road. Better signage. All playparks should have equipment that is accessible to all. Permeable paving should be used in all public spaces to stop puddles.

Councils' assessment

The council agrees with the resident consultee's points as the Design Code writes on page 35 that car parking must be designed to relate to but not dominate the street scene and also making sure that essential vehicle access and use can be accommodated. The Design Code values the importance of good signage for enabling way finding for residents on page 45. The design code prioritises using permeable surfaces in front garden driveways on page 30 and writes that non-adopted paved surfaces must be permeable on page 41.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3a75b661-85ba-4a83-af24-81546a3771dd**Main issues raised in representation**

In the back of the 'r' shape of the Perse Way flats is a lovely space for trees, seating etc. Needs improving and using to avoid being a dumping ground.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee is complimenting the place qualities of the space at the back of the flats at Perse Way in Arbury and writes that this area needs improving. The Design Code does not specifically provide guidance about this area but does highlight some of the positive characteristics of the open spaces in Arbury on page 16 which need to be considered throughout the area.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f76336-7f75-45d9-891a-26d0e792d930**Main issues raised in representation**

Some women still wear high heels (not a big thing in this country, I know). Remember this when engaging with gravel and highly textured foot paths as you mention on page 39. Women still want to walk back home (remember, you prohibiting cars, and cycling is not an option, and they are not millionaires to pay for taxi every time).

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee raises a concern about page 39 of the Design Code where it writes as a 'must' that 'All new public spaces must be designed for inclusivity including textured including textured paving blocks, level surfaces and 20mm kerbs. Surfaces must be robust, and loose gravel paths avoided' and difficulties for walking for people wearing high heels. The council acknowledges this view but considers that such ground surfaces are unlikely to cause mobility problems for female residents wearing high heels. In general, the document makes significant references to inclusive access in all chapters of the code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Yes, don't disagree.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your supportive comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [4802be18-a86d-4e00-ba33-21b1aad4e22a](#)

Main issues raised in representation

In the last few years there have been several issues with travellers' camps on the playground near Arbury Court and the green space on Campkin Road/Northfield Avenue. Camps have popped up on exactly the same site multiple times although I think security measures now prevent this. Plenty of litter/damage to grass/intimidating behaviour. Steps need to be taken to avoid this happening on any of the public spaces in the area. Heaven knows how much this costs the council/police each time it happens. Prevention better than cure in terms of cost control.

Councils' assessment

The Design Code does not address this issue raised by the consultee resident and instead the council refers the resident to Local Plan Policy 49 (Provision for Gypsies and Travellers) which addresses the issues they raise. The resident consultee has concerns about the management and maintenance regime of open space, but this sits outside the scope of the Design Code. The subject is referenced on page 5 of the code to ensure coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [135603c4-11ce-42c0-a030-90a5dca88c4c](#)

Main issues raised in representation

This is what thrills me most - planning for play on page 37. The ideas shared are really encouraging and it is well-thought through. My big question is 'Can it go further?' Can we create an environment where children can go out and play together on their own, so that they become agents in their own play. Not all parents have time to go out and supervise, and children need time and space to play on their own, so that they can experiment and learn to negotiate and regulate their own behaviour. Among the many reasons for the mental health crisis that is currently affecting a significant proportion of children is lack of freedom and the calming effect that being outside has. Being stuck inside because they can't go out to play almost forces children onto screens.

So rather as tree corridors, to join up trees, are healthy and supportive for trees, if there could be play corridors, that join up play spaces safely, that would bring real benefit.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your well-reasoned and supportive comments and worthwhile suggestions for play corridors. The design code ensures that streets are well

surveyed and there is good overlooking from buildings with active frontages which will enable children to play with minimum supervision. The code has mentioned how it can connect key parks and destination while improving legibility.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d87fc28e-f21a-4df2-8559-e1799a2e9995

Main issues raised in representation

This was good but it wasn't clear how this would be realised and what areas or buildings could be replaced.

The document was heavily focused on outdoor space, buildings and green areas. For a community to thrive and have positive public spaces, access to the amenities and services the community needs such a local shop, cafes, gp surgeries, community centres, leisure, jobs and other support feel very important

Councils' assessment

The purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered and how principles can work together. The Design Code is not proposing that particular buildings could be replaced. The design code and the 5 principles are based on the priorities of the community established through surveys. The Design Code has been updated to include reference to shops and other active uses within the 'cultural sociability' section (page 36). The 'cultural sociability' section (page 36) of the Design Code does highlight how public space design should support surrounding community, and retail uses and that public destination spaces, such as play, community uses and shopping should provide secure and well located cycle parking using Sheffield stands. Policy 6 in the Cambridge City Local Plan provides more specific retail guidance.

Proposed modifications

Add text on pg 38 - A diverse offering of shops, other active uses that cater to the needs of all ages must be enhanced and co-located in the town centre.

Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145

Main issues raised in representation

Firstly, stop the anti-social behaviour, drug dealing. Clean the filthy streets. Make pavements fit to walk on. More police under cover to arrest anti-social behaviour and drug dealing. Stop the racing of motorbikes with no exhausts on Green End Rd, Nuffield Rd, Milton Rd.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee points out antisocial behavioural aspects but any responses to address this from the council sit outside the planning policy framework and cannot be directly incorporated in the code. However, the Design code points out to the outcomes that these behavioural, community action would seek to achieve.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2945a914-94bc-4983-bc24-2009be3c530d

Main issues raised in representation

Generally in favour

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your supportive comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0](#)**Main issues raised in representation**

-

Councils' assessment

No response

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation (Public Art Officer, Cambridge City Council)**Main issues raised in representation**

There are detailed comments made on the design code which are summarised here. The officer wasn't aware of this work and does not feel that the code properly includes public art and could be a missed opportunity to properly integrate Cambridge City Councils Public Art policies including Public Art Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Cambridge Perspective: A Manifesto for Public Art, which are designed to promote best practices and innovative, artist-led public art. There is a concern that what is included in the design code particularly within the Cultural Sociability section on public art, fails to comply with the Council's policies and best practice. This is due to the terminology around 'community-led public art installation' and the policy text on 'public art with community involvement' which doesn't recognise the role of artists in developing/leading public art who are the best enablers of engagement with the community. The consultation text also treats art as objects in the public realm which doesn't reflect best practice. There is also a lack of application of how public art enables high quality place outcomes and how it can enhance and be linked to the five principles established in the design code. The design code also doesn't mention the Cambridge City Council Cultural Strategy and importance cultural infrastructure in public space.

Councils' assessment

The design code project has sought to engage as many officers' as possible and teams within the council incorporating their expertise into the document. It is unfortunate that this opportunity was missed but agree that the points made by the officer in her comments have merit but need to be articulated in a succinct way. The team's intention on the design code was to ensure that the voice of the community is heard at all times and 'community led' is a term that is used throughout the design code to ensure their voice is heard first. However, we understand how this reads from a specialist and public art perspective and hence will make amendments to the text to ensure that all public art is artist led. We have modified the text in consultation with the public art officer. The design code is a focused document and hence the commentary around application of public art using the 5 principles will be captured at a strategic level. There will be reference to the Cambridge City Council Public Art Policy documents as well as the Cultural Strategy. Points made on cultural infrastructure will also be added.

Proposed modifications

P6 (Supporting documents)

3. Thriving Public Spaces

The Cambridge Perspective - A Manifesto Art Artists Community Place Change

Cambridge Public Art SPD

Cambridge City Council Cultural Strategy

P21 (The 5 Principles)

Follow on text....

Thinking creatively

Art and creativity can play an important role in delivering and enhancing each of the above five principles. Engaging artists early in the process allows their creative practice and expertise to meaningfully connect local context with community and stakeholders. Artists can respond to any opportunities linked to the five principles to support consultation processes or develop site-responsive work that enhances the area's distinctive character, reinforcing local history, culture and identity, whilst engaging with community.

Representation (Public Art Officer, Cambridge City Council) see above

Main issues raised in representation

See above

Councils' assessment

See above

Proposed modifications

P36 (cultural sociability)

Change the wording in the graphic from 'Community led public art installations' to 'artist-led public art projects' and alter text in the top of graphic to ' new developments should incorporate artist-led public art projects.

Update existing text.....

Public art in Cambridge prioritises an artist-led approach that actively engages the community, ensuring both artistic vision and local participation are at the heart of the process. Projects can support a range of activities including socially engaged projects and participatory processes which deliver high quality outcomes delivering cultural vibrancy, social cohesion, innovative practices ensuring that art serves as a meaningful and transformative elements for places and people, developed in accordance with Public Art SPD.

Public spaces should ensure that cultural infrastructure, such as creating flexible spaces, performance spaces, studios, and community hubs, essential for supporting the creative economy and providing residents with spaces to connect to culturally are provided. This includes considerations such as ensuring public spaces have

adequate power supplies, adaptable layouts, storage, and lighting whilst designing spaces that are functional, adaptable, and inclusive.

Representation (Cultural Services and City Events Team, Cambridge City Council)

Main issues raised in representation

Towards the end of the formal consultation period, the project team met with Culture team, CCC who were not sighted on the design code. The key points of the discussion were to highlight within the document the CCC Cultural strategy and the importance of cultural infrastructure in placemaking to ensure that the infrastructure is there to support residents with spaces to connect culturally but also to ensure that public spaces have adequate power supplies, adaptable layouts, storage, and lighting whilst designing spaces that are functional, adaptable, and inclusive.

Councils' assessment

The project team has taken notice of the comments and have tried to reach out to as many officers/departments in the council. It will make amendments to the design code to highlight the points raised.

Proposed modifications

P8 (Supporting documents)

3. Thriving Public Spaces

Cambridge City Council Cultural Strategy

Public spaces should ensure that cultural infrastructure, such as creating flexible spaces, performance spaces, studios, and community hubs, essential for supporting the creative economy and providing residents with spaces to connect to culturally are provided. This includes considerations such as ensuring public spaces have adequate power supplies, adaptable layouts, storage, and lighting whilst designing spaces that are functional, adaptable, and inclusive.

Q5. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 4: Enhance character?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 30

Representation 21d76e77-2bbd-444e-a69c-772fda8eb060

Main issues raised in representation

Buildings should be much taller. It would help with all the relevant aims by decreasing land use, increasing density, looking cooler.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee comments that buildings should be taller. On page 46 of the code, it addresses building heights and writes that the areas must retain the low-midrise character. It allows for a range of heights from 2 to 6 storeys and writes that heights need to be driven by context and suggests avoid clustering of tall buildings and significant height within the range proposed.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [eff704ea-02ff-4168-83d6-039d72a1ea12](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Depends how you describe 'character' - it needs to develop naturally, not be forced.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries what is meant, in the design code, by character.

Pages 12-15 of the Design Code writes about local history and establish the key characteristics of the areas and how the 5 principles in the Design Code can enhance the local character of the areas. Page 42 writes about how resident surveys indicated that residents want to strengthen the green character of the area combined with a varied but gentle building scale. New developments need to work with the local scale of buildings and contribute safe, sociable streets and spaces, with focal points and memorable but harmonious buildings in key places. Page 43 identifies key opportunities for strengthening the sense of place, the opportunities to enhance frontages, routes, quality of public space and urban greening whilst taking the opportunities to retain the distinctive characteristic of Arbury and Kings Hedges.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ae110cf1-fc4c-46f6-b40a-f8f3e492b133](#)

Main issues raised in representation

See above.

Councils' assessment

In response to questions 1 to 4, the resident consultee queries a lack of basic information of what is planned. The Cambridge City Local Plan provides the overall plan for the area. The purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered, how principles can work together, and where appropriate include key targets.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I would like to see the expected expenses. I also object on this.

Councils' assessment

The design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any spending plans attached for implementation. It seeks to influence positive change through the planning application process. Pages 16-17 of the Design Code writes about the positive characteristic of the areas. It provides an opportunity to put planning guidance in place to manage change in a positive and sympathetic way that is based on the people's priorities. It can help tackle the area's inequity by enabling co-ordinated improvements and investments in the area, the delivery of better-quality buildings, improvement in health and wellbeing, and incorporation of climate resilience and adaptation measures.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 563b4418-2a5f-4e8b-a290-f4508146ad83

Main issues raised in representation

None

Councils' assessment

No response

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8ea463e7-cde7-4c27-87bc-a29eff451c6d

Main issues raised in representation

What is wrong with the character of Arbury and Kings Hedges? How you can enhance it?

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries what is wrong with the character of Kings Hedges and Arbury. Pages 14-17 of the Design Code writes about local history and establishes the key characteristics of the areas and how the 5 principles in the Design Code can enhance the local character of the areas. Page 42 writes about how resident surveys indicated that residents want to strengthen the green character of the area combined with a varied but gentle building scale. New developments need to work with the local scale of buildings and contribute safe, sociable streets and spaces, with focal points and memorable but harmonious buildings in key places. Page 43 identifies key opportunities for strengthening the sense of place, the opportunities to enhance frontages, routes, quality of public space and urban greening whilst taking the opportunities to retain the distinctive characteristic of Arbury and Kings Hedges.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0f38c4d8-cf74-456c-a5bc-ef802648f69e

Main issues raised in representation

Not a bad concept, but again Cambridge is becoming unaffordable to live in for tertiary grade workers.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for the positive comment. The Design Code stresses the importance of providing affordable homes on pages 7, 15 and 42.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

x

Councils' assessment

No response

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation efe9862d-1777-494e-9003-290ac6c4b93a

Main issues raised in representation

This one is less important to me personally and I wonder if less important to others - the place has some character, but it doesn't seem unique or nice enough to focus on preserving to me.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee comments that this principle (number 4) is less important to the consultee than the other four principles but that the area's character doesn't seem unique or nice enough to focus on preserving. However, the council feels that there are positive characteristics to the areas and that principles in the Design Code can enhance the local character of the areas.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f

Main issues raised in representation

Much needed, however, should not come at the aforementioned expense of those with privately owned vehicles nor should the intention be to facilitate a "5-minute city" or "15-minute city" mentality.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee provides positive comment but queries whether the proposals are at the expense of privately owned vehicles. This is not the intention of the Design Code. The design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling. The Design Code is not proposing a "5 minute city" or a "15 minute city".

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9aa0a94d-ad54-4cff-a6f5-b755e8149371

Main issues raised in representation

If you look at the images of the post-war housing that clearly has not continued to provide attractive homes conducive to well-being and compare them to the new build examples, you will see many of the same mistakes. Low cost is prioritised over quality throughout Cambridge, and it will not stand the test of time.

For example, many homes and apartments at Orchard Park are only 20 years old and looking incredibly run down. Details like white render and metal roofing and gutters cause discolouration, while wood panels also degrade. The lack of overhangs contributes to this as well. The over-use of yellow brick (which isn't really a Cambridge thing - cream brick was the choice of the Victorian builders in the older parts of town) also contribute to a lack of character, calling to mind the 50s and 60s.

"Modern" isn't always better and varied rooflines aren't enough to add character either, however, you can see good examples of modern buildings in Cambridge such as the new buildings on Round Church street near the student union or the frontage of Jesus college on Jesus Lane, which make use of red brick and stone, respectively. Towns like Poundbury and Dorchester are able to integrate older style architecture in new builds which make the areas far more attractive and enhance longevity.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee makes critical reflections about the quality of some of the post-War housing in the area and seem to endorse the emphasis on design quality in the Design Code. The resident consultee helpfully provides good examples of modern buildings in Cambridge and good examples of traditional architecture elsewhere.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

Better roads surface and cleaner environment would help. Which is never going to happen after any investment. As there is no money to spend going forward

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee endorses the emphasis in the code on better roads surface (page 41) and cleaner environment. The resident consultee points to a lack of investment in the area. The Design Code is not a funding package but the place making opportunities section (page 37) section of the Design Code does highlight locations (public spaces, parks) where there are opportunities to make improvements to the sense of place.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b9d00652-cd48-4aee-9bc3-49f3f0b09172

Main issues raised in representation

Any new buildings - try to have ones with pitched roofs which are far more in keeping with the character of the city

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee feels that pitched roofs are more in keeping with the city's character. The council supports the use of pitched roofs but also flat roofs, depending on context. The council agrees with page 44 of the Design Code that 'Larger developments should include varied rooflines such as combinations of green roofs, roof gardens and tile sloping roofs where appropriate'.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

A balance must be struck between making something too traditional or too modern, such that any added character would appeal to all age groups.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee feels that a balance must be struck between making something too traditional or too modern. The council would agree. The Design Code has not been prescriptive about favouring a traditional or contemporary approach to architecture and seems to strike the right balance between the two.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

Page 41 "Placemaking Opportunities" states "Retain pedestrian priority, car free characteristic". I disagree. Even if Kings Hedges was built for this purpose since the 1950s, the demographics has changed. Households should not become isolated due to lack of provision of adequate infrastructure for cars including parking. This will only increase deprivation and isolation in the area.

Page 41 "Placemaking Opportunities" states "Take opportunities to improve areas making effective and efficient use of land including, buildings coming to the end of life, underperforming buildings (residential and non-residential)". Again, this raises concerns for homeowners regarding requirements for demolition or redevelopment of existing homes.

Page 42 "Identity of Home" states "Entrances visible from street". I disagree. Delivery packages are often left in front of the main door. They are often stolen if can be seen from the street.

Page 42 "Encourage planted front gardens and hedges for all homes". See my previous comment regarding overgrown hedges in Page 24 ""Urban Greening" section above.

Councils' assessment

1. The resident consultee queries the priority of "Retain pedestrian priority, car free characteristic" on page 41 of the Design Code. However, the design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

2. The resident consultee raises a concern that a sentence on page 41 about buildings coming to the end of their life infers requirements for demolition. The design code is not recommending the demolition of houses but instead a process that every new proposal need to go through to establish the best strategy, using a retrofit first approach.

3. The resident consultee queries the recommendation on page 42 of the Design Code that 'entrances are visible from the street' because delivery packages are often left in front of the main door and are stolen. The council would disagree - For new buildings, front doors and building entrances should be included that are visible from the street or public space to provide safety for the public realm by addressing it with building frontages to provide eyes on the street, establish legible fronts / backs and public / private areas for the area and a sense of identity for public / private areas.

4. The resident consultee has a concern about incorporating front garden hedges, mentioned on page 42 of the Design Code, becoming overgrown. In response, the council feels many parts of Kings Hedges and Arbury are green in character and hence a hedge treatment is considered appropriate. However, there may be instance in more urban parts of the neighbourhood that a hedge may not be appropriate and hence will amend the code to suggest an appropriate response in some instances and hence is not identified as a must.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c9337fa2-b543-408b-b016-8af7523e69f5

Main issues raised in representation

I feel this is definitely needed.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for the positive comment. The Design Code stresses the importance of providing affordable homes on pages 7, 15 and 42.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2

Main issues raised in representation

Whose character? The people of Arbury and Kings Hedges or politicians who live miles away?

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries what is meant by character and for whom. Pages 14-17 of the Design Code writes about local history and establishes the key characteristics of the areas and how the 5 principles in the Design Code can enhance the local character of the areas. Page 42 writes about how resident surveys indicated that residents want to strengthen the green character of the area combined with a varied but gentle building scale. New developments need to work with the local scale of buildings and contribute safe, sociable streets and spaces, with focal points and memorable but harmonious buildings in key places. Page 42 identifies key opportunities for strengthening the sense of place, the opportunities to enhance frontages, routes, quality of public space and urban greening whilst taking the opportunities to retain the distinctive characteristic of Arbury and Kings Hedges.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb

Main issues raised in representation

This whole survey is pointless.

Councils' assessment

The aim of this consultation and design code is to establish the priorities of its residents that can provide the background for change, co-ordinate investment and improvements. An area wide code is a pilot that seeks to trial a new tool that can raise quality. The purpose of the code is identified in the introduction and applying the code sections. It will become a material consideration when adopted as a supplementary planning document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc

Main issues raised in representation

The use of the word 'Enhance' here is unfortunate and gives the wrong message. Enhance usually means heighten, intensify, strengthen or exaggerate what is there already. But surely what the document is about is improving on what is there; a lot of the policies are because the existing character (identity and appearance) has big

flaws; often unattractive, boring, uninteresting. Why not use 'Improve character' or something similar (even Transform)?

I found it odd that whilst pages 14-15 distinguished (correctly) the characters of Arbury and Kings Hedges the material at pages 40-45 rarely did. The policies should have distinguished between, should have been different for, the two areas.

I couldn't see anything on storage/ camouflaging of rubbish bins, a great source of eyesores.

Use of the term 'memorable' for buildings and landscapes is a bit unfortunate, not the best - ugly can also be memorable! They need to be attractive more than memorable.

The Don't item that starts off "Remember ..." on page 45 is clearly in the wrong place! Should be in the list of 'Do's'.

Councils' assessment

1. The resident consultee queries the use of the word 'enhance' for principle 4 and would prefer 'improve'. The council responds that it disagrees as the area do feature some positive characteristics to enhance.

2. The resident consultee queries why the guidance on pages 40 to 45 does not distinguish between Arbury and Kings Hedges but the council disagrees and feels that the guidance is applicable for both areas whilst at the same time on pages 16 and 17 identifying the potential differences that the code need to respond to.

3. The resident consultee queries a lack of guidance in the Design Guide on 'storage/ camouflaging of rubbish bins, a great source of eyesores'. Page 48 of the Design Guide does refer to 'Waste storage and collection guidance for developers' (2021) by Greater Cambridge Shared Waste. However, further text is added to bullet 3 pg. 44 to ensure that Bins, bikes, car ports and services have well integrated designs

4. The resident consultee queries the use of the 'memorable' on page 40 and would prefer 'attractive'. The council has sympathy for the opinion but would disagree as memorable alludes to being distinctive.

5. The resident consultee queries the 'Don't' (on page 45 of the Design Code) of 'Remember to design-in ... the wording here has been corrected.

Proposed modifications

3. Text added to bullet 3 pg 44:

- Bins, bikes, car ports and services with well integrated designs

5. Replace start of bullet 4 under don'ts on pg. 47 with Don't design-in the window frames on small window openings, which can unintentionally reduce available light and views.

Main issues raised in representation

Quite a lot of properties in Arbury have large gardens which are being used for single occupancy properties. I understand properties are required, but these are not always affordable. The recent application at 24 Mere Way for one bedroom single storey house approved and the owner selling site for £100k. Does this enhance the character of the area?

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee raises a specific issues of large gardens being used for single occupancy properties but this is really an issue related to policy 52 (Protecting garden land and the subdivision of existing dwelling plots) in the Cambridge City Local Plan which provides the overall plan for the area. The purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered, how principles can work together, and where appropriate include key targets.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f76336-7f75-45d9-891a-26d0e792d930**Main issues raised in representation**

Arbury's character is in smuggling drug dealers, fighting chavs near the bars and social housing lodgers from rather hostile backgrounds. Swinging it towards better character means involving those people in permanent hobby/sport activities in the area. Allow for more social clubs and sport centres (not playgrounds) for such people to keep them entertained.

Councils' assessment

The resident's consultee advocates providing more social clubs and sport centres. Pages 38-40 of the Design Code stresses the importance of providing space for social events, play, sports and games, community festivals, recreational spaces for active and healthy lifestyles.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb**Main issues raised in representation**

Again, sounds amazing

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your positive comments.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4802be18-a86d-4e00-ba33-21b1aad4e22a**Main issues raised in representation**

Encouraging (e.g. low rent/rates) a local cafe or bar would be great. There's a lack of socialising facilities. This means the area looks bland. We lost two pubs in recent years. Only the Ship remains. I am sure there would be plenty of demand.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries the lack of reference to providing cafes. The Design Code has been updated to include reference to shops and other active uses within

the 'cultural sociability' section (page 38). The Design Code within the 'cultural sociability' section (page 38) of the Design Code does highlights how new developments should incorporate community focal points and how public space design should support surrounding community and retail uses and that public destination spaces, such as play, community uses, and shopping should provide secure and well located cycle parking using Sheffield stands. Policy 6 in the Cambridge City Local Plan provides more specific retail guidance.

Proposed modifications

Add text on pg 38 - A diverse offering of shops, other active uses that cater to the needs of all ages must be enhanced and co-located in the town centre

Representation e71a7fff-b4e1-404a-9150-dc94e7237581

Main issues raised in representation

The Tesco express area on Campkin road would be a good place to enhance character, especially the side on at kildas avenue

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee highlights a particular area on Campkin Road where they think character could be enhanced. The positive comment is welcome. The guidance is intended to cover all areas in Kings Hedges, Arbury and West Chesterton.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 135603c4-11ce-42c0-a030-90a5dca88c4c

Main issues raised in representation

I wonder if there would be a way to encourage replanting of gardens that have become 'deserts'. The housing in Arbury, built in the 50s and 60s had generous gardens and it is a shame that quite a lot of this has been turned over to hard surfaces.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee recommends guidance to encourage the replanting of resident's back gardens. The Design Code does write about the value of gardens on page 44 but does not go into this level of detail. Elsewhere on page 17 it encourages 'positive use for green spaces such as community gardening and food growing'.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d87fc28e-f21a-4df2-8559-e1799a2e9995

Main issues raised in representation

I agree with this.

Councils' assessment

The positive comment about principle 4 is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145

Main issues raised in representation

Yes to have adequate parking bays and cycle safe lock up is paramount which Cambridge lacks. Bike crime is so bad that I refuse to leave my electric bike

anywhere. I would like to use as a disabled person the route 55 along the river but only for exercise never to leave it outside the Lido or in the city centre as I would be devastated if it was stolen.

Councils' assessment

The positive comment about cycle storage (page 28) for valuable bikes is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2945a914-94bc-4983-bc24-2009be3c530d

Main issues raised in representation

Generally in favour.

Councils' assessment

The positive comment about principle 4 is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0

Main issues raised in representation

'-

Councils' assessment

No response

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation External Written Comment (Historic England)

Main issues raised in representation

We welcome the production of this Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton, but do not consider it necessary for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of the code. We have general advice on good design in the historic environment on our website, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/design-in-the-historic-environment/>.

Councils' assessment

Comments welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Q6. Do you have any comments to make about 5: Increase sustainability?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 28

Representation 21d76e77-2bbd-444e-a69c-772fda8eb060

Main issues raised in representation

Buildings should be much taller. It would help with all the relevant aims by decreasing land use, increasing density, looking cooler.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee comments that buildings should be taller. On page 44 of the code, it addresses building heights and writes that the areas must retain the low-midrise character. It allows for a range of heights from 2 to 6 storeys and writes that

heights need to be driven by context and suggests avoiding clustering of tall buildings and significant height within the range proposed.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [eff704ea-02ff-4168-83d6-039d72a1ea12](#)

Main issues raised in representation

you are concreting countryside and it will increase population which, in turn, increases the carbon footprint. This is not sustainable.

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes an observation about concrete as a material (for new building work) not being sustainable. However the draft Design Code provides guidance about sustainable materials on pages 39 and 51. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code. The resident consultee is concerned that this is leading to an increase in population in the city which increases the carbon footprint. The design code is intended to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and It will support the existing policies of Cambridge City Council adopted 2018 local plan which relate to managing the anticipated population growth in a sustainable way that minimises the carbon footprint.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ae110cf1-fc4c-46f6-b40a-f8f3e492b133](#)

Main issues raised in representation

See above

Councils' assessment

In response to questions 1 to 4, this resident consultee queries a lack of basic information of what is planned. The Cambridge City Local Plan provides the overall plan for the area. The purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered, how principles can work together, and where appropriate include key targets.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I would like to see the expected expenses

Councils' assessment

In response to the resident consultee's question about costs, the design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any spending plans attached for implementation. It seeks to influence positive change through the planning application process. Pages 16-17 of the Design Code writes about the positive characteristic of the areas. It provides an opportunity to put planning guidance in place to manage change in a positive and sympathetic way that is based on the people's priorities. It can help tackle the area's inequity by enabling co-ordinated improvements and investments in the area, the delivery of better-quality

buildings, improvement in health and wellbeing, and incorporation of climate resilience and adaptation measures.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 563b4418-2a5f-4e8b-a290-f4508146ad83

Main issues raised in representation

Not a fan of it

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee writes that they do not support this principle, which is disappointing but their response does not go into detail of explaining why and so it is difficult to analyse and respond.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8ea463e7-cde7-4c27-87bc-a29eff451c6d

Main issues raised in representation

How much is it going to cost??? Councils are in huge debts. Many public toilets has been closed, roads quality is poor, sweepers very rarely operate in in Arbury Court. Where the money is going to come from??

Councils' assessment

In response to the resident consultee's question about costs, the design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any spending plans attached for implementation. It seeks to influence positive change through the planning application process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0f38c4d8-cf74-456c-a5bc-ef802648f69e

Main issues raised in representation

Another great idea but we should prioritise people first.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee supports the principle, and this positive response is welcome. The resident consultee caveats their response by writing that people should be prioritised. I think that they mean that they prefer some of the more immediate benefits to residents highlighted in some of the other principles.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

that creating accessible and adaptable buildings makes them sustainable

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee's positive comment which I think links how accessible, adaptable buildings will have more long term, sustainable use, is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation efe9862d-1777-494e-9003-290ac6c4b93a

Main issues raised in representation

Agree

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee's positive comment about principle 5 is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f

Main issues raised in representation

Much needed, however, should not come at the aforementioned expense of those with privately owned vehicles nor should the intention be to facilitate a "5 minute city" or "15 minute city" mentality.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries whether the proposals are at the expense of privately owned vehicles. This is not the intention of the Design Code. The design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling. The Design Code is not proposing a "5 minute city" or a "15 minute city".

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9aa0a94d-ad54-4cff-a6f5-b755e8149371

Main issues raised in representation

EVERY building should utilise solar panelling. New buildings should not be built without them and I find it shocking that this isn't written into law.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

If bins within the area would have been added, this would have helped already. So your only pointing out what has been requested for over 20 years.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries a lack of guidance in the Design Guide about bin storage. However, page 48 of the Design Guide does refer to 'Waste storage and collection guidance for developers' (2021) by Greater Cambridge Shared Waste.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b9d00652-cd48-4aee-9bc3-49f3f0b09172

Main issues raised in representation

Keeping down vehicle emissions by not encouraging traffic queues with unnecessary traffic lights is very important, particularly for the young and elderly

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee suggests removing unnecessary traffic lights to benefit from less carbon emissions. However Greater Cambridge Shared Planning does not have

powers to modal filter roads because this is a county Highways Authority responsibility.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac

Main issues raised in representation

All transport is sustainable

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee writes that all transport is sustainable. The council feels that not all transport modes are sustainable. The design code prioritises improving sustainability by taking opportunities to reduce energy use and carbon emissions to improve health and wellbeing for residents. Therefore the design code intends to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling movements.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

Good design is a collaborative effort between the people, the environment and the spatial requirements specific to the site. What is sustainable is that what is safe, useful, affordable, accessible and adds to one's wellbeing & health.

Councils' assessment

The positive comment about principle 5 is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

page 47 "Sustainability Opportunities" states "When improvement works or development is proposed to existing buildings, an up-to-date assessment of the building's energy performance should be carried out." I disagree. House owners should not be required to carry out and pay for energy performance improvement to their properties. The document doesn't provide assurances or protection to house owners from being required to re-develop or demolish their houses because they are at end-of-life or underperforming.

Page 51 "Improving Existing Buildings" states "Applications for extensions to existing dwellings and/or the conversion of ancillary residential floorspace to living accommodation should be accompanied by cost effective improvements to the energy efficiency of the existing dwelling". I disagree. See my previous comment on Page 17 above. Energy performance improvements are very expensive considering the ever-increasing costs of material and labour. Even 1 day plumbing job can cost about £1000 (based on my experience of hiring trades people to do work on my property). People should not be discouraged from making extensions or improvement to their properties due to requirements for energy performance improvements. Approvals of planning applications should not require house owners

to install ASHP, solar panels, triple glazing, external wall insulation, or insulation of concrete floors. to their existing homes.

Councils' assessment

1. The resident consultee disagrees with the statement on pages 17 and 47 that 'When improvement works or development is proposed to existing buildings, an up-to-date assessment of the building's energy performance should be carried out' in terms of house owners paying for this. The council feels it is important to include this because raising the energy efficiency of the existing buildings will improve sustainability in the areas, by reducing heating bills and improving comfort, health and well-being within the home.

2. The consultee raises concern about a lack of assurance that the council intends demolishing homes. The design code is not recommending the removal of houses but instead a process that every proposal need to go through to establish the best strategy, using a retrofit first approach.

3. The guidance in the Design Code is in accordance with policies in the Cambridge City Local Plan in regard to building extensions and conversions and also in accordance with 'Retrofitting Your Home' by Cambridge City Council - <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/11677/retrofitting-your-home-report-non-accessible-version.pdf>

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2

Main issues raised in representation

Like I said, put up solar covers for car spaces, use them to power street lights, CCTV, and your "connected bus stops".

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee makes some helpful suggestions. The design code writes that opportunities for sustainability measures at an area wide scale should be explored (on page 49) to address this.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb

Main issues raised in representation

So I'm not going to finish reading the long winded, intentionally confusing design code document.

Councils' assessment

Apologies, We have tried to keep the document succinct. Generally design code documents are over 100 pages long. We have tried to make the document short to appx 60 pages. There will be an executive summary at the start of the document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your comments.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 212e16a7-d294-4729-a9ab-c339c900758f

Main issues raised in representation

Solar shading sounds good. Trees need to be reviewed on roads with bus routes like Carlton Way, as the double deckers frequently hit them.

Councils' assessment

The design code mentions a process to review trees but also refers to management and maintenance which sits outside the remit of this document

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f76336-7f75-45d9-891a-26d0e792d930

Main issues raised in representation

The reason for having a car for many households is in going big shopping and going elsewhere at the weekend. Please allow for car sharing opportunities in the area so that people don't need their cars. This will reduce congestions and maintain quality of life.

Please allow

Councils' assessment

The design code whilst prioritising pedestrians and vehicles takes account of the needs of car users as well (including disabled, services, long distance commuting etc). However, for the purposes of short trips, for health and wellbeing and reducing our impact on the environment, active travel options are encouraged, car sharing opportunities included on page 35 of the design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation e71a7fff-b4e1-404a-9150-dc94e7237581

Main issues raised in representation

Will there be funding available for homeowners to make improvements?

Councils' assessment

Whilst the design code project does not have funds for implementation there are reference documents that are with the code where you may be able to find more information on funding opportunities

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 135603c4-11ce-42c0-a030-90a5dca88c4c

Main issues raised in representation

This all looks great. Again, restoration of gardens would help with cooling, water conservation. Could you given everyone who has a garden a tree, and support with caring for it, for example.

Councils' assessment

The design code is a planning policy tool and unfortunately does not have any funding attached for implementation.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a740d938-b7d1-4750-bca0-d8f8370ad23b

Main issues raised in representation

NHSPS fully support policies that promote carbon neutral development

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d87fc28e-f21a-4df2-8559-e1799a2e9995

Main issues raised in representation

I agree, but it wasn't clear how this would be realised

Councils' assessment

The design code is a planning policy tool and unfortunately does not have any funding attached for implementation.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145

Main issues raised in representation

Stop squandering money on vanity projects like 35 traffic lights on Milton Rd roundabout. Ridiculous and causing congestion. Focus on youth clubs. Tennis, badminton, squash, netball, basketball, hockey grounds. More lidos. More 0–10-year-olds and the other scale. Don't forget the parents or the pensioners.

Councils' assessment

The project that is being referred to is not a project of the Planning service. Pg 39 bullet two talks about a diversity of provision with an emphasis on play for people of all ages groups and abilities.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2945a914-94bc-4983-bc24-2009be3c530d

Main issues raised in representation

Generally, in favour.

Councils' assessment

Comments are welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0

Main issues raised in representation

I thought the sections on improving home efficiency was good.

Regarding public transport... p. 16 – the bus routes into the city are convoluted and frustrating, quite literally 'going around the houses'. Provision of a direct route that goes all the way down Arbury Road, with a stop outside Arbury Court or near Leys Rd crossing (to turn onto Milton Road) and then onward straight into city would be useful. There is no bus through Arbury that goes to Cambridge North Station as a

whole Cambridge North is so poorly connected to the this part of the city (it's too far to walk so we always drive to/from the station which is a shame). Busses really need to be more reliable to be used as an alternative to cars, live departure boards at bus stops can help with that too.

Councils' assessment

Although not within the remit of the planning department, these is text for improvements to existing public transport infrastructure in any future review of services taking account of key connections to Cambridge North, City Centre and Arbury Court for the notice of service providers and other transport infrastructure stakeholders like the County Council.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Q7. Do you have any comments to make about Planning Checklists?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 20

Representation 55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08

Main issues raised in representation

Yes, again I would like to see the expected expenses on each of the items.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries the expected expenses. The design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any spending plans attached for implementation. It seeks to influence positive change through the planning application process. Pages 14-15 of the Design Code writes about the positive characteristic of the areas. It provides an opportunity to put planning guidance in place to manage change in a positive and sympathetic way that is based on the people's priorities. It can help tackle the area's inequity by enabling co-ordinated improvements and investments in the area, the delivery of better-quality buildings, improvement in health and wellbeing, and incorporation of climate resilience and adaptation measures.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 563b4418-2a5f-4e8b-a290-f4508146ad83

Main issues raised in representation

None

Councils' assessment

No response.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8ea463e7-cde7-4c27-87bc-a29eff451c6d

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No response

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0f38c4d8-cf74-456c-a5bc-ef802648f69e

Main issues raised in representation

Great ideas but written by someone who doesn't have to worry if they can afford to live close their work.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for the positive comment. The resident consultee mentions affordability. The Design Code stresses the importance of providing affordable homes on pages 5, 13 and 40.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

checklist for wheelchair, sensory impairment, nuero-diverse, etc criteria

Councils' assessment

I think that the resident consultee is suggesting adding a checklist of criteria for requirements for the protected characteristics e.g. sensory impairment, but this does not seem suitable for a checklist.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

Feel the council is trying to find ways, to make it harder for people to use cars, take the open spaces already there and make these smaller to put more houses up. Well taking houses away and putting flats up. Which take away from the community feel of an area

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries whether the proposals are making it harder for people to use cars and is proposing removing houses. This is not the intention of the Design Code. The design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling. The design code is not recommending the demolition of houses but instead a process that every new proposal need to go through to establish the best strategy, using a retrofit first approach.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac

Main issues raised in representation

As long as the check list includes cars.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee asks that cars are included in the checklist. The checklist does include cars in the checklist on page 58 under 'reducing car dominance'.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

Please ensure that you have all developers, estate agents, councils, homeowners, builders and financiers on board on the same page, when it comes to setting the maximum price levels for rent and sales price of dwellings and other buildings. Current Cambridge rents are madness. The average annual salary full-time of £25000-£45000 only allows a maximum of £650-£850 payable for monthly rent for a two-bedroom house, and anything higher is just not affordable or payable without government or council top-up. The current rental rate at £1850-£2500 per month demanded by landlords for a two-bedroom house in Cambridge is madness and smacks of uncontrollable greed. This must be stopped and this requires a concerted effort and enforcement right across the board, of what is morally and socially the correct thing to do. This is an urgent and serious problem and must be incorporated in any planning & permission to build checklist please. Thank you.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee raises concerns about the cost of living, the cost of renting and cost of buying homes in Cambridge considering the average salary of residents living in the city. The Design Code stresses the importance of providing affordable homes on pages 5, 13 and 40.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

In Page 58: The checklist uses ill-defined words such as "appropriately" and "proportionately". Such words give huge leverage to the council and planning teams since they decide whether the proposal is "appropriate" and "proportionate".

If the purpose of the checklist is to be used by planning teams to assess applications, the criteria and requirements in the checklist should be clearly defined to increase fairness and reduce costs on house owners.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee criticises the use of the words "appropriately" and "proportionately" in relation to sustainable design and cost-effective energy efficiency in householder extensions on page 58. The council disagrees as sustainable design and cost-effective energy efficiency have many different criteria (particular numbered values etc) and so it is difficult to find other suitable words.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2

Main issues raised in representation

Just look at the first three. ...increase tree canopies, biodiverse hedges, green roofs and ask yourself who is maintaining it? Where is that funding coming from? You can't fulfil all of the current tasks.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee has concerns about the maintenance regime of tree canopies, biodiverse hedges and green roofs but this sits outside the scope of the Design Code. The subject is referenced on page 5 of the code to ensure

coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb

Main issues raised in representation

How many people this document. You make the whole process inaccessible and complicated; it's like you are doing it on purpose

Councils' assessment

The council has made efforts to make the Design Code as accessible as possible. A design code document generally runs to 100 pages. We have kept the document short (up to 58 pages). We appreciate that all aspects of the document will not be relevant to all and hence the colour coding has been used. We have also focused on five principles. whilst pages 14/15 provides a context of the places, pages 40-45 sets out the guidance and coding that can inform future developments. There is an executive summary produced at the start on page 5.

Proposed modifications

There is an executive summary produced at the start on page 5.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc

Main issues raised in representation

I think it unfortunate that quite a few of the policies in the document are not reflected here. This downgrades them.

Councils' assessment

The checklist is not exhaustive. The checklist is intended as a useful companion to the Design Code, summarising critical principles proposals must deliver. It is intended as a tool to help check that submissions provide the necessary information to demonstrate how the design quality objectives that underpin the Code have been met.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f76336-7f75-45d9-891a-26d0e792d930

Main issues raised in representation

People will have cars. To avoid conflicts just allow for them in your planning. No planning for cars doesn't mean no cars, it means more conflict.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee is concerned that cars have been excluded from the Design Code. However, the design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb

Main issues raised in representation

Will they be followed properly, or just the minimum rule keeping?

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries whether the planning checklist will be followed. This compliance checklist has been prepared to assist design teams and planning officers. The council intends the Design Code to become a supplementary planning document which will have material weight in planning decisions made by the council. Using the planning checklist is a way of demonstrating how planning applications have complied with the principles outlined in the code. Page 9 of the Design Code states that a completed Compliance Checklist and accompanying proving illustrations must be included as part of future Reserved Matters Applications and we suggest this is incorporated within the Design and Access Statement (DAS).

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8d261cbf-2cf2-42e3-a382-4ce5068dbb7b

Main issues raised in representation

We can't have thriving public spaces until antisocial behaviour is under control this should also extend to the level of fly tipping of household waste in park bins.

Making space for nature, in the existing green spaces in and around woodhead drive there is very poor level of maintenance. In the summer all shrubs and plants are completely covered in bindweed. It's totally out of control, how can you talk about biodiversity when maintenance is required to achieve it.

Councils' assessment

1. The resident consultee points out antisocial behavioural aspects but any responses to address this from the council sit outside the planning policy framework and cannot be directly incorporated in the code. However, the Design code points out to the outcomes that these behavioural, community action would seek to achieve.

2. The resident consultee has concerns about the maintenance regime, but this sits outside the scope of the Design Code. The subject is referenced on page 5 of the code to ensure coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 63e4f2c8-63c1-4070-826f-814d9945f9cb

Main issues raised in representation

There is no explicit mention of the installation of modal filters/staggered cycle gates.

When creating a safe joined-up network for walking and cycling routes please can I stress the importance of the use of modal filters/staggered cycle gates across the area to reduce car dominance and make our streets much more liveable. This would prevent the extensive rat-running/speeding vehicles which reduces the quality of life and would improve the safety of the area for playing children, other residents, walkers and cyclists alike. This approach has been used across the city and has transformed many neighbourhoods, even in recent years.

Recent examples include:

-The Luard Road modal filter, to stop rat-running between Long Road and Hills Road, and to ensure Luard and Sedley Taylor Roads remain quiet and peaceful streets.

-The Storeys Way modal filter, to stop rat-running between Huntingdon Road and Maddingley Road, and to protect busy cycle routes.

-A number of changes in the New Town area to reduce rat-running and enable people to step off pavements and socially-distance more easily, including modal filters on Bateman Street, Coronation Street and Pemberton Terrace.

-The Carlyle Road modal filter, a popular walking and cycling route to Jesus Green.

-The Nightingale Avenue modal filter, to reduce rat-running and improve the safety of a busy cycle route to Addenbrooke's hospital.

There is a distinct lack of these filters/gate in the Arbury area and we would like a similar approach to be use in our area too.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee suggests adding a traffic light modal filters. However Greater Cambridge Shared Planning does not have powers to modal filter roads because this is a county Highways Authority responsibility. However, it does suggest traffic calming measures for the area the detailed design of which needs to be agreed by the relevant authority at a delivery phase.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation fab196f4-fea5-49e9-b78c-cb700b33fc8c

Main issues raised in representation

Support proposals.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your supportive comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145

Main issues raised in representation

Listen. Conflict of interest by Camcycle and Labour and Lib Dems voting for closing roads it's not democratic. It's wrong.

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes a wider comment about consultation / planning processes and influence of Cam Cycle on the process. The consultee makes a criticism about perceived bias towards the Camcycle organisation in the draft Design Code. However they provided no evidence to back up this assertion. The consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including in-person engagement events on the Citizen lab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> which has also been included in the statement of consultation.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2945a914-94bc-4983-bc24-2009be3c530d**Main issues raised in representation**

Reference on p.55 to "LTN/120" should be corrected to "LTN 1/20".

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee points out that the term "LTN/120", mentioned on page 57, should be corrected to "LTN 1/20".

Proposed modifications

The term "LTN/120", mentioned on pages 31 (2 instances), 33 and 55, should be corrected to have a gap i.e. "LTN 1/20".

Representation fc7fc217-cb5c-4235-8925-4052e5e5bfd0**Main issues raised in representation**

Seems to be well joined up with and representative of what the rest of the code is saying. Additional input... Provide something in the code... and then the checklist about what is required in terms of space/ underground systems for successful tree planting.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee suggests an addition to, I think, the Make Space for Nature - Planning Checklist on page 54 of the Design Code. It is a helpful suggestion but on this occasion, the council has decided not to include this in the checklist. So that it remains focussed. This guidance exists in other documents of the council.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Q 8. Do you have any comments to make about the statement of consultation document?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 17

Representation ae110cf1-fc4c-46f6-b40a-f8f3e492b133**Main issues raised in representation**

Dates of consulting with residents and how you intend to do this would be good.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee requests that the dates for the consultation activities and events would be good. The formal consultation ended on 17th February 2025 but the dates of all the past dates will be included in the statement of consultation document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 55d709a2-bedf-4375-aa52-ef3782010a08**Main issues raised in representation**

You do not have any details for the expected budget so I object

Councils' assessment

The design code is a planning policy/guidance document and does not come with any spending plans attached for implementation. It seeks to influence positive

change through the planning application process. Pages 16-17 of the Design Code writes about the positive characteristic of the areas. It provides an opportunity to put planning guidance in place to manage change in a positive and sympathetic way that is based on the people's priorities. It can help tackle the area's inequity by enabling co-ordinated improvements and investments in the area, the delivery of better-quality buildings, improvement in health and wellbeing, and incorporation of climate resilience and adaptation measures.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 563b4418-2a5f-4e8b-a290-f4508146ad83

Main issues raised in representation

None

Councils' assessment

No response

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

More specific mentions of disabled people and disabled access is needed and a definition of what inclusive design means is needed.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee feels that more specific mentions of disabled people and disabled access is needed and a definition of what inclusive design means is needed. There are a few mentions of disability and inclusive access but it might be a worthwhile idea to introduce (say on page 7) a definition of what inclusive design means : here are 2 possible definitions in the next column that you could use:

Proposed modifications

The British Standards Institute (2005) defines inclusive design as: "The design of mainstream products and/or services that are accessible to, and usable by, as many people as reasonably possible ... without the need for special adaptation or specialised design."

[https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Inclusive_design#:~:text=The%20British%20Standards%20Institute%20\(2005,2012%20Olympic%20and%20Paralympic%20legacy. The UK government has defined inclusive design as '...a process that ensures that all buildings, places and spaces can be easily and comfortably accessed and used by everyone.' \(Ref. Gov.uk Policy paper 2010 to 2015 government policy: 2012 Olympic and Paralympic legacy\).](https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Inclusive_design#:~:text=The%20British%20Standards%20Institute%20(2005,2012%20Olympic%20and%20Paralympic%20legacy. The UK government has defined inclusive design as '...a process that ensures that all buildings, places and spaces can be easily and comfortably accessed and used by everyone.' (Ref. Gov.uk Policy paper 2010 to 2015 government policy: 2012 Olympic and Paralympic legacy).)

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f

Main issues raised in representation

Any and all consultation should have the voices of ALL heard, not just those with a seeming invested interest in any agenda that unfairly skews the consultation in favour biased against or opposed to the right and needs of individuals to own and use private vehicles at their own discretion.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries whether the proposals are skewed against owners and users of privately owned vehicles. This is not the intention of the Design Code.

The design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

Seems to be a lot of people involved in getting this information, that is easy to see and making money for the people getting the information together a waste of money

Councils' assessment

The aim of this consultation and design code is to establish the priorities of its residents that can provide the background for change, co-ordinate investment and improvements. A area wide code is a pilot that seeks to trial a new tool that can raise quality. The purpose of the code is identified in the introduction and applying the code sections. It will become a material consideration when adopted as a supplementary planning document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac

Main issues raised in representation

Yes it should have a public referendum.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries whether the proposals should be subject to a public referendum. However the council has a defined/democratic process for making a document an SPD which it intends to follow. There have been several consultation events and activities to discuss the issues with residents.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

Some people might be reticent to speak freely or under pressure to conform. Hence consultations can never reflect the full truth of how ALL those consulted really feel about an issue. Others might not be informed enough to understand the issue sufficiently to provide a comment. The method of consultations to justify decisions is limited and other avenues of research need to be used too. Thank you.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee queries the reliability of consultations for eliciting residents' views. The council acknowledges this but has made efforts to publicise the consultation which is available online and through a written response with several consultation events and activities.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

It is too long. No one has time to read 111 pages. I don't have time to read it after reading 58 pages of the Code Design draft. Therefore, I cannot provide comments on the statement of consultation. Please provide a concise version to review.

Councils' assessment

The residents consultee is critical of the length of the statement of consultation but it was necessary to fully capture the residents' responses and all the consultation activities in the document. An executive summary is produced on page 5.

Proposed modifications

An executive summary is produced on page 5.

Representation c9337fa2-b543-408b-b016-8af7523e69f5

Main issues raised in representation

I feel the buildings need a lot of work done to them to maintain living standards, heating costs are very expensive as soon as the heating goes off the place is cold, mould is a big issue not only in my home but a lot of people in this area close by.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee comments are welcome and relate to the need to increase sustainability principle in the design code and the current high heating costs for homes and so improving existing buildings (page 53 of the Design Guide) guidance is most relevant.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2

Main issues raised in representation

I don't feel like this is a consultation at all, I think the whole process is manipulated by you. You invite the "residents", you cap surveys, you write huge documents that no one in full-time work has time to read, you pretend children's views are valid, and anyone who disagrees is uneducated or some sort of bigot. The whole process is a joke.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee is critical of the consultation. It is not the intention of the council to manipulate the process of producing the Design Code. The Cambridge City Local Plan provides the overall plan for the area. The purpose of the Design code is to set a framework to co-ordinate, guide, and assess development through the planning process. Each of the 5 principles includes a range of technical design guidance indicating how the principles can be delivered, how principles can work together, and where appropriate include key targets. The Design Code has evolved in relation to consultation with local residents throughout the process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb

Main issues raised in representation

I look forward to hearing from you.

Councils' assessment

The council is sorry that you have not heard about the Design Code until now. The council has publicised the consultation activities with leaflets delivered to residents' home and using its social media tools.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc**Main issues raised in representation**

Only to say I don't think the consultation was done well; reflected in how few got involved. The consultation methods used were dull and innovative, hardly state of the art. They could have been much better (and are in many places)

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee is critical of the consultation. The team has made a significant effort to reach out and engage with the community both online and in person through online surveys, in person event at the Meadows Community Centre, various places within the community, 4 schools in the area, taking it to the Disability Panel, Cambridgeshire Quality Panel and Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel. This has been the most comprehensive community engagement done on a design code in Greater Cambridge.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb**Main issues raised in representation**

I'm really glad people were consulted.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your positive comments.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation fab196f4-fea5-49e9-b78c-cb700b33fc8c**Main issues raised in representation**

Support all the principles as outlined.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for your positive comments.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d87fc28e-f21a-4df2-8559-e1799a2e9995**Main issues raised in representation**

no

Councils' assessment

No response.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145**Main issues raised in representation**

111 pages.

Councils' assessment

The resident's consultee is critical of the length of the statement of consultation but it was necessary to fully capture the residents' responses and all the consultation activities in the document. An executive summary is produced on page 5.

Proposed modifications

An executive summary is produced on page 5.

Q9. Do you have any comments to make about the Equality Impact Assessment document?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 12

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15

Main issues raised in representation

x

Councils' assessment

Just one letter has been written ('x') - maybe the response made a typing error.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f

Main issues raised in representation

Any and all consultation should have the voices of ALL heard, not just those with a seeming invested interest in any agenda that unfairly skews the consultation in favour biased against or opposed to the right and needs of individuals to own and use private vehicles at their own discretion.

Councils' assessment

Please see the assessment (7 rows below). The council has made efforts to disseminate information about the consultation using online tools and provided in-person events to ensure that is promoted to all residents as widely as possible.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 35946685-891e-4cfe-bc73-369d9b81f9ef

Main issues raised in representation

no

Councils' assessment

No comment provided

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac (Paul Forder)

Main issues raised in representation

There is no equality in this plan.

Councils' assessment

The design code has made a special effort to ensure that the guidance gives due consideration to equality and is consistent with Cambridge City Council's policies on Equality. The code has conducted an Equality Impact assessment (EqIA) of the Cambridge Design Code as part of the adoption process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd

Main issues raised in representation

If you approach everyone as being human, then there would be no need to fill in fields with labels for gender, age, disability, LGBT status, etc. Stop it.

Councils' assessment

The design code has made a special effort to ensure that the guidance that it contains does give due consideration to equality and is consistent with Cambridge City Council's policies on Equality. The Public Sector Equality Duty, introduced under the Equality Act 2010, requires all public bodies, including local authorities, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. Consequently, the council's Equality Impact Assessment has assessed positive and negative impacts of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code on each of these protected characteristics.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d41c312c-6b9d-45b4-9a84-8181ad832de3

Main issues raised in representation

Page 5 states "The code has been developed based on over 250 conversations", however, in Page 9, it shows the code will affect about 29,000 people. The 250 conversations covers less than 1% of the affected population.

Page 17 states "'Enhance character' principle proposes that homes are accessible for disabled people." House owners should not be required to implement and pay for accessibility improvement to their houses.

Councils' assessment

The code has been developed based on 250 conversations, comments and detailed survey over the lifetime of the project using Citizen Lab, a user-friendly digital engagement platform together with in-person meetings and workshops. It has engaged with women, the elderly, disability groups ethnic minorities at local events held at Arbury Court, Baptist Church, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Meadows Community Centre and with children and parents at The Grove Primary School. The Cambridge Neighbourhoods code has been developed in collaboration with a core group of officers/stakeholders from Cambridge City Council, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, Cambridgeshire County Council, reviewed by the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel, the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel and the Disability Consultative Panel. During the consultation period between 6th January 2025 to 17th February 2025, leaflets providing a hotlink to Citizen lab and promoting

the events were delivered to residents' homes; Physical copies of draft consultation documents and the EqIA have been made available in the council office, Arbury community centre, the Meadows centre and Arbury County library; there has also been further engagement with the children and parents of Mayfield Primary School, Kings Hedges Education Federation and the North Cambridge Academy during this period. The respondent is likely to be referring to page 42 (rather than page 17) of the 'Enhance character' chapter of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c9337fa2-b543-408b-b016-8af7523e69f5

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No comment provided.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2

Main issues raised in representation

As long as the equality doesn't include drivers yeah?

Councils' assessment

See assessment (3 rows above).

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No comment provided.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8158f535-601d-4d11-8e34-cec29414746b

Main issues raised in representation

8

Councils' assessment

Just one number has been written ('8') - maybe the respondent made a typing error.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation be3a3e16-9612-436a-a9dd-8d865a9f79fb

Main issues raised in representation

Again, it all sounds great. I am very grateful indeed that so much thought and resources have been poured into this. It looks lovely.

It's hard, though, to trust that developers will actually follow it. E.g. the lack of shops and restaurants in Orchard Park, that were promised by developers. It seems the council doesn't have the legal budget to ensure they stick to their plans. I would pour resources into holding them to account so they don't think they can promise one thing and do whatever they like.

This very much has felt like a survey for professional bodies and well- resourced community groups, not individual residents. It was intimidating having to open an account, tick terms and condition/privacy as if I'm signing my life away, then respond to some extremely personal questions. And the 58 page document is something no one has time to read, I know there is a very short summary on the website and verbal presentations but a few page summary would have been very helpful. It seems designed to create barriers to people responding to the consultation. Given the very mixed nature of this neighbourhood, I expect on the most confident and motivated people will respond.

As I said, my main question is, will developers actually follow it? My experience is of a consultation being done to infill 'unused green space' next to my house that small children from home with very small gardens used to play together all summer. It was great for them, and now it's gone, replaced my houses and roads. The consultation document was titled building on the site of old garages, whereas very little building was done where garages were, and 5 green spaces were filled in. You had to look carefully at the plans to see that, which most people won't have done, Again the consultation process was very intimidating. It feels as if developers will be allowed to ride roughshod all over the neighbourhood. Another example is that a little copse was levelled next to the Ship pub to make room for houses, which was short sighted. It takes years for patches of green like that to spring up, and some of it could have been used as a feature by a developer with imagination. It's quicker and cheaper to level everything, but that approach in this neighbourhood will result in a place like a new build with no mature trees. If you take the example of Marmalade Lane/K1 co-housing, their copse was made a feature for their block and it's lovely.

My experience is that new trees can easily be uprooted or broken, and a few have been chucked over my garden wall, So, replacing older established trees with newly planted ones is not a fair replacement. Since a number of older trees have been cut down around this area there are hardly any garden birds around anymore, it's very sad.

I know your intentions are very good, and the document looks superb, really amazing if it works out. Thank you for doing it. It may be this document is designed to stop the things happening that I've mentioned above, in which case great. But I'd like to know if you have a legal budget to pursue developers that don't follow the plans or do what they promised. Otherwise, I'm worried it will be very stressful for the council and will not work out as planned. I really hope I'm wrong, but I don't think community development happens through commercial developers, and I rather suspect the council does not have the budget to implement this plan on their own.

I'm also curious because there's such a lot of private ownership around here. Unless you plan some compulsory purchases, I can't imagine how this would happen except very piecemeal and not to plan.

Councils' assessment

Thank you for complimenting the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code and the council appreciates your feedback about the online survey. The design code when adopted as an SPD will be a material consideration by the local planning authority in determining planning applications for development in the area. The code must be referred to for all planning applications that lie within the area.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8d261cbf-2cf2-42e3-a382-4ce5068dbb7b**Main issues raised in representation**

You seem to be intentionally avoiding white men in this consultation.

Councils' assessment

No evidence has been provided by the respoondee to back up this assertion. The council has no intension of avoiding or excluding any individuals or groups in this consultation with residents. See responses about public engagement above.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Q10. Do you have any comments to make about the SEA/HRA screening report document?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 9

Representation 94e96138-f6a8-423b-bcb8-851531310e15**Main issues raised in representation**

x

Councils' assessment

No comment

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7b0bf1c6-60c3-4b4d-90b7-7b77eed13e4f**Main issues raised in representation**

Any and all consultation should have the voices of ALL heard, not just those with a seeming invested interest in any agenda that unfairly skews the consultation in favour biased against or opposed to the right and needs of individuals to own and use private vehicles at their own discretion.

Councils' assessment

This comment relates to the statement of consultation. Resident consultee queries whether the report is skewed against owners and users of privately owned vehicles. This is not the case. The Design Code has gone through a robust process of community engagement which is stated in the statement of consultation.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0070cd79-9390-40b6-af4c-a087d6c9f5ac**Main issues raised in representation**

Too complicated make it less complicated as some people will be bamboozled and not know what it actually means to them

Councils' assessment

The SEA/HRA is a technical document that is required by legislation, and it isn't one of the documents for consideration. Considerable effort has gone to make the design code short and concise whilst being useful as a technical document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [3ede4020-9ccf-4a90-bf82-738be40489fd](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Not yet.

Councils' assessment

No comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [c9337fa2-b543-408b-b016-8af7523e69f5](#)

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ba7f926a-121f-4403-b1f6-474437ad99f2](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I don't believe any of this will help the environment tbh.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee is sceptical about the environmental impacts of the proposals. However, the council disagrees as the SEA report rules out the potential for significant effects from the content and remit of the Design Code and with no identified development proposals that could give rise to significant effects on the environment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [4d7932a2-f687-4bcf-aef5-578e28fb86fb](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Waffle. It might have an impact on this that but enough to matter in Greater CP scheme of things.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee writes 'waffle' and seems sceptical about the impacts of the proposals. Similarly to the response 3 rows above, the council disagrees as the SEA/HRA report considers the Design Code is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any habitats site.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [d2954057-c0f3-404d-8de7-ba84b896dfdc](#)

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

[Representation f583bdbf-2641-42e5-813a-0e95a6257145](#)**Main issues raised in representation**

No

Councils' assessment

No comment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Appendix i

Letters received from Consultees/community via email/post as part of the formal Consultation (06 January 2025 to 17th February 2025)



[REDACTED]
CAMBRIDGE,
Cambridgeshire,
CB4 3JD

10th Feb 2025

Dear Sir,
Please find appended my comments upon the draft Arbury Neighbourhood Design Code which should be taken into account in formulating the final document for adoption.

I also wish to register a complaint about the difficulty citizens without computers have in obtaining the draft document for study and the total lack of awareness by receptionists both at Mandela House and South Cambs. Hall about where non-electronic submissions should be sent.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Planning Department,
South Cambs. District Council,
CAMBOURNE,
Cambs.,
CB23 6EA.

ARBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD DRAFT DESIGN CODE.

The value of any Design Code, however well researched, drawn up and written lies in its application on the ground and firm enforcement. Wishy-washy imprecise aspirational stuff is worthless. This depends not only on Planning Officers who are trained in building design matters but also the Elected Members/decision makers vigorously insisting upon compliance with the Code without exceptions.

The draft Design Code has some good observation and analysis of the neighbourhood but sometimes fails either to explain clearly what conclusions must be drawn or makes the point too narrowly. An example: the draft makes a good point about maintenance of spaces but fails to expand this to cover building maintenance which must be part of overall good design. It should point out how poor initial construction, poor detailed design and lack of thought about how repairs can easily be undertaken will produce low quality areas with short life expectation for buildings.

(2)

The Draft Design Code quite correctly draws attention to the high aesthetic value of "local character and distinctiveness" and mentions the mid- to late-C20th nature of Arbury area, Histon Road shops and so on. However, this is not 'modern character', ^{BUT} very dated design that reflects its era but should not be repeated elsewhere in the city. It may be appropriate for extending or infilling small sites in Arbury. The other side of this coin is preventing building designers trying to impose early-C21st fashion in architecture everywhere. This is exactly what is creating the appalling 'clone towns' where the lack of appreciation of local character and distinctiveness leads to incoherent muddles of every design fashion — as it comes and goes — built in entirely random "look-at-me" choices of non-vernacular materials of construction. Everywhere begins to look like everywhere else.

The principle of 'Enhancing Character' is worthwhile and the intentions mentioned (scale, focal points, memorable and harmonious buildings in key places, etc.) are good but are ill-defined and imprecise. The 'Materials

(3)

and Elements' are mentioned for public spaces only. Why? Why not everywhere?

Roofscape are vital and properly mentioned (central Eddington being a disaster in this respect). The Design Code must be firm that flat-roofs are inappropriate around Arbory. There is absolutely no justification for the assertion that there can be an increase in building heights.

There is a serious point to be made about real fronts and backs to buildings which really should be linked to "readable" entrances and clearly defined wayfinding around both sites and buildings via good landscape design.

The section on proper detailing of buildings correctly identifies the importance of this aspect. It mentions window reveals, sills and leads to openings and eaves details. But other details like ridges, block corners, rainwater goods, vertical features (chimneys, flues, vents, etc. that give appropriate emphasis) cannot be ignored and left solely to cost-cutting designers. This element

(4)

is too important to be left out of the Code and needs to be closely controlled via the planning system.

The importance of memorable building design at key focal points could be joined to the need for such building not being designs screaming for visual attention or garish departure from local character and distinctiveness. They should be using the vernacular in subtle and imaginative ways. This must include the use of suitable (and sustainable) local materials. Arbury has its own palette that is not suitable everywhere else in the city. Each area has its own palette (to be identified in specific Design Codes for each area). The use of appropriate materials (as defined in the Code) will need to be vigorously enforced upon building designers and developers if the current "free-for-all" is to be avoided in future.

This Design Code cannot be feeble "guidance" and must be framed clearly and unequivocally using terminology like "all roofs will be pitched" or "no rainwater downpipes will be internal to the fabric of the buildings", etc., so that building designers and developers

⑤

understand clearly what is required and what will conform. There can be no room for ambiguous or vague statements concerning building design.


Feb 2025.

**Draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, Kings
Hedges, and parts of West Chesterton
SPD Consultation**

TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT TEAM COMMENTS

OUR REF: 2812

CASE OFFICER: GCSPS

AUTHOR: [REDACTED]

DATE: 17th February 2025

These comments are further to a consultation on a draft design code for Arbury, Kings Hedges and West Chesterton.

The comments are detailed below.

General comment – the keys on some of the plans are difficult to distinguish as the colours are very similar.

There is a secondary school and a number of primary schools in this area but they are not featured on any of the plans. They are key destinations and so providing safe, attractive and accessible walking, wheeling and cycling routes to them should be highlighted. Deterring parking and reducing traffic and speeds near this schools should also be an explicit aim.

P 16 Routes & Destinations

- does not include key existing walking and cycling route across the area.
- The section entitled 'Poor connectivity and legibility' para 1: cul-de sacs can lead to poor connectivity but, designed well, can also provide high quality filtered permeability, providing good walking, wheeling and cycling connections which make local active travel journeys more attractive than the car.
- It should be made clear that the desirable east-west movement between Rosewood Road and Alex Wood Rd to be unblocked would not be for vehicular traffic.

Movement Opportunities: The movement diagram on page 29 shows the key movement routes that should be improved through the area. These routes should be made better for walking and cycling when development opportunities arise in neighbouring areas. This is so that the design changes can be made to these corridors so that segregated cycle routes can be provided on the key routes where possible, and mixed pedestrian and cycle routes can be provided on the lesser order routes.

The Design Code should detail in particular the following:

- The types of measures that could be used to improve existing roads that are not going to be changed, i.e narrowing of primary and secondary street junctions, traffic calming measures, continuous footway (and cycleway where relevant) treatment over side road crossings, traffic filtering measures to restrict through traffic. Some of these are mentioned on p30;
- How movement through Arbury Town Centre will be provided for key east west and north south movements with a study of this area;
- Which new active travel routes could be created through the development of plots and areas, and which routes require improvement of existing routes;

In particular some routes could be made more direct through the redevelopment of areas. These are shown below as either additional or new routes.





P30 and 31 Cycling and Wheeling.

- There seems to be no definition of 'wheeling'. If this includes people using wheelchairs and pushing prams then they should be first with walking.
- The last bullet point in the 'Must' section should be more explicit with regard to removing barriers to allow access for those using larger wheelchairs, mobility scooters, adapted cycles and cargo bikes.
- Similarly the bullet point in the 'Should' section relating to cycle gates should make clear that any barriers which impede access to those who have a disability are unacceptable
- The illustration of the segregated cycle/ped path is not a very good example as it is too narrow and poorly segregated with a white line.

P32 Public Transport.

For public transport use, consideration should be given to:

- where buses currently route, and where they could be allowed to route in the future;
- Where bus stops are currently located and where additional bus stops might be required;
- How existing bus stops can be improved with new shelters or waiting environments.

P33 Reducing Car Dominance.

The details on this page are considered appropriate.

P55 walking and cycling checklist. The details on this page are considered appropriate and may need to be amended subject to the above comments.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2025 12:26
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Cambridge neighbourhoods Design Code - please comment asap

Dear [REDACTED]

The language used around disability as all good.

Comments which might be included are:

All development should be in accord with inclusive design principles. Accessibility means including the needs of people with any disability.

BS 8300 and BS9622 are the key documents for most inclusive and accessible design.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2025 10:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cambridge neighbourhoods Design Code - please comment asap

Hi [REDACTED]

Attached is the draft Cambridge neighbourhoods Design Code. If you wish to make comments, please do so as soon as possible, and reply to us by email.

The deadline for submitting any amended version of the doc must be submitted to the planning committee on Monday next week.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

South Cambridgeshire Hall | Cambourne Business Park | Cambourne | Cambridge |

CB23 6EA The Guildhall | Market Square | Cambridge | CB2 3QJ

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The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is a strategic partnership between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. If this email is sent out of normal working hours please do not feel the need to review or respond until you would normally do so. Thank you.

When you contact us, we will do our very best to help you. Please note our colleagues have the right to be treated with respect while they try to help you, threatening behaviour or verbal abuse will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to terminate contact if these guidelines are not followed.

My working days are: **Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday**

Public Art Comments The Development of the North Cambridge Design Code

As the Council's public art expertise, I have not been invited to be involved in this piece of work to date. I have not commented before now as I was not aware that the work was taking place. I was not invited to comment on an earlier draft as a key consultee and have only found out about this from a casual email relating to it that I was copied in to.

The North Cambridge Design Code began development in 2023. If this is intended as a pilot Design Code for the City, then it should strive to be an exemplar, incorporating best practices across all aspects of urban planning. Public art is a vital part of this, yet it has not been properly included. As Public Art Officer, my exclusion from this process is concerning, particularly as it has resulted in missed opportunities to integrate the City's exemplary public art policy and processes into this work; as set out in the Public Art Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Cambridge Perspective: A Manifesto for Public Art, which are designed to promote best practices and innovative, artist-led public art. What is included in the Design Code does not comply with these documents and does not promote best practices and innovation; undermining the potential of the Design Code to set a national standard and support the requirements for high quality public art delivery in Cambridge.

The document fails to reference either the Public Art SPD or the Manifesto for Public Art, which are crucial to understanding how public art should inform and support a Design Code, on Page 6. The Manifesto is not mentioned at all. Nor is the Cultural Strategy.

Public art has been reduced to a vague, naïve mention that reflects a lack of consultation with the Council's expertise. This omission is evident in the indicative drawing that labels "community-led public art installations" without understanding that public art must be artist-led to comply with policy and best practice. Such labelling demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of public art's purpose and processes. It also raises questions about whether this reference to community-led art installations, actually reflects on the delivery of the Youth Engagement Service (YES) work with children's designs rather than public art commissioned and led-by an artist? If so, this does not constitute public art and should not be described as such. If it is, it needs revising.

Public art is not limited to objects or installations but encompasses a wide range of contemporary practices, including artist-led community engagement and participatory processes. The Design Code misses an opportunity to embed these practices within its framework and to link public art with its five principles. Instead, public art is relegated to truncated text and tokenistic mentions, which fail to address its wider potential or the nuances of how it benefits communities and can help deliver

the Design Code and the aims in the EqIA. This reflects an outdated approach that Cambridge's policies specifically sought to address and resolve. Public art in Cambridge has consistently delivered cultural placemaking and genuine and meaningful community engagement, setting a high standard that this Design Code fails to uphold.

The statement that *"Public art with community involvement should be encouraged wherever feasible to build on local identity and create a welcoming outdoor environment"* is simplistic and insufficient for a Design Code and doesn't reflect policy. All public art must involve genuine community engagement, but it must be led by an artist for it to be public art. It should not be a question of feasibility but rather one of intentionality, particularly with the varied forms of artistic practice in contemporary public art. It should be integrated thoughtfully, informed by expertise, and linked to creating opportunities within the area as a whole and with the five principles in the Design Code. The policy supports far more than creating a 'welcoming outdoor environment', it seeks to create cultural vibrancy, social cohesion, and innovative artistic practices through its aims and requirements for achieving high quality public art. The Design Code does not relate to or set out the vision for public art in Cambridge. The lack of public art expertise in the inclusion of public art in this document is evident and problematic.

"New developments should incorporate outdoor community art installations" This statement in the Design Code is non-compliant with policy and is naïve. The Design Code should support public art in new development linked to requirements of the Public Art SPD and the Manifesto. Again, it is focusing on public art as objects because of a lack of knowledge and naively assuming that these objects are outside. Firstly, public art can be embedded into buildings, include temporary processes and much more. Secondly, there are many developments such as schools, libraries, and community centres etc. where public art is encouraged to be integrated inside. The statement is simply not policy compliant and should be amended. The aims and visions for public art in policy should set the scene for public art in new development.

"There is a desire to enhance existing public spaces rather than create major new ones. Adaptations to the existing public realm must be inclusive, durable and fit for purpose. Community focal points should be able to cater for adaptive and flexible uses. This includes temporary social events and community festivals." Enhancing existing public spaces and including public art and cultural activity is a complex process and as such it is even more important that public art expertise inputs into the process and expertise from the Culture team relating to cultural infrastructure and what's required to facilitate delivery of the aims of the Design Code.

The City's Manifesto for Public Art, approved in March 2022 after public consultation, builds on the aims in the SPD to ensure the continuation of achieving excellence in

public art delivery for the City now and in the future. Yet the Code's vague and reductive references to public art ignore this context entirely.

The labelling of "community-led art" reflects a misunderstanding of public art principles. While community engagement is essential, it must be guided by artist leadership to maintain creative integrity and innovation. Artist-led processes do not exclude community involvement; they enhance it, creating deeper, more meaningful and genuine engagement through professional facilitation. Cambridge's portfolio of successful public art projects demonstrates how artist-led approaches consistently achieve high-quality outcomes with genuine community engagement that creates lasting community, and cultural impact with strong legacies and it this we would expect to be built upon in the Design Code.

Public art should not be limited to suggesting potential fixed locations on a map to show it has been considered but must respond organically to site context, community needs, and cultural aspirations. Identifying opportunity areas rather than specific locations and labelling what the art will be does not allow artistic responses to emerge naturally through artist research and development. Flexibility accommodates both permanent installations and temporary, socially engaged practices, which often leave more profound legacies for community benefit and engagement than static objects.

There is no mention of the Council's Cultural Strategy or cultural infrastructure. Bearing in mind there is a section entitled Cultural Sociability, but this doesn't deal with how culture is positive for placemaking and only includes two references, which are, both 'community led installations'. As said previously, this is not the approach Cambridge City Council supports for public art and culture in placemaking. Indeed, this does not follow exemplar urban design principles for placemaking.

Failing to integrate the Cultural Strategy into the Design Code reduces the opportunity for the Design Code to relate to the City Council's wider cultural aspirations. The Cultural Strategy provides a framework for the arts and culture to support diversity, social cohesion, economic vitality, and well-being, amongst other aims.

The absence of mentioning cultural infrastructure planning in the Design Code adds to these missed opportunities. Cultural infrastructure, such as creating flexible spaces, performance spaces, studios, and community hubs, is essential for supporting the creative economy and providing residents with spaces to connect to culturally. In practical terms, it involves designing and equipping spaces to facilitate cultural events, creative practices, and artistic production effectively and to be flexible. This includes considerations such as ensuring public spaces have adequate power supplies, adaptable layouts, storage, and lighting, for example. Beyond simply

providing space, cultural infrastructure ensures that these areas are functional, adaptable, and inclusive. Not thinking about the infrastructure required to support culture and ignoring its potential means that North Cambridge may miss out on long-term economic and social benefits, which this Design Code could secure, particularly when it refers to existing spaces being regenerated.

The Design Code indicates that existing public spaces will primarily be redesigned. How much consultation has taken place with City Services to help establish the potential realisation of this, and how will this work be funded? How will the proposed 'community-led public art installations' be financed? Had there been proper consultation with myself and City Services, we could have explored potential future funding opportunities for public art, not just within these existing spaces but also to support with the wider principles of the Design Code. The Code fails to reference key City teams, such as City Services, Public Art, Community Development, and the Culture Team, which are essential for ensuring its long-term implementation. How much input have these teams had in shaping the Code? Or has it been developed in isolation, which creates delivery challenges and making commitments to the community that cannot realistically be fulfilled?

The EqIA states the following: *The design code seeks to improve the area and create equitable places for all. The thriving public spaces principle in the design code seeks to improve public spaces physically but also through enhancing opportunities for interaction, nature-based play and health lifestyle. Within the cultural sociability section, it seeks to create community focal points for flexible uses, for social and community events to take place, bringing all communities together, helping social cohesion. It encourages local involvement in space design including public art in community projects, which has the potential to celebrate diverse cultures, helping to develop better relations between all.*

The EqIA promises "community focal points for flexible uses" and "social and community events to bring all communities together". However, the Design Code fails to mention the essential infrastructure that would make these events physically possible. Without these basic provisions, communities cannot gather and interact as the EqIA envisions.

The EqIA commits to "celebrate diverse cultures" and develop "better relations between all". The Design Code excludes creative public art practices to create cultural spaces that would support this. This makes the EqIA's promise of cultural celebration technically impossible to implement.

The EqIA pledges "local involvement in space design including public art in community projects". The Design Code's omission of the varied contemporary public art practices with links to the wider principles in the Code, as well as Cultural

Sociability section does not support delivery of the Design Code to engage communities in meaningfully participating in or using these spaces. Public art is artist-led engagement. Communities cannot be involved in something that has no framework.

The EqlA promises "enhanced opportunities for interaction" and "healthy lifestyle". Without contemporary public art and cultural infrastructure considered for spaces, these interactions have nowhere to occur. The social and health benefits claimed in the EqlA cannot happen without the physical means to support them

In essence, the EqlA sets out important equality and inclusion objectives that depend on cultural infrastructure and can be supported by public art for their delivery. By failing to include these elements in the Design Code, there is no mechanism to achieve these equality objectives. The Design Code has inadvertently created a situation where the EqlA's commitments become unfulfillable promises rather than achievable outcomes.

EXAMPLES OF HOW CONTEMPORARY ARTIST-LED PUBLIC ART CAN RELATE TO DESIGN CODE AMBITIONS

- Contemporary public art often involves socially engaged and participatory practices, creating opportunities for residents to connect through the engagement process itself. Temporary installations, interactive sculptures, or performance-based projects can bring people together in shared experiences, creating social connections and reducing isolation, for example.
- Public art can help reinforce the character and hierarchy of public spaces, from streets and pocket parks to larger community hubs. Artist-led projects can create visual interventions that reflect local culture and history, reinforcing the identity of these spaces.
- Streets as public spaces can feature murals or pavement art that highlight local stories or natural elements, making walking journeys more engaging.
- Larger public areas, like parks, local centres or shopping areas, can host playful sculptures or temporary installations that define the area's identity and draw visitors.
- Contemporary public art can enhance lighting, wayfinding, and material use in ways that are functional and artistic.
- Illuminated sculptures or light-based art can improve safety while creating a visually stimulating environment.
- Wayfinding systems can be integrated with public art, using creative designs that reflect the character of the area and help navigate spaces effectively.
- Contemporary public art supports the principle of creating flexibility by supporting temporary social events, festivals, and pop-up activities

- Performance-based art can activate spaces temporarily while leaving lasting social impacts.
- Artists can design multifunctional community focal points that double as public art pieces and functional spaces for events.
- Artists can help reimagine streets as places for social interaction and activity rather than mere movement corridors
- Play-on-the-way” interventions, such as interactive murals, sound installations, or games embedded in the street design, make streets engaging for all ages.
- Contemporary public art thrives on community engagement, ensuring that local voices shape the design and future care of public spaces. Workshops and participatory design sessions can empower residents to take ownership of public spaces, creating pride and long-term care.
- Art can transform public spaces into vibrant cultural hubs. Moveable furniture designed by artists can adapt spaces for festivals, markets, or performances.
- Large-scale temporary installations or public art festivals can attract visitors, energise public spaces, and create social and cultural dialogues.
- Eco-focused projects, such as living sculptures or installations using natural materials, can align with sustainability goals.
- Digital art or AR experiences can layer new dimensions onto public spaces, offering innovative ways to interact with the environment.

Below are some quick thoughts exemplifying how public art could and should have contribute/d to the Design Code. They explore how both participatory practices and traditional public art forms can support key urban planning objectives, while stressing the necessity of artist leadership and community engagement to ensure impactful and lasting outcomes.

The Expanding Role of Contemporary Public Art Linked to the Five Principles of the Design Code

Contemporary public art has evolved beyond static sculptures to embrace a dynamic spectrum of practices, including temporary installations, socially engaged projects, participatory processes, and site-specific interventions. This shift supports collaboration, interaction, and responsiveness to place, ensuring art serves as a meaningful and transformative element of urban environments for people and with people. Avoiding formulaic processes and creating standardised approaches, such as mandating predefined outputs and pre-determined engagement techniques not led by an artist, limits the potential for innovative, site-specific solutions.

Public art and engagement dictated by a rigid framework reduces the potential for exploration and input and site-specific public art. Predetermined “engagement models” that impose fixed activities or outputs often fail to resonate with the

community. Artists must lead the process, listening to participants and allowing their ideas to shape the final outcomes. Artists should have open briefs to shape the project through research and development, ensuring relevance and inclusivity.

If public art and culture had been considered with in consultation with the City Council leads, then it would have had a section which sets out how it supports the five principles of the Design Code with a curatorial understanding and that it should be inclusive. Drawings could have shown general areas of opportunity as we see in best practice masterplanning and Design Codes.

The following are examples to illustrate my point in these comments that the Design Code fails in how it includes public art as a strategic element of it as a whole and as it should have been considered as required by policy to inform the strategic development of development plans and policy making. Public art can also be embedded into the fabric of buildings for powerful impact.

The Design Code deserves a section on public art and its links and support to potentially add to the wider aspirations of the Code and the five principles.

1. Make Space for Nature

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can collaborate with communities to create temporary or permanent interventions that celebrate and protect local ecosystems. Also, by guiding residents through imaginative projects such as participatory planting events, storytelling workshops about local biodiversity, or interactive environmental performances artists ensure the process is rooted in creativity and engagement. Permanent interventions inspired by local biodiversity can create lasting contributions to conservation efforts, while functional artworks (e.g., rain gardens or pollinator habitats) integrate aesthetics biodiversity aims.

2. Prioritise Walking and Cycling

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can transform pedestrian and cycling routes into immersive spaces through temporary art trails, participatory installations, or interactive performances that engage users and reflect local culture. By involving communities in the creative process, these projects encourage active travel and build emotional connections to the space. Sculptures, embedded works or functional designs can enhance the aesthetic and practical aspects of walking and cycling routes.

3. Thriving Public Spaces

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Public spaces thrive when artists engage communities in co-creating temporary events, installations, or performances. These activities create social and cultural dialogue and can transform underutilised areas into vibrant hubs that reflect shared values and aspirations of the community. Permanent artworks, such as sculptures, work embedded in the landscape and buildings or interactive creations, can become focal points for gatherings, enhancing the identity and usability of public spaces.

4. Enhance Character

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can work with residents to uncover and celebrate the unique history, culture, and aspirations of their community through storytelling, workshops, or collaborative projects; artists excel at discovering hidden narratives. This approach creates works that resonate deeply and authentically with the area's residents and creates identity. Permanent artworks can serve as enduring symbols of a community's identity when developed by artist-led process.

5. Increase Sustainability

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can inspire and educate communities on sustainability through workshops, temporary installations, or participatory projects that highlight environmental challenges and solutions. These initiatives create a culture of shared responsibility and action. Permanent artworks using sustainable materials or renewable energy sources can serve as educational tools and enduring symbols of environmental commitment.

CULTURAL SOCIABILITY

There is a whole section entitled Cultural Sociability which does not reference or explain how culture can be a key player in making this Design Code work or support Cultural Sociability apart from a vague description of public art and the mention of community-led art installations.

Public art amplifies cultural sociability by transforming public spaces into vibrant cultural landscapes that invite interaction, dialogue, and inspires creativity. Artists play a pivotal role in shaping these spaces, bringing their unique perspectives and methodologies to create environments where people feel welcomed, engaged, and connected.

Through participatory practices, artists can involve diverse groups in the creation process, breaking down social barriers and supporting co-creation. These projects provide platforms for marginalised voices to be heard, ensuring public spaces reflect the richness and diversity of their communities. This inclusivity strengthens social cohesion and creates a shared sense of ownership and pride in the space.

Artists can also spark conversations about important cultural, social, and environmental issues by embedding thought-provoking elements into their work. Whether through temporary interventions, interactive installations, or storytelling-based practices, public art can encourage people to reflect on and engage with the complexities of their shared environment, creating deeper connections between individuals and their communities.

Artists can reimagine public spaces as sites for cultural exchange. By creating moments of collective experience such as performances, festivals, or collaborative exhibitions they encourage people from all walks of life to come together and participate in cultural life. These interactions can challenge preconceptions, celebrate diversity, and cultivate a stronger sense of community identity.

Artists contribute to the adaptability and vibrancy of public spaces by creating works that are responsive to the evolving needs and aspirations of the community. Their creative input ensures these spaces remain dynamic and relevant, capable of hosting everything from informal gatherings to structured cultural events.

Ultimately, the influence of artists on cultural sociability extends far beyond the physical realm of public spaces. Their work can create a culture of empathy, understanding, and collective creativity, ensuring that public spaces become not just places to occupy but environments where communities can thrive and flourish socially and culturally.

Conclusion

The omission of properly considered and integrated public art within the North Cambridge Design Code undermines its ambition to serve as an exemplar and to set future standards for design codes across Cambridge. By failing to adhere to the City's Public Art Supplementary Planning Document and The Cambridge Perspective: A Manifesto for Public Art, this pilot initiative overlooks the very policies that have built Cambridge's national reputation for excellence in public art delivery.

Public art is not a peripheral element; it is a strategic tool for achieving cultural, social, and environmental benefits in urban planning. Its omission from the Design Code in any meaningful capacity highlights a lack of understanding of its transformative potential and the processes required to embed it effectively. The

reliance on vague mentions, tokenistic gestures, and incorrect labelling of "community-led public art installations" ignores the vital role of artist-led practices and fails to comply with the policies and aspirations of the City and its residents.

Equally concerning is the failure to integrate the Council's Cultural Strategy and the concept of cultural infrastructure into the Design Code. Cultural infrastructure is essential to enabling communities to thrive by embedding the practical, structural, and functional elements that facilitate cultural activities. The Design Code misses an opportunity to create spaces that are not only functional but also culturally vibrant and equipped to support long-term community engagement and cultural development.

The missed opportunity to integrate public art and culture with the Design Code's five principles, such as enhancing sustainability, creating thriving public spaces, and reinforcing local character, leaves the pilot project fundamentally lacking. This failure not only limits the immediate impact of the Design Code but also risks setting a poor precedent for future planning initiatives.

If the Design Code is to truly reflect best practices in placemaking, it must embrace public art and culture as core elements and by expertise. Knowledge and experience. Without these revisions, the Design Code cannot claim to be exemplar or capable of meeting the City's own standards for excellence and it does not comply with the Public Art SPS or the Manifesto.

It is especially important to get this right in North Cambridge because it is an area that has seen the least amount of public art delivery due to much of it being tied to the development process, which has been less active here compared to other areas. The Council cannot use commuted s106 funds to commission public art in this area because there is little funding directly linked to North Cambridge. By addressing these omissions, the Design Code can ensure that the area receives the cultural and artistic investments it needs to thrive, while also setting a genuinely exemplary standard for the City.

I would appreciate a conversation about how to make public art stronger in the Design Code so that it not only benefits and engages the residents in the future but to ensure it complies with The Public Art SPD and meets the objectives of the City's Manifesto, which it currently does not; to ensure that best practices are embedded within the document and that high quality public art will be developed in the City through the Design Code that genuinely benefits and engages people. I also recommend that [REDACTED] is consulted regarding cultural infrastructure.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

51

To: [REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code - Tree Team comments

Dear [REDACTED]

Subject: Comments on the Cambridge Northern Neighbourhoods Design Code Rev E January 2025

Thank you for giving the City's Tree Team an opportunity to comment on the Cambridge Northern Neighbourhoods Design Code. Below, we provide our observations and suggestions in bullet point form. We would be happy to expand on any of these points if required.

General observations

1. **Inclusion of Trees:** We welcome the inclusion of trees throughout the document.
2. **Reference to 'Tiny Forest / Earthwatch' pages 22 and 25**
We recommend excluding the mention of "Tiny Forest / Earthwatch" and instead using the term "Miyawaki microwood."
 - **Reason:** "Tiny Forest" is a proprietary product, and Earthwatch is a private organization.
 - **Suggested Definition:**
Miyawaki method planting is an approach for rapidly creating miniature woodlands in urban areas or on degraded land. It involves planting mixed native species at close densities to replicate natural forest regeneration. Advantages include higher growth and survival rates, minimal maintenance after two years, higher diversity, and reduced vulnerability to vandalism. Disadvantages include higher costs due to intensive soil preparation, mulching, watering, and more trees required per area. (LATF grant manual - GOV.UK)
3. **Tree Strategy Reference:**
We suggest including a reference to the Cambridge City Council's Tree Strategy as a resource on the Urban Greening **Page 24**
 - It is noticeably absent, especially when other council strategies (e.g., Biodiversity on **p. 5**, OS & Recreation on **p. 38**) have been cited.
4. **Remove 'Trees for Streets' Page 24**
We recommend removing the mention of 'Trees for Streets,' as it refers to a charity encouraging private sponsorships in existing streets and parks, which is not relevant to development.
5. **Citation of Tree Shading Work (p. 18):**
Please cite or acknowledge the resource for the Tree Shading work mentioned on **page 18**
 - [Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge](#)
 - **Note:** The resource is called "*Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge*".
 - **Page 50** references the 'shady streets' study; please use the correct title and provide a link for easy access.
6. **Street Tree Spacing 22, 24, 50**
Please remove the reference to planting street trees every "10m."
 - **Reason:** A fixed spacing requirement is too specific and may lead to compliance issues.
 - **Factors to Consider:**
 - **Species and Mature Size:** Different species have different canopy and root sizes.
 - **Site Conditions:** Consider exposure, wind, microclimate, and soil conditions.
 - **Rooting Volume:** Ensure enough space for tree roots to thrive.
 - **Utility and Infrastructure:** Account for underground and overhead utilities.
 - **Aesthetic and Design Goals:** Ensure trees fit within the urban design framework.

- o **General Principle:** The spacing of new street trees should balance ecological needs, safety, infrastructure considerations, and aesthetic goals to ensure trees can grow and thrive.

7. **Retention of Existing Trees:**

The retention of existing trees is not sufficiently highlighted. For example, in the Urban Greening section [page 24](#)

- o There should be clearer distinctions between new planting to sustain and enhance tree canopy and the retention of mature trees.
- o **Key Considerations:**
 - Diversifying tree species to protect the canopy from pests, diseases, and climate change.
 - Retaining existing trees with significant canopy volume and life expectancy, which immediately contribute to climate resilience and biodiversity.
 - New planting will take many years to match the benefits of an

established tree. Other Recommendations

8. **Living Landscapes** [page 26](#)

Please remove the reference to “broadleaf” as limiting species diversity. There is no reason coniferous species should not be considered.

9. **Placemaking Opportunities** [page 41](#)

Under priorities, include the retention of existing trees of value.

10. **Identity of Home** [page 42](#)

In the second bullet under “must,” replace “tree groups” with “trees” to make this requirement more realistic and achievable.

11. **Enclosure and Focal Points** [page 43](#)

Include under “must” the retention of existing trees **of value** that can act as instant focal points and provide a sense of enclosure.

12. **Sustainable Opportunities** [page 47](#)

Add a resource to help determine planting priorities:

- *Tree Equity Score UK* (launched in 2023) helps determine equitable tree distribution across urban areas, generating scores for neighbourhoods and local authorities.
- This tool helps address disparities in tree cover and ensures that all communities have access to the benefits of trees.

13. **Climate Change Resilience** [page 50](#)

Include under “must” the consideration of retaining existing trees of value.

14. **Local Character** [page 14](#)

Include mention of retaining existing trees as part of the local character list.

15. **Opportunities Framework** [page 20](#)

Include the retention of existing trees alongside new planting to improve canopy cover.

16. **Five Principles** [page 21](#)

Specifically mention the retention of existing trees under “making space for nature.”

Kind regards

[cambridge.gov.uk](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk) | facebook.com/camcitco | twitter.com/camcitco



COLLABORATIVE



COURAGEOUS



COMPASSIONATE



ACCOUNTABLE



[Find out more about how with manage trees in Cambridge](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2025 14:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code

Dear [REDACTED]

It would be great to receive your feedback.

Please can you send your comments to designcodepilot@greatercambridgeplanning.org and copy me in? Also, it would be useful to have a brief chat with you at some point on what you would like to see incorporated?

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | Team Leader - Built Environment



GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING

[REDACTED]
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/>
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/planning>

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: a strategic partnership between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2025 13:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is the lead on this so please send comments to him.
Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2025 13:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code

(15) [Project: Cambridge neighbourhoods design code: Supplemen...](#) | Cambridge City Council

[Draft design code document.pdf](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. Could you give me a pointer to the lead on this document please? I have some comments, it is probably better to send them by email but I could put them on the portal if that is the preferred method.

Kind regards

[REDACTED], City Services, Cambridge City Council

[REDACTED]
cambridge.gov.uk | facebook.com/camcitco | twitter.com/camcitco



COLLABORATIVE



COURAGEOUS



COMPASSIONATE



ACCOUNTABLE



[Find out more about how with manage trees in Cambridge](#)



Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

Our ref: PL00798006
10 February 2025

Dear Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

Ref: Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton Consultation

Design Guides and Codes are an essential tool for local authorities, communities and developers, helping to set clear design quality requirements and standards across a given area. The government places considerable emphasis on the importance of good design in the National Planning Policy Framework chapter 12, setting out that it *"is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities"*, and stating that developments that are not well designed should be refused permission. Defining and codifying what 'good design' means in your area is essential to ensuring that such decisions are backed up by robust evidence and clear parameters.

Paragraph 203 of the National Planning Policy Framework [\(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/16-conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment>](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/16-conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment) (2024) sets out that Plans, including supplementary planning documents such as Design Guides and Codes, should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In particular, this strategy needs to take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets in the plan area, the need for new development to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and it should consider opportunities to use the existing historic environment to help reinforce this character of a place.

We welcome the production of this Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton, but do not consider it necessary for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of the code. We have general advice on good design in the historic environment on our website, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/design-in-the-historic-environment/>.

To avoid any doubt, this letter does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed design guide and code, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582749
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](https://historicengland.org.uk)



Historic England

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Historic Places Adviser

cc:



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582749
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Appendix J – Yes Engagement Events record conducted during the formal consultation: 06 January 2025 to 17 February 2025

Engagement with schoolchildren and their parents from Kings Hedges Education Federation, Mayfield Primary School and North Cambridge Academy.

As part of public consultation for the Cambridge Design Code, the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service (YES) team, representatives from Pollard Thomas Edwards, councillors and students from Anglia Ruskin University engaged 54 schoolchildren and their parents from The Kings Hedges Education Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025, 56 schoolchildren and their parents from Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025 and 42 school children and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025.

The 1st workshop with each school included discussing the purpose of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code; a Photo mapping exercise in which the children discussed the photographs that they had taken of their neighbourhood prior to the workshop; a Careers Talk – how to become an Architect / Urban Designer / Town Planner; an accompanied site visit to Arbury Court; drawing of Placed based feelings at the Arbury Court play park; individual drawing activity based on the 5 principles of the design code, explaining how they would like Arbury Court to be improved; and Learning consolidation – Children to take part in a digital quiz covering elements of the Design Code.

High level analysis of the schoolchildren's drawings was carried out by a Town Planning student, Katie Hilton, from Anglia Ruskin University.

The 2nd workshop with each school included a recap of the presentation about activities conducted in Workshop 1 with the schoolchildren and parents; discussion about the Cambridge neighbourhoods Design Code and youth engagement results; a display of all the students' artwork in an exhibition; and award presentations (winners of the drawing competitions).

Engagement with schoolchildren and their parents from Kings Hedges Education Federation, Mayfield Primary School and North Cambridge Academy

Typical agenda for the 1st workshop

09:30 – 10:00 Introduction. Ice-breaking. What is a Design Code?
The purpose of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code.

10:00 – 10:15 Photo mapping exercise – Tells us about your neighbourhood.

10:15 – 10:30 Careers Talk – How to become an Architect / Urban Designer / Town Planner?

10:30 – 10:40 – Break for children.

10:40 – 12:00 Arbury Court site visit (30 mins walk to site, 20 mins site visit, 30 mins walk back)

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 14:15 Let's apply the Design Code – children will be divided into 5 groups based on the 5 Design Code principles, students in each group will be asked to produce an individual drawing based on the theme of the design code, explaining how they would like Arbury Court to be improved. This is a drawing competition.

1. Group Nature (12 students)
2. Group Walking & Cycling (11 students)
3. Group Play Space (11 students)
4. Group Buildings (11 students)
5. Group Sustainability (11 students)

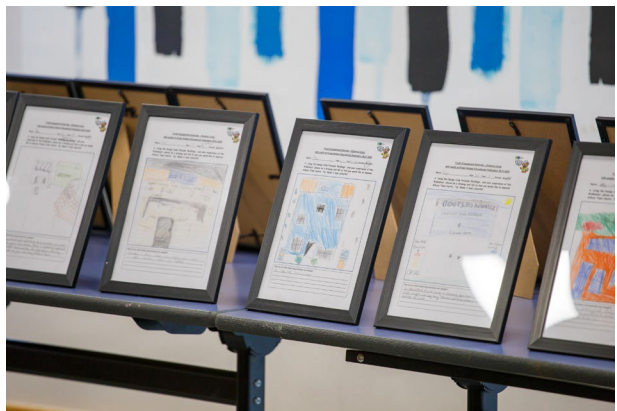
14:15 – 14:45 Learning consolidation – Children to take part in a digital quiz covering topics discussed throughout the workshop. Prizes will be awarded to winners.

14:45 – 15:00 Quick Feedback session.

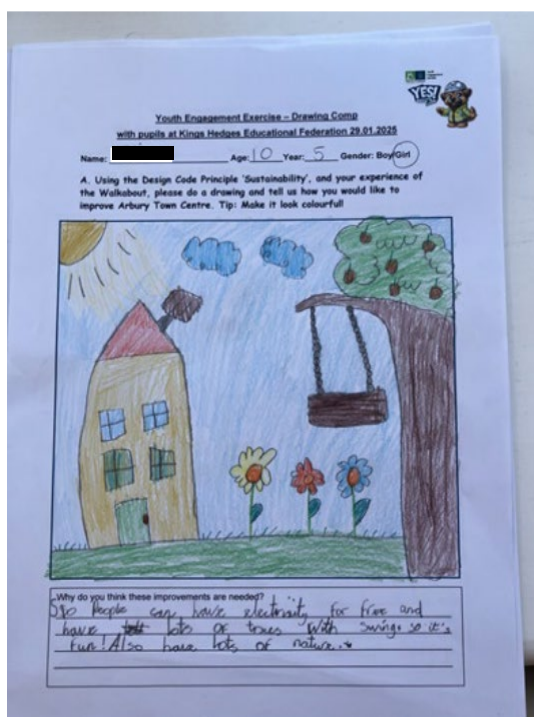
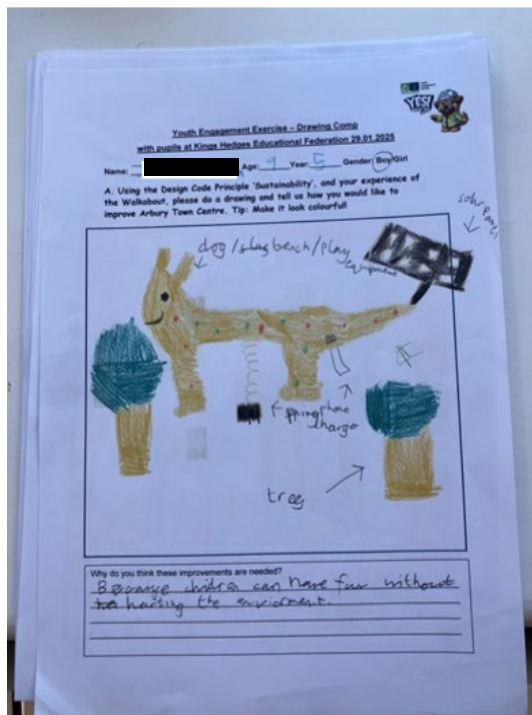
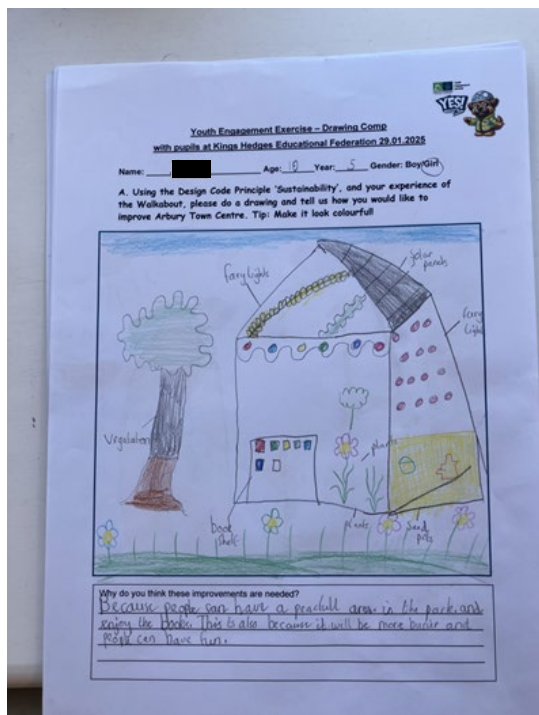
Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025



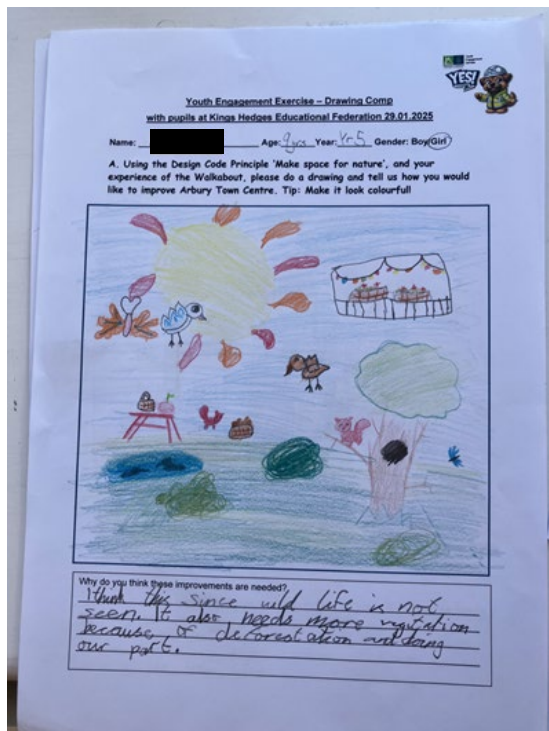
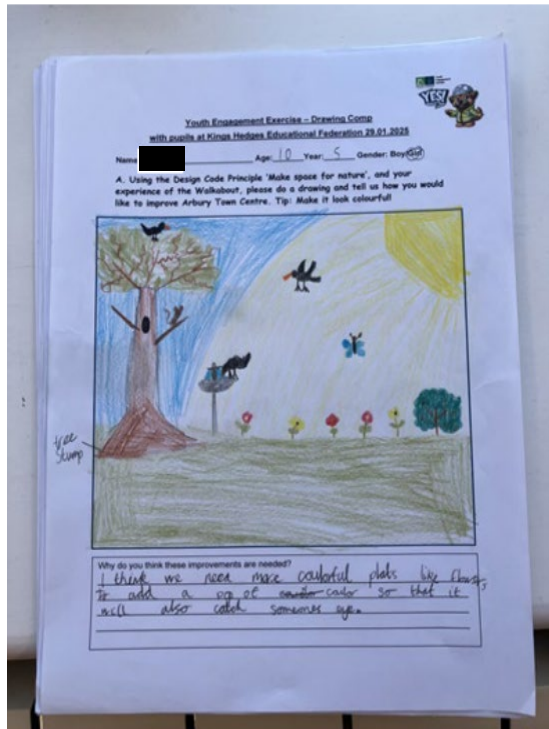
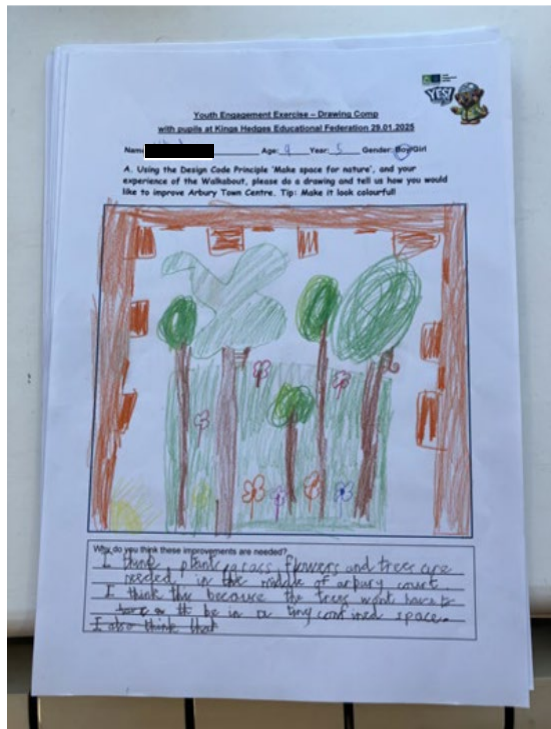
Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025



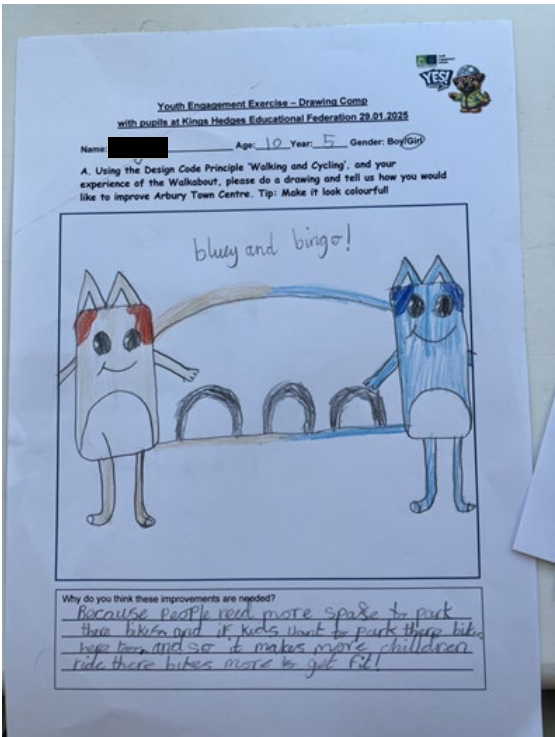
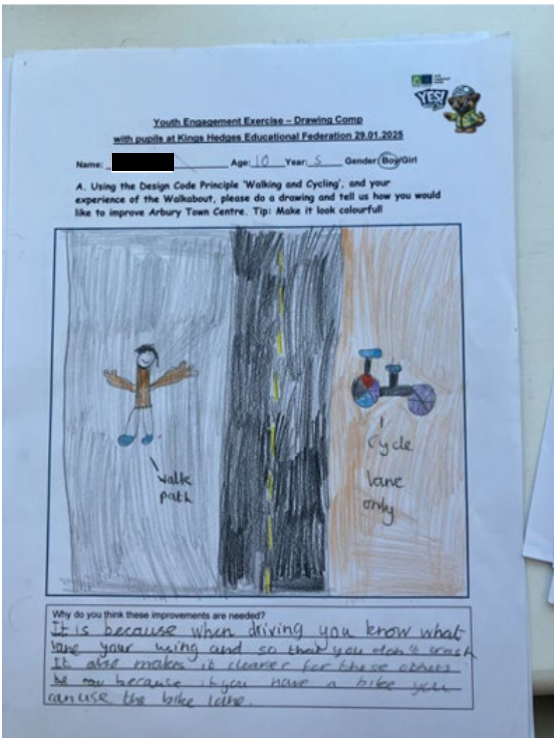
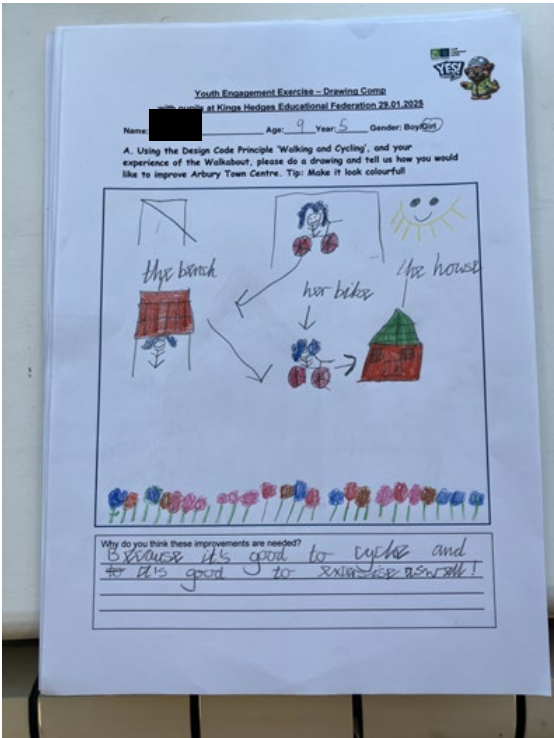
Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025 – drawing competition – Sustainability principle. Top 3 drawings.



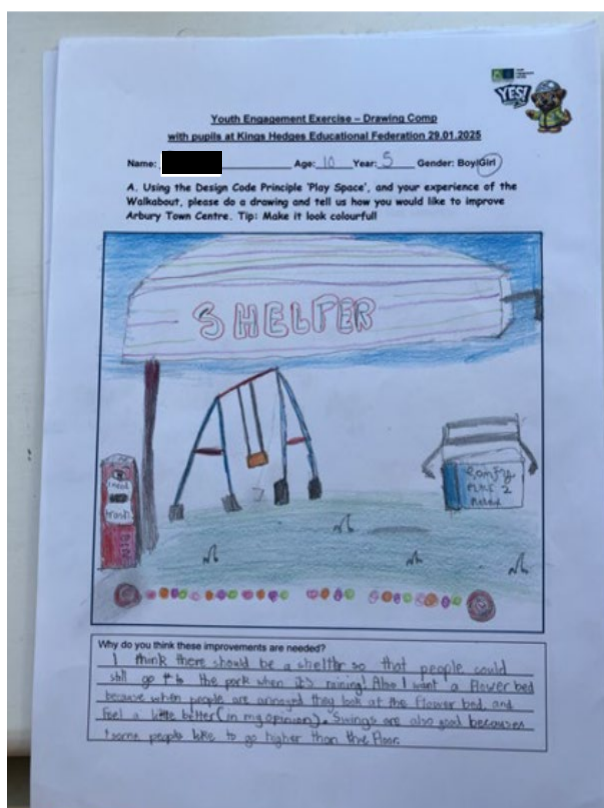
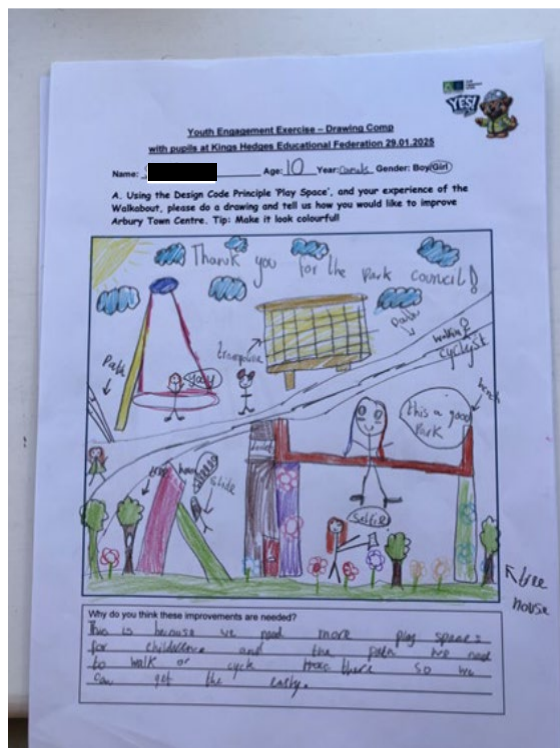
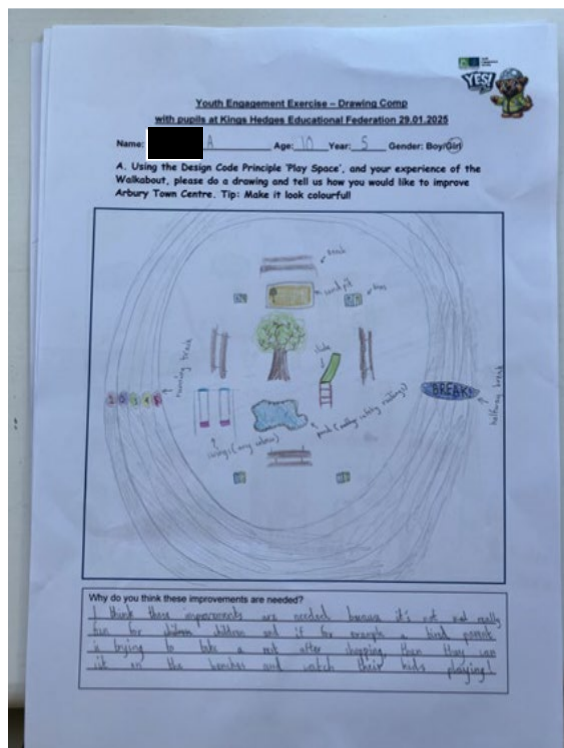
Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025 – drawing competition – Make space for nature principle. Top 3 drawings.



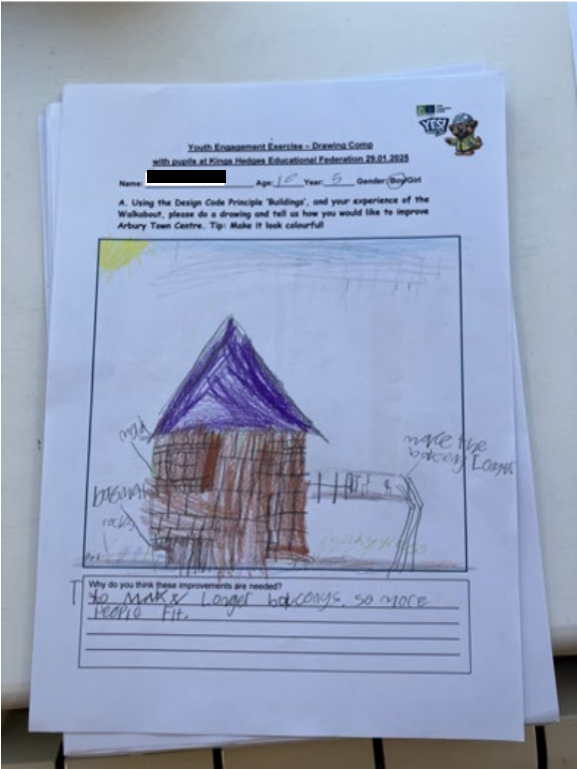
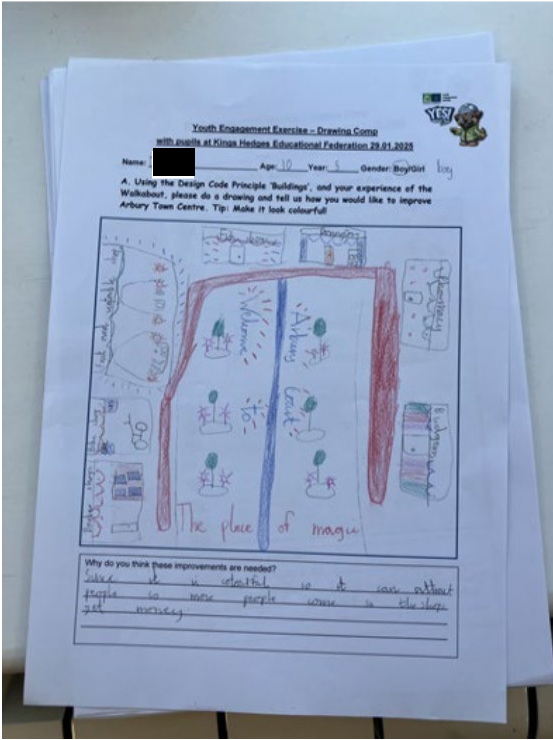
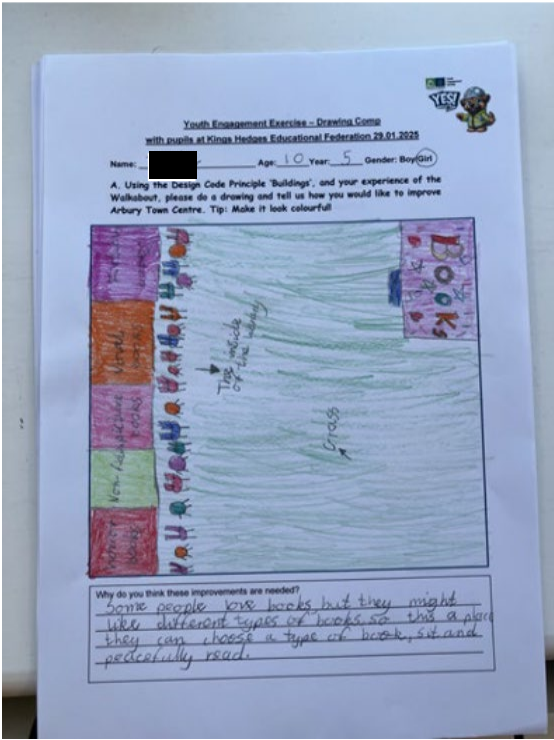
Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025 – drawing competition – Walking and cycling principle. Top 3 drawings.



Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025 – drawing competition – play space principle. Top 3 drawings.

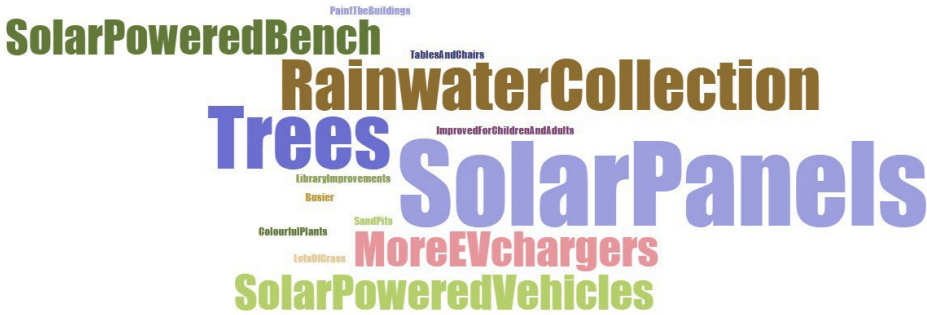


Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025 – drawing competition – play space principle. Top 3 drawings



Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025 – drawings – high level Word cloud analysis

Sustainability
principle



Make space for
nature principle



Walking and
cycling principle



Engagement with pupils and parents at King's Hedges Educational Federation on 29th January 2025 and 12th February 2025 – drawings – high level Word cloud analysis

Play space
principle



More Colourful

Buildings principle



5 Principles combined



Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025



Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025



Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025 – drawing competition – Sustainability principle. Top 3 drawings.

Electronic

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 9 Year: 5.5 Gender: Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Sustainability', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?
I want to make Arbury a more colorful and green and sustainable. I added more trees, solar panels, trees, stepping stones, grass, bike parking, underground parking, stepping stones, wind turbines and shaded paths and bird and flowers and benches.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 9 Year: 5.5 Gender: Boy

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Sustainability', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?
Solar panels are electric. Also wooden noise lights instead of electric stepping stones. Houses for birds. Trees. Plants.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5.5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Sustainability', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?
I put a tree to make it noisier and I put a bench to clean your litter. I put a solar board to give some electricity. I put a house to stay on it and space for it.

Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025 – drawing competition – Make space for nature principle. Top 3 drawings.

[illegible]

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle ‘Make space for nature’, and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

Why do you think these improvements are needed?
Because otherwise it will look dull and nobody
will want to go there! I think that they should make
their own electricity.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 9 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Make space for nature', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



Why do you think these improvements are needed?
The park can be improve and you can
add tree.

Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025 – drawing competition – Walking and cycling principle. Top 3 drawings.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Walking and Cycling', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

I think it will make it friendlier and then more people will like it and I added some stepping stones and a cycle path so then more people will walk there it will be a cycle path and some shops.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Walking and Cycling', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

To make it a better city, a cycle path, people can and animals I think this will help the children live a better place for every one.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Walking and Cycling', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

As they need to park there can they can go to the car park and to the car park but they can't park there so they can go to some place and park their bikes and they can go to the car park and it can be nice you can breathe better.

Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025 – drawing competition – Buildings principle. Top 3 drawings.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Buildings', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?
I want this building to look more colorful and also interesting. I also want to change the outside to give the kids a chance of playing.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 9 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Buildings', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?
I am trying for there to be more colorful and a more modern Budgens. I also want it to be more sustainable and green and also make an the roof more natural Budgens.

Building ...

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Buildings', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?
because, they need more grass and better stuff.

Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025 – drawing competition – Playspace principle. Top 3 drawings.

YES!

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 55 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Play Space', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

A hand-drawn sketch of a treehouse. The treehouse has a brown wooden frame with a green roof. A swing hangs from a branch on the left. A ladder leads up to the platform. To the right, there is a climbing frame with red and blue rings. A bird is perched on a branch above the treehouse.

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

because it would be nice to add some colour and not many places are as fun or colour full than this

YES!

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 5 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Play Space', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

A hand-drawn sketch of a park layout. It shows a central path leading to various play areas. On the left is a 'court' and a 'Beach'. In the center is a 'swing' set, a 'slide', and a 'zip line'. To the right is a 'tennis court' and a 'pool'. There are also 'dunking' and 'game' areas. The drawing is colorful with green trees and yellow paths.

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

I think we need more games and fun places to keep us active.

YES!

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at Mayfield School, 04.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 10 Year: 55 Gender: Boy/Girl

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Play Space', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

A hand-drawn sketch of a treehouse. The treehouse has a brown wooden frame with a green roof. A slide leads down from the platform. To the right, there is a climbing frame with red and blue rings. A bird is perched on a branch above the treehouse.

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

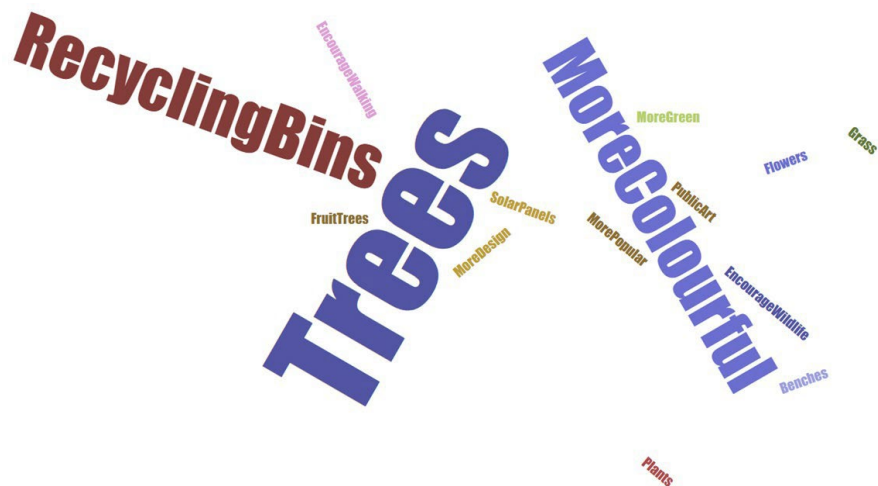
I have made a tree restaurant because it is fun, healthy and clean and when you have finished you can go to the slide to the next. I also made a climbing frame which is made out of natural materials and a giant castle tree with a football pitch. I have made a bench for the playground with recyclable bins.

Engagement with pupils and parents at Mayfield Primary School on 4th February 2025 and 14th February 2025 - drawings – high level Word cloud analysis

Sustainability
principles



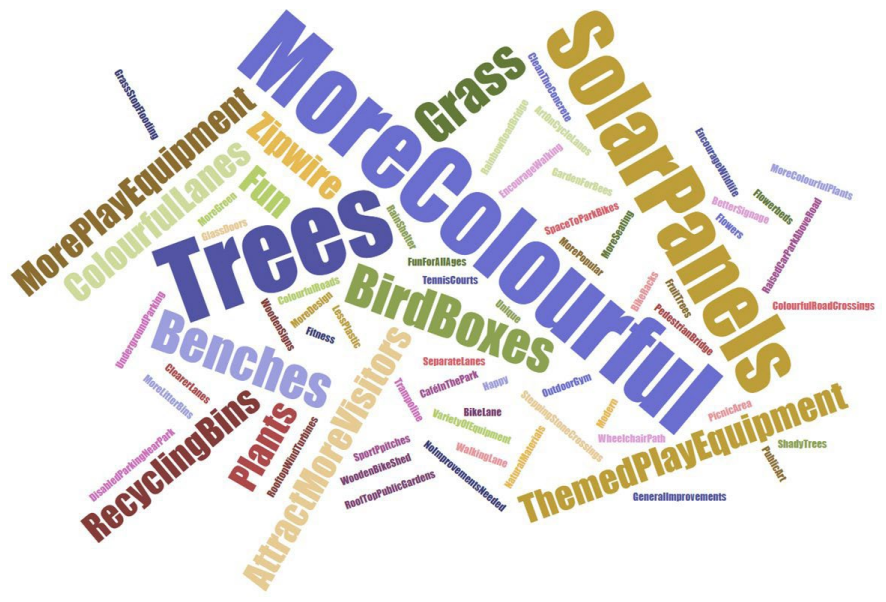
Makes space for
nature principle



Walking and
cycling principle



Play space principle



Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025.



Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025



Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025 – drawing competition – Sustainability principle. Top 3 drawings.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [REDACTED] Age: 12 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Sustainability', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



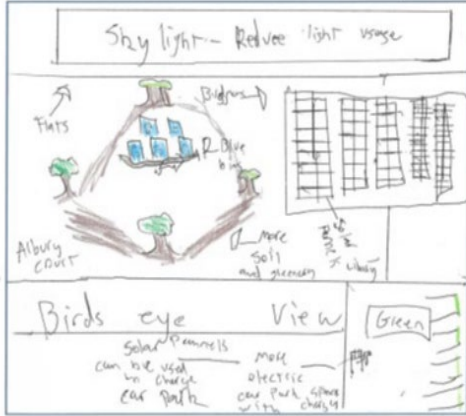
Why do you think these improvements are needed? 11

A lot for cars and a tree house for birds and humans
save up there and explore

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [REDACTED] Age: 14 Year: 9

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Sustainability', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



Why do you think these improvements are needed?

The shy light and solar panels are needed to reduce the carbon footprint and electricity that is used 24/7. The bins help with recycling and more trees/plants help with the CO2.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [REDACTED] Age: 11 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Sustainability', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



Why do you think these improvements are needed?

Because there is barely any nature and trees so we can make more.

Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025 – drawing competition – Make space for nature principle. Top 3 drawings.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 12 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Make space for nature', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

to add more colour to the surroundings and
to feel more welcoming

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 12 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Make space for nature', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

Because it is not colorful and lively

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 12 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Make space for nature', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

So the environment is better and the place
is more welcoming and will help us.

Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025 – drawing competition – Walking and cycling principle. Top 3 drawings.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025



Name: [REDACTED] Age: 14 Year: 9

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Walking and Cycling', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



Why do you think these improvements are needed?

I think that more walking paths are needed & it is more colorful and also a bike path that goes through Arbury Court. Also - bigger light colors that are further away from the road.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025



Name: [REDACTED] Age: 13 Year: 8

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Walking and Cycling', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



Why do you think these improvements are needed?

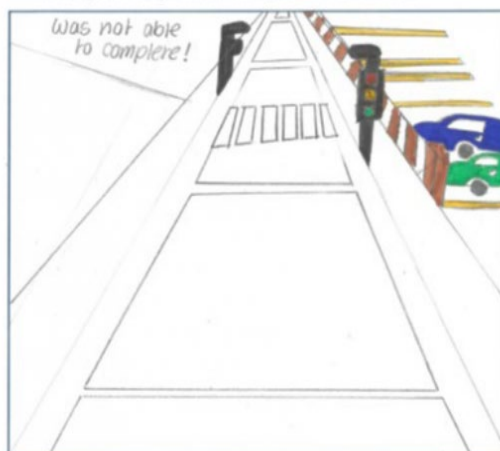
I believe the bike and footpaths wider and another zebra crossing should be added. In Arbury Court there should be more places to put your bike and more greenery in Arbury Court.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025



Name: [REDACTED] Age: 12 Year: 9

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Walking and Cycling', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



Why do you think these improvements are needed?

I am hoping to improve the traffic but is the main problem. I hope we can have more open areas for cars to get in and out of places and maybe another zebra crossing.

Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025 – drawing competition – Buildings principle. Top 3 drawings.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [REDACTED] Age: 11 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Buildings', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

I added more shops and a big circle in the middle to make it stand out and a nice playground area to sit around and the shops in the glass and colorful with lights.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [REDACTED] Age: 11 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Buildings', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

The decorations on the buildings are needed - they show that they are the shopping and the center more on the other buildings.

YES

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp
with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [REDACTED] Age: 13 Year: 8

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Buildings', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

Why do you think these improvements are needed?

Think these improvements are needed because at night outside can be lit up very nice with brightly & warmly, design would improve light.

Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025 – drawing competition – Play space principle. Top 3 drawings.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 8 Year: 8

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Play Space', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



Why do you think these improvements are needed?
roof with lights so they can play when its raining, or dark. kids so they can climb, a hut so people can sit.

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 17 Year: 7

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Play Space', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!

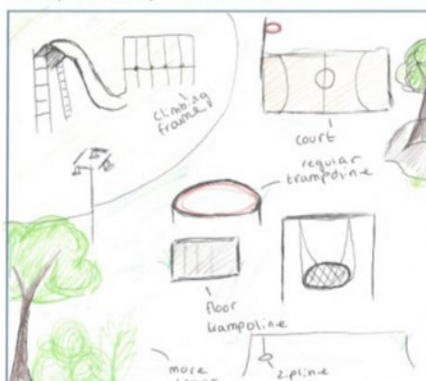


Why do you think these improvements are needed?
the park is more for younger kids so we need more things for older kids. like basketballs. we can also keep the things we have got there

Youth Engagement Exercise – Drawing Comp with pupils at North Cambridge Academy 10.02.2025

Name: [redacted] Age: 12 Year: 8

A. Using the Design Code Principle 'Play Space', and your experience of the Walkabout, please do a drawing and tell us how you would like to improve Arbury Town Centre. Tip: Make it look colourful!



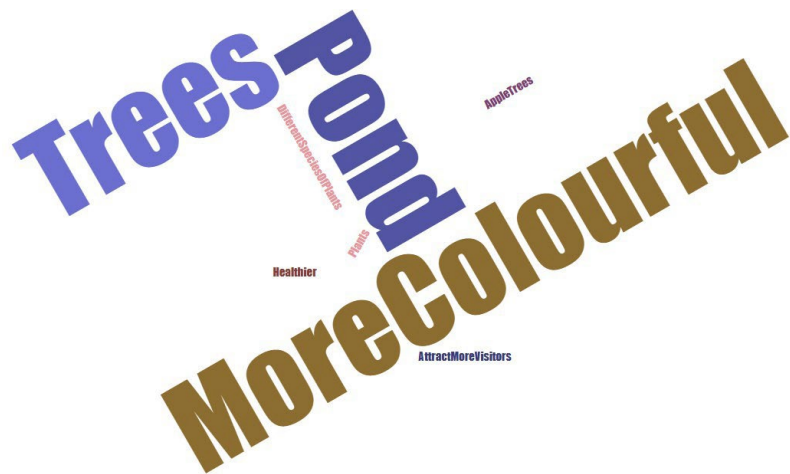
Why do you think these improvements are needed?
I think there should be such changes so that everyone from different ages and with different preferences can have fun and choose their fancy.

Engagement with pupils and their parents from North Cambridge Academy on 10th February 2025 and 24th February 2025 – drawings – high level Word cloud analysis

Sustainability principles .



Make space for nature principle



Walking and cycling principle



Playspace principle

[illegible]

Appendix i

Letters received from Consultees/community via email/post as part of the formal Consultation (06 January 2025 to 17th February 2025)



[REDACTED]
CAMBRIDGE,
Cambridgeshire,
CB4 3JD

10th Feb 2025

Dear Sir,
Please find appended my comments upon the draft Arbury Neighbourhood Design Code which should be taken into account in formulating the final document for adoption.

I also wish to register a complaint about the difficulty citizens without computers have in obtaining the draft document for study and the total lack of awareness by receptionists both at Mandela House and South Cambs. Hall about where non-electronic submissions should be sent.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Planning Department,
South Cambs. District Council,
CAMBOURNE,
Cambs.,
CB23 6EA.

ARBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD DRAFT DESIGN CODE.

The value of any Design Code, however well researched, drawn up and written lies in its application on the ground and firm enforcement. Wishy-washy imprecise aspirational stuff is worthless. This depends not only on Planning Officers who are trained in building design matters but also the Elected Members/decision makers vigorously insisting upon compliance with the Code without exceptions.

The draft Design Code has some good observation and analysis of the neighbourhood but sometimes fails either to explain clearly what conclusions must be drawn or makes the point too narrowly. An example: the draft makes a good point about maintenance of spaces but fails to expand this to cover building maintenance which must be part of overall good design. It should point out how poor initial construction, poor detailed design and lack of thought about how repairs can easily be undertaken will produce low quality areas with short life expectation for buildings.

(2)

The Draft Design Code quite correctly draws attention to the high aesthetic value of "local character and distinctiveness" and mentions the mid- to late-C20th nature of Arbury area, Histon Road shops and so on. However, this is not 'modern character', ^{BUT} very dated design that reflects its era but should not be repeated elsewhere in the city. It may be appropriate for extending or infilling small sites in Arbury. The other side of this coin is preventing building designers trying to impose early-C21st fashion in architecture everywhere. This is exactly what is creating the appalling 'clone towns' where the lack of appreciation of local character and distinctiveness leads to incoherent muddles of every design fashion — as it comes and goes — built in entirely random "look-at-me" choices of non-vernacular materials of construction. Everywhere begins to look like everywhere else.

The principle of 'Enhancing Character' is worthwhile and the intentions mentioned (scale, focal points, memorable and harmonious buildings in key places, etc.) are good but are ill-defined and imprecise. The 'Materials

(3)

and Elements' are mentioned for public spaces only. Why? Why not everywhere?

Roofscape are vital and properly mentioned (central Eddington being a disaster in this respect). The Design Code must be firm that flat-roofs are inappropriate around Arbury. There is absolutely no justification for the assertion that there can be an increase in building heights.

There is a serious point to be made about real fronts and backs to buildings which really should be linked to "readable" entrances and clearly defined wayfinding around both sites and buildings via good landscape design.

The section on proper detailing of buildings correctly identifies the importance of this aspect. It mentions window reveals, sills and leads to openings and eaves details. But other details like ridges, block corners, rainwater goods, vertical features (chimneys, flues, vents, etc. that give appropriate emphasis) cannot be ignored and left solely to cost-cutting designers. This element

(4)

is too important to be left out of the Code and needs to be closely controlled via the planning system.

The importance of memorable building design at key focal points could be joined to the need for such building not being designs screaming for visual attention or garish departure from local character and distinctiveness. They should be using the vernacular in subtle and imaginative ways. This must include the use of suitable (and sustainable) local materials. Arbury has its own palette that is not suitable everywhere else in the city. Each area has its own palette (to be identified in specific Design Codes for each area). The use of appropriate materials (as defined in the Code) will need to be vigorously enforced upon building designers and developers if the current "free-for-all" is to be avoided in future.

This Design Code cannot be feeble "guidance" and must be framed clearly and unequivocally using terminology like "all roofs will be pitched" or "no rainwater downpipes will be internal to the fabric of the buildings", etc., so that building designers and developers

⑤

understand clearly what is required and what will conform. There can be no room for ambiguous or vague statements concerning building design.


Feb 2025.

**Draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, Kings
Hedges, and parts of West Chesterton
SPD Consultation**

TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT TEAM COMMENTS

OUR REF: 2812

CASE OFFICER: GCSPS

AUTHOR: [REDACTED]

DATE: 17th February 2025

These comments are further to a consultation on a draft design code for Arbury, Kings Hedges and West Chesterton.

The comments are detailed below.

General comment – the keys on some of the plans are difficult to distinguish as the colours are very similar.

There is a secondary school and a number of primary schools in this area but they are not featured on any of the plans. They are key destinations and so providing safe, attractive and accessible walking, wheeling and cycling routes to them should be highlighted. Deterring parking and reducing traffic and speeds near this schools should also be an explicit aim.

P 16 Routes & Destinations

- does not include key existing walking and cycling route across the area.
- The section entitled 'Poor connectivity and legibility' para 1: cul-de sacs can lead to poor connectivity but, designed well, can also provide high quality filtered permeability, providing good walking, wheeling and cycling connections which make local active travel journeys more attractive than the car.
- It should be made clear that the desirable east-west movement between Rosewood Road and Alex Wood Rd to be unblocked would not be for vehicular traffic.

Movement Opportunities: The movement diagram on page 29 shows the key movement routes that should be improved through the area. These routes should be made better for walking and cycling when development opportunities arise in neighbouring areas. This is so that the design changes can be made to these corridors so that segregated cycle routes can be provided on the key routes where possible, and mixed pedestrian and cycle routes can be provided on the lesser order routes.

The Design Code should detail in particular the following:

- The types of measures that could be used to improve existing roads that are not going to be changed, i.e narrowing of primary and secondary street junctions, traffic calming measures, continuous footway (and cycleway where relevant) treatment over side road crossings, traffic filtering measures to restrict through traffic. Some of these are mentioned on p30;
- How movement through Arbury Town Centre will be provided for key east west and north south movements with a study of this area;
- Which new active travel routes could be created through the development of plots and areas, and which routes require improvement of existing routes;

In particular some routes could be made more direct through the redevelopment of areas. These are shown below as either additional or new routes.





P30 and 31 Cycling and Wheeling.

- There seems to be no definition of 'wheeling'. If this includes people using wheelchairs and pushing prams then they should be first with walking.
- The last bullet point in the 'Must' section should be more explicit with regard to removing barriers to allow access for those using larger wheelchairs, mobility scooters, adapted cycles and cargo bikes.
- Similarly the bullet point in the 'Should' section relating to cycle gates should make clear that any barriers which impede access to those who have a disability are unacceptable
- The illustration of the segregated cycle/ped path is not a very good example as it is too narrow and poorly segregated with a white line.

P32 Public Transport.

For public transport use, consideration should be given to:

- where buses currently route, and where they could be allowed to route in the future;
- Where bus stops are currently located and where additional bus stops might be required;
- How existing bus stops can be improved with new shelters or waiting environments.

P33 Reducing Car Dominance.

The details on this page are considered appropriate.

P55 walking and cycling checklist. The details on this page are considered appropriate and may need to be amended subject to the above comments.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2025 12:26
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Cambridge neighbourhoods Design Code - please comment asap

Dear [REDACTED]

The language used around disability as all good.

Comments which might be included are:

All development should be in accord with inclusive design principles. Accessibility means including the needs of people with any disability.

BS 8300 and BS9622 are the key documents for most inclusive and accessible design.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2025 10:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cambridge neighbourhoods Design Code - please comment asap

Hi [REDACTED]

Attached is the draft Cambridge neighbourhoods Design Code. If you wish to make comments, please do so as soon as possible, and reply to us by email.

The deadline for submitting any amended version of the doc must be submitted to the planning committee on Monday next week.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

South Cambridgeshire Hall | Cambourne Business Park | Cambourne | Cambridge |

CB23 6EA The Guildhall | Market Square | Cambridge | CB2 3QJ

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The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is a strategic partnership between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. If this email is sent out of normal working hours please do not feel the need to review or respond until you would normally do so. Thank you.

When you contact us, we will do our very best to help you. Please note our colleagues have the right to be treated with respect while they try to help you, threatening behaviour or verbal abuse will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to terminate contact if these guidelines are not followed.

My working days are: **Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday**

Public Art Comments The Development of the North Cambridge Design Code

As the Council's public art expertise, I have not been invited to be involved in this piece of work to date. I have not commented before now as I was not aware that the work was taking place. I was not invited to comment on an earlier draft as a key consultee and have only found out about this from a casual email relating to it that I was copied in to.

The North Cambridge Design Code began development in 2023. If this is intended as a pilot Design Code for the City, then it should strive to be an exemplar, incorporating best practices across all aspects of urban planning. Public art is a vital part of this, yet it has not been properly included. As Public Art Officer, my exclusion from this process is concerning, particularly as it has resulted in missed opportunities to integrate the City's exemplary public art policy and processes into this work; as set out in the Public Art Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Cambridge Perspective: A Manifesto for Public Art, which are designed to promote best practices and innovative, artist-led public art. What is included in the Design Code does not comply with these documents and does not promote best practices and innovation; undermining the potential of the Design Code to set a national standard and support the requirements for high quality public art delivery in Cambridge.

The document fails to reference either the Public Art SPD or the Manifesto for Public Art, which are crucial to understanding how public art should inform and support a Design Code, on Page 6. The Manifesto is not mentioned at all. Nor is the Cultural Strategy.

Public art has been reduced to a vague, naïve mention that reflects a lack of consultation with the Council's expertise. This omission is evident in the indicative drawing that labels "community-led public art installations" without understanding that public art must be artist-led to comply with policy and best practice. Such labelling demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of public art's purpose and processes. It also raises questions about whether this reference to community-led art installations, actually reflects on the delivery of the Youth Engagement Service (YES) work with children's designs rather than public art commissioned and led-by an artist? If so, this does not constitute public art and should not be described as such. If it is, it needs revising.

Public art is not limited to objects or installations but encompasses a wide range of contemporary practices, including artist-led community engagement and participatory processes. The Design Code misses an opportunity to embed these practices within its framework and to link public art with its five principles. Instead, public art is relegated to truncated text and tokenistic mentions, which fail to address its wider potential or the nuances of how it benefits communities and can help deliver

the Design Code and the aims in the EqIA. This reflects an outdated approach that Cambridge's policies specifically sought to address and resolve. Public art in Cambridge has consistently delivered cultural placemaking and genuine and meaningful community engagement, setting a high standard that this Design Code fails to uphold.

The statement that *"Public art with community involvement should be encouraged wherever feasible to build on local identity and create a welcoming outdoor environment"* is simplistic and insufficient for a Design Code and doesn't reflect policy. All public art must involve genuine community engagement, but it must be led by an artist for it to be public art. It should not be a question of feasibility but rather one of intentionality, particularly with the varied forms of artistic practice in contemporary public art. It should be integrated thoughtfully, informed by expertise, and linked to creating opportunities within the area as a whole and with the five principles in the Design Code. The policy supports far more than creating a 'welcoming outdoor environment', it seeks to create cultural vibrancy, social cohesion, and innovative artistic practices through its aims and requirements for achieving high quality public art. The Design Code does not relate to or set out the vision for public art in Cambridge. The lack of public art expertise in the inclusion of public art in this document is evident and problematic.

"New developments should incorporate outdoor community art installations" This statement in the Design Code is non-compliant with policy and is naïve. The Design Code should support public art in new development linked to requirements of the Public Art SPD and the Manifesto. Again, it is focusing on public art as objects because of a lack of knowledge and naively assuming that these objects are outside. Firstly, public art can be embedded into buildings, include temporary processes and much more. Secondly, there are many developments such as schools, libraries, and community centres etc. where public art is encouraged to be integrated inside. The statement is simply not policy compliant and should be amended. The aims and visions for public art in policy should set the scene for public art in new development.

"There is a desire to enhance existing public spaces rather than create major new ones. Adaptations to the existing public realm must be inclusive, durable and fit for purpose. Community focal points should be able to cater for adaptive and flexible uses. This includes temporary social events and community festivals." Enhancing existing public spaces and including public art and cultural activity is a complex process and as such it is even more important that public art expertise inputs into the process and expertise from the Culture team relating to cultural infrastructure and what's required to facilitate delivery of the aims of the Design Code.

The City's Manifesto for Public Art, approved in March 2022 after public consultation, builds on the aims in the SPD to ensure the continuation of achieving excellence in

public art delivery for the City now and in the future. Yet the Code's vague and reductive references to public art ignore this context entirely.

The labelling of "community-led art" reflects a misunderstanding of public art principles. While community engagement is essential, it must be guided by artist leadership to maintain creative integrity and innovation. Artist-led processes do not exclude community involvement; they enhance it, creating deeper, more meaningful and genuine engagement through professional facilitation. Cambridge's portfolio of successful public art projects demonstrates how artist-led approaches consistently achieve high-quality outcomes with genuine community engagement that creates lasting community, and cultural impact with strong legacies and it this we would expect to be built upon in the Design Code.

Public art should not be limited to suggesting potential fixed locations on a map to show it has been considered but must respond organically to site context, community needs, and cultural aspirations. Identifying opportunity areas rather than specific locations and labelling what the art will be does not allow artistic responses to emerge naturally through artist research and development. Flexibility accommodates both permanent installations and temporary, socially engaged practices, which often leave more profound legacies for community benefit and engagement than static objects.

There is no mention of the Council's Cultural Strategy or cultural infrastructure. Bearing in mind there is a section entitled Cultural Sociability, but this doesn't deal with how culture is positive for placemaking and only includes two references, which are, both 'community led installations'. As said previously, this is not the approach Cambridge City Council supports for public art and culture in placemaking. Indeed, this does not follow exemplar urban design principles for placemaking.

Failing to integrate the Cultural Strategy into the Design Code reduces the opportunity for the Design Code to relate to the City Council's wider cultural aspirations. The Cultural Strategy provides a framework for the arts and culture to support diversity, social cohesion, economic vitality, and well-being, amongst other aims.

The absence of mentioning cultural infrastructure planning in the Design Code adds to these missed opportunities. Cultural infrastructure, such as creating flexible spaces, performance spaces, studios, and community hubs, is essential for supporting the creative economy and providing residents with spaces to connect to culturally. In practical terms, it involves designing and equipping spaces to facilitate cultural events, creative practices, and artistic production effectively and to be flexible. This includes considerations such as ensuring public spaces have adequate power supplies, adaptable layouts, storage, and lighting, for example. Beyond simply

providing space, cultural infrastructure ensures that these areas are functional, adaptable, and inclusive. Not thinking about the infrastructure required to support culture and ignoring its potential means that North Cambridge may miss out on long-term economic and social benefits, which this Design Code could secure, particularly when it refers to existing spaces being regenerated.

The Design Code indicates that existing public spaces will primarily be redesigned. How much consultation has taken place with City Services to help establish the potential realisation of this, and how will this work be funded? How will the proposed 'community-led public art installations' be financed? Had there been proper consultation with myself and City Services, we could have explored potential future funding opportunities for public art, not just within these existing spaces but also to support with the wider principles of the Design Code. The Code fails to reference key City teams, such as City Services, Public Art, Community Development, and the Culture Team, which are essential for ensuring its long-term implementation. How much input have these teams had in shaping the Code? Or has it been developed in isolation, which creates delivery challenges and making commitments to the community that cannot realistically be fulfilled?

The EqIA states the following: *The design code seeks to improve the area and create equitable places for all. The thriving public spaces principle in the design code seeks to improve public spaces physically but also through enhancing opportunities for interaction, nature-based play and health lifestyle. Within the cultural sociability section, it seeks to create community focal points for flexible uses, for social and community events to take place, bringing all communities together, helping social cohesion. It encourages local involvement in space design including public art in community projects, which has the potential to celebrate diverse cultures, helping to develop better relations between all.*

The EqIA promises "community focal points for flexible uses" and "social and community events to bring all communities together". However, the Design Code fails to mention the essential infrastructure that would make these events physically possible. Without these basic provisions, communities cannot gather and interact as the EqIA envisions.

The EqIA commits to "celebrate diverse cultures" and develop "better relations between all". The Design Code excludes creative public art practices to create cultural spaces that would support this. This makes the EqIA's promise of cultural celebration technically impossible to implement.

The EqIA pledges "local involvement in space design including public art in community projects". The Design Code's omission of the varied contemporary public art practices with links to the wider principles in the Code, as well as Cultural

Sociability section does not support delivery of the Design Code to engage communities in meaningfully participating in or using these spaces. Public art is artist-led engagement. Communities cannot be involved in something that has no framework.

The EqlA promises "enhanced opportunities for interaction" and "healthy lifestyle". Without contemporary public art and cultural infrastructure considered for spaces, these interactions have nowhere to occur. The social and health benefits claimed in the EqlA cannot happen without the physical means to support them

In essence, the EqlA sets out important equality and inclusion objectives that depend on cultural infrastructure and can be supported by public art for their delivery. By failing to include these elements in the Design Code, there is no mechanism to achieve these equality objectives. The Design Code has inadvertently created a situation where the EqlA's commitments become unfulfillable promises rather than achievable outcomes.

EXAMPLES OF HOW CONTEMPORARY ARTIST-LED PUBLIC ART CAN RELATE TO DESIGN CODE AMBITIONS

- Contemporary public art often involves socially engaged and participatory practices, creating opportunities for residents to connect through the engagement process itself. Temporary installations, interactive sculptures, or performance-based projects can bring people together in shared experiences, creating social connections and reducing isolation, for example.
- Public art can help reinforce the character and hierarchy of public spaces, from streets and pocket parks to larger community hubs. Artist-led projects can create visual interventions that reflect local culture and history, reinforcing the identity of these spaces.
- Streets as public spaces can feature murals or pavement art that highlight local stories or natural elements, making walking journeys more engaging.
- Larger public areas, like parks, local centres or shopping areas, can host playful sculptures or temporary installations that define the area's identity and draw visitors.
- Contemporary public art can enhance lighting, wayfinding, and material use in ways that are functional and artistic.
- Illuminated sculptures or light-based art can improve safety while creating a visually stimulating environment.
- Wayfinding systems can be integrated with public art, using creative designs that reflect the character of the area and help navigate spaces effectively.
- Contemporary public art supports the principle of creating flexibility by supporting temporary social events, festivals, and pop-up activities

- Performance-based art can activate spaces temporarily while leaving lasting social impacts.
- Artists can design multifunctional community focal points that double as public art pieces and functional spaces for events.
- Artists can help reimagine streets as places for social interaction and activity rather than mere movement corridors
- Play-on-the-way” interventions, such as interactive murals, sound installations, or games embedded in the street design, make streets engaging for all ages.
- Contemporary public art thrives on community engagement, ensuring that local voices shape the design and future care of public spaces. Workshops and participatory design sessions can empower residents to take ownership of public spaces, creating pride and long-term care.
- Art can transform public spaces into vibrant cultural hubs. Moveable furniture designed by artists can adapt spaces for festivals, markets, or performances.
- Large-scale temporary installations or public art festivals can attract visitors, energise public spaces, and create social and cultural dialogues.
- Eco-focused projects, such as living sculptures or installations using natural materials, can align with sustainability goals.
- Digital art or AR experiences can layer new dimensions onto public spaces, offering innovative ways to interact with the environment.

Below are some quick thoughts exemplifying how public art could and should have contribute/d to the Design Code. They explore how both participatory practices and traditional public art forms can support key urban planning objectives, while stressing the necessity of artist leadership and community engagement to ensure impactful and lasting outcomes.

The Expanding Role of Contemporary Public Art Linked to the Five Principles of the Design Code

Contemporary public art has evolved beyond static sculptures to embrace a dynamic spectrum of practices, including temporary installations, socially engaged projects, participatory processes, and site-specific interventions. This shift supports collaboration, interaction, and responsiveness to place, ensuring art serves as a meaningful and transformative element of urban environments for people and with people. Avoiding formulaic processes and creating standardised approaches, such as mandating predefined outputs and pre-determined engagement techniques not led by an artist, limits the potential for innovative, site-specific solutions.

Public art and engagement dictated by a rigid framework reduces the potential for exploration and input and site-specific public art. Predetermined “engagement models” that impose fixed activities or outputs often fail to resonate with the

community. Artists must lead the process, listening to participants and allowing their ideas to shape the final outcomes. Artists should have open briefs to shape the project through research and development, ensuring relevance and inclusivity.

If public art and culture had been considered with in consultation with the City Council leads, then it would have had a section which sets out how it supports the five principles of the Design Code with a curatorial understanding and that it should be inclusive. Drawings could have shown general areas of opportunity as we see in best practice masterplanning and Design Codes.

The following are examples to illustrate my point in these comments that the Design Code fails in how it includes public art as a strategic element of it as a whole and as it should have been considered as required by policy to inform the strategic development of development plans and policy making. Public art can also be embedded into the fabric of buildings for powerful impact.

The Design Code deserves a section on public art and its links and support to potentially add to the wider aspirations of the Code and the five principles.

1. Make Space for Nature

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can collaborate with communities to create temporary or permanent interventions that celebrate and protect local ecosystems. Also, by guiding residents through imaginative projects such as participatory planting events, storytelling workshops about local biodiversity, or interactive environmental performances artists ensure the process is rooted in creativity and engagement. Permanent interventions inspired by local biodiversity can create lasting contributions to conservation efforts, while functional artworks (e.g., rain gardens or pollinator habitats) integrate aesthetics biodiversity aims.

2. Prioritise Walking and Cycling

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can transform pedestrian and cycling routes into immersive spaces through temporary art trails, participatory installations, or interactive performances that engage users and reflect local culture. By involving communities in the creative process, these projects encourage active travel and build emotional connections to the space. Sculptures, embedded works or functional designs can enhance the aesthetic and practical aspects of walking and cycling routes.

3. Thriving Public Spaces

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Public spaces thrive when artists engage communities in co-creating temporary events, installations, or performances. These activities create social and cultural dialogue and can transform underutilised areas into vibrant hubs that reflect shared values and aspirations of the community. Permanent artworks, such as sculptures, work embedded in the landscape and buildings or interactive creations, can become focal points for gatherings, enhancing the identity and usability of public spaces.

4. Enhance Character

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can work with residents to uncover and celebrate the unique history, culture, and aspirations of their community through storytelling, workshops, or collaborative projects; artists excel at discovering hidden narratives. This approach creates works that resonate deeply and authentically with the area's residents and creates identity. Permanent artworks can serve as enduring symbols of a community's identity when developed by artist-led process.

5. Increase Sustainability

Artist-Led Opportunities:

Artists can inspire and educate communities on sustainability through workshops, temporary installations, or participatory projects that highlight environmental challenges and solutions. These initiatives create a culture of shared responsibility and action. Permanent artworks using sustainable materials or renewable energy sources can serve as educational tools and enduring symbols of environmental commitment.

CULTURAL SOCIABILITY

There is a whole section entitled Cultural Sociability which does not reference or explain how culture can be a key player in making this Design Code work or support Cultural Sociability apart from a vague description of public art and the mention of community-led art installations.

Public art amplifies cultural sociability by transforming public spaces into vibrant cultural landscapes that invite interaction, dialogue, and inspires creativity. Artists play a pivotal role in shaping these spaces, bringing their unique perspectives and methodologies to create environments where people feel welcomed, engaged, and connected.

Through participatory practices, artists can involve diverse groups in the creation process, breaking down social barriers and supporting co-creation. These projects provide platforms for marginalised voices to be heard, ensuring public spaces reflect the richness and diversity of their communities. This inclusivity strengthens social cohesion and creates a shared sense of ownership and pride in the space.

Artists can also spark conversations about important cultural, social, and environmental issues by embedding thought-provoking elements into their work. Whether through temporary interventions, interactive installations, or storytelling-based practices, public art can encourage people to reflect on and engage with the complexities of their shared environment, creating deeper connections between individuals and their communities.

Artists can reimagine public spaces as sites for cultural exchange. By creating moments of collective experience such as performances, festivals, or collaborative exhibitions they encourage people from all walks of life to come together and participate in cultural life. These interactions can challenge preconceptions, celebrate diversity, and cultivate a stronger sense of community identity.

Artists contribute to the adaptability and vibrancy of public spaces by creating works that are responsive to the evolving needs and aspirations of the community. Their creative input ensures these spaces remain dynamic and relevant, capable of hosting everything from informal gatherings to structured cultural events.

Ultimately, the influence of artists on cultural sociability extends far beyond the physical realm of public spaces. Their work can create a culture of empathy, understanding, and collective creativity, ensuring that public spaces become not just places to occupy but environments where communities can thrive and flourish socially and culturally.

Conclusion

The omission of properly considered and integrated public art within the North Cambridge Design Code undermines its ambition to serve as an exemplar and to set future standards for design codes across Cambridge. By failing to adhere to the City's Public Art Supplementary Planning Document and The Cambridge Perspective: A Manifesto for Public Art, this pilot initiative overlooks the very policies that have built Cambridge's national reputation for excellence in public art delivery.

Public art is not a peripheral element; it is a strategic tool for achieving cultural, social, and environmental benefits in urban planning. Its omission from the Design Code in any meaningful capacity highlights a lack of understanding of its transformative potential and the processes required to embed it effectively. The

reliance on vague mentions, tokenistic gestures, and incorrect labelling of "community-led public art installations" ignores the vital role of artist-led practices and fails to comply with the policies and aspirations of the City and its residents.

Equally concerning is the failure to integrate the Council's Cultural Strategy and the concept of cultural infrastructure into the Design Code. Cultural infrastructure is essential to enabling communities to thrive by embedding the practical, structural, and functional elements that facilitate cultural activities. The Design Code misses an opportunity to create spaces that are not only functional but also culturally vibrant and equipped to support long-term community engagement and cultural development.

The missed opportunity to integrate public art and culture with the Design Code's five principles, such as enhancing sustainability, creating thriving public spaces, and reinforcing local character, leaves the pilot project fundamentally lacking. This failure not only limits the immediate impact of the Design Code but also risks setting a poor precedent for future planning initiatives.

If the Design Code is to truly reflect best practices in placemaking, it must embrace public art and culture as core elements and by expertise. Knowledge and experience. Without these revisions, the Design Code cannot claim to be exemplar or capable of meeting the City's own standards for excellence and it does not comply with the Public Art SPS or the Manifesto.

It is especially important to get this right in North Cambridge because it is an area that has seen the least amount of public art delivery due to much of it being tied to the development process, which has been less active here compared to other areas. The Council cannot use commuted s106 funds to commission public art in this area because there is little funding directly linked to North Cambridge. By addressing these omissions, the Design Code can ensure that the area receives the cultural and artistic investments it needs to thrive, while also setting a genuinely exemplary standard for the City.

I would appreciate a conversation about how to make public art stronger in the Design Code so that it not only benefits and engages the residents in the future but to ensure it complies with The Public Art SPD and meets the objectives of the City's Manifesto, which it currently does not; to ensure that best practices are embedded within the document and that high quality public art will be developed in the City through the Design Code that genuinely benefits and engages people. I also recommend that [REDACTED] is consulted regarding cultural infrastructure.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 51

To: [REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code - Tree Team comments

Dear [REDACTED]

Subject: Comments on the Cambridge Northern Neighbourhoods Design Code Rev E January 2025

Thank you for giving the City's Tree Team an opportunity to comment on the Cambridge Northern Neighbourhoods Design Code. Below, we provide our observations and suggestions in bullet point form. We would be happy to expand on any of these points if required.

General observations

1. **Inclusion of Trees:** We welcome the inclusion of trees throughout the document.
2. **Reference to 'Tiny Forest / Earthwatch' pages 22 and 25**
We recommend excluding the mention of "Tiny Forest / Earthwatch" and instead using the term "Miyawaki microwood."
 - **Reason:** "Tiny Forest" is a proprietary product, and Earthwatch is a private organization.
 - **Suggested Definition:**
Miyawaki method planting is an approach for rapidly creating miniature woodlands in urban areas or on degraded land. It involves planting mixed native species at close densities to replicate natural forest regeneration. Advantages include higher growth and survival rates, minimal maintenance after two years, higher diversity, and reduced vulnerability to vandalism. Disadvantages include higher costs due to intensive soil preparation, mulching, watering, and more trees required per area. (LATF grant manual - GOV.UK)
3. **Tree Strategy Reference:**
We suggest including a reference to the Cambridge City Council's Tree Strategy as a resource on the Urban Greening **Page 24**
 - It is noticeably absent, especially when other council strategies (e.g., Biodiversity on **p. 5**, OS & Recreation on **p. 38**) have been cited.
4. **Remove 'Trees for Streets' Page 24**
We recommend removing the mention of 'Trees for Streets,' as it refers to a charity encouraging private sponsorships in existing streets and parks, which is not relevant to development.
5. **Citation of Tree Shading Work (p. 18):**
Please cite or acknowledge the resource for the Tree Shading work mentioned on **page 18**
 - [Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge](#)
 - **Note:** The resource is called "*Mapping Tree Shade in Cambridge*".
 - **Page 50** references the 'shady streets' study; please use the correct title and provide a link for easy access.
6. **Street Tree Spacing 22, 24, 50**
Please remove the reference to planting street trees every "10m."
 - **Reason:** A fixed spacing requirement is too specific and may lead to compliance issues.
 - **Factors to Consider:**
 - **Species and Mature Size:** Different species have different canopy and root sizes.
 - **Site Conditions:** Consider exposure, wind, microclimate, and soil conditions.
 - **Rooting Volume:** Ensure enough space for tree roots to thrive.
 - **Utility and Infrastructure:** Account for underground and overhead utilities.
 - **Aesthetic and Design Goals:** Ensure trees fit within the urban design framework.

- o **General Principle:** The spacing of new street trees should balance ecological needs, safety, infrastructure considerations, and aesthetic goals to ensure trees can grow and thrive.

7. **Retention of Existing Trees:**

The retention of existing trees is not sufficiently highlighted. For example, in the Urban Greening section [page 24](#)

- o There should be clearer distinctions between new planting to sustain and enhance tree canopy and the retention of mature trees.
- o **Key Considerations:**
 - Diversifying tree species to protect the canopy from pests, diseases, and climate change.
 - Retaining existing trees with significant canopy volume and life expectancy, which immediately contribute to climate resilience and biodiversity.
 - New planting will take many years to match the benefits of an

established tree. Other Recommendations

8. **Living Landscapes** [page 26](#)

Please remove the reference to “broadleaf” as limiting species diversity. There is no reason coniferous species should not be considered.

9. **Placemaking Opportunities** [page 41](#)

Under priorities, include the retention of existing trees of value.

10. **Identity of Home** [page 42](#)

In the second bullet under “must,” replace “tree groups” with “trees” to make this requirement more realistic and achievable.

11. **Enclosure and Focal Points** [page 43](#)

Include under “must” the retention of existing trees **of value** that can act as instant focal points and provide a sense of enclosure.

12. **Sustainable Opportunities** [page 47](#)

Add a resource to help determine planting priorities:

- *Tree Equity Score UK* (launched in 2023) helps determine equitable tree distribution across urban areas, generating scores for neighbourhoods and local authorities.
- This tool helps address disparities in tree cover and ensures that all communities have access to the benefits of trees.

13. **Climate Change Resilience** [page 50](#)

Include under “must” the consideration of retaining existing trees of value.

14. **Local Character** [page 14](#)

Include mention of retaining existing trees as part of the local character list.

15. **Opportunities Framework** [page 20](#)

Include the retention of existing trees alongside new planting to improve canopy cover.

16. **Five Principles** [page 21](#)

Specifically mention the retention of existing trees under “making space for nature.”

Kind regards

[cambridge.gov.uk](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk) | facebook.com/camcitco | twitter.com/camcitco



COLLABORATIVE



COURAGEOUS



COMPASSIONATE



ACCOUNTABLE



[Find out more about how with manage trees in Cambridge](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2025 14:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code

Dear [REDACTED]

It would be great to receive your feedback.

Please can you send your comments to designcodepilot@greatercambridgeplanning.org and copy me in? Also, it would be useful to have a brief chat with you at some point on what you would like to see incorporated?

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | Team Leader - Built Environment



GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING

[REDACTED]
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/>
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/planning>

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: a strategic partnership between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2025 13:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is the lead on this so please send comments to him.
Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2025 13:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: cambridge northern neighbourhoods design code

[\(15\) Project: Cambridge neighbourhoods design code: Supplemen... | Cambridge City Council](#)

[Draft design code document.pdf](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. Could you give me a pointer to the lead on this document please? I have some comments, it is probably better to send them by email but I could put them on the portal if that is the preferred method.

Kind regards

[REDACTED], City Services, Cambridge City Council

[REDACTED]
cambridge.gov.uk | facebook.com/camcitco | twitter.com/camcitco



COLLABORATIVE



COURAGEOUS



COMPASSIONATE



ACCOUNTABLE



[Find out more about how with manage trees in Cambridge](#)



Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

Our ref: PL00798006
10 February 2025

Dear Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

Ref: Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton Consultation

Design Guides and Codes are an essential tool for local authorities, communities and developers, helping to set clear design quality requirements and standards across a given area. The government places considerable emphasis on the importance of good design in the National Planning Policy Framework chapter 12, setting out that it *"is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities"*, and stating that developments that are not well designed should be refused permission. Defining and codifying what 'good design' means in your area is essential to ensuring that such decisions are backed up by robust evidence and clear parameters.

Paragraph 203 of the National Planning Policy Framework [\(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/16-conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment>](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/16-conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment) (2024) sets out that Plans, including supplementary planning documents such as Design Guides and Codes, should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In particular, this strategy needs to take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets in the plan area, the need for new development to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and it should consider opportunities to use the existing historic environment to help reinforce this character of a place.

We welcome the production of this Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton, but do not consider it necessary for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of the code. We have general advice on good design in the historic environment on our website, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/design-in-the-historic-environment/>.

To avoid any doubt, this letter does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed design guide and code, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582749
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](https://historicengland.org.uk)



Historic England

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Historic Places Adviser

cc:



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582749
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

**Record of Engagement in Phase 1, 2, 3 from Autumn 2023 to Spring 2024:
Appendix A to Appendix G.**

Appendix A - Analysis and Survey Results for Phase 1

**Inspired Living: A Design Code to enhance design
in Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods**

**Phase 1 Understanding your neighbourhood and establishing a vision Survey
Results v1 09/10/2023**

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Executive summary

Introduction

Inspired Living is a design code pilot aimed at enhancing the standard of design in northern Cambridge including areas of Arbury, Kings Hedges and West Chesterton. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, working with Pollard Thomas Edwards architects are collaborating with local communities in three phases on this project. As part of phase 1, we have sought to better understand the neighbourhood by hearing views of the community through online survey, comments on an online map, culminating in a small drop in exhibition and workshop on 27th September 2023. The comments received from these interactions are being used to inform the next phases of our engagement and will directly inform the design code.

Below is the summary of the phase 1 online survey, where we received 116 submissions. 59 participants also made a total of 126 individual comments on the interactive area map which you can view [here](#). The online survey includes a broad mix of participants with a range of ages above 20 and incomes. We would like to engage further with young people and schools.

Summary of Results

The survey asked questions about how people got around, their views on local green spaces/play areas, the use of local shops and facilities, the things that they most liked about the area and what could be improved.

- **Getting around**

This theme included question on walking, cycling, mobility storage, public transport and the private vehicles and safety.

Cycling is very popular, with most people making trips by bike at least a few times a week. Bike ownership is very high in the area, with most households having 2-3 bikes. However, around half of the surveys said people did not feel safe cycling on local streets. There was a desire for better cycling infrastructure (cycle lanes, bike storage), improved junctions and street lighting.

Public transport use is low. The survey indicates people would be encouraged to use it more if it was more regular and convenient.

The code will need to provide for car parking, as most households have one car, with a minority having more than 1 car. Around 18% of respondents did not have a car.

- **Local Green spaces and play areas**

This theme included questions on playground and parks, gaps, underused spaces and neighbourhood character.

Access to green spaces, and the presence of trees and planting, is the most valued and widely shared characteristic of the area. However about 40% of respondents did

not use the parks and playgrounds. Local playgrounds are used but many people said there were problems with antisocial behaviour and poor design.

People felt that the landscape can be much better, with more tree planting, better play for all ages, better design and management of spaces, areas of focus, places for meeting, with enhancements to green spaces being the most popular suggestion for improvement.

- **Quality and Accessibility of Shops and community facilities**

This theme included questions on community facilities and neighbourhood character.

People value their local shops and facilities, with a large majority finding it easy to access the local shops. People generally find these met their everyday needs, but would like to see more facilities for young adults, a pharmacy and some more restaurants/cafes/pubs rather than takeaways, etc. However, they would like to see these facilities supported by improvements to shops as well as public realm.

- **Neighbourhood Character and buildings**

This theme included questions on what people liked about their neighbourhood and what they felt could be improved.

People valued green space, trees and planting and felt that the contributed most to the neighbourhood's character. They valued the accessibility to local shop, community facilities and school and valued a sense of community all contributing to the neighbourhood character. At the same time people felt that the green spaces and a sense of community could be strengthened.

The look and feel of the existing buildings were by a wide margin the least popular characteristic of the area. Improving the design of buildings was the close-second most popular survey suggestion after improving green spaces.

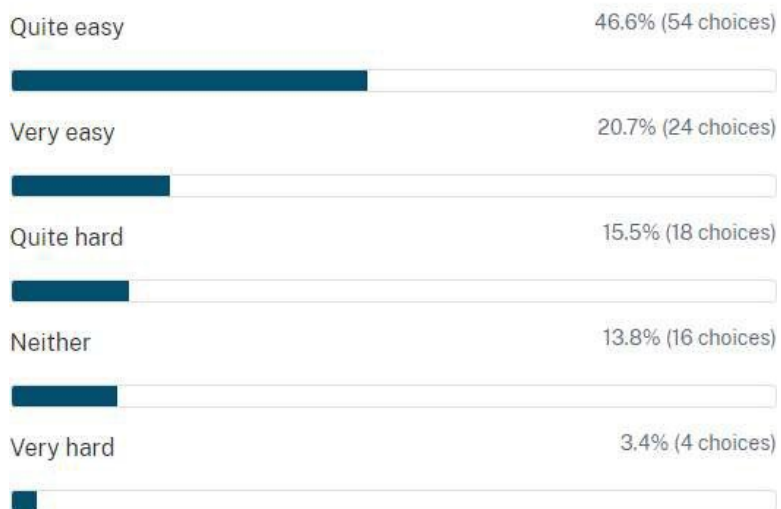
Detailed Survey Results



Walking and Cycling

How easy is it to walk and cycle in the area? For example, go to the local shops and schools?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Do you feel safe cycling on local streets?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes 53.4% (62 choices)



No 46.6% (54 choices)



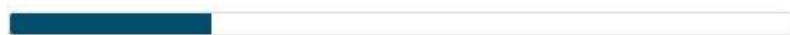
What would encourage you to cycle and walk more in the local area? (Please tick all relevant answers)

Multiple choice - choose many - required

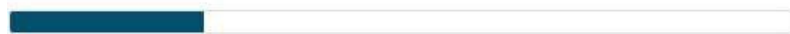
Better road infrastructure 30.5% (65 choices)



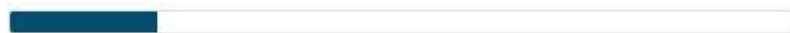
More cycle lanes 25.8% (55 choices)



Other (Please use text box at end of survey) 24.9% (53 choices)



More street lighting 18.8% (40 choices)



Residents loved the new cycle lane infrastructure recently delivered on Histon Road and Arbury Road and wanted more cycle paths in the area. They found the junction at Histon Road and Warwick Road complicated. However, they wished the continuation of cycleway on Arbury Road, recognising the constraints of a narrow road and pavement. They also felt that new cycling infrastructure needs to be properly thought through, citing the right turn from the new cycle lane on Arbury Road into Campkin Road as dangerous. It made it harder to pull out before the junction and sandwiched cyclists between motor traffic going north and south as they wait for a safe moment to turn.

They would like to see pavements and verges in a better state of repair with drop curbs, more even pavements in all areas, potholes repaired, making spaces more accessible and easier for disabled users in wheelchairs, mobility scooters, children on bikes, the elderly, pram and push chairs. They felt that the surfacing was particularly bad around Pulley Park, Aragon, Sackville Close areas, the route to Arbury Court, Northfield Avenue Road and Campkin Road near roundabouts.

Some residents highlighted the need to have more benches in the area including the route along Histon Road and from Roseford Road to the Co-op for people to rest when walking to shops.

Some residents felt the need to improve pedestrian safety particularly for children cycling on Arbury Road (Milton Road end) which was putting them into massive conflict with motorists due to the road narrowing and parked cars. One stated that Carlton Way is particularly unsafe during school drop offs whilst another was concerned about the safety for cars and cyclist at the junction between Mansel Way and Arbury Road.

One resident commented that walking along the street in parts of Kings Hedges can feel isolating because pedestrians are surrounded by high fences needed for residents to have privacy in their back gardens.



Playgrounds and Parks

Do you use the playgrounds and parks?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes 58.6% (68 choices)

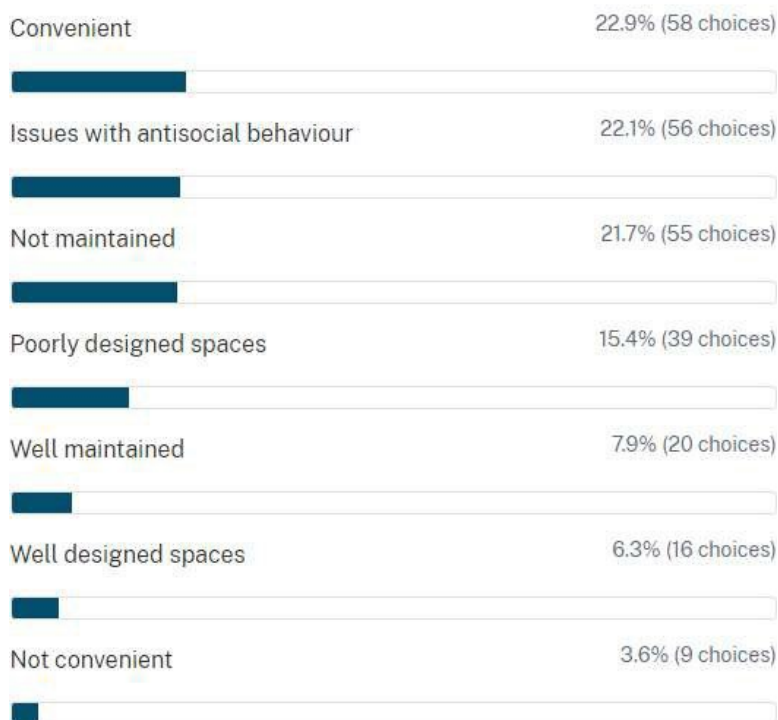


No 41.4% (48 choices)



What you think of the existing playgrounds and parks? (Please tick all relevant answers)

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Residents felt that parks need to be better maintained as the grass is untidy, hard to walk through when it rains, hiding potential hazards such as dog poo and needles which you get in this area. Some residents felt that they didn't feel safe to let their toddlers walk around. Bins are constantly overflowing and not emptied leading to litter blowing around everywhere, which toddlers tend to play with, which is unsafe. The messy grass beds could become nice wildflower verges like other councils have done.

They felt that some of the play areas are rather run down or lack new equipment. and that they should have toilets in all of them. One commented that their favourite park is the infant area at Nuns way but some of its features like the little bridge are yet to be replaced.

Some residents mentioned that the local provision in parks trends too far towards providing 'Type C' spaces, at the expense of 'Type A' spaces. They feel that smaller, high quality play facilities offer parents the opportunity to meet and get to know other parents and children within their immediate local area, building a stronger sense of community.

They felt that there is a greater emphasis on providing 'modern' versions of play equipment such as tilted roundabouts, 'conceptual' climbing frames, monkey bars, 4-way see saws etc. that are aimed mainly for children of school age and above. They would like to see classic items such as slides, swings, roundabouts, see-saws, which can be used by all children including toddlers, pre-schoolers but also by all age groups.

Residents cited the Nuns Way pavilion, which is council owned but run by Northern Cambridge Community Partnership as a good example of venues run by local people in theory. However, they needed funding, capacity and checks and balances from the council to ensure that they are maintained, open regularly and serving the need of the wider community. It also needs investment for its up-keep.

There were suggestions to:

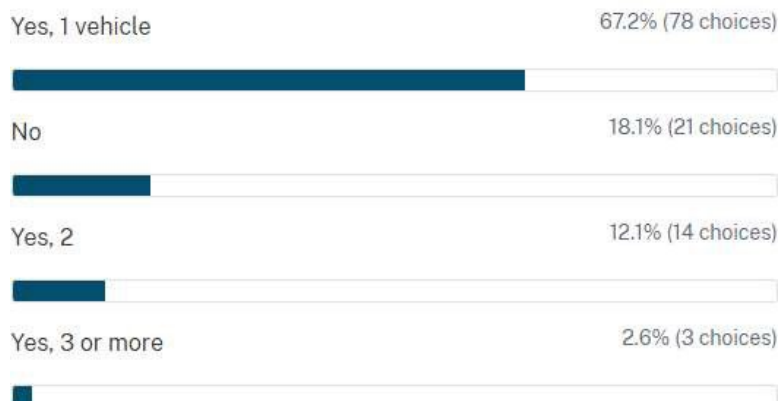
- improve Nuns way skatepark - demolish the old metal one and build a fit for purpose concrete mini ramp - 3 to 4 foot high, so more suitable for a range of abilities.
- replace dog poo bins and add more litter bins.
- improve the footpath/cycle path down the side of the Pulley play area park, on King's Hedges recreation ground.
- provide more seating and benches.
- improve playgrounds for kids at St Albans recreation grounds, Kings Hedges and Orchard Park.



Car Parking

Do you have a car or van?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Do you feel safe parking your car where you live?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



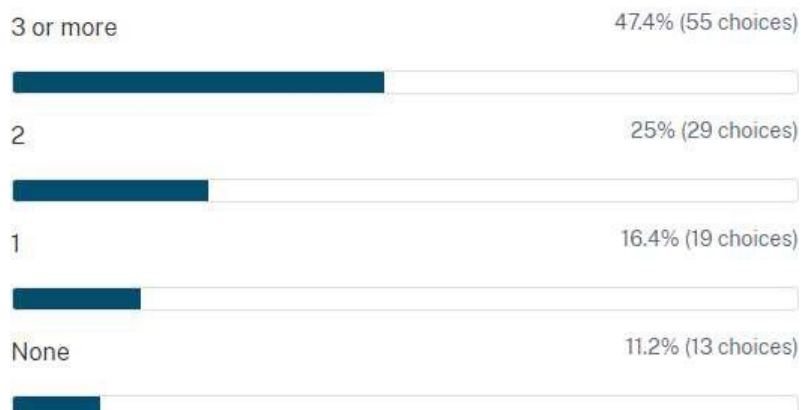
Residents felt that parking around Arbury School is anti-social and very dangerous at drop off and pick up time. They felt that there are significant problems locally, with insufficient convenient parking provision, leading to inconsiderate parking on grassed areas, turning areas, opposite other vehicles etc. On-street parking needs dedicated spots otherwise it can lead to a parking maze with dangerous and poor visibility.



Cycle Use and Storage

How many bicycles does your household have?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Do you have an e-bike or e-scooter?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



How often are the bikes/e-bikes/scooter's used in your household?

Multiple choice-choose one-required

Daily 45.7% (53 choices)



Few times a week 21.6% (25 choices)



Never 19% (22 choices)



7.8% (9 choices)



Rarely

Few times a month 6% (7 choices)



Do you have access to a secure bike store, and does it feel safe to leave your bike there?

Multiple choice-choose one -required

Yes, safe 62.1% (72 choices)



No 27.6% (32 choices)



Yes, not safe

10.3% (12 choices)

Would more convenient bike storage encourage you to cycle more?

Multiple choice-choose one -required

No 43.1% [50 choices]

[REDACTED]

Yes

36.2% (42 choices)

[REDACTED]

Maybe

20.7% (24 choices)

[REDACTED]

Residents felt that the area needed more secure bike racks, Sheffield bars for bikes (rather than the horrible wheel twisters that get installed as a cheap option in some places).

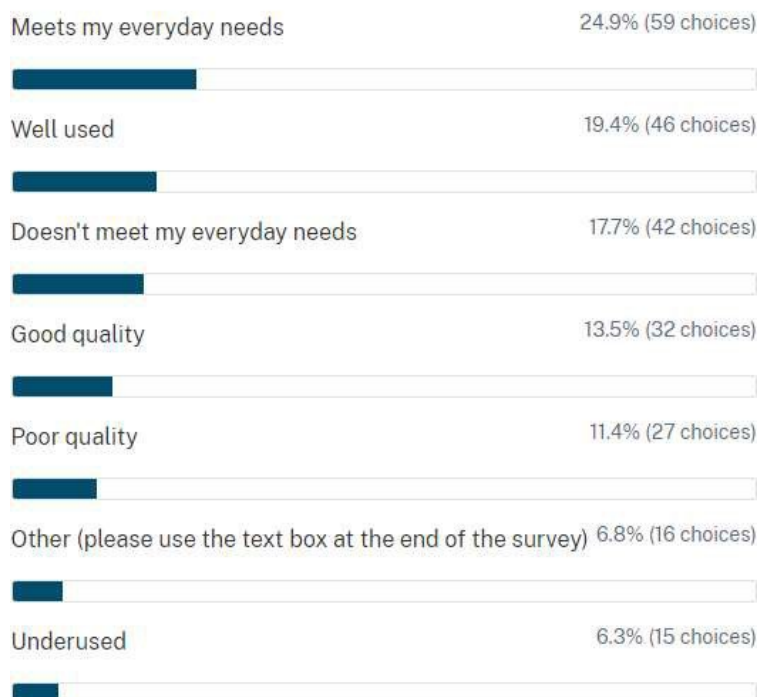
There was a suggestion that perhaps a scheme to provide subsidised bike storage options for households could be introduced as the cost of private purchase for these is high. However, if the council were to buy in bulk, then a discount could be negotiated with suppliers.



Community Facilities

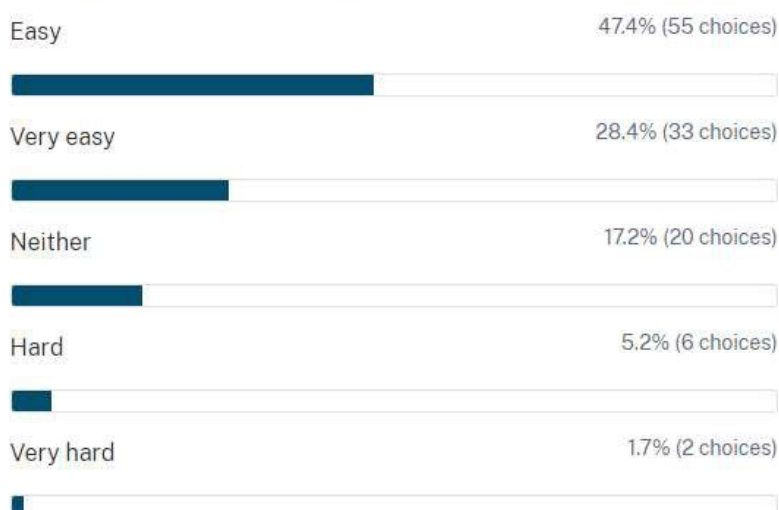
In general, what do you think about the local facilities you use? For example, shops, restaurants, schools, community hubs

Multiple choice -choose many -required



How easy is it to access local facilities?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Residents felt that the area lacked restaurants, cafes, music venues, pubs, youth clubs, community hub, sports halls, pharmacies, post offices, a decent sized supermarket, a well-maintained football pitch and dentists whilst there were too many takeaways. They would like to see facilities that cater for older children and young adults such as a coffee bar with pool, darts, and gaming. Residents are pleased with Chesterton School and sports centre and the Meadows and Akeman Street Community Centres for providing a good mix of uses including a café. They would like to see the Carlton Arms staying as a working pub.

They felt that Arbury community centre is poorly maintained. They felt Arbury Court has improved recently for shopping with one mentioning that they loved the art on the side of Arbury Court. Some areas such as Arbury Court are underused, and they suggest providing a café and shelter to be more like a community hub. They suggested more benches for elderly people to rest in between shopping. Residents wrote that Arbury court is lively on weekdays but there is less activity at weekends and is less welcoming. They felt that a regular programme of community events in Arbury Court would benefit everyone.

Residents would like to see shops and services in Arbury court open throughout the day. They would like there to be afternoon community groups in Arbury / Kings Hedges and community a hub to meet and be warm in the winter. They felt that parking can be difficult at the Arbury Community centre as it is always full.



Gaps and underused spaces

Are there underused spaces in your neighbourhood which you think could be put to better use?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes (Please use text box at the end of the survey to tell us what they could be used for) 56% (65 choices)



No 44% (51 choices)



Residents felt that there are neglected gaps and underused spaces, particularly within Kings Hedges, which provide a green buffer, could potentially be made more friendly and welcoming with flowers, benches and bins that are regularly emptied to decrease littering. They should not automatically be considered for alternative use. A programme should be implemented to improve ill planned open spaces which could contribute to those protected within the ward.

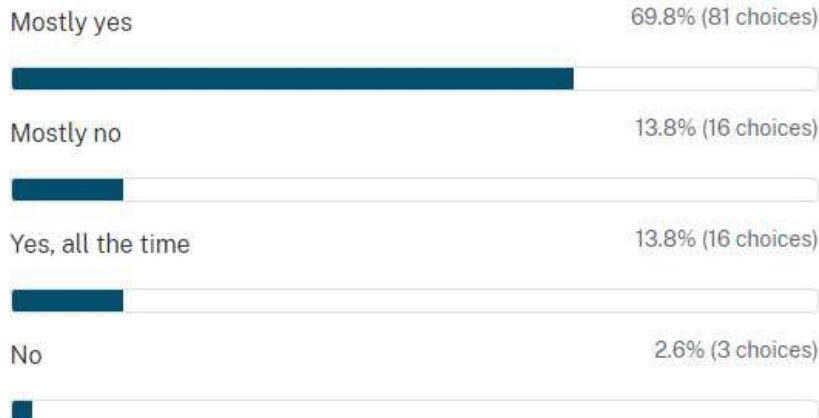
They liked the green spaces running through Kings Hedges but felt that there are few facilities / features within them that would encourage community use such as more benches, meeting spaces. They suggested subsidised Council marquee hire to help facilitate street / neighbourhood celebrations, provision of greater bike parking facilities to help people get around in a low carbon way and the provision of community cooking areas outside - brick BBQs in safe areas.



Safety

Do you feel safe getting walking around your neighbourhood?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



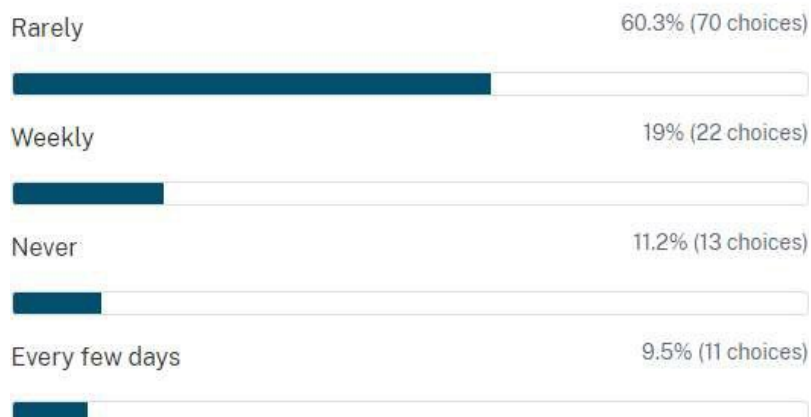
Residents expressed some safety concerns about walking at night in the dark, particularly for lone women as there are dimly lit, isolated pathways in parts of Kings Hedges and Arbury. Some residents felt that they have no choice but to walk around late at night and sometimes streetlights do not work. They felt that there needs to be better lighting on footpaths to help teen girls and women feel safe and help the visually impaired. They felt some streets such as Stretten Avenue are unsafe because of the sheer volume of cars parked on them. Resident pedestrians felt less safe on footpaths because of their use by cyclists, e-bikes and e-scooters.



Public Transport

How often do you use public transport (trains and/or buses)?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



What would encourage you to use public transport more?

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Residents felt that bus services are expensive, subject to last minute cancellations, slow, dirty, lack sufficient ventilation and that there is not enough space on buses for wheelchairs and buggies. They would like to see smaller buses doing different journeys in the area to cater for more people. They felt some bus routes are quite inconvenient with little service to Cambridge north train station and for buses into Cambridge which often involves a long walk at one end or the other.

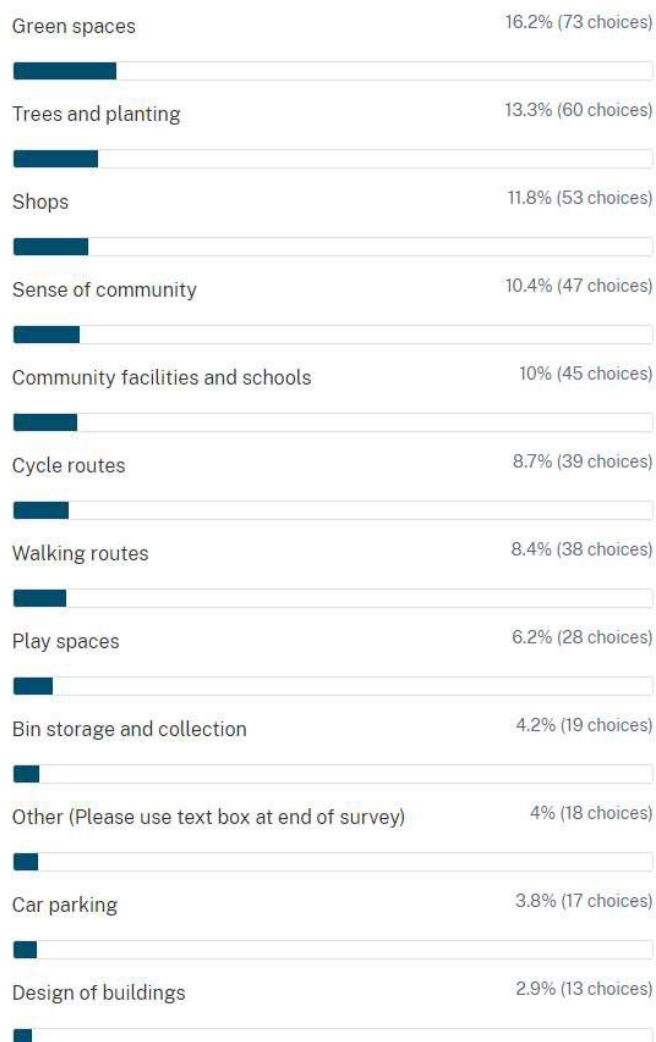
Residents would like to see bus stops with shelter, seating and up-to-date timetables. They would like to see Histon Road bus stops reinstated and buses always stopping at the new floating bus stops (at Brownlow Road, Carisbrooke Road) to pick up residents. Residents felt frustrated with the 15-20 minute break in service that buses regularly take at the intersection of Campkin Road and Arbury Road because there often isn't another alternative bus available that residents can board instead.



Neighbourhood Character

What do you like about your neighbourhood?

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Are there things in the neighbourhood that could be improved?

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Residents would like to see better maintenance of benches, fences, the grass being cut regularly on green spaces, removal of weeds from the pavements, repair of uneven pavements, cleaner streets, less litter and repairs to King's Hedges splash pad and climbing frame, and the provision of more dropped kerbs for wheelchair users. They felt that playgrounds are poorly designed and not accessible for children with dwarfism.

Residents raised concern about drug use; illegal camping on public spaces; cycle theft; fly tipping; vandalised communal property; and some occurrences of anti-social behaviour at Arbury Court and Tesco's on Campkin Road.

Residents would like to see better use of existing spaces for many more trees and wildflower planting, long grass/wildflower verges/areas, hedging, spring bulbs as well as community growing spaces/allotments. They would like the provision of some raised beds/boxes along some roads/paths for sensory planting. Residents would like there to be more permanent public artworks installed to reinforce Cambridge as a prime cultural and artistic location.

Appendix B - Analysis and Survey Results for Phase 2

Inspired Living: A Design Code to enhance design in Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods

Phase 2: Articulating the Vision and Emerging Principles of the Design Code Survey Results v1 13/11/2023



Inspired living Design Code in-person Workshop 2: 18 October 2023, Meadows Community Centre

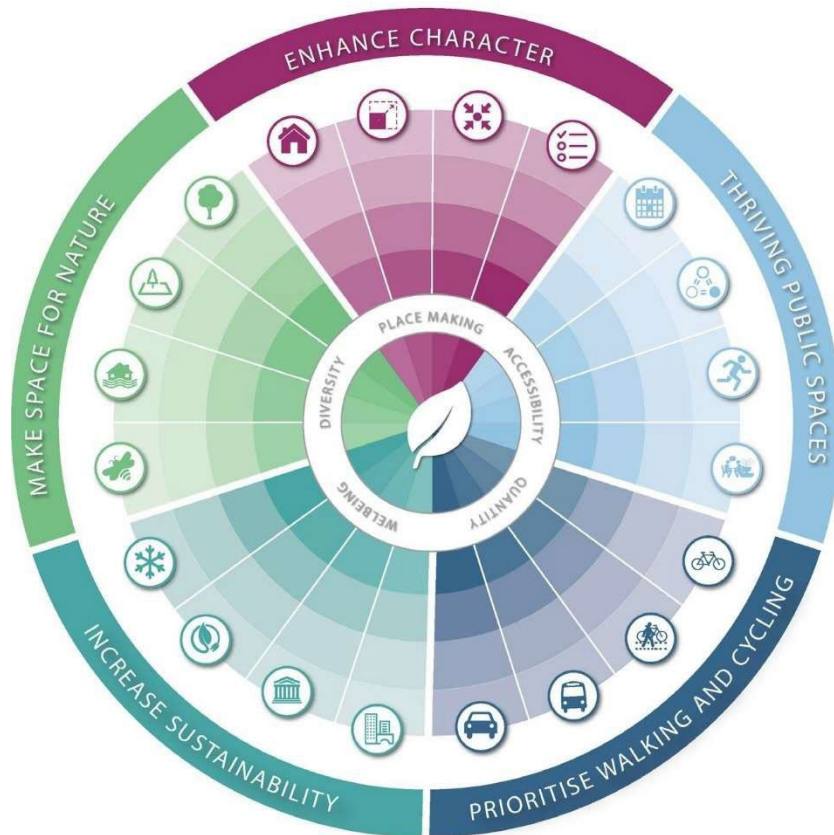
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Principle 1: Making Space for Nature	8
Principle 2: Prioritising Walking and Cycling	10
Principle 3: Thriving Public Spaces	12
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Executive Summary

Introduction

Inspired Living is a design code pilot aimed at enhancing the standard of design in northern Cambridge, including areas of Arbury, King's Hedges and West Chesterton. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, working with Pollard Thomas Edwards architects, are collaborating with local communities in three phases on this project. As part of phase 1, we have sought to better understand the neighbourhood by hearing views of the community using our [online survey](#) and [interactive map](#), culminating with the first workshop at Meadows Community Centre on 27 September 2023. The results of the survey carried in phase 1 can be found [here](#), where we received 116 online submissions. 59 participants also made a total of 126 individual comments on the interactive area map.



As part of phase 2, and using the communities' priorities, feedback and our findings from phase 1, we have developed the design code based on five clear principles that start to articulate the vision and emerging

principles for the area and help structure the design code. They have been chosen to address the issues of the area, priorities of the community, to be memorable and have a clear focus. Each principle proposes a range of aspects for which technical design guidance would be developed, showing how they can work together successfully to deliver attractive places.

As we begin to draft the design code, we sought to ask the community's views on the five principles using our [phase 2 online survey](#), supplemented by in-person surveys in the local area including the Community Centres, churches, Arbury Local Centre, together with collaborating with residents on a second workshop at the Meadows Community Centre on 18 October 2023.

Below is a summary of the phase 2 online and in-person survey results. We received a total of 140 submissions: 72 online surveys, 68 in-person surveys (15 full surveys and 53 short surveys). The short in-person survey included the first two questions of the full (online) survey, focusing on the support for the five principles. The online survey includes a broad mix of participants with a range of ages (above 20) and incomes. The in-person surveys in community centres and churches were focused on families, particularly women, mothers with children and minority ethnic groups. We would like to engage

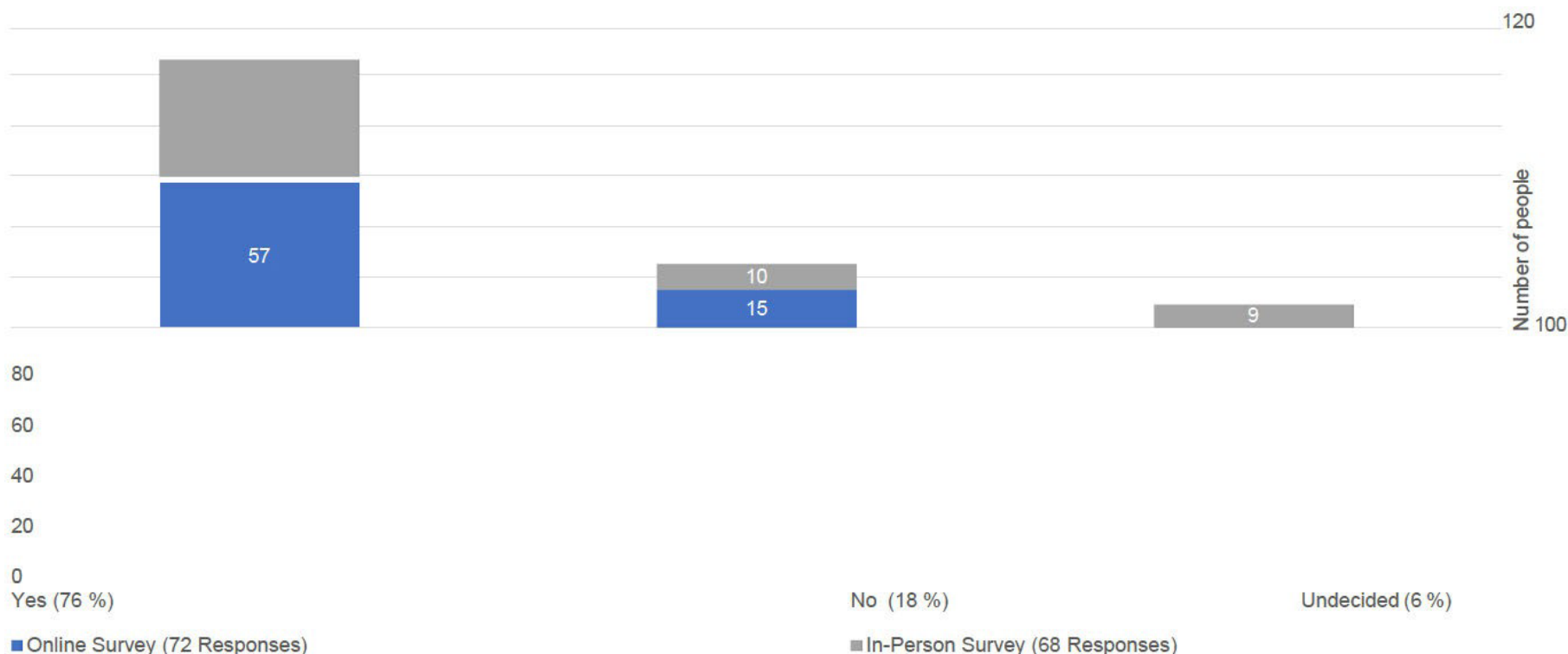
Figure 1. The Five Principles of the Design

further with young people and schools. The comments received from these interactions are being used to directly inform the design code and the next phases of our engagement.

Summary of the Results

The first part of the survey asked whether there was support for the five principles proposed and whether people felt that they had the potential to enhance the design of the neighbourhood. The second part of the survey focused on the detail aspects of each of the five principles in order to understand which aspect would make the biggest difference to the area.

Support for the five principles proposed for the Design Code



- **Support for the five principles proposed**

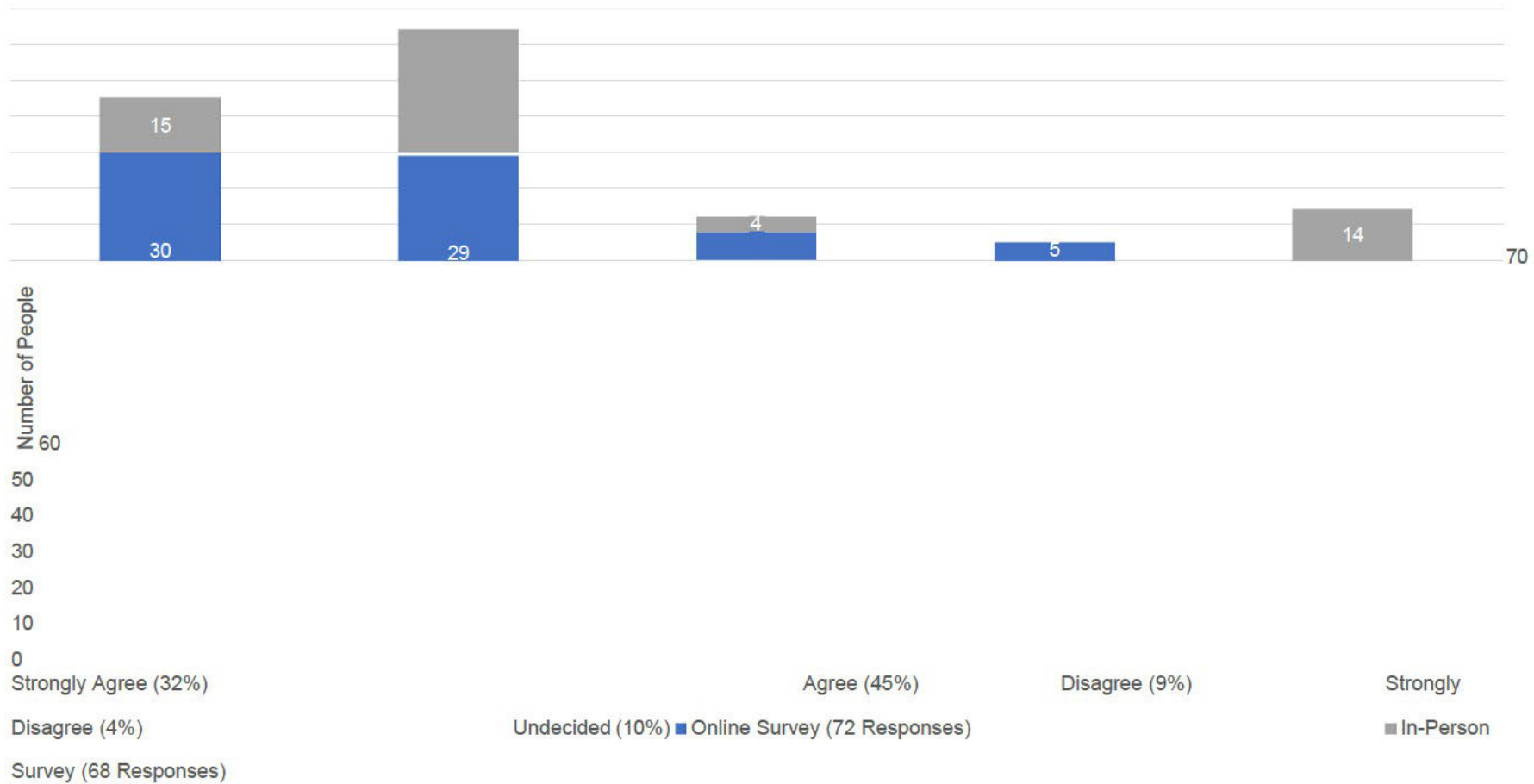
There was an overwhelming support for the five principles with 76 percent of online and in-person respondents supporting the principles proposed that helped address and prioritise the issues they felt were most important in phase 1. 18 percent did not support

the principles whilst 6 percent (mainly in-person survey respondents) were undecided.

- **Potential for the five principles proposed to enhance design of the neighbourhood**

77 percent of online and in-person respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that the five principles proposed had the potential to help enhance the design of the neighbourhood. 9 percent disagreed and 4 percent strongly disagreed with the five principles. 10 percent (mainly in-person respondents) were undecided.

Potential for the five principles proposed to enhance the Neighbourhoods



The second part of the survey captures the communities top five priorities/aspects within each principle that will make the biggest difference and are listed as follows:

Principle 1- Making space for nature

- Managing existing trees and planting more
- Improving access and safety of green spaces
- Retaining green roadside verges
- Promoting sustainable urban drainage – storing and absorbing rainwater run-off

- Encouraging hedgerows/planting in appropriate locations

Principle 2- Prioritise walking and cycling

- Segregated footways and cycle paths
- Prioritising key pedestrian and cycle routes that are legible, safe and connect homes to key destinations.
- Cycle locking stands near shops
- Routes with lighting and visibility from surrounding homes
- More better crossing points and speed reduction near shops and schools

Principle 3- Thriving public spaces

- Comfortable spaces to sit outside (e.g. cafes and outdoor activities)
- Spaces for older children and teenagers
- Spaces and facilities that are convenient and easy to get to
- Areas to play near family homes for younger children
- More local involvement (e.g. community gardening/orchards)

Principle 4- Enhance character:

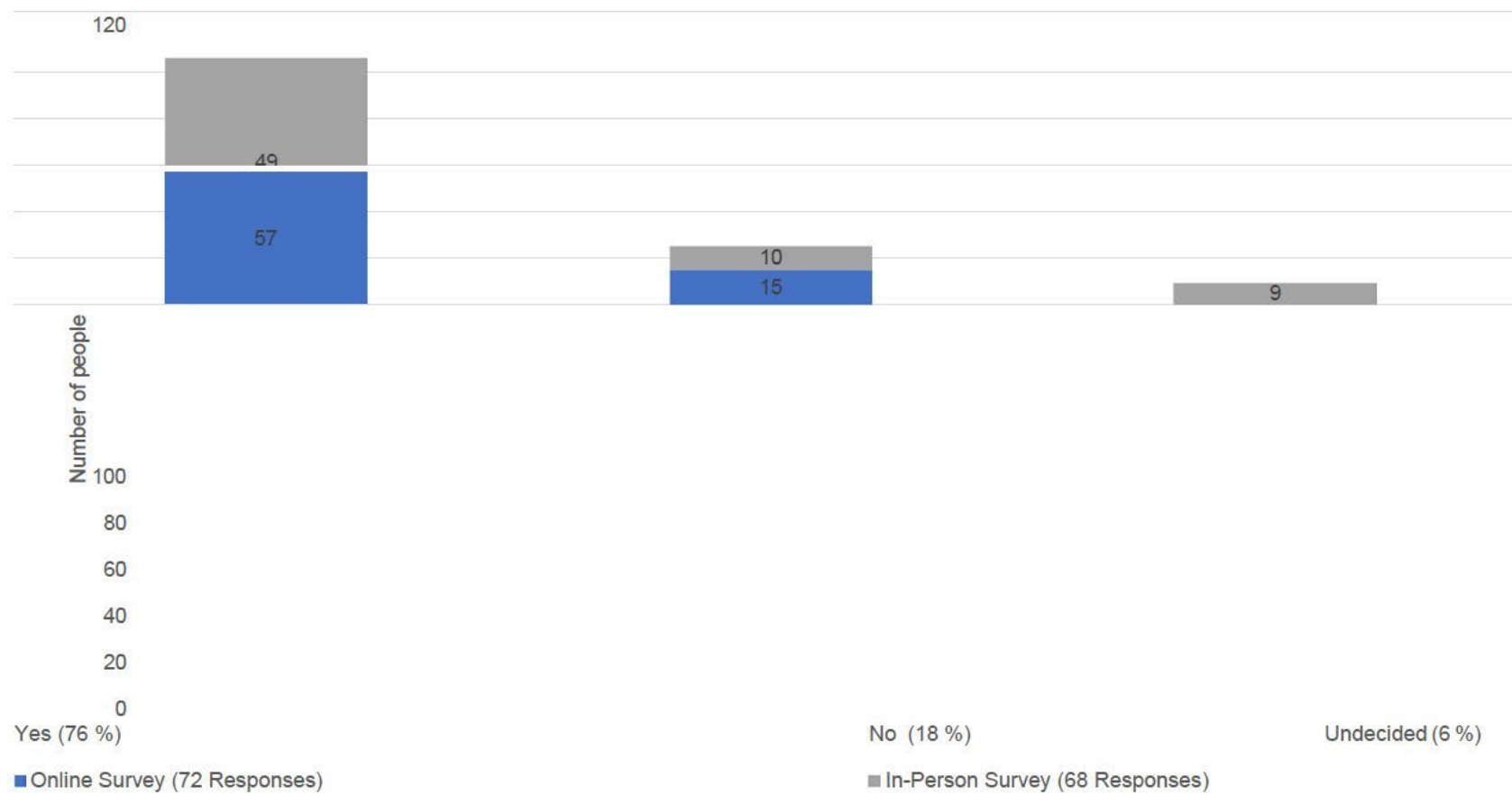
- Taking opportunities to improve quality of building design
- Maintaining a mix of homes for different generations, including homes for older people
- Opportunities for repair/reuse/recycle cafes and other facilities lacking in the area
- Improve natural surveillance by facing entrances and windows onto streets and green spaces
- Maintaining or enhancing character that is formed by buildings set within landscape

Principle 5- Increase sustainability

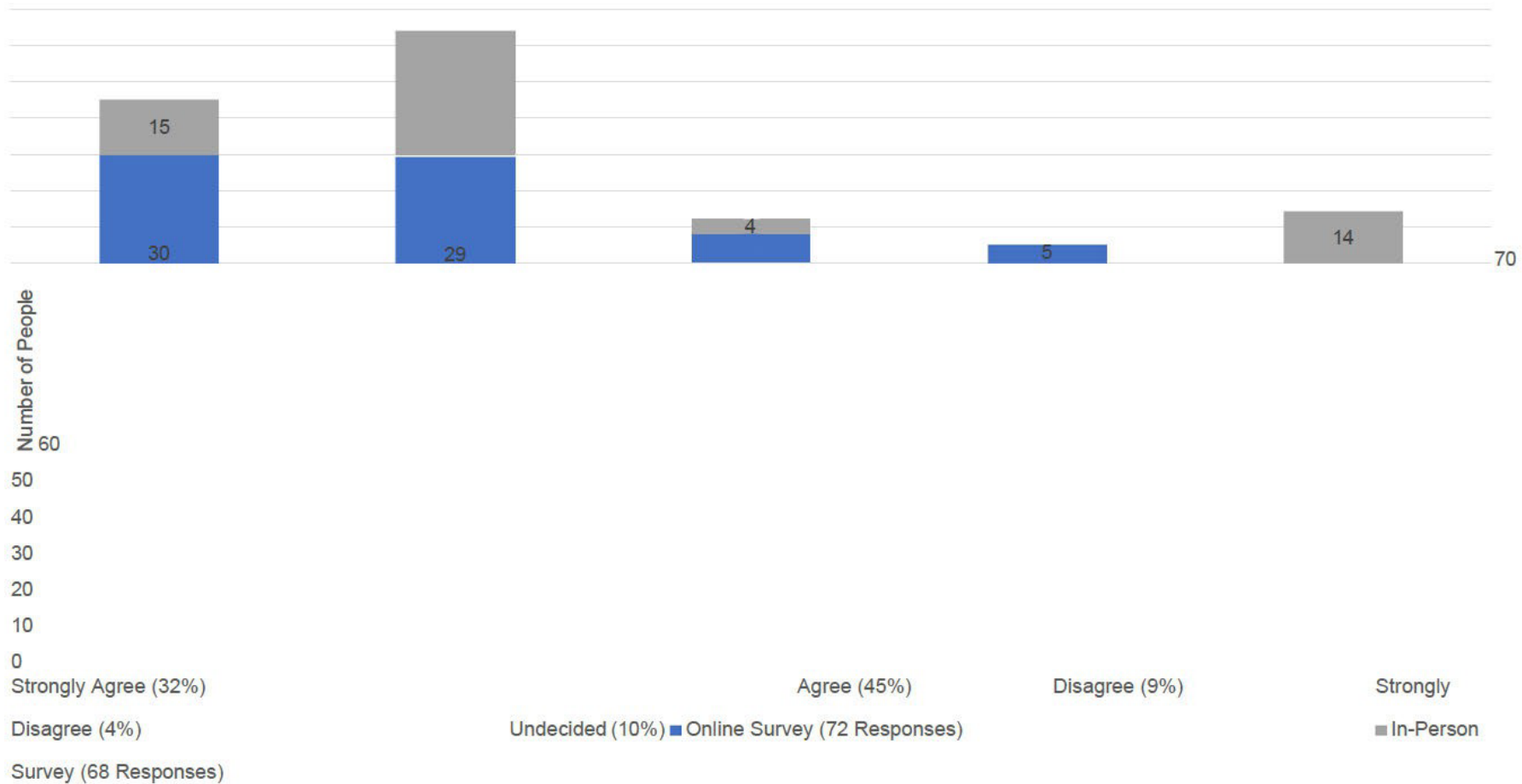
- Locating solar/photovoltaic panels
- Considerations on external insulation and cladding
- Promoting green planted roofs for new buildings
- Natural ventilation and 'dual aspect' homes
- Solar shading and overheating

Detailed Survey Results

Support for the five principles proposed for the Design Code



Potential for the five principles proposed to enhance the design of the neighbourhood



The citizens' responses to the 'Phase 2: Articulating the vision and emerging principles of the design code' project reveal a variety of responses and suggestions. A recurring theme is the need for sustainable development, with several respondents emphasising the importance of environmental considerations in urban planning.

Many citizens also expressed the need for continued maintenance and improvement of public spaces, roads, and pavements. The importance of aesthetics and cleanliness in public spaces was also highlighted.

Accessibility and inclusivity were other key themes. Several respondents stressed the need to consider the needs of disabled people, the elderly, and those who rely on mobility scooters.

The principle of prioritising walking and cycling was generally supported, but some respondents expressed concerns about the potential negative impact on motorists. Several respondents also highlighted the need for effective public transport systems.

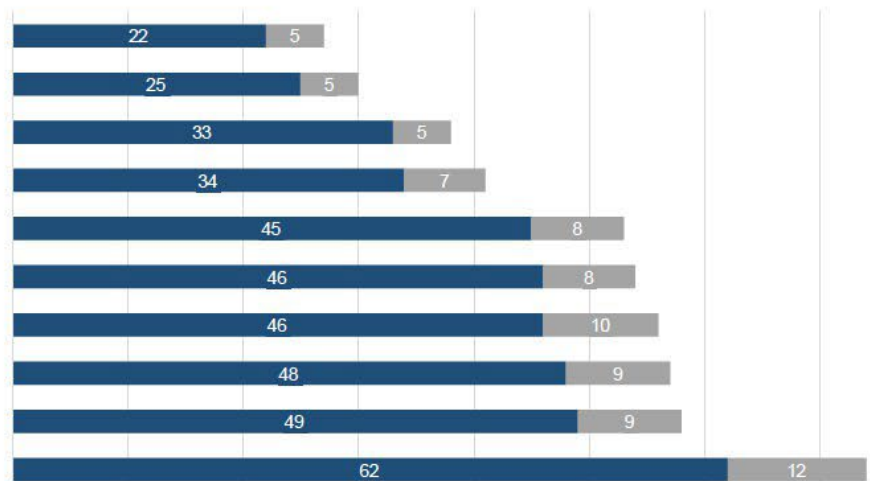
The need for community involvement in planning and development was also emphasised. Finally, some respondents expressed scepticism about the feasibility of the proposed principles, citing past experiences of unfulfilled promises.



Principle 1 - Make space for nature

The code will provide design guidance for access to and conserving green space, tree planting, hedge planting, and sustainable urban drainage to absorb rainwater within natural planted areas.

Principle 1 - Make Space for Nature: Aspects that will make the biggest difference

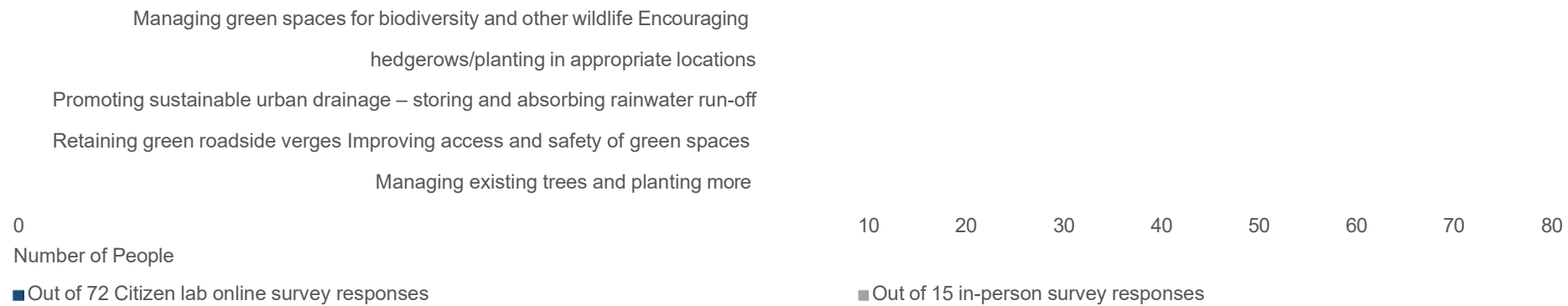


Controlling excessive loss of front gardens to front driveway parking

Tackling hard paved surfaces that overheat Exploring opportunities for communities

to care for their immediate surroundings Climbing plants on blank walls and blank

areas of buildings



The citizens' responses on this principle reveal a strong emphasis on biodiversity, green spaces, and environmental sustainability. A recurring theme is the need for more trees and greenery, with several respondents suggesting the planting of fruit trees, trees planted specifically for providing shade in the summer and the creation of more green spaces, micro parks on spare land pockets and mini woodland areas at parks. The idea of planting trees along roads to improve air quality and provide natural cooling was proposed and more planting and biodiversity at Nuns Way Park and Pulley Park was suggested.

The importance of maintaining biodiversity was highlighted, with suggestions for leaving tree stumps as habitats for wildlife, promoting urban wildlife, and creating hedgehog highways. However, some respondents expressed concern about the balance between biodiversity and aesthetics, arguing that some green spaces are currently unattractive and poorly maintained.

Accessibility was another key issue, with calls for inclusive disabled access and the maintenance of clear paths and pavements. Some respondents suggested that untidy green spaces can encourage littering and fly-tipping and called for these areas to be kept neat.

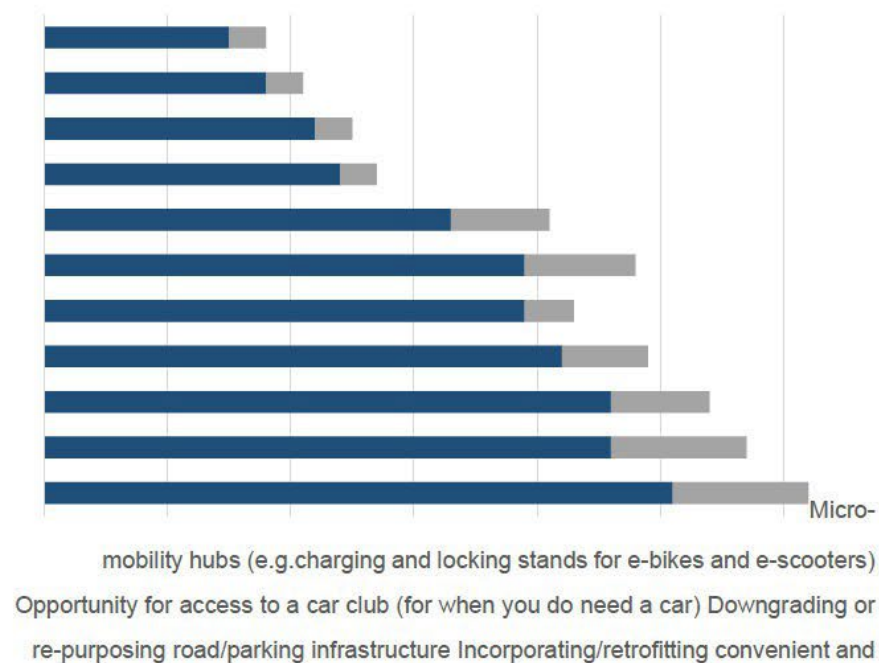
The idea of allotments and food growing was mentioned by several respondents, as was the need for play areas. Other suggestions included limiting the use of pesticides; ensuring green waste collection; hedgehog highways; planting pollinator public gardens, grass grid permeable parking spaces to enable drainage and avoid flooding; water storage (e.g. near or under playing fields and parkland with solar/wind powered sprinkler or other watering systems) for public green spaces; and providing wooden seating in public spaces.



Principle 2 - Prioritise walking and cycling

The code will promote creating a safe joined-up network for walking and cycling that can be combined with green space and nature.

Principle 2 - Prioritise Walking and Cycling: Aspects that will make the biggest difference



15

3

0

Number of People ■ Out of 72 Citizen lab online survey responses

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

■ Out of 15 in-person survey responses

The majority of the responses from the citizens on this principle revolve around the need for better cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Many respondents emphasised the importance of creating walking and cycling routes that are well-connected, safe, and prioritised over car traffic.

There were also concerns about the management of e-scooters and the need for their proper use and storage. Some respondents suggested the need for better lighting on pavements and cycle routes, especially in darker areas, barriers on pavements are removed, the provision of more cut throughs and signposting, separate paths for cycles/walking and more pedestrian crossings.

A significant number of respondents expressed concerns about the potential reduction of parking and the perceived anti-car sentiment. They argued that cars are still necessary for many people and that reducing parking could create further problems.

There were also calls for better maintenance of existing infrastructure, such as fixing potholes on pathways, gritting and provision of grit boxes in winter and improving the quality of cycle paths.

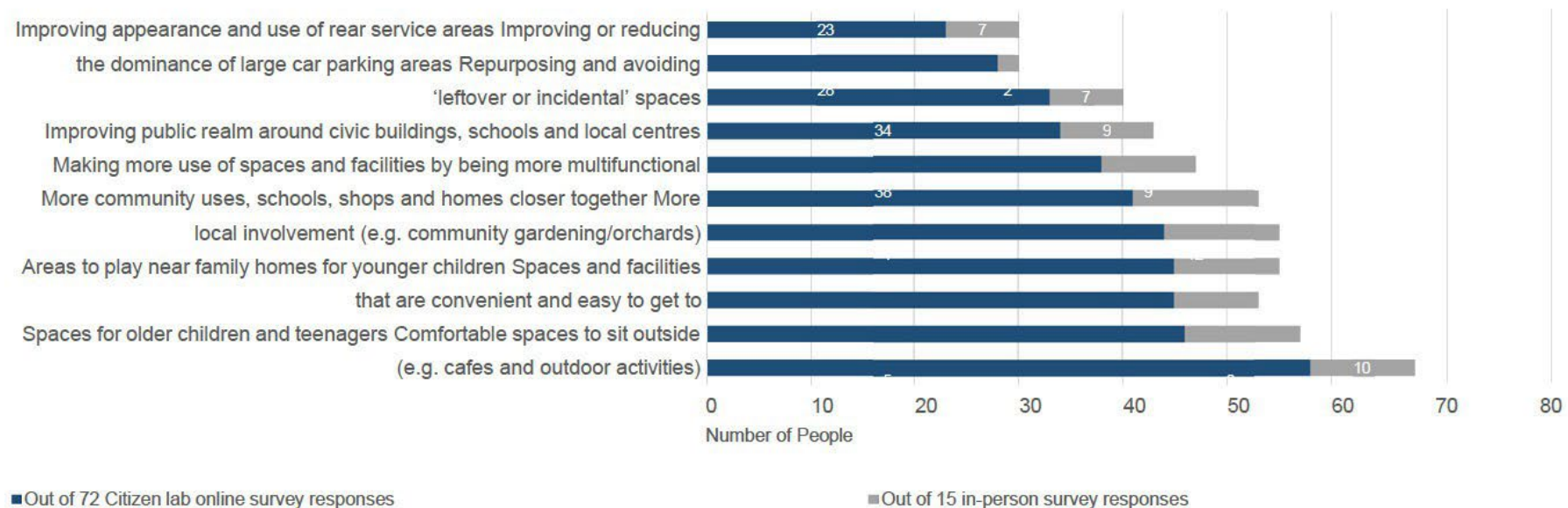
Finally, some respondents highlighted the need for measures to reduce bike theft, the provision of more cycle and mobility vehicle locking storage facilities and charging points and the need for better public transport information. There was a suggestion for making walking more interesting for children and adults: with coloured lines and stepping stones.



Principle 3 - Thriving public spaces

The code will provide guidance for well-integrated public spaces and local community facilities next to homes that can help to support businesses and bring people together.

Principle 3- Thriving Public Spaces: Aspects that would make the biggest difference



Citizens have proposed a variety of ideas and suggestions on this principle. A recurring theme is the need for more inclusive and diverse spaces. Several respondents highlighted the need for spaces that cater to different demographics, including older children, teenagers, and people without children.

The importance of preserving and enhancing natural spaces was also frequently mentioned. Some citizens suggested that certain areas should be left "unpurposed" and wild for biodiversity and water runoff, while others emphasised the need to protect existing habitats. The idea of incorporating biodiversity into every decision was also proposed.

Several respondents expressed the need for additional local amenities and services, such as shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants, outdoor gyms as well as community centres. The need for more local involvement in decision-making and management of resources was also highlighted.

Safety and antisocial behaviour were also raised as issues, with suggestions for better enforcement against antisocial behaviour and prompt attention to derelict sites. The need for comfortable and accessible seating was also mentioned.

In terms of specific amenities, suggestions included the inclusion of churches and religious centres in civic spaces; the provision of allotments, equipment (tool libraries), toilets and water fountain; more lighting, flowers, bushes and dog litter bin on streets; and the addition of info/map boards and recycling bins at key locations.

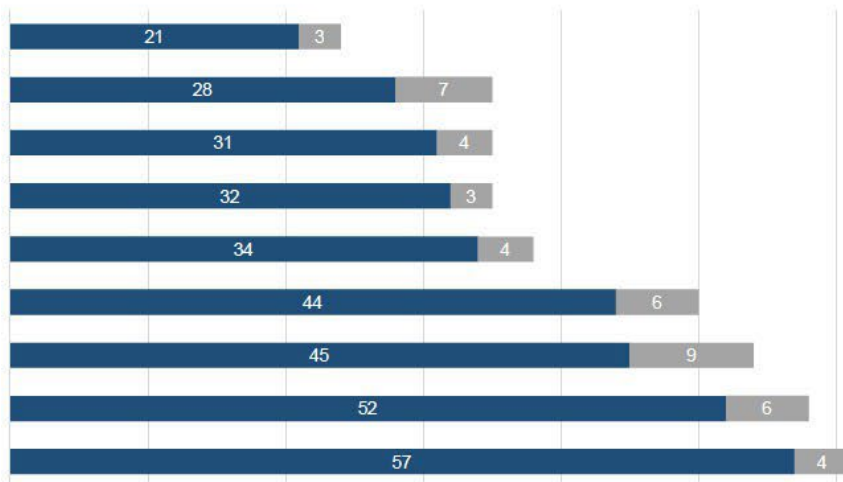
The need for cultural events, shared working spaces and after school activities was also mentioned. More things to do in public spaces, including physical activities, was suggested. The need for St Albans Way recreation ground needs to have more play equipment and renewing the Kings Hedges Pulley Park to meet the different age group's needs was also mentioned.



Principle 4 – Enhance character

The code will promote strengthening the green and leafy character of the area, maintaining gentle scale, and providing a mix of homes suitable for different generations.

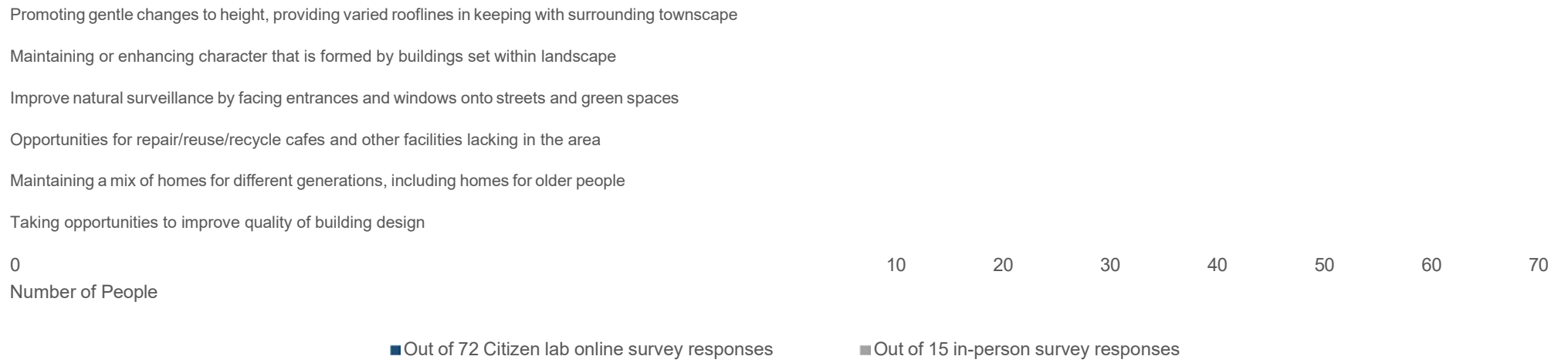
Principle 4 -Enhance Character: Aspects that would make the biggest difference



Memorable building designs and building groups in key destinations

Designing safeguards in areas of change (front garden, boundary treatments, amenity provision etc.)

Materials and finishes that allow for the creation of distinctive buildings



The citizens' responses reveal a few key trends.

Firstly, there is a strong sentiment against the construction of buildings that are "distinctive and memorable" for the wrong reasons. Many respondents expressed concern about the recent trend of constructing modern buildings that do not fit with their surroundings and are considered low quality and not user-friendly. They argue that buildings should be compatible in terms of design and materials rather than being distinctive. There was also a concern about tall buildings that are domineering.

Secondly, there is a call for more green spaces and communal areas. Respondents suggested that these areas should be equipped with enough seats for parents to watch their children or for elderly people to rest. They also proposed the provision of more shared communal indoor and outdoor spaces, such as guest accommodation, allotments, gardens, pubs, and community centres.

Thirdly, there is a desire for more mixed-density buildings with different purposes. However, there is also a concern about the increase in housing density, with some respondents arguing that this leads to congestion and a decrease in green spaces. For reasons of safety, a closer integration of homes, businesses, cafes and public spaces that attract activities and keeps the area busy rather than just residential only areas were suggested.

Lastly, there is a call for more citizen involvement in the approval of building designs. Some respondents suggested that the people who live in the areas should be the ones to define "character".

In terms of energy usage and sustainability, some respondents suggested the need for design safeguards to improve energy usage and to ensure that air source heat pumps do not annoy neighbours. There were also calls for energy retrofitting.

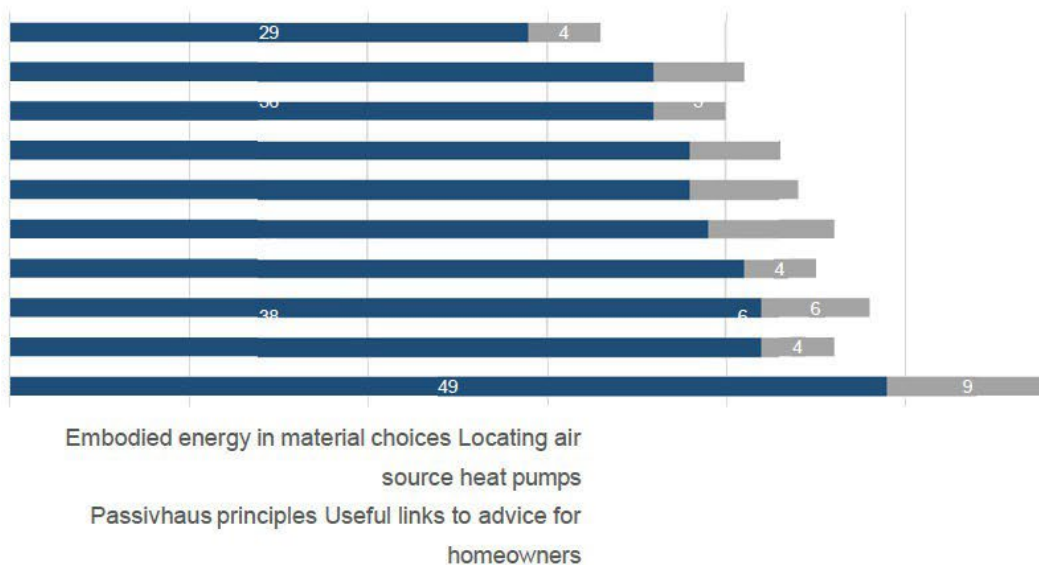
Overall, the responses indicate a desire for more citizen involvement in the design process, a focus on compatibility with surroundings rather than distinctiveness, the provision of more green and communal spaces, better lit and better maintained streets lined with trees, more small shops in Arbury / Kings Hedges and a community café and a consideration of energy usage and sustainability in building designs.

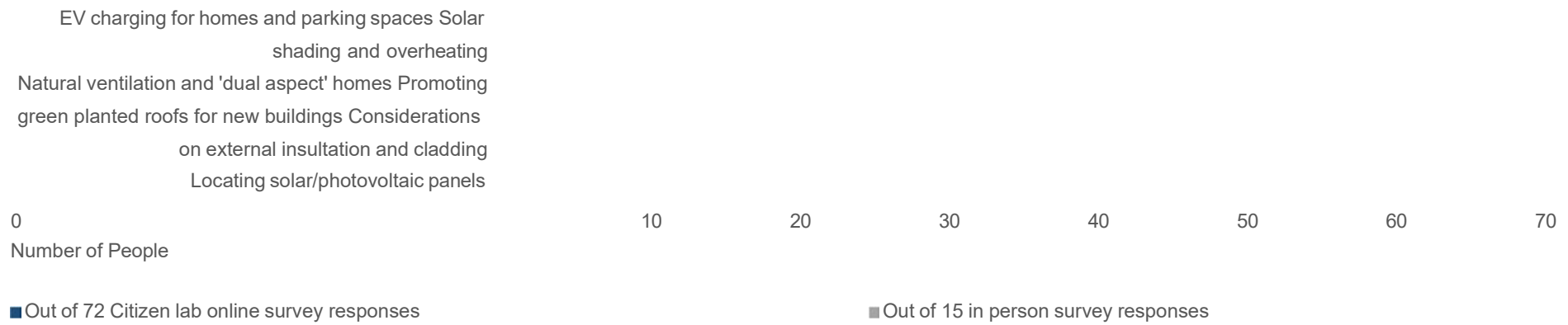


Principle 5 – Increase sustainability

The code will promote access to public transport and provide sustainability guidance for new buildings, as well as the improvement of existing ones.

Principle 5- Increase Sustainability: Aspects that will make the biggest difference





The responses from the citizens on principle 5 reveal a strong interest in sustainable energy solutions. The most frequently mentioned ideas revolve around the use of heat pumps, particularly ground source heat pumps and air source heat pumps and their installation at a wider (street/community) level.

There is also a strong emphasis on the use of solar panels, suggestions of encouraging (even subsidising) solar panels on existing roof space, and the need for careful planning in their installation to maximise their efficiency. Some respondents also suggested the use of district heating to improve efficiency.

In addition to these, there were suggestions for innovative ways to conserve energy, such as using natural water flows and the use of natural cooling from tree cover or colour choice for roads and roofs to stop heat islands; forming community electric car clubs; external insulation of homes.

There were also calls for financial support for homeowners installing sustainable energy sources, and for the council to facilitate bulk buying of sustainable energy equipment.

However, some respondents expressed confusion about the terminology used in the survey, suggesting a need for clearer communication about the proposed measures.

Appendix C – Minutes of the Disability Consultative Panel

To note the first 4 pages contain redactions because they relate to two other confidential pre-application schemes (unrelated to the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton) which were reviewed at the meeting.



Disability Consultative Panel

Tuesday, 30 January 2024

14:00 – 16:30

Venue

**Room Swansley A&B, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne
and via Microsoft 'Teams'**

Notes

Attendees

Mark Taylor	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (Chair)
Sue Simms	Former Housing Officer
Katie Roberts	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (Notes)
Jean White	Retired City Council employee
Betty Watts	Cambridge Deaf Association
John Taylor	Resident
Aaron Coe	Principal Planner, CIP and SCIP Projects (for presentation 1)
John Shuttlewood	Planning Enforcement Officer (for presentation 2)
Trovine Monteiro	Team Leader – Built Environment (for presentation 3)

Apologies

Jane Renfrew, David Baxter, Alex Innes, Rosalind Bird

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Presentation 3: Inspired living: A Design Code for Northern Cambridge Neighbourhood

Presenters

Alexis Butterfield – Lead Consultant/Partner, Pollard Thomas Edward architects

The Design Code for Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods is a pilot design code, which is developing and testing a consultative approach to developing coding principles for existing residential areas of Arbury, Kings Hedges, and parts of West Chesterton in Cambridge. AB explained that the aim is to understand and test how design coding can apply at an area wide scale in existing neighbourhoods within Greater Cambridge, to conduct robust community engagement, and investigate how design codes can provide strategic vision and address placemaking challenges. He commented that the post-war estates were developed in a piecemeal fashion without an overarching vision, drawing attention to poor design of some of the existing buildings, the poor accessibility and the poorly overlooked landscapes. AB explained the approach to develop a code without a masterplan, which does not target known or fixed outcomes. He also commented on the 5-month engagement process, involving in-person workshops, a school project and online engagement. The draft code will soon be posted online for final comments. A survey was conducted seeking views on different elements of the neighbourhood, including the design of buildings, green spaces, cycling and public transport use, which determined the 5 principles that will be developed.

AB explained that it would be helpful for him and his team to understand what they should be prioritising to ensure equality of access to the various spaces. He added that they are conscious that many of the homes are not very accessible and it would be interesting to learn how whether it would

be more beneficial to invest in improving the fabric of the existing estate buildings or undertake something more significant and provide new, potentially more accessible, homes.

Panel comments

- JT commented that pavements and walkways would be a priority for disabled people, as well as the shopping centre.
- SS added that the structure of many of the buildings would need to be addressed.
- In response to comments from Panel members and other consultees, AB mentioned that the perspective around the reliance on taxis was important. He mentioned that an option is perhaps to downgrade the road directly around the Arbury Town centre itself to improve crossing at that point (there has been a focus on connectivity between crossing points), adding that it currently feels very cut off, which does not help it to thrive.
- In response to comments by the Chair, AB mentioned that he would check that the team is emphasising the inclusivity of the spaces involved because of the benefit of good social interactions on mental health.
- The Chair mentioned that the community mini bus and dial-a-ride is very important because of their role is enabling disabled people to access inclusive activities.
- AB mentioned that, in terms of next steps, the proposals would be discussed at a public consultation on 5 February, which would provide with the opportunity for Panel members to make further comments on the live consultation.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking AB very much for his presentation.

Appendix D – Joint Design Review by the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and Cambridgeshire Quality Panel



The Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel & Cambridgeshire County Council Quality Panel Joint Design Review

Inspired Living: Cambridge Northern Neighbourhoods Design Code

Thursday 25 January 2024, Hybrid meeting

Meeting venue: Monkfield Room, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne CB23 6EA

Confidential

The [Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth](#) sets out the core principles for the level of quality to be expected in new development across Cambridgeshire. The [Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel](#) provides independent, expert advice to developers and local planning authorities against the four core principles of the Charter: connectivity, character, climate, and community.

Attendees Panel

Members:

Russell Brown (Chair) – Founding Partner of Hawkins\Brown Architects
Maggie Baddeley (Character, Community) - Planner and Chartered Surveyor
Hero Bennett (Character, Climate) - Principal Sustainability Consultant, Partner, Max Fordham
Nicholas Anderson (Character, Connectivity) – Chartered Civil Engineer and retired South East Development Lead at Aecom
Lynne Sullivan (Character, Architecture) - Architect, LSA Studio, Chair Good Homes Alliance
June Barnes (Character, Community) – Chair, Hornsey Housing Trust/Member of Jersey Architecture Commission
John Dales (Character, Connectivity) – Director, Urban Movement Limited
Lindsey Wilkinson (Character, Landscape) – Landscape Architect, Lindsey Wilkinson Landscape Architecture

Design Team:

Trovine Monteiro – Design Code Pathfinder Lead, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning
Alexis Butterfield – Lead Consultant/Partner, Pollard Thomas Edward Architects (PTE)

LPA Officers:

Bonnie Kwok – Design Review Panel Manager
Katie Roberts – Executive Assistant / Design Review Panel Support Officer
Tom Davies – Design Review Panel Manager
Emma Davies – Sustainability Officer
Bana El Zein – Landscape Officer
Clare Spencer – Planning Policy Officer

Observer(s):

Robin Nicholson - Chair of the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel, Fellow of Edward Cullinan Architects

Declarations of Interest :

Lindsey Wilkinson and Maggie Baddeley are Design Council Experts supporting the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) Pathfinder programme, but their involvement excludes this particular project (DLUHC is the government department that funds this project). Lindsey Wilkinson also knows Alexis in a professional capacity – they both serve the National Trust's Specialist Advisory Groups. It was decided that the above are not considered to be conflict of interest.

Scheme Visit

The Panel gained a great deal from the site visit on 25 January 2024, as even the Cambridge residents were not familiar with this part of Cambridge city. The outstanding features were the sheer amount of open space and grass (rather than nature) and its lack of visible purpose. The Panel could also begin to understand the impact of car parking and significant blockages in the cycle and pedestrian routes. The Panel could see opportunities for some development sites by removing the garages. By directly experiencing the edge of Park at the edge of the Kingsway Estate Arbury Town Centre, the Panel was able to better understand some of the more detailed proposals involved in the Opportunities Framework.

Design Review Format

Given the nature of this extended Panel, operating more as a workshop to advise the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP), the responses from the PTE have been included in this document but the further comments made after the meeting have not been included in this note, although they are available to the GCSP team.

Introduction

Trovine Monteiro, the Design Code Project Lead, introduced the session and explained the purpose of the Design Code and its funding and terms of reference as a piece of research. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) obtained funding as part of the National Design Code Pathfinder Pilot Project from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and New Communities (DLUHC). He set the following questions for the Panel to answer/respond to:

- 1) Is the Code clear and able to be understood (and implementable) by the general public, or residents of the area?
- 2) Has the Code balanced proposals for large/long term strategic change with short-term incremental change?
- 3) Is the difference between ad hoc/organic and strategic/planned changes clear?

- 4) Does it respond to the different characters of the different areas, and the different housing layouts and status of the fabric?
- 5) Is it clear about the difference between the Arbury and King Hedges, for instance?
- 6) What does the Panel see as the next stage in the process? Is the Code robust enough to be a useful tool for development control.
- 7) Is the Code clear about what building/spaces should be kept and adopted, and what could be removed?
- 8) The Code is it clear in how it defines the movement of traffic, cycles, and pedestrians through the different areas, and how routes are linked or blocked.
- 9) Has it clearly identified and rated the quantity/usefulness of the public spaces?

Alexis Butterfield, Lead Consultant from Pollard Thomas Edward Architects, introduced the Panel to the Study Area, and the Term of Reference of the Project:

The Design Code is a pilot project that aims to develop and test a Consultative approach to development coding principles for an existing residential area. It is intended that the lessons learnt from both producing and then using the Code will influence policy and development control for other areas of Cambridge. The choice of area was based on earlier characterisation study and was chosen as an example of an area that:

- is experiencing pressure for change
- is economically deprived despite its 'leafy' suburban appearance
- there is no other design quality guidance

The Estate had been selected as a post-war estate, where the development had been quite quick but at different times bound around funding opportunities and the urban design trends of the time. As a result, the parts of the Estate are very disjointed. The housing has been mostly developed between 1953 and 1992, and little has happened since.

Arbury Town Centre used to be more "tight-nit", and better connected to the school and playground, for instance. The tree lined streets with houses facing across the street are legible and successful. Less successful areas are the blocks of flats with no ground floor use and rear servicing, they also block an original route/losing an important pedestrian link. There are also areas of housing built around courtyards and overlooking open space with no road frontage, with rear access to parking or garages. The vast areas of poorly used green space are a major issue (and a local priority to retain). A good deal of the building fabric has reached the end of its useful life (e.g. Kings Hedges), and a large number do not achieve the "Decent Homes Standard". A great deal of the green spaces is protected by current Cambridge Local Plan policies, but they are poorly used and of low quality. The area is still rated as having 'poor tree cover'.

The study area is an area of severe deprivation, which is close to areas of considerable wealth. The physical disconnection of road and pathways reinforces this sense of isolation.

The car ownership is relatively low, with 70% owning one car. It is perceived as safe to park a car in the street, but there is a preference to park on a drive or close to the house. There is very little bus use, this is due to a combination of factors, including a poor/infrequent service, few pedestrian routes through the estate to the bus stop.

Approach

- 1) This is a Design Code that stops short of a masterplan. Is, a broad masterplan or more focused area studies the next logical step?
- 2) Is the purpose of the Code to impose rules? There is a discussion to be had on whether the phrased "must" and "should" are the right approach and how this relates to the existing planning policy?
- 3) The draft Code has tried to identify a selective series of principles, that are based on the priorities that emerge from the consultation. Are there gaps or omissions in those principles?

- 4) The Code is trying to establish "the ground rules for change" and encourage short term/smaller scale change to come from within the community. Is this approach at odds with broader more strategic moves?

Consultation

It was an objective set out in the bid to DLUHC to use a "robust, genuine community engagement and participative process for area wide coding, engaging effectively with the community and stakeholders".

- 1) The consultancy period has taken five months and is ongoing to the end of March 2024.
- 2) Although there were face-to-face presentations, including three public workshops and in person engagement events; these were poorly attended. There has been much better take up through online questionnaires, using Citizens Lab (There is also a sense that the take up of online contacts gets a response from a wider audience). It is also an objective of the project to explore what digitization could mean for a design code particularly in terms of community engagement and making an accessible document.
- 3) There was also consultation with a core group, and local schools. The consultation with Grove School with the help the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service (YES) was highly successful, engaging over 100 students and parents. It yielded lots of visual material and some more interesting ideas around the five main principles.
- 4) The consultation established five priorities that were adopted as the guiding principles for the code:
 - i. Make space for nature.
 - ii. Promote cycling and walking.
 - iii. Vibrant public spaces.
 - iv. Enhance character (of specific areas).
 - v. Increase sustainability.

Applying the Design Code

- 1) The Design Code is intended to become a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- 2) It will be used by development managers/local planning teams and should be used by local residents.
- 3) It should encourage community-led change and collaborative design.
- 4) It should be (relatively) flexible, as there is no masterplan. However, it can identify opportunities (and issues).
- 5) It sets a target of 10% biodiversity net gain, with no "off-siting".
- 6) It identifies water responsiveness as a major issue.
- 7) It seeks to establish a hierarchy of public spaces and seek cultural sustainability through the location of users.
- 8) It encourages enclosure and focal points. The current spaces are very "leaky". Better defined streets, and spaces could avoid the "strange sameness", and lack of variety of individual homes.
- 9) The consultation was negative about any increase in the scale of building, describing 5/6 storey flats as "out of scale" and "lumpy". The Design Code uses the phrase "gentle density".

Panel Questions

Maggie Baddeley (Character, Community)

- 1) How is the Design Code going to be used and enforced. If it is to be an SPD, it will be difficult for it to go beyond Local and National Planning policy.
- 2) Has the County Council been involved, particularly in the discussion around changing the designation of roads? (Response: The Council has attended some meetings and agreed in principle to the downgrading of Arbury Road).
- 3) Has the consultation addressed "Making Space for Girls"? (Response: so far consultation around play space has been gender blind).

Hero Bennett (Character, Climate)

- 1) Are there any drainage issues across the site and how has water resilience been addressed as a critical issue for Cambridge? (Response: flooding has not been identified as an issue through the consultation).
- 2) Is there guidance on the use of air source heat pumps in the Code? (Response: air source heat pumps have been considered as visual obstructions when they are installed in front gardens).

Nicholas Anderson (Character, Connectivity)

- 1) Why are people not using the public transport more regularly? (Response: footpaths do not easily lead to the bus stops or create accessible/desirable routes linking the housing to the main roads. Bus services are poor across the whole of Cambridge, buses are often infrequent. There are few bus stops in the study area and they are not conveniently placed.

John Dales (Character, Connectivity)

- 1) What were the findings about parking provision and garage use? (Response: residents parking habits were collected via surveys and observation. It is suspected that most garages are used for storage and do not contain cars. As a result, the areas around the garages are heavily parked. People feel it is safe to park in the streets).

Russell Brown (Character, Chair)

Accepting the forms of reference of the project, is there a danger that by entirely focusing the priorities and principles of the Design Code on the desires of the locals, it will fail to make a Design Code that addresses the wider issues of the housing shortage, the poor state of a lot of the fabric, potential intensification with taller buildings, more regional/national sustainability issues. (Response: the team accept that they are 'walking a tightrope' between local and national pressures and are aiming to encourage community, based change. In the short term in response to the terms of reference of the project. One local person did suggest that new homes were needed to address the housing shortage).

Panel Discussion & Comments

June Barnes

- 1) Suggested that the Design Code document could set out the wider issues in an introduction (being more honest?) and explain to the local residents the need for introducing change, the better use of land in the context of a (national and) local housing shortage, and how increased density could bring inward investment and positively contribute to 'thriving public spaces' that could enhance the character of the area.
- 2) There is also the need to address the failing fabric in houses that are 50-60 years old.

Maggie Baddeley

- 1) Sustainability is well covered in the draft Design Code, but there needs to be more detail on how the principles of sustainability can be achieved in this particular location. The Design Code should include guidance on climate resistance, district heating networks (see below) water management etc.
- 2) The team might need to reflect on what are the roles and responsibilities for officers, architects, developers, residents in implementing the Design Code. How does it address each of these users/audiences? How will the guidance be used across the different scales of potential development? For instance, how are house holder developments, that do require planning permission, dealt within the Design Code?
- 3) Agreed that the structure of the Code works well and that the 'must' (where consistent with development plan policies) and 'should' (providing further detail) approach is a good way of expressing the different priority of the aims.
- 4) The Code might help explain the different character of the areas by explaining more about the 'historic' sequence of development and the different design guidance at the time.
- 5) A target of 20% Biodiversity Net Gain should be included in the Design Code, noting that the statutory requirement is 10% and the emerging local plan refers to 20%.

- 6) Other Pathfinder Projects precedents, such as Brent/Staples Corner and the Beacontree Estate, might give useful positive examples of change.
- 7) There was discussion as to how real and imaginary images and diagrams are used, and whether they could be more specifically labelled/more local to Cambridge, without being seen as threatening to local people?
- 8) The word 'rule' might be misunderstood or misleading, other terms might convey a better message. 'Objectives' might be preferable?

Hero Bennett

- 1) The Design Code is very clear but in the sustainability section the headings are a bit repetitive and some of the recommendations are not robust enough e.g. water responsiveness.
- 2) There could be a stronger emphasis on whole life carbon assessment and the opportunities for retention (and upgrade) of the housing or infill between retained buildings, where new homes could be built without extensive demolition.
- 3) If Passivhaus principles are suggested, then Certification is required (applying some of the principles selectively has not been successful).
- 4) If demolition is necessary because buildings are poorly planned or in the wrong place, then can the materials be reused.
- 5) Check the orientation of all the diagrams/graphics.
- 6) Can more PV panels be installed on the roofs of the 3D images, to show it as standard?
- 7) Can the Design Code signpost people to the tree sponsor programme.
- 8) Have cargo bikes been considered when proposing cycle routes?
- 9) Even with some intensification, it is unlikely that any part of the area will be dense enough to support a distinct heating system.
- 10) The Design Code could encourage a 'retrofit first approach'.

John Dales

- 1) Liked the way the Design Code was structured, but always using 6 pages and the use of 'must' and 'should' for cycling and walking seem a bit contrived?

- 2) The Principles do not seem to prioritise cycling and walking, over driving?
There, should be a principle around 'sustainable movement', reducing car dominance and the spatial impact of static vehicles.
- 3) The Design Code should include what needs doing and no-one else is going to do and issues that are not on the public radar, e.g. how can spatial efficiency be achieved, and who owns/manages the landscape.

Nicholas Anderson

- 1) How will change be delivered? it is critical that the County Council continue to be involved.
- 2) Can there be more about wayfinding (This is difficult without a masterplan)

Lindsey Wilkinson

- 1) The emerging Design Code is clear and robust in terms of landscape.
- 2) The first (and most significant) principle is to "make space for nature". There is a lot of space for nature - but no nature for space! Is the principle aiming for better access to green space (such as it is). Is the Design Code aiming to re-allocate space (for nature) or make new space or better integrate space?
- 3) There are a whole range of types of space that could invite nature into the Estate, there is accessible nature, integrated nature, transition nature, links with nature outside the site. The Design Code needs to be 'super clear' about what it is proposing.
- 4) The principle of 'thriving' needs to be explored and better explained so that its meaning is better understood i. e. is this an active public realm of open spaces adding value by their role. What does, "enhanced character" mean? These ideas need to be worked through in more detail, for instance "leafy character" what does this mean, the Code needs to define it for this site.
- 5) The landscape is everywhere but what is it contributing? (even though it is protected)
- 6) Could these principles be better defined by annotated sketches or photographs?

- 7) A detailed tree survey would help define the quality of the green spaces. This could inform guidance on what could be removed, and what should be retained/retain the same.
- 8) The Design Code needs to identify who will be responsible for managing the green spaces (both formally and informally), clarifying legal ownership and information ownership e.g. the strip of grass outside someone's home or between the pavement and the road in front of a house. It needs to establish the value of the green spaces (green or hard standing) and to encourage/allow different places to have different quantities.
- 9) A good precedent is the Beacontree historic estate, which could provide useful examples of how to achieve change within a constrained framework.

June Barnes

- 1) It is important that the Design Code helps people to understand why the Estate is the way it is, this will help people understand where change is appropriate.
- 2) Mapping the Tenure/Ownership of all the land and housing will help identify where opportunities are.
- 3) The edges of this area will already have pressures to be redeveloped. can this be used a positive source of potential funding if properly controlled?
- 4) A masterplan for the whole area may be a waste of time, more focused studies may be able to find more specific solutions.
- 5) Detailed neighbouring based masterplans could identify areas that have more potential for change anxious to change i.e. the garages. This would allow the local authority to focus their resources on areas where change could be most effective.
- 6) The consultation has told us some interesting things. These are early days, can the consultation continue, and as poor areas of housing get poorer could change become more popular?

Lynne Sullivan

- 1) There is not enough in the Design Code that properly defines the character of each part of the Estate, and what is meant by terms like 'leafy'?

- 2) Could the Design Code introduce a series of "dos and don'ts", where the current spaces conflict with the principles. Is the extent of the green spaces and their poor quality the "elephant in the room"?
- 3) The Design Code needs to establish a vision for change that does not lose the feel of a "leafy suburb" there is not enough guidance about how the open spaces can become more legible, how they can encourage connectiveness, how they can add to the experience of the place.
- 4) Is the ecological corridor missing from the Code?
- 5) Since the 1970s, the use and size of cars have changed, and the garages are likely to be used for domestic storage. This could be illustrated in the Code as a driver and opportunity for change.
- 6) The nature of the roadways has also evolved and will continue to change, a movement strategy is essential part of the Design Code.
- 7) The Movement Strategy can inform and reinforce the landscape quality. The Movement Strategy needs to recognise the importance of the street and the various linkages (This is affected by the under provision of public transport).
- 8) Are these areas of SLOP (Spaces left over after planning)? Can new public spaces (using existing or new space) be enhanced by new routes to create the thriving public spaces?
- 9) Is there new criteria for parking in the light of changing lifestyles and changes in ownership? Can the community facilities be improved by better servicing and car parking (an example is the buildings in the park)?
- 10) Either a pilot study or better models for retrofitting the housing, could help inspire homeowners.
- 11) Identifying opportunities or an opportunities framework (as proposed) is a better way of exploring specific study areas, rather than a broad-based masterplan.
- 12) Densification would make a stronger case for better public transport links.
- 13) A useful guide to the future development of the landscape would be an Action Plan, starting with an evaluation of the current issues and opportunities and an appraisal of the quality (in the Design Code) and then suggesting opportunities and precedents as next a step.

Chair's Summary

- 1) The Panel congratulates PTE and GCSP and their team, for all their hard work and tackling a difficult task. The consultation has been very thorough, and the use of the internet seems to have got a better response than the standard evening presentations, and perhaps has reached a wider audience. A big question for GCSP is how will change be delivered and what are the next steps to help achieve the principles and opportunities identified by the study.
- 2) It is understood that the priorities and principles emerged through engagement with residents do not reflect an order of importance. Hence, they should not be traded off against each other. They should address the wider issues of the housing shortage, the poor state of a lot of the fabric, potential intensification and more regional/national sustainability issues as well.
- 3) Is the best way to encourage/enable/support improvement to focus on specific areas or instigate pilot studies, like upgrading examples where the fabric of buildings is failing? Or a development project replacing the garages or a landscape-based project?
- 4) The Panel understands that the terms of reference set for the project set a focus on a consultation-led approach looking for the short-term changes to come from the community itself.
- 5) A number of members of the Panel have commented that the sustainability aspects of the Code could be more robust but could also embrace other aspects in other parts of the document like the public spaces or active travel.
- 6) More specifically, retrofitting existing homes needs some built examples, and a better explanation of how and where it could be successful. Could this be a pilot study as a next step?
- 7) The extensive green spaces are poorly defined, ownership is unclear, little used and poorly landscaped (even the tree canopy standards are low). The quote 'there is a lot of space for nature, but there is no nature in "the space "' is very opposite.

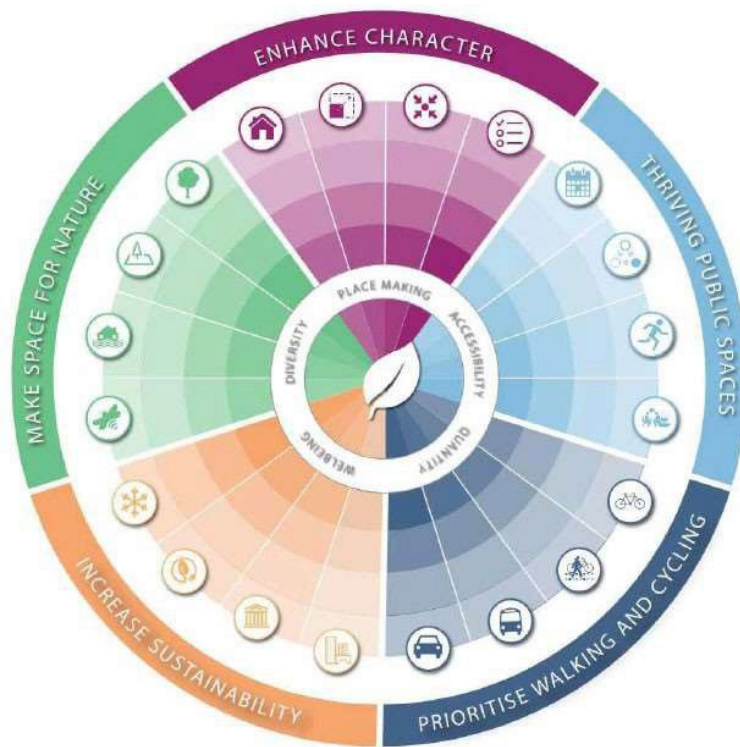
Design code study area



KEY

	Buildings
	Specific buildings
	Green spaces
	Study area

The 5 Design Code Principles



Youth engagement with the local community to inform the Design Code



Presenting urban design to year 5 and 6 students



Facilitator speaking to year 5 and 6 students on what they can imagine for Arbury Court



Judging of the bird box and bird feeder competition

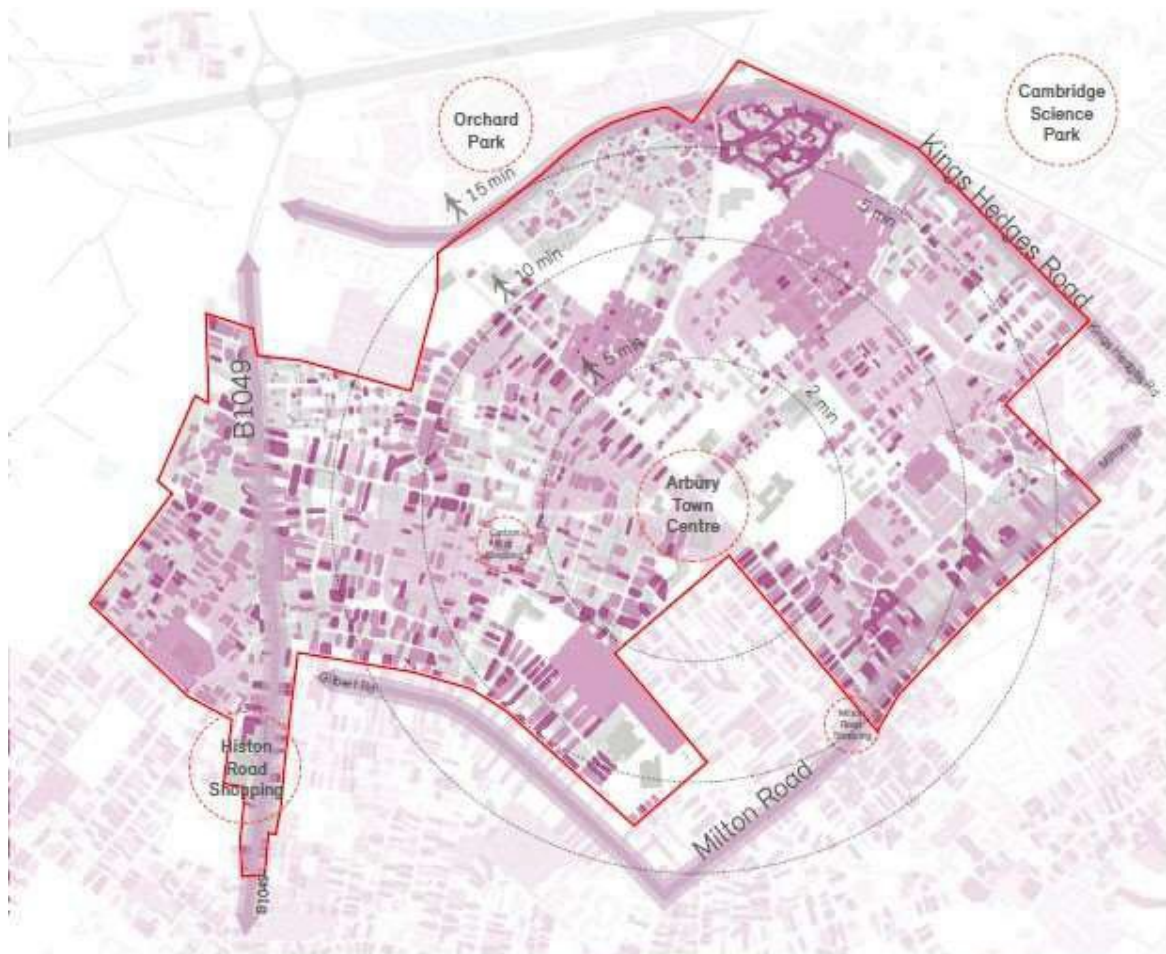


Councillors discussing the potential of Arbury Court



Judging of the drawing competition

Sustainable Homes Study – EPC Rating



KEY

	Band - A-C
	Band - D-F
	Band - G
	Study Area

Design Code Opportunities Framework



KEY



Priority improvements for walking and cycling to link across the area



Access, play and frontage improvements to Kings Hedges Park



Improved access, frontages and walking and cycling links between Nuns Way and the recreation ground, college and science park



Urban greening and environmental improvements including potential for more mix uses in the centre



Town centre improvements to support central local character and help bring together the mix of shops, religious and community, health, education uses and homes

Disclaimer

The above comments represent the views of the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and the Cambridgeshire County Council Quality Panel, and are made without prejudice to the determination of any future planning applications relevant to the Design Code should one be submitted. Furthermore, the views expressed will not bind the decision of Elected Members, should a planning application relevant to the Design Code be submitted, nor prejudice the formal decision-making process of the council.

Appendix E – Youth Engagement Report



Built & Natural Environment Team

Youth Engagement Report

Site visit address:	Arbury Court, Cambridge
Proposals:	North Cambridge Design Code
Case Officer:	Trovine Monteiro
Date of Youth Engagement Workshop:	Workshop 1 - Tuesday 9 January 2024 Workshop 2 - Wednesday 17 January 2024
School:	The Grove Primary School, Cambridge

1.0 Purpose of the Youth Engagement Workshop

Alignment with National Planning Policy Framework (2023):

Paragraph 16 writes that plans should be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees.

Paragraph 128 writes that to provide maximum clarity about design expectations at an early stage, all local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences. Design guides and codes provide a local framework for creating beautiful and distinctive places with a consistent and high quality standard of design.

Paragraph 129 writes that all guides and codes should be based on effective community engagement and reflect local aspirations for the development of their area, taking into account the guidance contained in the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code.

Alignment with the National Curriculum:

The activities are designed to align with Key Stage 2 National Curriculum subjects science, art and design, geography, design and technology and citizenship to ensure relevance and educational value.

Specifically, officers are interested in obtaining local youths' views on the draft Design Code for North Cambridge. It is also an opportunity to build their skills in urban design, planning &

architecture; develop their confidence in taking part in community consultation; provide advice on future study and career options in the built environment; familiarising the students with their part of the city; and understand the importance of social value.

2.0 Youth Engagement Framework

The Youth Engagement Workshop was designed based upon a framework developed by the Council's Youth Engagement Lead - *"Framework for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Youth Engagement"*. It considers the following four key areas which aim to benefit all those who takes part in the workshop:

- 1) Impact on the plan-and decision-making process
- 2) Process
- 3) Educational value
- 4) Practical factors

3.0 Youth engagement process

The youth engagement process was conducted in two parts:

Workshop 1:

On Tuesday 9 January 2024, 37 Year 5 students and 30 Year 6 students, two class teachers and several teaching assistants from The Grove Primary School took part in the Youth Engagement Workshop 1. The Workshop was led by the Council's Youth Engagement Lead Bonnie Kwok and supported by Youth Engagement Team members Tom Davies and Maxine Ross, Trovine Monteiro and Mahrukh Awan, a Youth Engagement Researcher from Oxford Brookes University, Simon Leher and Michele Lewis from the council. From the masterplanner's team, Alexis Butterfield, Partner at Pollard Thomas Edwards and William Gorton, Architectural Assistant at Pollard Thomas Edwards attended. Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure and Mayor and ward Cllr. Jenny Gawthrope Wood also attended.

Introduction: A presentation setting out the purpose of the workshop was given to the participants, it introduced the draft Design Code, covering Arbury, Kings Hedges & West Chesterton, how the work is based on the 10 characteristics of well-designed places in the National Design Guide. The draft Design Code is based around these 5 principles:

1. Make space for nature
2. Prioritise walking and cycling
3. Thriving public spaces
4. Enhance character
5. Increase sustainability

The presentation emphasised the importance of youth engagement and basic principles of good urban design and how it contributes to the concept of sustainability.

Careers Talk: Officers and guests then provided a talk on career options in the built and natural environment field. The purpose of this talk is to inspire the students to pursue a career in these areas. It is hoped that the students would be able to seek local employment at the proposed development when they have finished education.

Walkabout: Students then took part in a guided walk to explore the local neighborhoods around Arbury Court and Campkin Road and the journey from Arbury Court to their school.

Biodiversity: Students learnt about the concept of biodiversity at Arbury Court to be able to define biodiversity; consider the importance of biodiversity in creating sustainable communities; and reflect on efforts around the world to restore biodiversity.

Outdoor learning: In the classroom, the students were divided into 5 groups representing the 5 principles of the Design Code. They were asked to write about aspects of Arbury Court including the buildings; protecting the environment; plants, animals and natural spaces; play equipment; and walking and bike riding at Arbury Court. The students discussed the rationale for their chosen memorable things from the tour. This exercise aims to understand their favourite aspects of Arbury Court and areas for improvement.

The results of our research into the student's written answers indicate that the students best remembered the Budgens supermarket and fish and chip shop buildings and that Budgens was also their favourite building; For identifying things to help protect the environment of Arbury Town Centre, planting more trees and less littering were the most popular answers; proximity to the shops and park were given as the main reasons for the benefits of living near Arbury Town Centre; the provision of more litter bins and less car parking were popular ways to protect the environment. The most common kinds of plants, animals or natural spaces you can find at Arbury Town centre were identified as trees, bushes and birds; being near nature and animals help people relax, be healthier, provide entertainment and provide opportunities to grow food and plants. The children's favourite natural things and animals that they saw during the tour were trees, birds and squirrels.

The most popular different things for children and young people to do in Arbury Town centre were playing, shopping and walking. The most popular types of play equipment you can see in the local park are swings, slides and monkey bars with swings being the most popular. The most popular reasons for using the play equipment are because of having fun and how the speed / height is exciting. The most popular reasons why people wish to get to Arbury Town centre are for shopping, because they live there or for work reasons; the most popular ways for how people can get to Arbury town centre are bike, car and walking; the provision of better pavement / paths, signage and planted areas were identified as factors making it nicer or easier for children to walk or ride your bike to the town centre. The overall results are summarised in Tables 1 to 5 in the appendices.

Quiz: The students were then divided into small groups and took part in an interactive quiz, with prepared questions that are tailored to the Design Code and the Arbury Court area, covering the local history and some urban design principles. The purpose of this quiz was to reinforce their learning outcome and it was very well received.

Creative Design Competition: The students were divided into the 5 groups again and then asked to draw their favourite plants, animals or natural spaces; play space; the buildings at a town centre of the future; a building with sustainability features; and bicycle parking areas that they have seen or would like to see at Arbury Court and town centres.

Our analysis of the data in these drawings is that overall, the children identified 20 different features and their favourite features for Arbury Court and town centres are in the following order

(highest first): trees; buildings; animals; cycle standards; plants; benches; play equipment; street lamps; flowers and sign boards; people and walking paths. See tables 6 and 7 in the appendices.

10 boys participated and 21 girls participated in the drawing competition and we carried out a gender analysis of these findings, giving insight into the different and unique components that the boys and girls used to communicate their ideas about their town centre. Although only 10 boys participated, they identified 12 different features whereas girls identified a total of 16. See the 4 Charts in the appendices

In the masterplanner's summary of the 5 types of drawing, the children wanted to see:

- Space for people that provides homes and habitats for animals. This should include bees and other insects as well as larger animals and birds.
- Create attractive, welcoming cycling facilities that are a joy to use. The children included designs for bright indoor spaces, as well as outdoor stands integrated with trees and landscape.
- Children are often not inspired by large grassy areas and want more imaginative and varied play. This might include slides incorporated into the landscape, safe water play and places to meet and be together.
- Consider how sense of place engages all the senses. For example, the bakery is popular due to its distinctive and pleasant aroma.
- Sustainability combines many aspects of design. Many children wanted designs to collect water in shallow ponds which can contribute to recreation and habitat for animals.

Birdbox/Bird Feeder Design competition: The students constructed and painted birdboxes and bird feeders to help enhance the biodiversity value of North Cambridge.

Workshop 2:

On Wednesday 17 January 2024, the same group of 37 Year 5 students, 30 Year 6 students, Head Teacher, two class teachers and two teaching assistants and 16 parents, grandparents and guardians from the Grove Primary School took part in the second part of the youth engagement workshop. This workshop was led by the Council's Youth Engagement Team Lead Bonnie Kwok and supported by Team Members Tom Davies, Maxine Ross, Trovina Monteiro. Assistant Director of the GCSP Heather Jones attended. Alexis Butterfield also attended this workshop.

Art Exhibition: The workshop comprised an art exhibition showcasing the design work that had been produced by the students in Workshop 1. This exhibition was open to all parents and guardians. Both the students and their parents were very pleased to see their framed designs and Birdbox/Bird Feeders. The children took home their framed artwork, Birdbox/Bird Feeders and Certificates of Participation.



Feedback:

A survey was conducted with the students – 63 feedback forms were completed, the vast majority of students said that they had enjoyed both workshops, and had learnt something useful, including things that are not normally taught in school, such as careers in the built and natural environment fields. They wrote that the guided walkabout provided an enriching experience for them.

A survey was then carried out with adults which include teachers, parents, guardians and grandparents to understand their views on the effectiveness and usefulness of the youth engagement workshops. 16 feedback forms were completed. The response was also very positive. See Tables 6 and 7 for further information.

Overall, the design workshop was a success and nearly all the participants said that they had enjoyed taking part in the decision-making process. Certificates and prizes for five Design Code Principles (categories) were awarded to students in the following areas:

- Most Inclusive Design
- Best Graphic Design
- Most Creative Design
- Most Sustainable design
- Most Innovative design

All students received an award for taking part in the workshops.

4.0 Results

See drawings 1 to 5 for overall winners

Appendices

Tables 1 to 5 – Outdoor learning

Table 1 - Buildings

Children's outdoor learning analysis - buildings												
List 4 types of building you saw in Arbury Town Centre	Frequency											Total
Pet shop	1	1										2
Fruit shop	1											1
barber shop	1	1	1	1	1	1						6
Dorringtons bakery shop	1	1	1									3
Budgens supermarket	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Library	1	1	1	1	1							5
church	1	1										2
Flats	1	1										2
Fish and chips shop	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					7
Take away restaurant	1	1										2
Pharmacy	1											1
Dog grooming parlour	1											1
Which is your favourite building at Arbury Town Centre?	Frequency											Total
Greengrocers / Fruit shop	1	1										2
Budgens supermarket	1	1	1	1								4
library	1	1										2
Dorringtons bakery shop	1	1										2
barbers	1											1

Table 2 - Sustainability

Children's outdoor learning analysis - sustainability												
What are the different things that can help us protect the environment of Arbury Town Centre?	Frequency											Total
less pollution	1											1
no littering	1	1	1	1	1							5
plant more trees	1	1	1	1	1	1						6
no graffiti	1											1
No smoking	1	1										2
space for Planting	1	1										2
Bins	1	1	1	1								4
more plants / flowers	1	1										2
more grass / landscape	1	1										2
holes in the ground to find water	1											1
Activity centre	1											1
less cars	1											1
Fountains	1											1
Why is it a good idea to live near Arbury Town Centre?	Frequency											Total
Proximity to the park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				8
Proximity to shops	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					7
trees	1											1
near the school	1	1										2
Its clean	1											1
Friendly people	1											1
How can we protect the environment?	Frequency											Total
more trees / less cutting down trees	1	1	1									3
less cars	1	1	1									3
have more places to grow food	1											1
more bins	1	1	1	1								4
no more littering	1	1	1	1	1							5
no smoking	1	1										2
Grow more plants	1											1
Less concrete	1											1
Don't waste paper	1											1
Don't waste water	1	1										2
Keep areas clean	1											1
electric cars	1											1
benches	1											1
more walking / cycling	1											1

Table 3 - Nature

Children's outdoor learning analysis - nature													
List 3 kinds of plants, animals or natural spaces you can find at Arbury Town centre	Frequency												Total
Trees	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
bushes	1	1	1	1	1	1							6
grass	1	1	1	1									4
birds	1	1	1	1	1	1							6
park	1	1											2
grass	1	1	1										3
berries	1												1
squirrels	1	1											2
plants / flowers	1	1											2
dogs	1												1
How can being near nature and animals help people?	Frequency												Total
help them relax	1	1	1	1									4
entertainment	1	1	1										3
make them happy	1	1											2
environmentally aware	1												1
caring more	1												1
not littering	1												1
calm people	1	1	1										3
meditation	1												1
makes places feel natural	1	1											2
climb trees	1	1											2
learn about nature	1												1
opportunities to grow food and plants	1	1	1										3
wellbeing	1	1											2
health	1	1	1										3
attitude	1												1
hugging animals	1												1
petting animals	1												1
feeding animals	1												1
List 3 of your favourite natural things and animals that you saw during the tour.	Frequency												Total
trees	1	1	1	1	1	1							6
park	1	1											2
bush	1	1											2
squirrel	1	1	1	1									4
insects	1												1
birds	1	1	1	1	1	1							5
grass	1	1											2
soil	1												1
plants	1	1	1										3
berries	1												1
flowers	1												1
leaves	1												1
dogs	1	1											2

Table 4 – Play

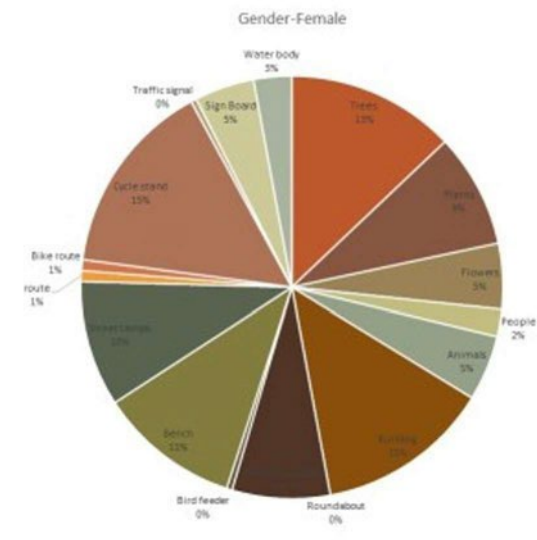
Children's outdoor learning analysis - play															
What are the different things for children and young people to do in Arbury Town centre?	Frequency														Total
shopping	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		12
working	1	1	1												3
playing at the park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
talking	1	1	1												3
walking / exploring	1	1	1	1	1	1									6
live in houses	1														1
play on parents' phone	1														1
have a stage	1														1
eating	1	1													2
haircut	1	1													2
List 3 types of play equipment you can see in the local park	Frequency														Total
slide	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		10
swings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
monkey bars	1	1	1	1	1	1									6
splash pad	1														1
seating	1														1
zipline	1	1													2
bell	1														1
climbing frame	1	1	1	1											4
roundabout	1	1													2
seesaw	1														1
the grass pitch for sports	1														1
What is your favourite thing in the playground	Frequency														Total
monkey bars	1	1	1												3
zipline	1	1	1	1											4
swings	1	1	1	1	1	1									6
climbing frame	1														1
football	1														1
Why is it your favourite thing in the playground?	Frequency														Total
keeps me energised	1														1
the speed / height is exciting	1	1	1	1	1										5
fun	1	1	1	1	1										5
communal activity	1														1

Table 5 - Sustainability

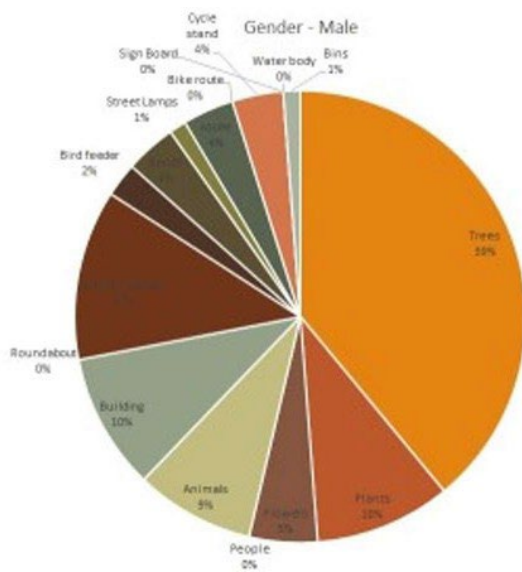
Children's outdoor learning analysis - movement																
List 3 reasons why people wish to get to Arbury Town centre?	Frequency															Total
see trees	1	1														2
see bushes	1	1														2
decorations	1															1
play	1	1	1	1	1											5
rent houses /access to where I live	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								7
shop	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						9
for school	1	1	1													3
for work	1	1	1	1	1	1										6
exercise / fresh air	1	1														2
church	1															1
food	1															1
post letters	1															1
List 4 ways how people can get to Arbury town centre?	Frequency															Total
bike	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
car	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			10
walk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		12
run	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							8
bus	1	1	1													3
scooting	1	1	1	1												4
motorbike	1	1														2
What would make it nicer or easier for you to walk or ride your bike to the town centre?	Frequency															Total
more lighting	1															1
more space	1															1
more equipment	1															1
more bike parking	1	1														2
better pavements / paths	1	1	1	1	1											5
more trees	1	1														2
more grass and plants	1	1	1													3
less traffic on Arbury Road	1	1														2
better signage	1	1														2
more benches	1															1
a pond	1															1
views	1															1
dedicated areas for walking / cycling / running	1	1														2
opportunities for doing exercise	1															1

Table 6 – Children’s drawings analysis

Children's drawings analysis																			
Name	Age	Theme	Trees	Plants	Flowers	People	Animals	Building	Roundabout	Play Equipment	Bird feeder	Bench	Street Lamps	Walking route	Bike route	Cycle stand	Traffic signal	Sign Board	Water body
Levi	10	Nature	1	1		1	1		1	1									
Cesar	10	Nature	2	1															
Sophie	10	Nature	2	1			17												
Emily	10	Nature	2	4	2		3				1								
Maddison	11	Nature	2				2	3											
Adrie	10	Nature	9																
Lavita	11	Movement	2									14	22	1	1				
Baashir M	9	Movement										6				2	1	1	
Allosh	10	Movement	1	6							1					2		1	
Naina	11	Movement														27	2		
Tella	10	Movement	2	2	2		2										3		
Elena		Movement	3									1				5	1		
Ricky	11	Play	2							1									
Sahil	10	Play						2		2									
Grace	11	Play	2				3			2		1					1	1	
Charlett	10	Play					1										1	1	
Avanne	10	Play				3				3								1	
Valentine R	9	Play	1	1			2			5			1				1		
Deleah		Building						2											
Sela	9	Building	2	2	2	2	1	2		5		2		1	1			3	
Jayne	10	Building	2				1	18											
Mark	9	Building	4	4	4		6	3			2			1					
Rosita	11	Building						1											
Emilia	10	Building	6	5	8		2	6										1	
Ayub Khan	10	Sustainability	15	2						1		2				3			
Anees	10	Sustainability						1		3				1				2	3
Adem	9	Sustainability	2	1				1											
Sai	10	Sustainability	1	1			1	1		3		1	1	1					
Eeshal	10	Sustainability	3	3				3		3		2						1	1
Yashya	9	Sustainability	8																
TOTAL			72	36	18	6	42	43	1	29	4	29	24	5	2	39	1	11	8
																		3	4
																			9



This chart explains the design aspects used by girls in their drawings, giving insight into the different and unique components they used to communicate their ideas about their town centre.



This chart explains the design aspects used by boys in their drawings, giving insight into the different and unique components they used to communicate their ideas about their town centre.

Overall winner drawings

Drawing 1 – Buildings theme

Inspired Living Pollard Thomas Edwards

Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: [REDACTED] Year 5 Year 5 Age: 10

Group Buildings 

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!

We wish to see nice buildings in town centres. Draw a picture of a town centre of the future. Include different things to make it fun to visit and live there.



2

Overall Winner

Drawing 2 – Movement theme

Inspired Living Pollard Thomas Edwards

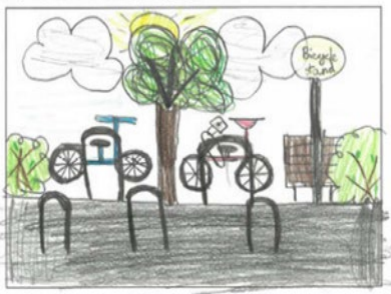
Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: [redacted] Year 5 / Year 6 Age: [redacted]

Group Movement 

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!

We wish to see safe roads to allow more children walk, cycle or use scooter to go to school or to go to the town centre. Please draw a children-friendly bicycle stand or a scooter parking area for us.



Elena Overall Winner

Drawing 3 – Play theme

Inspired Living Pollard Thomas Edwards

Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: [redacted] Year 5 / Year 6 Age: 9

Group Play 

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!

Draw a play space for people of all ages. Include somewhere for animals to play too. Use different colours to show the different kinds of space you would like to see in the play space.



2 Overall Winner

Drawing 4 – Nature theme

Inspired Living
Pollard Thomas Edwards

Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: [REDACTED] Year 5 / Year 6 Age: 10

Group Nature

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!

We wish to see safe roads to allow more children walk, cycle or use scooter to go to school or to go to the town centre. Please draw a children-friendly bicycle stand or a scooter parking area for us.

Drawing 5 – Sustainability theme

Student name: [redacted] Year 5 / Year 6 Age: 9

Group Sustainability

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!

Draw a picture of a building that has been sustainable features. For example, solar panels, low-energy lights, space to grow your own fruits and vegetables, etc.

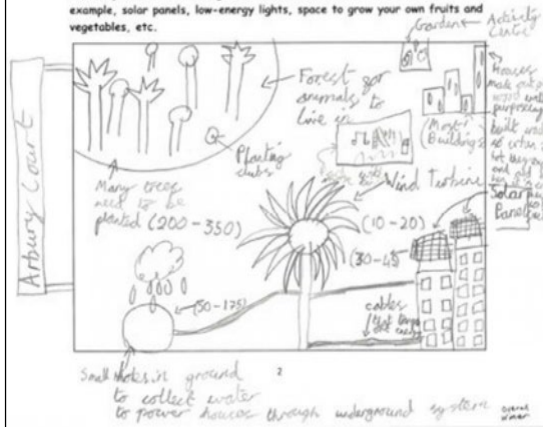


Table 6 – feedback from children

Youth Engagement Workshop

Results of Survey with children

Project	Design Code for North Cambridge
School:	The Grove Primary School, Cambridge
Masterplanner:	Pollard Thomas Edwards
Workshop dates	9 January 2024 & 17 January 2024

1. Did you enjoy the walkabout to look at the area around Arbury Court

Yes	57
No	6

Did not complete

2. Do you think you have learnt something useful about the design code.

Yes	46
No	17

3. Do you find the talk about the different type of jobs such as urban design, town planning, architecture, and local government useful?

Yes	44
No	19

Did not complete

4. Do you find it useful to learn about biodiversity.

Yes	49
No	13

Did not complete 1

5. Would you recommend our youth engagement workshop to other children so that they can benefit from having an input in new development proposals in the Greater Cambridge area?

Yes	55
No	8

Table 6 – feedback from adults

Youth Engagement Workshop

Results of Survey with adults

Project	Design Code for North Cambridge
School:	The Grove Primary School, Cambridge
Masterplanner:	Pollard Thomas Edwards
Workshop dates	9 January 2024 & 17 January 2024

1. Do you think your children enjoyed the walkabout to look at the area around Arbury Court

Yes	16
No	0

Did not complete 0

2. Do you think they have learnt something useful about the design code.

Yes	15
No	1

3. Do you think your children found the talk about the different type of jobs such as urban design, town planning, architecture, and local government useful?

Yes	12
No	3

Did not complete 1

4. Do you children find it useful to learn about biodiversity.

Yes	15
No	0

Did not complete 1

5. Would you recommend our youth engagement workshop to other parents so that their children can benefit from having an input in new development proposals in the Greater Cambridge area?

Yes	15
No	1

Appendix F - Analysis of Consultation Comments on the Draft Design Code at the end of Phase 3: (13 February 2024 to 11th March 2024)

Inspired Living: A Design Code to enhance design in Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods

Summary of Consultation Comments on the ‘Draft Design Code- Feb 24’ at the end of Phase 3: (13 February 2024 to 11th March 2024) and Design Code Response

Contents

Summary of consultee comments and design code response

Q1. Do you have any comments to make about the introduction, process or context of the design code?.....	2
Q2. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 1: Make space for nature?	3
Q3. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 2: Prioritise walking and cycling?.....	4
Q4. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 3: Thriving public spaces?	5
Q5. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 4: Enhance character?.....	5
Q6. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 5: Increase sustainability?	6

Summary of consultee comments and design code response

Q1. Do you have any comments to make about the introduction, process or context of the design code?

36 responses

This question received quite a mixed response from respondents. Whilst there were large number of positive comments on the code and comments for improvement, there were some respondents who were sceptical about how people's opinion would be considered. Some criticised the lack of public awareness and engagement in the consultation process, whilst there were others who were negative about the outcomes the code would produce.

Generally, there were calls for a greater emphasis on sustainability, improvements in public transport and for the design code to be inclusive and flexible to accommodate all socio-economic groups. Some respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining and respecting existing open spaces while others suggested that the design code should encourage active public involvement in the management of spaces.

There was a comment on the complexity and length of the document. Concerns were raised about potential gentrification, management of open space, public transport related issues and incorporation of the needs of the disabled individuals.

Many respondents were supportive of the design code process and found parts of it well laid out with a clear vision. There was also a call for direct consultation with local businesses and for addressing the lack of area's identity. Some specific areas of inaccuracies and clarifications were pointed out.

Design Code Response

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in-person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024, considered over 250 individual responses and has made significant effort to publicise the coding process including online surveys, adverts on social media, posters, leaflets, within public buildings/community centres/shops, attending in person events in community (including local churches and other religious groups) as well as hosting public events at the Meadows Community Centres.

Whilst the code is not able to directly address issues on public transport, movement infrastructure and management regimes as these sit outside the remit of the local planning authority, it is able to ensure that, where relevant, the code can assist to inform, coordinate the planning and delivery of various services by council departments, public and private sector stakeholders.

The design code is 56 pages and is shorter than most design codes which tend to be over 100 pages. Post formal consultation, the design code will add an executive summary at the front end of the code. See detailed response and changes proposed to question 1 at the end of the document.

Q2. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 1: Make space for nature?

36 responses

Respondents were generally supportive of the principle of making space for nature, emphasizing the importance of incorporating greenery and biodiversity into urban planning. There was a call for more trees, particularly native species, and the creation of wildlife corridors and habitats. Concerns were raised about the maintenance of green spaces and the need for community engagement in their care. Some respondents criticized current planning practices that allow for the removal of greenery within gardens.

The need for sustainable design, such as green roofs and the elimination of herbicides, was also mentioned. A few responses indicated frustration with perceived inaction or slow progress on environmental issues. There were suggestions to prioritize nature over traffic and to design roads to accommodate more green spaces.

Some respondents expressed scepticism about the feasibility of the proposals, citing concerns about developers' compliance and the practicality of maintaining biodiverse areas. The issue of parking on verges and its impact on green spaces was also raised.

A few responses were negative or dismissive, questioning the priority given to nature over housing needs. Whilst one response was strongly opposed to the principle, feeling it would restrict personal freedom, another felt that these principles should be applied across the city.

Overall, while there is strong support for integrating nature into urban environments, there is a clear desire for effective implementation, proper maintenance, and genuine commitment from authorities and developers to ensure that these green initiatives are successful and sustainable.

Design code Response

Many of the respondent referred to transport, open space, management and maintenance issues. Whilst the code is not able to directly address issues on public transport, movement infrastructure and management regimes as these sit outside the remit of the local planning authority, it is able to ensure that, where relevant, the code can assist to inform, coordinate the planning and delivery of various services by council departments, public and private sector stakeholders.

Many of the comments made reinforce issues that the code has already addressed such as importance of green corridors, importance of biodiversity, front and rear gardens, support for more trees and local involvement in the management of open space.

However, there were additional points incorporated such as the management and maintenance of green roofs, designing out verge parking, presumption in favour of large shade producing large specimen trees and ensuring footpaths are located away from trees. The document also clarifies the Arbury recreation ground and provides explanation of a section illustration of how greening will be achieved.

Q3. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 2: Prioritise walking and cycling?

48 responses

Respondents to the 'Draft design code' project have expressed a variety of opinions regarding Principle 2, which focuses on prioritizing walking and cycling. A common theme is the need for improved safety and infrastructure for both pedestrians and cyclists, with suggestions including better maintenance of road surfaces, safety measures for pedestrians from cyclists at blind corners and the creation of more connected and legible cycle routes.

Several respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining access for vehicles, particularly in light of the future prevalence of electric cars and ensuring that parking is available for residents and visitors. Concerns were raised about the impact of reduced parking and the need for parking spaces to accommodate those who rely on cars for longer journeys or due to mobility issues.

The issue of blocked cycle lanes and footpaths by parked cars and other obstacles was mentioned as a problem that needs addressing. Some respondents suggested specific improvements, such as electric buses on certain routes while others called for better public transport connections/services in general.

A few respondents expressed frustration with what they perceive as an overemphasis on cycling to the detriment of other modes of transport and some felt that the needs of the elderly, disabled, and families should be more carefully considered.

There were also calls for more green spaces and routes away from traffic to encourage cycling and walking as well as requests for traffic calming measures to reduce pass-through traffic and improve safety.

Design Code Response

The code whilst prioritising walking and cycling has always enabled the development of balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car for longer journeys, visitors, disabled, elderly, service delivery, businesses etc.

Many of the respondent referred to transport, open space, management and maintenance issues which sit outside the remit of this design code or the local planning authority but referenced in the document including reduction of traffic on Arbury Road, improving legibility and public transport in the area.

The code has taken onboard comments from respondents including safety of pedestrians from cyclist, additional routes for cyclist and pedestrians, improvements to public transport, taking account of improvement already made on Histon and Arbury Road, designing out verge parking, designing for mobility scooters, reference to Sheffield stands etc.

Q4. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 3: Thriving public spaces?

33 responses

Respondents to the 'Draft design code' project on Principle 3: Thriving public spaces have various points and suggestions to make on the area. A recurring theme is the need for traffic control or reduction to enhance public spaces. Management and safety of these areas are also highlighted, with calls for regular upkeep and measures to prevent anti-social behaviour, including natural surveillance, views of shops, improved lighting.

There were suggestions to improve places like Carlton Way, Hazelwood Road, Arbury Court and enable a more equitable distribution of facilities across the area. There was support for community involvement. The role of cars in public spaces was debated, with some advocating for car-friendly designs while others prefer less car dominance.

Several respondents express support for the principle while others were of the sceptical about the impact of such projects. Some specific suggestions include better road surfacing in parks the use of solar energy and the creation of more inviting spaces with trees and softer landscapes were suggested.

Overall, the common thread was a desire for safe, well-maintained, and accessible public spaces that cater to the community's needs and encourage social interaction.

Design Code Response

Some of the comment made reinforces issues that the code has already addressed such as importance measures to prevent anti-social behaviour, including natural surveillance, views of shops, improved lighting, enabling inclusive access and a place for socialising.

At the same time the code has taken onboard comments on improving places like Carlton way, Hazelwood Road, shops on Campkin Road and other areas, including places for walking, jogging exercising, avoiding artificial grass etc.

Q5. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 4: Enhance character?

33 responses

Respondents to the 'Draft design code' project have expressed a variety of opinions regarding Principle 4: Enhance character. There are calls for more distinctive and individual property designs, avoiding a generic "lego land" appearance and some suggest that certain areas could benefit from redevelopment with mid-rise buildings.

The importance of maintaining a unique local character is emphasized, with suggestions to incorporate elements of Roman history for creative placemaking and to ensure each area has its own signature character. Some respondents stress the need for professional design input and public engagement in the enhancement process.

There are concerns about the lack of clarity regarding access to private or shared gardens and the impact of tall buildings on the area's character. Some respondents support the principle in general while others are sceptical about the council's commitment to listening to public opinion.

The enhancement of green spaces and support for local businesses are seen as key to improving the area's character. Some respondents worry that enhancements could lead to gentrification and displacement of current residents. There is also a call for more nature, visible policing, and community involvement to prevent deterioration of character.

Design Code Response

Some of the comment made reinforces issues that the code has already addressed such as having more individual looking properties, promotion of hedges, roof gardens, high quality materials, heights of buildings etc.

However, at the same time the code has incorporated comments made such as multi-generational housing, taking opportunity to improve underutilised land, garage sites and incidental spaces, providing clarity on private gardens, incorporation of the area's roman history etc.

Appendix G: Detailed Comments, responses and amendments on the 'Draft Design Code- Feb 24' at the end of Phase 3: (13 February 2024 to 11th March 2024)

Q1. Do you have any comments to make about the introduction, process or context of the design code?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 37

Representation 9e857770-aae5-488b-985f-150f2616c9d4

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No further change proposed to the document

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 963101a1-70de-44ad-94ff-5ec377a092a9

Main issues raised in representation

It would be nice if council took care of and respected the open spaces that already exist.

Councils' assessment

The management regime of open space sits outside the scope of the Design Code which is a planning document. However management of open space and streets is referenced in the design code to see how it could involve community and residents (pg. 5, pg. 20), ensure coordination between departments on management regimes (pg. - 23: for example nature conservation), maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted. It will be further emphasised as a result of this comment in the introduction start of the document.

Proposed modifications

Text has been added to the introduction chapter to reinforce co-ordination between different departments and stakeholders. Further text has been added in the principles chapter to ensure community involvement in the care maintenance, management and stewardship of open spaces on pg 26, new proposals take account of management and maintenance of green roofs on pg. 24, roads on pg 29 and management of waste on pg 48.

Representation a77fce58-c2aa-411c-b870-b509b8dccb2c

Main issues raised in representation

What's the point? Overall public opinions on consultations and surveys are routinely ignored.

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and inperson engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities of the residents. The design code is a planning document that reinforces policies in the Cambridge City Council Local Plan 2018 and is able to take onboard comments received, where these

are in accordance with the local plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. There have been various alterations made to the document text as part of this stage.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation e497d9fe-cf8c-47fe-a1ac-17818640f61a

Main issues raised in representation

I would like to see a section on active public involvement on enhancing our space, not just comment. The quality of life is determination bed as much by how people act in the space as how it is designed. We need to encourage "mutual ownership" by how people behave. For instance, caring for their immediate neighbourhood, not littering and picking up after others, not polluting the surrounding atmosphere, giving time to local events and activities, considering how their actions impinge on others.

Councils' assessment

The design code is a policy document and needs to support the Cambridge Local Plan 2018. The document already includes text to expect involvement of residents and the community in the preparation of the code (see sections on Introduction, Applying the code, Engagement process), development of schemes as they come forward the draft (See sections on Age and Conditions of buildings, Local Character, Opportunities Framework, Urban greening, living landscapes, Improving existing buildings). Whilst the comments point out to laudible behavioural aspects and actions that can all lead to positive places, they sit outside the planning policy framework and cannot be directly incorporated in the code. However, the code points out to the outcomes that these behavioural, community action would seek to achieve.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a608e7f8-0068-44c8-bb61-93fe276943ac

Main issues raised in representation

Quite impressed by this, thanks.

Councils' assessment

This consultee's observation complimenting the draft code is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0556c329-63e0-48c4-8f75-e986ac654faf

Main issues raised in representation

Not enough people were aware of the possibility of consulting about this. Relying on social media is poor practice.

Hardly anyone pictured at any "events" there should be a hundred or more people. And so far 6.....just 6....responding to this survey!!?

Not really public engagement

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>

for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities residents/community. The code takes onboard over 250 individual contributions over the life of the code and has made significant effort to publicise the coding process including online surveys, adverts on social media, posters within public buildings/community centres/shops, attending in person events in community as well as hosting public events at the Meadows Community Centres: See section on engagement process and the core group.

Proposed modifications

A summary of the results of the consultation has been incorporated into the Engagement process and the core group.

Representation 0c7d2c34-22b9-4fc2-963f-ab054bd6bbd1

Main issues raised in representation

I think that sustainability, in relation to Public Transport, should take priority.

Councils' assessment

The resident's observation is about giving higher priority to sustainability (in relation to public transport). This observation has already been taken on board and incorporated into the Principle 2 Connectivity.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7a0a7181-9f89-42b9-9b63-58f46c3396b1

Main issues raised in representation

I really welcome this process and consultation. It's great to see that the character of North Cambridge is being recognised and will receive investment. However, I think the Carlton Way shopping area is marked in the wrong place on the maps - the shopping precinct (with the One Stop) next to The Carlton pub is further south. The area currently highlighted is where the Kingsway Flats are located. With the focus on Arbury Town Centre, I think it's unclear what the intention is for Carlton Way shopping centre. It is on a main route and has high levels of traffic, particularly as people travel to and from work and school.

Councils' assessment

Yes, from a review of maps, the location of 'Carlton Way shopping' dotted circle was marked incorrectly. The 'Carlton Way shopping' dotted circle has been re-located further south-west, along Carlton Way, on all the maps.

Proposed modifications

The location of Carlton Way shopping area has been correctly located together with other major shops in the area.

Representation 29067af4-b285-4f15-b02b-fd78b6422c17

Main issues raised in representation

These things have been batted back and forth for the last 30 years of my professional career. Nothing changes. Nothing gets any better. Strangely everything gets worse and more complicated.

Councils' assessment

The aim of this consultation and design code is to establish the priorities of its residents that can provide the background for change, co-ordinate investment and improvements. A area wide code is a pilot that seeks to trial a new tool that can raise

quality The purpose of the code is identified in the introduction and applying the code sections. It will become a material consideration when adopted as a supplementary planning document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [9ecc5a8e-713a-446d-aa23-93f72ee7f90b](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Having a design code is useful for planning decisions. It needs to be inclusive and flexible so that all socio-economic groups feel at home here.

Councils' assessment

This observation complimenting the draft code is welcome. The draft Design Code emphasises that it is intended to benefit all sections of the community.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [3dbfd0ad-3c53-433c-bf42-fb117cd8a214](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Yes

Councils' assessment

The resident supports the introduction, process, context of the design code but has not written any further details.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [28513a82-7910-43b8-94e7-4261d868b571](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Reading over 50 pages was challenging! I attended a focus group with the architects a few months ago for over two hours on a Friday evening and we were promised vouchers for our time - nothing arrived. Whilst I enjoyed the opportunity to give my thoughts and feedback, I was a little disappointed by that.

Councils' assessment

For the online meetings which took place with residents about the design code, we apologise for not sending the attendees a voucher and will address this.

Proposed modifications

The council will send the attendees a voucher.

Representation [a4cee5e6-b27d-471b-a15b-349edf659dea](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Page 3: The document says we have "highway dominated areas". Seriously? Then abolish the GCP, because they spend all their time widening roads not just in north Cambridge (Histon Road and Milton Road), but everywhere near Cambridge, in particular, removing hedges and trees, bulldozing the greenbelt, etc. Histon Road north of Carisbrooke Road is now much more hostile to human beings ever since the GCP converted it from two lanes to three lanes.

Page 5: "The code must be referred to for all planning applications that lie within the area in this document." The code has requirements that seem to contradict each other and/or national policy, so this is likely to be a charter for lawyers.

Page 11: "Recent surveys for Arbury and Kings Hedges Wards demonstrate 16% of units with Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings of D&E rating. These ratings can result in poor living conditions for residents." Only 16%? That is a small number. And the word "can" is doing a lot of heavy lifting. Bigger houses tend to have worse EPCs, so a rating of D or E could easily just indicate that the house is bigger, so the people wealthier, rather than poor living conditions.

Page 11: "Take a retrofit first (retrofirst) approach, including adaptive building reuse with some new additions." This is certainly not happening now and I cannot see it happening in future. For example, a developer is proposing that a single-family house around the corner from me is demolished and replaced with nine flats, and another one demolished and replaced with seven flats. This is happening all over Cambridge.

Page 14: "The layout of the Kingsway Flats blocks desirable east-west movement between Rosewood Road and Alex Wood Road and connections to Arbury town centre." That sentence needs clarification. The current layout almost certainly leads to less rat running on Roseford Road (and there has recently been a large increase of rat running on Roseford Road thanks to the GCP spending four years bulldozing Histon and Milton Roads). I assume you do not want Roseford Road to connect directly with Carlton Way for cars. Currently, if you are walking, then you can go through the Kingsway flats area. If you are cycling, then it is not a great chore to go around the site. Sure, if you knocked down the buildings and started from scratch then you could sensibly put a cycle path through the site.

Page 14: GCP wants to close every road in Cambridge to through traffic except for those which the GCP deem to be the "main" ones, and in Kings Hedges and Arbury the GCP says that this means just Histon Road and Milton Road, and not Kings Hedges Road, Arbury Road, Mere / Carlton Way (or Gilbert Road). Pollard Thomas Edwards should have a word with the GCP.

Page 14: "The large numbers of cul-de-sacs frequently lead to poor connectivity between neighbouring streets and to park spaces". There is nothing wrong with cul-de-sacs. And you can design them so that they are useful for pedestrians and cyclists, e.g. the paths between Badminton Close and Belmont Close and between Warwick Road and Oxford Road (three of those four roads are cul-de-sacs) provide key links for a nice cycling route between north Cambridge and west Cambridge.

Page 15: The EPC map is completely wrong for Roseford Road. I checked the government website and not a single house on Roseford Road (CB4 2HA, CB4 2HB, CB4 2HD, CB4 2HE) is worse than EPC E, but several houses are seemingly claimed to be EPC G. Since the map is so wrong for Roseford Road, I assume it is wrong everywhere else as well. Hmm, page 45 seems to have the same map with a different colour scheme and different categories, see comment for that.

Page 16: The Tree Shading description needs clarification. I assume you mean tree shading on public roads, and if so you should state that. Roseford Road is shown as 20-40%, which seems low, if you include the back gardens. Your data for the > 40% roads also looks dubious (e.g. in reality, Hazelwood Close doesn't even look close to 40%), but I guess it depends how you count it. I suspect that this map is not very accurate.

Page 17: "The parks and open spaces in this area are not easily accessible on the route networks, do not offer diversity or habitat." We need open spaces for recreation. Planners have to work around that. Jesus Green and Parker's Piece (obviously not in north Cambridge) are 95% grass, so no real biodiversity, but are wonderful and well-used spaces that are heavily used for recreation. But sure, you could improve the scraggly open spaces that are illustrated on this page, except you really want Nature to be left to itself, and humans generally don't like that ("too untidy").

Page 18: The blue shows "Priority improvements for walking and cycling to connect across the area". It is already pleasant enough to cycle down Roseford Road, Alex Wood Road and Mansel Way. It is horrible cycling down Campkin Road but mainly because the road surface is so dreadful. Cycling from Campkin Road to Kings Hedges Road through the Nuns Way Recreation Ground is a bit of a pain now because it's not even clear if this is currently allowed (and heading from the south, you want to cycle on the Campkin Road pavement for a bit, before turning left, which is also possibly not allowed). So yes, that specifically could be improved, and the city missed a trick when part of the housing in that part of Campkins Road was re-developed not long ago, yet the cycling infrastructure was ignored.

Councils' assessment

Comment related to Page 3: The code is concerned with what can be controlled through the planning process but also includes issues that may be for other stakeholders to recognise, co-ordinate and manage including Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council which may help in ensuring that any proposals reflect residents priorities expressed in the code. The comment on abolishing the Greater Cambridge Partnership sits outside the remit/scope of this project.

Comment related to Page 5: The consultee does not give an explicit example of contradictions and so it's difficult to address.

Comment related to Page 11 on EPC ratings: This data is from HM Land Registry data 2022. There are various reasons why buildings can have poor living conditions and hence the word can is used.

Comment related to Page 11 on Retrofit: The comment relates to existing proposals in absence of this document rather than future proposals post this document is adopted which will have material weight. Having said that, the code does not rule out demolition as in certain instances this may be the best option to resolve a number of issues and create a more sustainable building in the long run, but is done after carefully exploring the retrofit option first.

Comment related to Page 14: The consultee comments on the routes and

destination section has been clarified to focus not on just poor connectivity but also good legibility i.e. ease of movement. The focus here is on improving connectivity and legibility prioritising walking and cycling, recognising some cul-de-sacs may be connected for walking/cycling, but they need to be legible (easy to find your way) too for all. It also ensures that any connections avoid increased traffic flows and 'rat running'. The aim of the code is to prioritise streets and public spaces for pedestrians and cyclists but also to accommodate the car for essential needs of the community.

Comments related to Page 15: The EPC data is from HM Land Registry Data 2022 which would have been updated since. The reference to the data has been stated all through the document with a caveat that all building owners need to conduct EPC surveys to inform the improvements as stated in the design code.

Comments related to Page 16: Yes, The tree shading map relates to streets and this section has been updated to reflect it. The data displayed in the diagram is taken from "Mapping tree shade in Cambridge" by Cambridge City Council and will be referenced in the document.

Comments related to Page 17: The design code makes reference to green spaces for people as well as biodiversity. See Principle on Nature Conservation. The code also states that a balance need to be struck to ensure the needs of wildlife and people are met.

Comments related to Page 18: The design code is a broad document that seeks to improve cycle/pedestrian routes and environment across the area that connects key destinations and includes key routes such as Campkin Road. However, it needs to include the opportunity across the entire area that encourages east-west movement. Additional routes to improve cycle and pedestrian connectivity have been suggested to connect key destination and parks.

Proposed modifications

Comments related to Page 3: No Change proposed

Comments related to Page 5: No Change proposed

Comments related to Page 11 on EPC ratings: Reference is provided on the data for the EPC ratings.

Comments related to Page 11 on Retrofit: No change proposed

Comments related to Page 14: The consultee comments on the routes and destination section has been clarified to focus not on just poor connectivity but also good legibility i.e. ease of movement. The focus here is on improving connectivity and legibility prioritising walking and cycling, recognising some cul-de-sacs may be connected for walking/cycling, but they need to be legible (easy to find your way) too for all. It also ensures that any connections avoid increased traffic flows and 'rat running'. The aim of the code is to prioritise streets and public spaces for pedestrians and cyclists but accommodating the car for essential needs of the community.

Comments related to Page 15: Reference is provided to the data for EPC ratings and is stated all through the document. There is a caveat included in the text that that all building owners need to conduct EPC surveys to inform the improvements as stated in the design code.

Comments related to Page 17: The code emphasises that a balance need to be struck to ensure the needs of wildlife and people are met in the introduction section (getting the balance right).

Comments related to Page 18: Additional routes to improve cycle and pedestrian connectivity have been suggested to connect key destinations and parks.

Representation dc8130d8-1d12-43a4-9acf-d3722863bc5d

Main issues raised in representation

I like the general approach

Councils' assessment

This consultee's observation complimenting the draft code is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation bcee7ced-91b4-47e1-8432-349e8a2923e5

Main issues raised in representation

What is the point of this when the council don't listen to the public and continue with their unwanted vanity projects, bow down to the GCP and are overly influenced by CamCycle.

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities residents/community. The design code is a planning document that reinforces policies in the Cambridge City Council Local Plan 2018 and is able take onboard comments received, where these are in accordance with the local plan, the National Planning Policy Framework and taking account of policies, projects carried out by other stakeholders including GCP. There have been various alterations made to the document text as part of this stage.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7cbaa532-d62e-4334-b4a1-93f9014aa285

Main issues raised in representation

You want to lock me inside my house. This is unacceptable and you should be ashamed for such proposal.

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes an observation referring to restricted access / connectivity but does not provide detail. At a broad level the design code is inclusive, improves and enable access and movement for all groups. The code has also undergone a

rigorous equality impact assessment which will be included as part of the documentations.

Proposed modifications

The document makes reference in the introduction section as to how it has given due consideration to equality, community safety, biodiversity and climate emergency and is consistent with Cambridge City Council's policies on Equality, Community Safety, Biodiversity Strategy and Climate Change Strategy. The code has also conducted an Equality Impact assessments as part of the adoption process.

Representation 03f2d9b3-f2b2-45f1-ac33-4325834a5aef

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q1 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 43699e15-aede-4109-a2c6-7dd053689364

Main issues raised in representation

This plan will replace the only affordable housing in Cambridge, albeit old, with new housing that my children who grew up here will never be able to afford. Arbury and Kings Hedges are known to be the cheapest housing in Town and you will just end up replacing the housing stock with Ironworks and TimberWorks identikit housing that no homegrown Cambridge kid can ever aspire to afford.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee fears that the Design Code intends to replace the existing housing that is affordable. However this isn't the intension of the code. Rather its seeks to ensure any change is well considered and meets the priorities of residents with their involvement at key stages of the development process. Where development isn't proposed, it also assist them to make improvements on environmental sustainability that will help affordability in the long run.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8dbde530-daa9-4f47-ac5a-5d1cbaeb0d30

Main issues raised in representation

It demonstrates rather well just what is wrong with our entire political system and why voting makes no difference. You are the executive, not the councillors, you decide policy, the councillors merely decide how and when that policy will be implemented, we are completely ignored at ever stage. Democracy has failed.

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities residents/community. The design code is a planning document that reinforces policies in the Cambridge City Council Local Plan 2018 and is able take onboard comments received, where these

are in accordance with the local plan, the National Planning Policy Framework and taking account of policies, projects carried out by other stakeholders including GCP. There have been various alterations made to the document text as part of this stage.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b8f8fe29-d894-4ff2-aa24-0f4ae4b2eaec](#)

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q1 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [80c5890f-7790-4f69-bdbb-62c43e3a1fce](#)

Main issues raised in representation

It seems someone has had too much time on their hands! Wading through your documents requires will. Better to keep things simple and to the point. Someone is really overcomplicating what should be really simple.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments that the draft Design Code is lengthy and complicated. Design codes tend to be long documents over 100 pages. However, we have taken a focused approach to reduce the length of the document to 56 pages. Post formal consultation an executive summary will be developed at the front to access the content of the code. The consultee does not suggest how or where the code could be simplified or reduced in length.

Proposed modifications

Post formal consultation an executive summary will be produced.

Representation [df35c105-18fd-476a-b2e1-ecd7e982b3ff](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Overall - I like the aims of the document, but:

* Make it clearer how the document will be used by the different actors you want to use it. I presume you want the public to review a building application with respect to the MUST/SHOULD points?

* Move the background on how/what/why to an appendix (or make it clear where it starts/ends - its interesting on how you got to these points but could dissuade people from using the document as it is 50 pages)

* The diagrams with labels and the example photographs need clear indication on whether they are examples of MUST or SHOULD and which points they refer to. Another way to put this, the MUST and SHOULD points seem to be the main thing for people to think about and the photos and diagrams should add clarity and context to these points. At the moment they do not provide clarity, they are distracting.

* For example on P23 - the hedgehog highways photo - which as far as I can tell is related to the last MUST point to do with the word "linked" habitats, but maybe its not and its just pretty.

* "Enhancing character" - this seems focussed on being able to demolish buildings and perform gentrification to remove problems of Anti-social behaviour when it should be more about enhancing the living standards - not just housing of the people. Trying to address everything as a symptom of ugly housing gives a very strange skew on things.

* P17 - Shouldn't this care about ACCESS to green spaces.

Just limiting your view to what you can find within a ward is not what people will do. If there is a park in the next ward over they will use that.

It is important having green spaces in the ward, but the focus on only looking in the ward means you are blinkering your view to what the problems are.

* P19 - What is the point of a wheel with 4 symbols per segment without explanation of what these are. And then on the following pages you use different symbols in each section to highlight areas. This graphic is unnecessary and confusing.

Councils' assessment

Bullet 1: The code expands on section 'Applying the code'- to provide clarity on who should use the code and for what purpose. It provides weight The code already provides guidance on musts and should.

Bullet 2: It is important for anyone reading the code to understand the process that has led to the production of the principles and the code. A 56 page design code is relatively short but will provide an executive summary at the end of the formal consultation process.

Bullet 3: The images are illustrative to emphasise issues where relevant and does not cover all aspects of the code. Hence they do not include a Must or Should. They are used to compliment the code. Applying the code section describes how the code is to be used and how the principles are laid out. The hedgehog highway photo is linked to the habitat point and emphasises it. It is the e principles that the code need to refer to. However all photos have now been labelled

Bullet 4: The code has specifically included text in the 'Age and Condition' section to ensure that proposals take a retrofit first approach to minimise embodied carbon resulting from new developments and seeks to enhance living standards in this location

Bullet 5- P17: The code does case about inclusive access to all spaces including green spaces. More references to inclusive access has been included into the document, including highlighting it in the introductory text in Making Space for Nature. The point made by the consultee on people using other green spaces outside Arbury and King's hedges and parts of West Chesterton ward is recognised, although the coding is limited to the wards mentioned. Success of this pilot could

apply these findings to other projects in the city and beyond in the future.

Bullet 6- P19 - Following the comment the graphic of the wheel with 5 principles has been simplified.

Proposed modifications

Bullet 1: The document will clarify the section 'Applying the code'- to provide clarity on who should use the code and for what purpose.

Bullet 2: Post formal consultation an executive summary will be produced.

Bullet 3: . All photos have now been labelled.

Bullet 4: No change proposed.

Bullet 5- P17: More references to inclusive access has been included into the document, including highlighting it in the introductory text in Making Space for Nature.

Bullet 6- P19 - Following the comment the graphic of the wheel with 5 principles has been simplified.

Representation 2329dd24-c555-4a85-8b27-04869ea00f26

Main issues raised in representation

It was not well advertised and participation was low. The churches and other local organisations were not contacted.

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities residents/community. The code takes onboard over 250 individual contributions over the life of the code and has made significant effort to publicise the coding process including online surveys, adverts on social media, posters, leaflets, within public buildings/community centres/shops, attending in person events in community (including local churches and other religious groups) as well as hosting public events at the Meadows Community Centres: See section on engagement process and the core group.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation db3148c5-5f31-4d96-b7b9-074c9f08672f

Main issues raised in representation

I would like to see the document reference the city's community safety partnership strategy, also council plans that reference community safety, for example, in deterring and managing anti social behaviour. I also think it is important in managing expectation to set out how plans for action could be funded, and then maintained. Finally, there needs to be a consideration of equality, in managing out existing

inequalities, and not creating new ones, for example, in relation to new build areas and existing communities. The council has this as a focus and it should be profiled.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments on community safety and managing out existing equalities and not creating new ones has been considered in the production of the code.

Cambridge City Council policies will be referenced in the introduction section. An equalities impact assessment is produced as part of the adoption process. The code is a planning document and sits under the local plan policies consistent with NPPF and is clear that it is a robust planning policy tool that is based on best practice to enable the implementation of the principles established in the code. It doesn't have any funding attached to deliver any proposals or pay for its maintenance.

Proposed modifications

The introduction section will reference that the code takes account of Cambridge City Council policies on equality, community safety, climate and biodiversity emergency. The introduction section will also note that there isn't any funding for proposals, their management and maintenance in the code.

Representation [a96871a7-59e5-4e06-8d9f-18f1c139700d](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Why is East Chesterton omitted? This is more in need of regeneration than much of the area specified.

Councils' assessment

The consultee mentions the omission of East Chesterton from the draft design code. However, the reasons are given for the selected project areas on page 3 of the draft Design Code. However, learnings from this pilot, if successful will be used in other character areas in the city.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [c84c4b20-28f5-4d3c-8951-a27eb947a45b](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Great job! Looks fantastic.

- There's mention on page 50 of an ASHP at £25k. Fortunately, these are now far cheaper. Update the number to £15k (which includes plumbing if that were required) or £7500/£0 including grant funding if no plumbing alterations required.

- Is UK power networks sufficiently read into the ideas in this document? The local network might need a complete retrofit to cope with increased solar, heat pump and EV demand. This means lots of open streets to improve cabling.

- Make this document as concise as possible.

Councils' assessment

Comment 1: The consultee is actually referring to the info about Air Source Heat pumps in Q6 (page 50) rather than Q1. The data is an extract from 'Retrofitting Your Home'. However a caveat will be mentioned in the text for people to do their own research when pursuing improvements.

Comment 2: For the consultee's question about whether UK power networks are sufficiently read into the ideas in this document, as part of the formal consultation phase, UK power networks will have the opportunity to comment on the proposals.
Comment 3: Design Codes tend to be over 100 pages. However, the document has taken a focussed approach to reduce the length of the document to 56 pages. Post formal consultation an executive summary will be developed.

Proposed modifications

Bullet 1: A caveat will be mentioned in the text for people to do their own research on costing when pursuing building improvements.

Bullet 2: No Change proposed

Bullet 3: Post formal consultation an executive summary will be developed.

Representation e248f398-251b-4eae-b758-a1b76b54af9c

Main issues raised in representation

We found the historical context useful and thought it was clearly laid out, with a coherent vision for the area.

Councils' assessment

This consultee's observation complimenting the draft code is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0050e17e-69a1-4e29-aa97-5a34d202d60e

Main issues raised in representation

It generally looks to be a very well designed scheme whose principles should apply to the whole of Cambridge.

Councils' assessment

This consultee's observation complimenting the draft code is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 20b7e389-3142-438f-a223-ec6c59075f0a

Main issues raised in representation

It seems that the Council is not treating residents as individuals: I don't think that people should have to live with the threat of redevelopment.

Councils' assessment

The consultee is making a general observation that Design Code is intending to threaten residents with development but rather take onboard their priorities and principles to address change that is taking place in the area in an ad hoc manner

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b925dce0-8f96-49d2-8f48-e64e4967b6db

Main issues raised in representation

Extremely positive

Councils' assessment

This consultee's observation complimenting the draft code is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f2e6a7c0-4d92-4c04-9fdc-d221ebc6e509

Main issues raised in representation

Would be good to see more references to accessibility of the built environment and the related housing standards. We can't afford to have new housing inadvertently lock out disabled people and then have to be re adapted later.

Councils' assessment

The consultee requests more references to accessibility of the built environment and the related housing standards. The document makes significant references to inclusive access in all chapters of the code.

Proposed modifications

Additional references on inclusive access made on the design code.

Representation a5634c9d-837f-4199-a836-c63e58af531a

Main issues raised in representation

The design code is district-focused but planning decisions will be made on a case by case basis. Metrics for individual developments should be provided so that there is accountability for developers to include for these measures in their planning applications.

Councils' assessment

The design code is an area based strategy document which is based on principles. However, the design code includes a planning compliance checklist that applicants will need to provide as part of the DAS and officers need to check when planning applications are assessed to ensure that proposals are compiling to the design code.

Proposed modifications

Planning Checklist will be included to ensure compliance with the design code.

Representation 6e579079-849f-4c9a-8555-ffc1d44b6120

Main issues raised in representation

The design code is district-focused but planning decisions will be made on a case by case basis. Metrics for individual developments should be provided so that there is accountability for developers to include for these measures in their planning applications.

Councils' assessment

See comment in the row above

Proposed modifications

See comment in the row above

Representation c1ceb903-c916-4381-bb12-db781add13fa

Main issues raised in representation

Local Business should be consulted directly.

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities residents/community. The code takes onboard over 250 individual contributions over the life of the code and has made significant effort to publicise the coding process including online surveys, adverts on social media, posters within public buildings/community centres/shops,

attending in person events in community (including Arbury local centre) as well as hosting public events at the Meadows Community Centres: See section on engagement process and the core group. It invites any further suggestions from the business community as part of the formal consultation process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f03f42ed-03cc-4899-9d51-a1ed9f5c93d3

Main issues raised in representation

Consultant techno babble

Councils' assessment

The consultee criticises the written text as being techno babble. However, the council has endeavoured to write the Design Code in plain English and minimise the use of abbreviations.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation cea30b44-bf9a-460a-9a6c-480a96d0c154

Main issues raised in representation

Fails to tackle the lack of identity the area has.

Councils' assessment

The consultee queries whether the Draft Design Code is tackling identity. However, the Design Code assess this on pages 10 to 18 without being too lengthy.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation abcc810b-d8b5-4445-8b8d-254a3fa75973

Main issues raised in representation

I didn't receive any information as to the consultations & activities despite being local.

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities residents/community. The code takes onboard over 250 individual contributions over the life of the code and has made significant effort to publicise the coding process including online surveys, adverts on social media, posters within public buildings/community centres/shops, attending in person events in community as well as hosting public events at the Meadows Community Centres: See section on engagement process and the core group. It invites any further suggestions from the business community as part of the formal consultation process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Q2: Do you have any comments to make about Principle 1: Make space for nature?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 37

Representation 65312228-e800-40c5-865e-1571f6c62137

Main issues raised in representation

Make space for nature at the expense of moving traffic. Make more roads filtered or one way. What's taking Cambridge so long ?

Councils' assessment

The consultee suggests making more roads filtered or one way roads. However Greater Cambridge Shared Planning as the local planning authority does not have powers to make road filtered or one-way for traffic control. However the code has made reference to prioritise pedestrians and cyclist and reduce traffic on key streets

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9e857770-aae5-488b-985f-150f2616c9d4

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q2 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 963101a1-70de-44ad-94ff-5ec377a092a9

Main issues raised in representation

Does need to be space, we have foxes and monk jacks passing our house as well as many unusual birds visiting.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation cae167e3-72d4-4247-8a57-65ea95fb2496

Main issues raised in representation

Agreed, but areas like pathways, hedges etc need to be maintained better.

Councils' assessment

The management regime of open space sits outside the scope of the Design Code. However it is referenced in the code to ensure coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted. The code further emphasises its importance at the start of the document.

Proposed modifications

Text has been added to the introduction chapter that includes the management and maintenance of open space to ensure co-ordination of various services by council departments, public and private sector stakeholders.

Representation 58c13ba7-c1+A12:D12d5-4b1b-b0c6-7654e06f2b63

Main issues raised in representation

This is very important but current planning does not take it into account. For example, huge extensions are allowed that use up large amounts of back gardens, the County Highways allow grass verges and trees to be removed even though the

houses where I live have drives. Front gardens are turned into car parks, with no greenery at all.

Councils' assessment

Policy 52 of the Cambridge City Council adopted local plan, 2018 protects development on back gardens. The design code does not restate this policy but includes consideration of the coverage of front gardens.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0c7d2c34-22b9-4fc2-963f-ab054bd6bbd1

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q2 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7a0a7181-9f89-42b9-9b63-58f46c3396b1

Main issues raised in representation

I agree that the tree lined streets of Arbury are a great asset worthy of enhancement but some recent efforts to plant new trees have been vandalised and poorly maintained (especially during hot summers) so there needs to be efforts to engage the local community in their care. I also agree about the importance of private gardens and would be interested to know what incentives and support there would be to use these spaces.

There are a lot of privately rented properties and elderly residents who are unable to maintain the larger gardens in Arbury. I think something that is really lacking is water for wildlife in the area, as we're a distance from the river and there aren't really any natural streams so there needs to be a strategy for introducing safe and well maintained ponds. I like the space outside the front of Cambridge Regional College.

Councils' assessment

Although the management and maintenance regime of public open space sits outside the scope of the design code, it is referenced to ensure co-ordination between various council departments. We welcome the support on the code's proposal to engage with residents and local community on their care. The use and management of private gardens is a matter for the owners of the property. The code ensures there is adequate amenity when homes are provided. The code accommodates for water attenuation basins for habitat creation in the water responsiveness section of the code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 62f5248c-e90c-4f7b-a75e-dc8ace623d65

Main issues raised in representation

I agree with everything in this section. The comment I would make is that right at this very minute, sections of the Milton Road development that are within the catchment area for this project are being completed without trees, especially near the junction with Downham's Lane. This is a great opportunity to put these ideas into practice and I would urge someone in the council to look into why this is happening, especially when residents were promised an avenue of trees on the newly updated road.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome. Reference to Milton Road are taken in advance of this document and sit outside the scope of this project.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 29067af4-b285-4f15-b02b-fd78b6422c17**Main issues raised in representation**

Make even more space for nature. Why is this a new thing? Why has it taken so long to pay any attention to the natural world? By-the-way, unless policy makers and those spending the money are prepared to link nature corridors the whole thing will fail and you need to allow the natural world to donuts thing naturally. The idea you can 'design' it and make it pristine and 'pretty' is pointless. You need scrubland and unkept swathes if land - brambles, stinging nettles, weeds, scrub trees and so on.

Councils' assessment

The consultee emphasises the importance of green corridors (mentioned in page 22) of the draft design code. The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9ecc5a8e-713a-446d-aa23-93f72ee7f90b**Main issues raised in representation**

I support this principle.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3dbfd0ad-3c53-433c-bf42-fb117cd8a214**Main issues raised in representation**

Place for nature is outside cities.

Councils' assessment

There is a place for nature inside as well as outside cities with the National Planning Policy Framework emphasises the importance of biodiversity in urban areas. The code is seeking to make space for nature following the priorities mentioned by the community as part of the initial surveys carried out.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 28513a82-7910-43b8-94e7-4261d868b571**Main issues raised in representation**

Eliminate the need for herbicides in your planting designs. CCC are reintroducing its use due to complaints about weeds :(Living walls on apartment blocks and allotments please.

Councils' assessment

The code does not make recommendations on management specifications. It also doesn't make recommendations on green features such as living walls although where well considered and managed would be accepted.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a4cee5e6-b27d-471b-a15b-349edf659dea

Main issues raised in representation

Page 20: "Land-efficient development to reduce loss of green spaces". This is not happening now and I do not see this happening in future, there is too much money involved with stuffing as many people into as little space as possible.

Page 20: "Maximise planting in front gardens" and "Retain planting in back gardens". Most new housing has little garden area, and in any case, a homeowner can do what they want with their plots, so that guidance does not seem very helpful.

Page 20: "Biodiverse street trees planted every 10m where possible". Roseford Road used to have beautiful cherry trees but they have been ripped out by the city one after the other, and largely replaced with birch trees, which nobody asked for. The gaps are more than 10m in places but there are so many private trees that it's not a real issue. But sure, more trees everywhere, please.

Page 20: "Incorporate green roofs". Sounds good, but I understand that these can be a pain to maintain, so that needs to be taken into consideration. (Same issue on page 44.)

Page 23: "New developments must meet Biodiversity Net Gain improvements at a minimum of 10%" (or even "20%"). The Biodiversity Net Gain calculations that I see now in planning applications are fairly facile. If you flatten a back garden (e.g. remove all the trees), then in reality it would be impossible not to lose biodiversity. If there is a requirement for an alleged net gain, then developers will game the system, for example, by first flattening the garden before asking for planning permission. (A nearby homeowner to me just did that.)

Page 24: "For example benches nestled in biodiverse planting, which are shaded by broad leaf tree species". In the spring and autumn, and even much of the summer, you want to sit in the sun. Yes, maybe we may have a couple of weeks of 30-degree weather in the summer, but we have far more days where it would be nice to be warmed up rather than cooled down outside. So don't forget that the sun is more often welcome than not.

Councils' assessment

Page 20: This diagram provides a graphic, visual and broad overview of what the code is trying to achieve. Land efficient development can equally provide space for nature and it does have to be exclusive. The code includes some voluntary action within owners control (such as planting in back gardens, Planting, management and maintenance regimes), whilst other requirements/recommendations as part of development proposals coming forward. Management and maintenance of green roofs have been included into the document.

Page 23: There is provision in Schedule 7A part1 paragraph 6a and 6b in the Environment Act 2021 that mitigate for the scenario that has been described. If an area that is subject to BNG is cleared prior to assessment, then the LPA has the power to demand that the clock is essentially turned back to before the site was cleared. We are encouraged to be cautious in our assessment so that we do not lose any Biodiversity, i.e. we would over estimate the value of the site which makes doing what is suggested very costly. The comments relate to the enforcement of biodiversity net gain calculations rather than the principle established in the document.

The consultee comments on page 24 about highlighting the benefits of sunlight rather than just emphasising shading has been taken on board. However, the council doesn't think this needs to be stated explicitly.

Proposed modifications

Page 20 - Management and maintenance of green roofs has been added into the text under the Urban Greening section.

Page 24 - replace word shaded by surrounded by

Representation 6162764c-e523-4929-92b5-fd838fa883f1

Main issues raised in representation

Happy for introduction of more trees and greenery if there is money for maintenance. So often 'making space for nature' means leaving alone, creating dangerous conditions with line of sight and access problems for those with poor sight or prams, etc.

Councils' assessment

The support for the introduction of more trees is welcomed. The code makes clear that canopy cover should be achieved with clear views at ground level for visual openness, safety, security away from footpaths

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation dc8130d8-1d12-43a4-9acf-d3722863bc5d

Main issues raised in representation

Very important I like the general approach.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 577f3604-428c-4a3c-bc99-1d63a40e3136

Main issues raised in representation

Great

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ca96aef0-c644-4b59-99dd-2b9226c1b0e8

Main issues raised in representation

Great

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation bcee7ced-91b4-47e1-8432-349e8a2923e5

Main issues raised in representation

What is the point of this when the council don't listen to the public and continue with their unwanted vanity projects, bow down to the GCP and are overly influenced by CamCycle.

Councils' assessment

Consultee is dismissive of the value and impact of this consultation and previous consultations by the Council and mentions the influence of other local bodies (Camcycle). The purpose of the Design Code is explained on page 4. The consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>. The current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2024. It sets out how South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council will involve communities on a wide range of planning matters throughout the planning process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3dec1a53-aa5d-4884-a434-1193731e9aea

Main issues raised in representation

Verge parking destroys green verges in Cambridge and elsewhere. Design code needs much stronger actions to address this problem.

Otherwise I like it.

Councils' assessment

There is a reference to verges planting and its use in separation between carriageway and footpaths. However, additional point to ensure parking doesn't destroy green verges will be introduced in reducing car dominance chapter.

Proposed modifications

A reference to discouraging verge parking is added as a principle and into the diagram in the 'reducing car dominance' section of the design code.

Representation 7cbaa532-d62e-4334-b4a1-93f9014aa285

Main issues raised in representation

You want to lock me inside my house. This is unacceptable and you should be ashamed for such proposal.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee refers to restricted access / connectivity from their home but does not explicitly describe what is restricting his / her movement and so it is difficult for the council to respond specifically. The design code is inclusive for all.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f2d9b3-f2b2-45f1-ac33-4325834a5aef

Main issues raised in representation

I think these principles should be applied across the whole city.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome. If this pilot is successful in raising design quality, its principles has the potential to be applied to other neighbourhoods of similar characteristics.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 43699e15-aede-4109-a2c6-7dd053689364

Main issues raised in representation

The clue is in the name Arbury.

Councils' assessment

It is not clear what observation is being made by the consultee here and so its difficult for the council to respond.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9ba18921-ef32-4815-af26-336b79236677

Main issues raised in representation

I think by building very tall buildings, we can maximise space for nature. The taller the better - it's such a shame so many new developments are such low density and quantity of housing.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments about building height. The Design Code writes guidance about building height on page 42. The code takes a modest approach to height between 2-6 storeys that is contextual and suggests greater height in appropriate locations with justification.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b8f8fe29-d894-4ff2-aa24-0f4ae4b2eaec

Main issues raised in representation

I very much support a central feature of the overall design, namely houses with private gardens surrounding community nature areas.

Community nature areas should, if possible, include raised vegetable beds, play areas, and wildlife habitats.

Encourage hedges rather than fences in front gardens.

PLEASE: large, native trees along main roads to create 'grand avenues', NOT puny mixed lollipop trees, eg;

1. London Plane.

2. Columnar Oak.

3. Hornbeam.

4. Scots Pine.

Councils' assessment

Comment 1: The support for the overall design, namely houses with private gardens surrounding community nature areas is welcome.

Comment 2: Raised vegetable beds, play areas and wildlife habitats have been included in the design code.

Comment 3: Encourage hedges rather than fences in front gardens has been included in the design code.

Comment 4: As climate change increasingly becomes a reality, having a mix of native and non-native tree varieties within Cambridge is stated in the Cambridge City Council tree management policies as an important measure in order to safeguard against the increased risk of a devastating loss of one or more tree species due to pest or disease or changes in the environment large. The code will include text 'Where space permits, there will be a presumption in favour of large, shade-producing, large specimen trees.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification to comments 1-3.

Comment 4 - The code will include text 'Where space permits, there will be a presumption in favour of large, shade-producing, large specimen trees.

Representation 80c5890f-7790-4f69-bdbb-62c43e3a1fce

Main issues raised in representation

The current trend seems to be paving, tar and concrete, with no evergreen trees for wildlife and not enough water. Not good for nature. Nature needs areas where people are excluded. Wildlife does not like to be near people.

Councils' assessment

The consultee is not objecting to the principle and writes observations about concerns for nature in developments. The code takes account of nature for people as well as wildlife.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation df35c105-18fd-476a-b2e1-ecd7e982b3ff

Main issues raised in representation

* P21 - Your graphic on the left is very confusing (as it has no explanation and the houses are weirdly represented), but seems to indicate you are going to change roads into green spaces, either completely or half. This does not seem to marry with the MAJOR roads selected for greening, as I doubt you are proposing to change the B1049 into a green way with no cars.

* P23 - You mention "Ensure habitats are created, linked and managed wherever possible." - it should be highlighted out more that wildlife corridors should be created as they are very beneficial to wildlife, not just access for humans

Councils' assessment

Bullet 1 - P21 - The graphic on the left shows typical street sections and is not intended to be used literally but is an illustration on how street greening can be achieved. The title of the graphic will be clarified.

Bullet 2 - P23 - The intention of the text is for wildlife habitats. This will be clarified by using the term wildlife habitats

Proposed modifications

Bullet 1 - P21: The council will add text to the title of the section graphic to explain that it is an illustration to show how greening can be achieved.

Bullet 2 - P23: The word wildlife to habitats as part of the last bullet. A42:D42

Representation 2329dd24-c555-4a85-8b27-04869ea00f26

Main issues raised in representation

p6 map - does not show Arbury Rec (opposite NCA) as a green space - it is much larger than the little piece of grass in Redfern Close, but you would not know it.

p25 - I am not aware of a flooding problem, there is more likely to be a shortage of water.

It is certainly important to plant more trees. Would recommend planting tiny forests (there is already one in Chesterton at 5 trees) and also allowing trees to grow up from within hedges, such as the hedge alongside Arbury Road at the north end of the Rec.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments that the map on page 6 does not show Arbury recreation ground (opposite the North Cambridge Academy). Arbury Rec is shown on the map but it only shows the recreation ground in quite a pale green colour. However the Arbury recreation ground is shown with the correct size but the council will respond by adding a darker shade of green on the map would help to more clearly distinguish all these green spaces.

For the consultee comments on page 24 about trees, the consultee is supporting principle 1 and makes helpful suggestions.

Proposed modifications

The map on page 6 will show Arbury recreation ground in dark green.

Representation 595621a6-a9cb-45f7-8cf6-2cc6966ced5f

Main issues raised in representation

Very much approve of the desire to increase greenery, including trees, garden planting, etc.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 1a5db3df-b4ba-4950-a552-8d729c38cd24

Main issues raised in representation

Very much approve of the desire to increase greenery, including trees, garden planting, etc

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a96871a7-59e5-4e06-8d9f-18f1c139700d

Main issues raised in representation

Agree

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c84c4b20-28f5-4d3c-8951-a27eb947a45b

Main issues raised in representation

- Limit trees near active travel paths (e.g. trees right next to footpath), or make sure roots will not in future make paths uneven. Example of bad practice: Sidgwick Avenue. Tree root cutting near paths is essential to prevent path damage to prevent tree root/path-conflict.

Councils' assessment

Creation of tree canopy cover, away from footpaths has been added to last bullet in the urban Greening Section of the design code.

Proposed modifications

Creation of tree canopy cover, away from footpaths has been added to last bullet in the urban Greening Section of the design code.

Representation e248f398-251b-4eae-b758-a1b76b54af9c

Main issues raised in representation

We really like this principle and think the proposals for implementation are excellent.

We'd like to see this implemented as fully as possible, particularly in terms of increasing and diversifying green space in the area.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 20b7e389-3142-438f-a223-ec6c59075f0a

Main issues raised in representation

This seems sound.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b925dce0-8f96-49d2-8f48-e64e4967b6db

Main issues raised in representation

So much of the green space has been neglected so these proposals are very welcome

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 1 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c1ceb903-c916-4381-bb12-db781add13fa

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q1 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f03f42ed-03cc-4899-9d51-a1ed9f5c93d3

Main issues raised in representation

Yes, nature already exists, prioritise housing

Councils' assessment

The consultee is suggesting that housing is give greater priority in the design code. However the Design Code is addressing design and character issues rather than housing numbers which are dealt with in the Local Plan and emerging joint local plan.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation abcc810b-d8b5-4445-8b8d-254a3fa75973

Main issues raised in representation

It will be a major benefit to the area to prioritise nature but who will fund and implement projects? How will it be ensured developers will not wriggle out of their obligations regarding this post-planning? Several developments in the area have denuded trees and hedgerows with less-biodiverse planting replacing the native originals. "Tidiness" of green areas and verges are currently prioritised by the Council when longer grass and wildflowers would need less costly management.

Councils' assessment

The management regime of open space sits outside the scope of the Design Code. It is referenced in the code to ensure coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted. However, it will be further re-emphasised at the start of the document.

Proposed modifications

Text has been added to the introduction chapter.

Q3: Do you have any comments to make about Principle 2: Prioritise walking and cycling?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 49

Representation 65312228-e800-40c5-865e-1571f6c62137

Main issues raised in representation

Make this a priority on Arbury Road - one way for cars out of the city or modal filter. Needs more trees.

Councils' assessment

The consultee suggests making more roads filtered or one way roads. However GCSP does not have powers to make road filtered or one-way for traffic control because It's a county Highways Authority responsibility. However the design code prioritises streets for pedestrians/cyclist taking account of the needs of the car whilst makes reference to reduce traffic speeds along key streets.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9e857770-aae5-488b-985f-150f2616c9d4

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q3 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 963101a1-70de-44ad-94ff-5ec377a092a9

Main issues raised in representation

If you are designing footpaths please make sure cycles cannot zoom round blind corners by placing staggered barriers on these therefore making it safe for pedestrians, especially elderly, children and those with limited mobility.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comment that is about the safety of pedestrians from cyclists as well is considered is accepted.

Proposed modifications

text 'considering the safety of pedestrians' is included into the last bullet of musts that seek to provide new cycle/active travel corridors within the 'Cycle and Wheeling Trips' section of the design code.

Representation cae167e3-72d4-4247-8a57-65ea95fb2496

Main issues raised in representation

Agreed, but with cars due to become mainly electric in the near future roads still need to be maintained and in place.

Councils' assessment

Although the Consultee comment about road maintenance is a county Highways Authority responsibility and sit outside the scope of the design code, there is additional text include in the introduction section about its role in co-ordination and management regimes. It also adds text that the management and adoption of new road infrastructure needs to be considered early.

Proposed modifications

There is additional text include in the introduction section about its role in co-ordination and management regimes. It also adds text that the management and adoption of new road infrastructure needs to be considered early.

Representation 57ea90e8-4b15-4f89-acb7-34bd2f4afcab

Main issues raised in representation

Road surfaces MUST be improved for cyclists! I have had to give up cycling because of the death-trap potholes!

Councils' assessment

Although the Consultee comment about road maintenance is a county Highways Authority responsibility and sit outside the scope of the design code, there is additional text include in the introduction section about its role in co-ordination and management regimes. It also adds text that the management and adoption of new road infrastructure needs to be considered early.

Proposed modifications

There is additional text include in the introduction section about its role in co-ordination and management regimes. It also adds text that the management and adoption of new road infrastructure needs to be considered early.

Representation 8b4a3742-c4ae-48f3-96df-647c2897c870

Main issues raised in representation

This is already prioritised, it is more environmentally friendly to keep traffic moving rather than stopping it all the time or holding it up.

Councils' assessment

The consultee writes about road traffic congestion. However it is not explicit in their observation about what aspect of Principle 2 they are. commenting on.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a77fce58-c2aa-411c-b870-b509b8dccf2c

Main issues raised in representation

Pandering to CamCycle yet again and ignoring the public majority.

Councils' assessment

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024. Please see Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code> for how the code has evolved taking account the priorities residents/community which includes opportunities for active travel rather than a perceived bias towards the Camcycle organisation. There isn't any evidence to substantiate this claim.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a608e7f8-0068-44c8-bb61-93fe276943ac

Main issues raised in representation

I'm all for this, but would want to ensure that those who do need vehicular access, would have it. I.e. close enough parking, flat surfaces that are easy to walk along with a shopping trolley or pushchair, etc. Spaces for visitors to park. The idea of shared/unallocated parking spaces seems good to me, so long as residents are not stressed with trying to find a space.

Councils' assessment

The design code ensures that the essential vehicle access are accommodated. However, at the beginning of principle 2 which aims to prioritise walking and cycling, text is included that ensures essential vehicle access and use for the community, visitors and services is maintained. The document in cycle and wheeling trip seeks to design for all type of cycle and wheeling movements, additional references to inclusive access for all is provided.

Proposed modifications

At the beginning of principle 2 which aims to prioritise walking and cycling, text is included that ensures essential vehicle access and use for the community, visitors and services is maintained. Additional references to inclusive access for all is provided.

Representation 58c13ba7-c1d5-4b1b-b0c6-7654e06f2b63**Main issues raised in representation**

Much has been done already and it is very welcome. Sadly many cycle lanes, footpaths and pavements are blocked by parked cars, builders' lorries, commercial A boards, green City Fibre boxes etc.

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes observations about illegal / inconsiderate parking by vehicles and use of commercial A-boards on cycle lanes, footpaths and pavements. Although this lies outside the scope of this planning document, its importance is highlighted in the introduction chapters of the design code to ensure co-ordination can take place between different internal departments and external stakeholders.

Proposed modifications

The importance of management regimes and issues are highlighted in the introduction section of the code.

Representation 0c7d2c34-22b9-4fc2-963f-ab054bd6bbd1**Main issues raised in representation**

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q3 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7a0a7181-9f89-42b9-9b63-58f46c3396b1**Main issues raised in representation**

I think a major improvement would be the introduction of electric buses to the Citi 1 route. The active transport routes need to take into account school pick up and drop off times as they are a major source of congestion and traffic in Arbury.

It's interesting to see the proposed connection between Alex Wood Road and Roseford Road, and it would be helpful to have more detailed plans for how this would work in practice.

Councils' assessment

The provision of bus services is outside the scope of the design code, however improvement to existing public transport are suggested. Congestion during pick up and drop off is recognised and hence alternative routes that connect parks, key streets and destinations have been suggested.

The connection between Alex Wood Road and Roseford Road is suggested as a principle which needs further detail which may come forward in the future and will need to be assessed at that point

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 62f5248c-e90c-4f7b-a75e-dc8ace623d65

Main issues raised in representation

I think there are "hidden" walking and cycling routes that, with a small amount of work, could be made to feel safer and could increase connectivity.

One in particular is the route from the end of Downhams Lane, through to Hawkins Road. I think this has the potential to link many people who live in the Hawkins Road area to the more frequent buses on Milton Road and from there to the city. I also think that there could be more (and more obvious) pedestrian connections across Campkin Road to join up the Hawkins Road area with Nun's Way and on to the CRC.

Councils' assessment

The consultee's comments about walking and cycling routes are welcome. Movement opportunity, diagram and text as well as other diagrams of the draft design code will be reviewed and updated to take the opportunities for improving existing access for all users taking onboard most of the suggestions that are made here and should be incorporated into all designs where possible. Additional text to prioritise and improve safety of existing walking and cycle routes, integrating them with new development proposals will be added in the movement opportunity section of the code. The consultee supports principle 2 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

The council will amend map and text on Movement opportunities and include text to prioritise and improve safety of existing walking and cycle routes, integrating them with new development proposals.

Representation 29067af4-b285-4f15-b02b-fd78b6422c17

Main issues raised in representation

No. Think it's an excellent intent. But by contrast, you must regulate, fine and 'police' vehicle drivers who break the highway codes and speed limits around all this, otherwise the intent is reduced to farce and interference.

Councils' assessment

Consultee raises a traffic rule breaking issue that is beyond the remit of GCSP and the scope of this planning document.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9ecc5a8e-713a-446d-aa23-93f72ee7f90b

Main issues raised in representation

I support this principle, however, there needs to be a connection to access to good public transport at the same time. Not everyone can walk or cycle and we need better transportation.

Councils' assessment

The consultee raises issue about the importance of public transport for residents. However the draft design Code addresses this on page 30. Managing Bus services is beyond the scope of this planning document but is referenced to ensure co-ordination can take place between different internal departments and external stakeholders.

Proposed modifications

Additional text added to improvements to existing public transport to connect key destinations including Cambridge North, local centre, City Centre, Science Park,

regional college within easy reach should be should be considered wherever viable during plan making or services review stages.

Representation 3dbfd0ad-3c53-433c-bf42-fb117cd8a214

Main issues raised in representation

That is discrimination. No one should be more equal than others. Do you expect older people, disabled or big families to walk or ride bikes on icy roads or pavements with uneven surface or potholes?

Councils' assessment

Consultee raises the need for better road maintenance and writes that certain groups in society can't rely on walking and cycling and have a need for motor vehicles.

However, the draft design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

Text related to 'essential vehicle access and use for the community, visitors and services is maintained' is emphasised at the start of section 2 and highlighted in reducing car dominance section of the design code.

Representation 28513a82-7910-43b8-94e7-4261d868b571

Main issues raised in representation

The image you showed depicted car dominated streets and no cycle paths - was this a mistake? On-street parking should be largely banned in new developments.

Councils' assessment

The consultee writes about an image of car dominated streets and no cycle paths. However its not clear which image the consultee is writing about. The draft design code shows images of cycle paths on the drawings on page 26 (shared with pedestrians) and also on pages 28-31.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a4cee5e6-b27d-471b-a15b-349edf659dea

Main issues raised in representation

Page 26: "Separated footways & cycle paths where possible". Side streets do not need cycle paths, especially if the GCP, as planned, closes all the side streets down, but main roads do need cycle paths (where there is space). Histon Road now has perfectly adequate cycle paths. Milton Road soon will, if the GCP ever manages to complete the project. Kings Hedges Road has somewhat adequate cycle paths. Gilbert Road has adequate cycle paths. Arbury Road has adequate cycle paths for about 2/3 of the road. Campkin Road is the outlier, it could do with cycle paths.

Page 26: "Re-purpose redundant garage sites". Sure, but what the city has done is remove non-redundant garage sites, e.g. at Borrowdale, which Pollard Thomas Edwards knows about because they were the architects for the replacement.

Page 26: "Downgrading residential road infrastructure to prioritise local people and greening". What does this mean? Does it mean that local government will maintain the roads even worse than it does now? "Local people" use roads so want them to

be decent and to be allowed to use them. It is the first generation of ruling elite who are advocating for infrastructure to be made worse.

Page 26: "Create lively car-free space". What does this mean? It sounds like it's just a slogan to keep the usual suspects happy, but it's so vague that it could be used by the usual suspects to object to any planning application which has any parking.

Page 26: "Use trees and build outs to reduce speeds". The problem with build outs is that it means cyclists have to veer out into the middle of the road, putting themselves more at danger. Build outs are generally a pretty dumb idea, unless there is space for a cycle lane cut through, or the build outs are required to keep pedestrians safe (e.g. the build out near the school on Lime Avenue).

Page 26: "Prioritise legible and connected cycle route". We already mostly have that, for anyone who can figure out how to get around.

Page 26: "Reduce dominance of parking areas and re-purpose". Unfortunately, the current planning system is making the situation worse. It is allowing developers not to provide adequate on-site parking, so is encouraging more and more residents to park cars on streets rather than in driveways. Roseford Road is already seeing this effect and certain nearby proposals will make it worse. I know that the ruling elite hate cars, but get real. We don't want our streets in north Cambridge to end up looking like those in the Mill Road area.

Page 27: "Improved cycling infrastructure and greening on Histon Road". What does this mean? Does Pollard Thomas Edwards not realise that the GCP just spent two years bulldozing Histon Road, one part of which was improving the cycling infrastructure? Are we going to have permanent roadworks on this side of town, just to tinker with what is here already?

Page 27: It's Campkin Road not Camkin Road.

Page 29: "Plan for cycle parking to be at least as convenient as car parking - where possible at the front of the home." Not just for homes but for all buildings. (Pollard Thomas Edwards unfortunately put the cycle parking for the Meadows Community Centre at the back of the building.)

Page 31: "Provide car free development where possible". The problem with this is that people will then park on the street, which makes the streets more cluttered and unpleasant, and can cause friction when someone parks stupidly. Most people want to be independently mobile, no matter how much the Cambridge (and UK) ruling elite are trying to stop that.

Councils' assessment

Page 26 - The consultee support cycle paths on main road but not side streets. The consultee is querying the meaning and necessity of the wording of 6 annotated pins on the drawing on page 26. All the text is relevant to the design code with the exception of

- The word 'downgrading' will be replaced with 'Improving streets by reducing' in principle 2 diagram for prioritising walking and cycling.

Page 27 - The consultee is querying the relevance of the opportunity for “Improved cycling infrastructure and greening on Histon Road” on page 27. The council will update the movement opportunity section of design code to incorporate a reference to recent cycle lane improvements carried out on Histon and Arbury roads, where improved cycle infrastructure is suggested.

Proposed modifications

The council will respond to replace the word 'downgrading' with 'Improving streets by reducing' on page 26 of the draft design code. The council will update the Movement Opportunity section of the design code by incorporate a reference to recent cycle lane improvements carried out on Histon and Arbury roads where improved cycle infrastructure is suggested.

Representation [dc8130d8-1d12-43a4-9acf-d3722863bc5d](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Very important. I support

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 2 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [58328aca-3d74-4c52-844f-5d8ea60d4a05](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Yes how about people that aren't able to walk or cycle ad their disabled & need vehicle transport. & all normal people that have a car forget about them ??

Councils' assessment

Consultee emphasises the need for car use by disabled people. However, the draft design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

Text related to 'essential vehicle access and use for the community, visitors and services is maintained' is emphasised at the start of section 2 and highlighted in reducing car dominance section of the design code.

Representation [577f3604-428c-4a3c-bc99-1d63a40e3136](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Buses not good enough and too expensive.

Councils' assessment

The consultee raises issue about the importance of bus services for residents. However, managing bus services is outside the scope of this planning document which is referenced to ensure co-ordination can take place between different internal departments and external stakeholders.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ca96aef0-c644-4b59-99dd-2b9226c1b0e8](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Buses not good enough and too expensive.

Councils' assessment

The consultee raises issue about the importance of bus services for residents. However, managing bus services is outside the scope of this planning document which is referenced to ensure co-ordination can take place between different internal departments and external stakeholders.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation bcee7ced-91b4-47e1-8432-349e8a2923e5

Main issues raised in representation

What is the point of this when the council don't listen to the public and continue with their unwanted vanity projects, bow down to the GCP and are overly influenced by CamCycle.

Councils' assessment

The consultee is dismissive of the value and impact of this and previous consultations by the Council. The consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>. The current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2024.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3dec1a53-aa5d-4884-a434-1193731e9aea

Main issues raised in representation

Pavement parking ruins pavements for pedestrians in Cambridge and elsewhere. Design code needs much stronger actions to address this problem. Otherwise I like it.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments about the problem of pavement parking. Although the Design Code is more about strategic principles, the council agrees and so a reference to design out verge parking will be added to the diagrams in the reducing car dominance section of the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

A reference to designing out verge parking will be added to the diagrams in the 'reducing car dominance section' of the draft design code.

Representation 7cbaa532-d62e-4334-b4a1-93f9014aa285

Main issues raised in representation

You want to lock me inside my house. This is unacceptable and you should be ashamed for such proposal.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee refers to restricted access / connectivity from their home but does not explicitly describe what is restricting his / her movement and so it is difficult for the council to respond specifically.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f2d9b3-f2b2-45f1-ac33-4325834a5aef

Main issues raised in representation

Need to do more for the aging population. Many people can't walk far or cycle. Need space for mobility scooters and to house and charge them.

Councils' assessment

The consultee raises a point about storage and recharging of mobility scooters.

Proposed modifications

The council agrees and will add a reference to designing mobility scooters in the design for all types of wheeling principles in the section of cycle and wheeling trips of the draft design code.

Representation e9317fbb-4868-4584-b66d-29a678769348

Main issues raised in representation

Could you please consider that cyclists don't want to be on a main road. We will cross a green space to avoid the road. Don't stick rough paths for dogs in the way to stop us going the quick way to the community centre. See that we want to go across the park because the air is cleaner and it's quicker. Nobody wants to walk or cycle near traffic unless they're stupid or don't have breathing problems. We would like somewhere to jog that's clean and fresh. Quickest way to the river or pond. Let us use bikes on the busway buses please! I missed the survey and don't have time now but the new Meadows centre has bike racks at the back but only way to get there is round by the road or through dog mess and rocky barrier of a path which is my preferred choice! Btw traffic idling on Chesterton and Milton roads is horrible i need a gas mask, and I won't go near Mill road bridge traffic if I can help it. Thankyou, Grainne

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes several observations including concerns for cycling in the area about traffic congestion and poor air quality on streets. The council has already considered alternative routes for cycles/pedestrians in addition to main routes along streets and made suggestions to park cycles to the front of homes.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 43699e15-aede-4109-a2c6-7dd053689364

Main issues raised in representation

The place is full of cul-de-sacs. There's no fast moving traffic anyway. Whatever you do to prioritise walking and cycling will end up reducing parking which will be a negative thing for residents.

Councils' assessment

Consultee is concerned that prioritising walking and cycling in the Design Code will mean that there will be less parking car spaces. However, this is not the intention in the draft design code which instead is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car and park, whilst prioritising walking and cycling and reducing its dominance on the public realm.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 8dbde530-daa9-4f47-ac5a-5d1cbaeb0d30

Main issues raised in representation

Cycling is a particularly unpopular hobby that is taking away valuable road space when our roads are woefully under capacity to start off with. Any measures to promote cycling should be scrapped completely, especially on or near roads

Councils' assessment

The consultee is dismissive of cycling which he / she considers a hobby but sustainable mode of travel particularly for local trips, to cycle to work or to shops or college is promoted by national and local planning policies. This will reduce congestion and increase health and wellbeing.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b0a82013-61ea-48d7-8d15-30d2a0fe146d](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Make provisions for safer cycling and walking, but not at the expense or exclusion of other modes of transport. All are valid methods.

Councils' assessment

The consultee suggests that the Design Code is prioritising cycling / walking at the expense or exclusion of other modes of transport. The Design Code is not proposing to exclude other modes of transport. The draft design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car and park it, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [9ba18921-ef32-4815-af26-336b79236677](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Ensuring the majority of new housing developments allow for density will greatly help the walkability of the space.

Councils' assessment

The consultee is favouring compact high density design which the consultee would infer shorter, more walkable places. The council has suggested a contextual led approach with buildings between 2-6 storeys supporting taller buildings in justifiable locations such as centres.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b8f8fe29-d894-4ff2-aa24-0f4ae4b2eaec](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Dramatically improve years of neglect for public pavements and paths (eg Brimley Road, etc). Some tarmac paths in north Cambridge have not been resurfaced for MANY DECADES. (I realise this is the result of Tory defunding.)

Principle of hierarchy: 1. Pedestrians, 2. Cyclists, 3. Vehicles.

Separation of pedestrians, cycleways, and cars wherever possible.

Red cycleways should be fully separated at ROAD JUNCTIONS.

PLEASE: Sheffield cycle stands, NOT two level units that never get used!

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes several helpful comments about road and pavement maintenance, hierarchies, separation of users, cycleways at junctions which are incorporated into the document. A note to include Sheffield cycle stands is added.

Proposed modifications

The council will incorporate an addition to the text in the Cycle and wheeling trips of the design code. Sheffield cycle stands are preferable, in accordance with the 'Cycle Parking Guide For New Residential Developments' (2010) SPD.

Representation 80c5890f-7790-4f69-bdbb-62c43e3a1fce

Main issues raised in representation

Most important thing to do is put park and rides on Histon and Huntingdon Roads. This would keep thousands of cars out of the city, freshen up the air, and give a more peaceful environment.

Councils' assessment

The consultee request that park and ride areas are added to Huntingdon and Histon Roads but this is beyond the remit of GCSP and beyond the scope of the design code

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2329dd24-c555-4a85-8b27-04869ea00f26

Main issues raised in representation

p27 Very pleased to see that the need to reduce traffic on Arbury Road is recognised. A modal filter here would be appropriate. Kings Hedges Road is a much wider road and is more appropriate for taking east-west traffic.

p29 better cycle paths north-south from Histon Road/Gilbert Road to KH Road needed with much better signposting - the Regional College and Science park are major destinations

p30 Public transport - no 1 bus is frequent and provides a good service, as does the guided bus. However residents who live nearer to the Milton Road are short-changed with the most infrequent P&R 5 service (often waits of up to 20 minutes), almost no bus 9 from Ely and the guided buses don't stop. As Milton Road is a main arterial road, this lack is quite incomprehensible!

Councils' assessment

Comment on p27: The consultee suggests adding a traffic lights modal filter for Arbury Road. However GCSP does not have powers to modal filter roads because this is a county Highways Authority responsibility. However it does suggest reducing traffic along Arbury Road.

Comment on p29: For the consultee's suggestion for better signposting on cycle path from Histon Road/Gilbert Road to KH Road, the document has incorporated additional active travel routes on the map and text in the Movement opportunities section of the design code.

Comment on p30: Managing bus services is beyond the remit of GCSP and beyond the scope of the Design Code. However the need for coordination is emphasised in the introductory section of the code and improvements to existing public transport use section of the design code

Proposed modifications

Comment on p27: No change proposed

Comment on p29: The document has incorporated additional active travel routes on the map and text in the Movement opportunities section of the design code.

Comment on p30: The need for coordination is emphasised in the introductory section of the code and improvements to existing public transport routes is emphasised in the public transport use section of the design code

Representation 595621a6-a9cb-45f7-8cf6-2cc6966ced5f

Main issues raised in representation

Page 31: It is utterly daft to reduce car parking spaces below what is actually needed by the occupants, or to define "actually needed" as below what typical occupants really need. We've recently heard from people who would like to move house to the NIAB area, but who've found that none of the houses of appropriate size for their family have anywhere near enough car parking space available, so will go elsewhere in Cambridge instead. That is not necessarily to say that they would use their car(s) for every journey; but they still need the spaces to park it/them when not in use, including at night. Moreover switching to only using bicycles is not appropriate because some of their journeys take them too far afield, or require too many other things to be brought with them for work, or need to be done when the weather is not suitable for cycling.

Reducing parking spaces below what is needed just leads to parking wars.

Councils' assessment

Page 31 - Whilst the intention of the Design Code is not to provide car parking below what is needed, it intends to shift the balance towards sustainable and active travel and tackling the dominance of cars. The car parking provision would need to be negotiated at the planning application stage with a clear emphasis on cycling and pedestrian routes.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 1a5db3df-b4ba-4950-a552-8d729c38cd24

Main issues raised in representation

Page 31: It is utterly daft to reduce car parking spaces below what is actually needed by the occupants, or to define "actually needed" as below what typical occupants really need. We've recently heard from people who would like to move house to the NIAB area, but who've found that none of the houses of appropriate size for their family have anywhere near enough car parking space available, so will go elsewhere in Cambridge instead. That is not necessarily to say that they would use their car(s) for every journey; but they still need the spaces to park it/them when not in use, including at night. Moreover switching to only using bicycles is not appropriate because some of their journeys take them too far afield, or require too many other

things to be brought with them for work, or need to be done when the weather is not suitable for cycling.

Reducing parking spaces below what is needed just leads to parking wars.

Councils' assessment

see comment in row above.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification. see comment in row above

Representation a96871a7-59e5-4e06-8d9f-18f1c139700d

Main issues raised in representation

Agree

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 2 of the Design code which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c84c4b20-28f5-4d3c-8951-a27eb947a45b

Main issues raised in representation

- To prevent bicycle theft and unbolting of bike stands, emphasise the use of concreted in-bicycle stands rather than bolt ons. Bolt ons are a substantial theft risk. Bonus point if the concrete-like material used is somehow sustainable

- Consider making streets "Active travel-street, Car is Guest"-streets where cars cannot overtake active travel users. Example here:
<https://images.app.goo.gl/GmXn3SCY8yFWvHhB6>

- Ensure tree roots won't make paths uneven or cause potholes by redirecting them away from paths or otherwise.

- Tree root cutting near paths is essential to prevent path damage.

Councils' assessment

Bullet 1: Comment made regarding the safety of bikes which has been incorporated into the design code.

Bullet 2: These are helpful suggestions on prioritising cycles/pedestrians which are details for other stakeholders to execute.

Bullet 3&4: This is a helpful suggestion to ensure tree roots won't make paths uneven or cause potholes by redirecting them away from paths or otherwise. A note to ensure that trees are located away from footpaths is inserted in the urban greening section of the design code.

Proposed modifications

A note to ensure that trees are located away from footpaths is inserted in the urban greening section of the design code and reference to 'Cycle Parking Guide For New Residential Developments' (2010) SPD, which highlights Sheffield cycle stands, to the draft design code.

Representation e248f398-251b-4eae-b758-a1b76b54af9c

Main issues raised in representation

This is really important to us as we walk and cycle everywhere. We would like to see more investment in keeping up our existing road network - the potholes around Kings Hedges are currently potentially lethal for cyclists and it's disappointing how quickly the new cycle lane on Arbury Road is degrading. Work needs to be high-quality, durable and long-lasting. We like the idea of more secure cycle parking. The principle about joined-up networks is also important as many current cycle lanes don't seem to join up yet. There is also a problem with cars (taxis in particular) parking in cycle lanes around Kings Hedges so signage to discourage this/civil enforcement officers would be welcomed, as this is also dangerous for cyclists particularly if the car doesn't have its lights on. We would also love to see a more direct bus route from Kings Hedges to Cambridge North Station, as this is an obvious gap in the bus network.

Councils' assessment

Although the Consultee comment about road management and maintenance and bus services is a county Highways Authority responsibility and sit outside the scope of the design code, there is additional text included in the introduction section about its role in co-ordination and management regimes. It introduces maps that prioritises cycle routes that join up, design out parking on verges, adds bus routes and destinations that need to be considered in the public transport section and adds text that the management and adoption of new road infrastructure needs to be considered early and be of high quality, be durable and long lasting.

Proposed modifications

There is additional text included in the introduction section about its role in co-ordination and management regimes. It introduces maps that prioritises cycle routes that join up, design out parking on verges, adds bus routes and destinations that need to be considered in the public transport section and adds text that the management and adoption of new road infrastructure needs to be considered early, and be of high quality, be durable and long lasting.

[Representation 4a213bd3-b6cf-41d0-b239-e1a558eaf337](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Strongly support the creating of more cycling infrastructure, and many roads in the area would benefit from being closed to through traffic.

Reducing pavement parking throughout the area is also important.

Councils' assessment

Whilst the comment on creating more cycle parking infrastructure is welcome, closing roads is beyond the remit of the draft Design Code. However the council does make reference to reducing traffic on key streets. management of parking is also outside the remit of the code and the local planning authority.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

[Representation 20b7e389-3142-438f-a223-ec6c59075f0a](#)

Main issues raised in representation

The general principle is fine, but don't make it difficult for those of us who genuinely need cars, and avoid segregation of cycle routes - segregated cycle lanes are more dangerous than the main road. (Look at the academic evidence if you need to.)

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 2 but has concerns about segregated cycleways. The consultee refers to academic evidence against segregated cycleways but does not give a specific reference.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b925dce0-8f96-49d2-8f48-e64e4967b6db](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Absolutely essential. I cycle my five year old daughter along Hawkins Road and Campkin Road everyday to school at Arbury Primary. Every day we are stuck in lengthy traffic jams on camp kin road, breathing in fumes and unable to move ourselves. There is no cycle lane. It is a horrible journey. I see people getting in cars to drive a few hundred feet?! We have to encourage walking and cycling and it is only by prioritising these methods of transport that we'll get people out of their cars. Unfortunately we are also regularly verbally abused by car drivers.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 2 but raises concern about a lack of cycle lane on Hawkins Road / Campkin Road.

Proposed modifications

The council will add to the text/map on the movement opportunities section of the draft design code for improving walking and cycling routes along Hawkins Road and Campkin Road.

Representation [f2e6a7c0-4d92-4c04-9fdc-d221ebc6e509](#)

Main issues raised in representation

It should mention how disabled people who cannot walk or cycle will be included in plans. We have a right to use public transport too, it would be great if the baseline standard explicitly addressed our needs to avoid accidentally excluding us from environmentally positive choices

Councils' assessment

The consultee highlights a lack of text about disabled people who cannot walk or cycle and need to use public transport should be included in plans. Inclusive access is a key principles that is inserted through out the document.

Proposed modifications

The council will add text that makes reference to ensure that opportunities to improve access for all users should be incorporated into all designs in the movement opportunity section of the design code.

Representation [384bd466-1031-4249-9cf1-03a23cd236e0](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Given the culture of car dependency, the more we can do to design-in easy walking and cycling, the better. So I strongly support the code here.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee supports principle 2 for prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [c1ceb903-c916-4381-bb12-db781add13fa](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Pressure groups should be removed from planning process, specifically CamCycle.
Totally unrepresentative.

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes wider comment about consultation / planning processes and influence of CamCycle on the process. The consultee makes a criticism about perceived bias towards the Camcycle organisation in the draft Design Code. However they provided no evidence to back up this assertion. The consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>. The current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2024.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b486fe67-6a90-4549-8c3c-b7ebee92174e**Main issues raised in representation**

The prerequisite here is the exclusion of social groups, classes, etc who may reside in any given area but work some distance away. It is a laudable aim, but makes huge assumptions on the demographic of residents. In effect causing some areas to be no-go for elderly, those with visible or hidden disabilities.

Councils' assessment

Generally supportive of the principle but concerned about impacts on some groups who may reside in any given area but work some distance away. The code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f03f42ed-03cc-4899-9d51-a1ed9f5c93d3**Main issues raised in representation**

Yes, it's insulting, people

Use the transport best suited to their needs, not cycle and I drive, my choice .

Councils' assessment

The consultee does not support the principle and would prefer the choice of walking, cycling or driving should be down to the user and their needs. However, the code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation cea30b44-bf9a-460a-9a6c-480a96d0c154**Main issues raised in representation**

This is always done at the detriment of all other means of travel, the cycling community have billions spent on them. They ignore the faculties and cycle where they like, as they have a self righteous attitude only enhanced by councils pandering to camcycle and the vocal minority.

Councils' assessment

The consultee concerns are that walking and cycling improvements are prioritised at the expense of other modes. Consultee has concerns about cycling lobby groups Camcycle. However, the code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car, whilst prioritising walking and cycling to ensure in order to mitigate the dominance of the car and comes to the view independently based on local, national planning policies that support sustainable transport.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [abcc810b-d8b5-4445-8b8d-254a3fa75973](#)

Main issues raised in representation

A lot of car use in the area is pass-through traffic. Surely measures should include traffic calming and better speed restrictions that improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. Improving green routes away from cars will best support cycling. Protection from cars and speeding drivers will also give young and older people more confidence to use spaces without being sped past or knocked over.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 2 but suggests further measures for aiding cyclists' safety. However page 28 of the Design Code refers to "Include vehicle speed reducing measures to mitigate active travel user safety" and pages 28 and 29 refer to segregated cycleways being a must. The council has already incorporated these considerations into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [103ca9b0-838d-42ab-982f-ec06bd20c1db](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Need to improve the south end of Arbury Road for cyclists. It is currently very dangerous and narrow.

Councils' assessment

Consultee refers to safety concerns for cyclists at the south end of Arbury Road. However, page 28 of the Design Code already refers to "Include vehicle speed reducing measures to mitigate active travel user safety" and pages 28 and 29 refer to segregated cycleways. The council has already incorporated these considerations into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Q4: Do you have any comments to make about Principle 3: Thriving public spaces?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 34

Representation [65312228-e800-40c5-865e-1571f6c62137](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Must block or remove traffic for this to happen

Councils' assessment

The consultee seems to support the principle and suggests that the code will achieve this principle by removing traffic. Traffic management lies outside the scope of this planning document of the functions the local authority can control. However the code mentions traffic reduction measures

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 61b69d75-9a67-4bf3-ac2d-81b5b729726d

Main issues raised in representation

Why is the park to the south east of arbury town centre not included as a green space?

Councils' assessment

The council considers that the map on page 6 does show Arbury recreation ground (opposite the North Cambridge Academy) but only shows the recreation ground in quite a pale green.

Proposed modifications

The council will respond and incorporate a darker shade of green for the green spaces in the draft design code maps to make it clearer.

Representation 9e857770-aae5-488b-985f-150f2616c9d4

Main issues raised in representation

Yes

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 3 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 963101a1-70de-44ad-94ff-5ec377a092a9

Main issues raised in representation

Okay doing these but you need to maintain them regularly not twice in forty years as happened next to us.

Councils' assessment

The management regime of open space sits outside the scope of the Design Code. It is referenced in the code to ensure coordination between departments and where maintenance needs to be taken into account when new spaces are planned and adopted. However, it will be further re-emphasised at the start of the document.

Proposed modifications

Text has been added to the introduction chapter.

Representation 8b4a3742-c4ae-48f3-96df-647c2897c870

Main issues raised in representation

They need to be kept safe and prevent groups gathering.

Councils' assessment

Consultee comments briefly about safety. The council has already incorporated the issue of safety into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 58c13ba7-c1d5-4b1b-b0c6-7654e06f2b63

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q4 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 0c7d2c34-22b9-4fc2-963f-ab054bd6bbd1

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

No consultee comment about this principle. No change to text required.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7a0a7181-9f89-42b9-9b63-58f46c3396b1

Main issues raised in representation

Carlton Way shopping area is not identified as a focal point for improvement. I wouldn't want to see it become more run down and suffer compared to Arbury Town Centre. The neglected raised flower beds were removed to prevent anti-social behaviour and loitering outside the One Stop, but this doesn't create 'a thriving public place'.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments about a lack of reference to Carlton Way shopping area.

Proposed modifications

The council will respond to incorporate a reference to guidance for the Carlton Way shopping area in the public space opportunities.

Representation 29067af4-b285-4f15-b02b-fd78b6422c17

Main issues raised in representation

How can you design, regulate, create or stipulate "thriving" anything? It is always up to people. In my experience people are largely apathetic and disengagement, which is why we find ourselves in these positions in the first place - and why I've seen these things going round and round for the past thirty years of my professional career.

Councils' assessment

The consultee is critical of the impacts of previous and current plans and previous public consultations in the area. However, the consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9ecc5a8e-713a-446d-aa23-93f72ee7f90b

Main issues raised in representation

I support this principle

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 3 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3dbfd0ad-3c53-433c-bf42-fb117cd8a214

Main issues raised in representation

Fantasy

Councils' assessment

The consultee queries the realism of the Design Code but does not go into detail of their criticism. However, the draft design code has been subject to testing and review by the council's panel of independent experts and been subject to several rounds of public consultation to make it as realistic as possible.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 28513a82-7910-43b8-94e7-4261d868b571

Main issues raised in representation

How to avoid ASB in public spaces? They feel unsafe at night and are used by drug dealers. Low level shielded solar lights or PIR solar lights to improve safety and avoid light pollution which is harmful to wildlife.

Councils' assessment

The consultee has concerns about anti-social behaviour and the need for well lit areas to improve public safety. However, lighting issues feature on page 34 cultural sociability section of the Design Code. The council has already incorporated the issue of safety into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a4cee5e6-b27d-471b-a15b-349edf659dea

Main issues raised in representation

Page 32: "Easy to Access Facilities". People west of the Cam have hardly any shopping facilities in comparison with people east of the Cam. So sure, go for it. For example, Darwin Green should have had a supermarket, but it seems not to be happening now.

Page 33: For most people in Arbury and Kings Hedges, Arbury Court is not the centre of the universe.

Page 34: "Community led public art installations". Most of the public art in Cambridge is embarrassingly bad. Developers are bad at it, and the city is bad at it. The money would be better spent on better play areas for kids, or cycle paths, or trees.

Page 34: "Include trees to provide comfortable summer shade to gathering spaces". Don't forget about the other seasons of the year, when the sun is desirable.

Page 35: "Play along the Way". What does this mean? Are you saying that you think children should be playing in the streets? Maybe if we had decent recreation areas (e.g. back gardens) then that wouldn't be necessary.

Councils' assessment

Consultee makes a series of observations. However, Arbury Court is the largest shopping /centre for services and facilities in the area and so merits guidance. The consultee is critical of public art in the city. However, views about public art are subjective. The consultee asks for a definition of 'Play on the way' - it means an area for informal play for children to keep active, stay well and be happy and which could be along the journey between home and key destination spaces, such as school, park, shopping cultural buildings etc.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [dc8130d8-1d12-43a4-9acf-d3722863bc5d](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I like the general approach

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 3 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [58328aca-3d74-4c52-844f-5d8ea60d4a05](#)

Main issues raised in representation

None

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q4 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [577f3604-428c-4a3c-bc99-1d63a40e3136](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Good

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 3 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [ca96aef0-c644-4b59-99dd-2b9226c1b0e8](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Good

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 3 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [bcee7ced-91b4-47e1-8432-349e8a2923e5](#)

Main issues raised in representation

What is the point of this when the council don't listen to the public and continue with their unwanted vanity projects, bow down to the GCP and are overly influenced by CamCycle.

Councils' assessment

The consultee is dismissive of the value and impact of this consultation and previous consultations by the Council and mentions the influence of other local bodies (Camcycle). The purpose of the Design Code is explained on page 4. The consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7cbaa532-d62e-4334-b4a1-93f9014aa285

Main issues raised in representation

You want to lock me inside my house. This is unacceptable and you should be ashamed for such proposal.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee refers to restricted access / connectivity from their home but does not explicitly describe what is restricting his / her movement and so it is difficult for the council to respond specifically.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 03f2d9b3-f2b2-45f1-ac33-4325834a5aef

Main issues raised in representation

Hazlewood Road would benefit from tidying up and creating small public spaces.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments about the need for maintenance of public realm on Hazlewood Road and the need for more small public spaces.

Proposed modifications

The comment is welcome and the council will incorporate the comment in public space opportunities section of the draft design code that suggests improvements beyond the local centre, making reference to Hazlewood Shop on the map.

Representation 43699e15-aede-4109-a2c6-7dd053689364

Main issues raised in representation

Yes, make them less fortified. I've never seen a place so well protected from vandalism as I have in Arbury. Hillfields in Coventry aside.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments about need for area to be less fortified.

Proposed modifications

The council will respond by incorporating into page 33 of the draft design code how the design code supports public space improvements prioritising pedestrians, making them welcoming and safe.

Representation 8dbde530-daa9-4f47-ac5a-5d1cbaeb0d30

Main issues raised in representation

Public spaces cannot thrive without welcoming CARS. Cars bring customers as is proven time and time again by the success of retail parks, out of town shopping centres and supermarkets. No cars means no customers and subsequently all businesses in the anti car dead zone become unsustainable. There are not and never will be enough cyclists to sustain business and mass transport will soon be obsoleted by driverless cars.

Councils' assessment

Consultee comments that the design code contains little reference to the need and importance of cars for residents and businesses. However, the draft design code is intended to enable balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car and park it, whilst prioritising walking and cycling.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

[Representation b8f8fe29-d894-4ff2-aa24-0f4ae4b2eaec](#)**Main issues raised in representation**

I support resident involvement and care in public green spaces.

I very much support one of the central features of the overall design, namely houses with private gardens surrounding community nature areas.

Community nature areas should, if possible, include raised vegetable beds, play areas, and wildlife habitats.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 3 and makes welcome suggestions - include raised vegetable beds, play areas, and wildlife habitats.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

[Representation 80c5890f-7790-4f69-bdbb-62c43e3a1fce](#)**Main issues raised in representation**

Public spaces that are paved and concreted over look dismal, and soon end up covered in chewing gum and covered in spills from drinks. Aim for trees, plants, water, softness.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 3 and prefers green, soft landscaped community spaces to paved, concreted surfaces. The observations are welcome. The council has already incorporated these considerations into page 37 (materials and elements) of the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

[Representation 2329dd24-c555-4a85-8b27-04869ea00f26](#)**Main issues raised in representation**

p33 - everyone who lives in the area finds that Arbury Road is a dividing line, yet residents of Kings Hedges use Arbury Court on a regular basis and apart from Arbury Community Centre and a few shops dotted around there is very little to keep

them on the north of the estate. A modal filter on Arbury Road would make the road safer to cross and would therefore help to reduce the sense that Arbury Road is a barrier.

It is to be hoped that the Councils can work with Good Shepherd Church to encourage the sense of the church as a part of the Arbury Town Centre and a hub of activity - NB plans are developing for extensions to the church hall which should enhance the building for community involvement.

Councils' assessment

The consultee suggests adding a traffic lights modal filter for Arbury Road. However GCSP does not have powers to make modal filter road because this is a county Highways Authority responsibility. However its suggest reducing vehicular traffic which could be achieved in a variety of ways as well as suitable crossing points and frontages that overlook reducing the sense of a barrier. The consultee comments about the council working with the church are welcome. The council has already incorporated these considerations into page 34 (cultural sociability) of the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a96871a7-59e5-4e06-8d9f-18f1c139700d

Main issues raised in representation

Agree.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 3 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c84c4b20-28f5-4d3c-8951-a27eb947a45b

Main issues raised in representation

- The availability of a flat stretch of road in greenery is important. The easiest way for people to start exercise is to "go for a jog". Yet, plentiful parks have incredibly poor surfacing. Example: Coleridge Rec ground.

- Separate "active" vs "slow walking" where possible, so that exercise is easily feasible without interfering with people walking their dogs/walking with friends.

- Should consider including an exercise area in all future developments, including: 1 mile stretch of flat asphalted road to promote exercise.

- Consider allowing the use of car ports with solar on roof where appropriate

- All care share spaces require must have EV charging points. Companies MUST provide electric vehicles for those spots

- Include space for bicycle/scooter share companies like Voi so this is not an afterthought as currently

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes helpful comments about physical exercise and also bicycle / scooter parking spaces. The code also incorporates solar roofs on car ports, EV changing points and design for cycles and other wheelers.

Proposed modifications

The council will incorporate these ideas with regard to exercise in the active and healthy lifestyles section of the design code as places for walking, jogging, exercising, running etc

Representation e248f398-251b-4eae-b758-a1b76b54af9c

Main issues raised in representation

A sense of community is really important. We really like the idea of having community groups to look after the green spaces (i.e. gardening groups/allotments) and having more benches to encourage use of outdoor spaces. We like the proposed use of permeable surfaces as there is a lot of concrete and tarmac in the area. Regeneration of Arbury Court and promoting local business is also important to us.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 3 which is incorporated into the design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 20b7e389-3142-438f-a223-ec6c59075f0a

Main issues raised in representation

There is a risk that the 'nice' public spaces will simply become a hang-out for anti-social behaviour. Look at how the existing residents don't make good use of the green spaces - why will it be any different here? This is a good thing to strive for, but how will it work in practice.

Councils' assessment

Consultee seems to support principle 3 for thriving public spaces but is concerned about maintenance and safety concerns about anti-social behaviour. However research has shown that public spaces that are visible and overlooked by residential dwellings to provide safety. Hence the code provides opportunity to improve natural surveillance, visibility of parks.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b925dce0-8f96-49d2-8f48-e64e4967b6db

Main issues raised in representation

Build them, keep them clean, tidy and safe, and people will use them.

Councils' assessment

The comments support what the code intends to deliver and is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 384bd466-1031-4249-9cf1-03a23cd236e0

Main issues raised in representation

Public spaces are more likely to support people to thrive if they aren't car-dominated.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee seems to support principle 3 and suggests public spaces are more likely to thrive if they are not car dominated areas.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c1ceb903-c916-4381-bb12-db781add13fa

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q4 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f03f42ed-03cc-4899-9d51-a1ed9f5c93d3

Main issues raised in representation

Cobblers public spaces exist and operate depending on what people feel, stop trying to dictate to people.

Councils' assessment

Consultee expresses concerns that the draft Design Code is dictatorial. However, the consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>. The current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2024.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation abcc810b-d8b5-4445-8b8d-254a3fa75973

Main issues raised in representation

Minimising ugly car parks will be welcome. Better layouts and views/access to buildings intended for public use, including shops etc, will support their usage. There is a real lack of community focal points or cafes where people can meet up that have access to outside seating.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee's positive comments are welcome. The council has already incorporated the issue of cultural sociability into the draft design code which discusses retail and places to stop and rest. However, it has bolstered the text in the public space opportunity section to expand the opportunity for improvements over a wider area.

Proposed modifications

It has bolstered the text in the public space opportunity section to expand the opportunity for improvements over a wider area.

Q5: Do you have any comments to make about Principle 4: Enhance character?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 34

Representation 65312228-e800-40c5-865e-1571f6c62137

Main issues raised in representation

Stop allowing so much traffic

Councils' assessment

The consultee seems to support the principle and comments about how the aims of the code can be achieved by stopping so much traffic issues. Traffic management lies outside the scope of this planning document but is referenced here to ensure co-ordination. The code is consistent with the comment in that it suggests to reduce traffic on key streets.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 61b69d75-9a67-4bf3-ac2d-81b5b729726d

Main issues raised in representation

There is nothing explicit about the area behind arbury town centre eg the old garages and how it can be improved.

Councils' assessment

The consultee mentions that there is no text about the area behind Arbury (Court) Town centre. However, there is a reference to this in the previous principle (3) chapter on page 33, in character and context section of the code and within the annotation within the diagram on principle 4 Enhance Character. However additional text is added as part of the placemaking opportunities to ensure that opportunities are taken to improve underused garage sites, incidental spaces and transport infrastructure that is underused.

Proposed modifications

Additional text is added as part of the placemaking opportunities to ensure that opportunities are taken to improve underused garage sites, incidental spaces and transport infrastructure that is underused.

Representation 9e857770-aae5-488b-985f-150f2616c9d4

Main issues raised in representation

Yes

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 4 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 963101a1-70de-44ad-94ff-5ec377a092a9

Main issues raised in representation

Would be nice to have more individual looking properties as long as it doesn't look like another 'lego land'.

Councils' assessment

The consultee writes about the importance of individuality for the appearance of buildings. This view is not in conflict with the Design Code. Page 40 writes "Never forget that every "unit" is somebody's home". It is acknowledged that page 43 writes "Avoid the loss of characterful uses where the prevailing use of the site is unique or positively contributes to the area." The council has already incorporated the issue of character into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [cae167e3-72d4-4247-8a57-65ea95fb2496](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Homes need demolishing to enhance character of the area and to make it modern, efficient and it would help the character of Arbury/Kings Hedges and the stigma of the area being 'bad' or run down. The Minerva way area of kings hedges has potential for many more buildings, flats typically are only 1-2 floors at present and these could be replaced with mid risers.

Councils' assessment

The consultee writes that some homes need demolishing. However, the design code is not recommending demolition but a process that every proposals need to go through to establish the best strategy using a retrofit first approach. The code allows for 2-6 storeys which is context led and can accept higher storey within this range subject to justification.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [a608e7f8-0068-44c8-bb61-93fe276943ac](#)

Main issues raised in representation

This is the part I feel is so important - the safety, character, and comfort of being in the area. Right now, I would even tell people to avoid going to Kings Hedges, crossing certain parks or areas, etc, as I have been told the same myself. Everywhere should feel safe, and I strongly agree that the good frontage (residential windows, etc) would contribute to that. All in all, this seems good to me and I am glad it is one of the priorities here.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee supports principle 4, emphasising the importance of safety and character. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [58c13ba7-c1d5-4b1b-b0c6-7654e06f2b63](#)

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q5 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [0c7d2c34-22b9-4fc2-963f-ab054bd6bbd1](#)

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q5 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7a0a7181-9f89-42b9-9b63-58f46c3396b1

Main issues raised in representation

I'd like to see the Roman history of the area used to enhance placemaking. I think it's something that crosses all of Arbury and King's Hedges, and can be used for creative wayfinding and focal points. It would be a great asset to the many primary schools in the area studying local history and provide a distinct identity for north Cambridge in contrast to the medieval city.

Councils' assessment

The design code in the context section includes the roman history. An additional infographic signage outside Arbury Court is also added to give a bit of historic context. The placemaking opportunities section makes reference to take opportunities to retain the distinctive characteristics taking account of its roman history and address issues highlighted in the character.

Proposed modifications

The placemaking opportunities section makes reference to take opportunities to retain the distinctive characteristics taking account of its roman history and address issues highlighted in the character.

Representation 29067af4-b285-4f15-b02b-fd78b6422c17

Main issues raised in representation

Leave the 'enhancement' to the design professionals - architects and certainly take authority away from those paying for it all, as they'll always throw in the financing, watering-down, lip-service, veto at everything and you'll end up back where you started. By-the-way 'design professionals' does not include planners, which despite having had planning systems in place for the last certainly thirty years of my professional career and beyond, is why we find ourselves back here ... again.

Councils' assessment

The consultee dismisses the need for a design code and excludes planners from their definition of 'design professionals'. However, in the absence of plans / Design code for a 'big picture' of guidance for a specific area, that would leave addressing changes through the status quo i.e commenting on individual planning applications which isn't ambitious for the area. The design code has been co-designed with the community and is based on their priorities and is likely to provide the consensus that the area need holding future developments to account.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 9ecc5a8e-713a-446d-aa23-93f72ee7f90b

Main issues raised in representation

I support this principle

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 4 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3dbfd0ad-3c53-433c-bf42-fb117cd8a214

Main issues raised in representation

Just empty words.

Councils' assessment

Consultee writes that the text is 'just empty' words. However they do not go into detail about which parts of the text they are criticising.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 28513a82-7910-43b8-94e7-4261d868b571

Main issues raised in representation

Each defined area should have its own unique signature character such as Mill Road / The Accordia etc. Shutters? Window boxes? House type? Preserve historic architecture. Historic pubs? New build pubs? (not like the one in Cambourn though). The Petersfield on Hooper St is a good example. Local bakery? Markets... Sense of place. Dinky Doors, repurposed red phone boxes and DIY community book libraries...

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes observations with specific unique design features for specific area. The Design Code is not in conflict with any of the consultee's sentiments and uses the function of buildings their details, and response to context to develop authentic character. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a4cee5e6-b27d-471b-a15b-349edf659dea

Main issues raised in representation

Page 40: "Access to a private or shared garden". This needs to be more precise. Should this private or shared garden be part of the housing site, or is it acceptable for residents to have to walk to some nearby green area? As an example, look at the houses on the east side of Marleigh Lane, where there are neither front nor back gardens. Pollard Thomas Edwards knows about this because they were the architects (and apparently some people don't like gardens so are happy to buy these houses). There are some small green areas not that far away from the houses, is that considered acceptable under this design code?

Page 42: "Heights must retain the low-mid rise character of the area in which buildings range from 2 up to 6 storeys". Tall buildings should be avoided but Cambridge seems to be getting flooded with them. Do people really like living in tall buildings? Maybe some do (until the lift breaks). Architects seem to claim you can build relatively high density without tall buildings.

Councils' assessment

Page 40: The local plan policy 50 provide further detail on garden. There is further text added in bullet 1 (musts) in the identity of home section of the code that states that it should allow for effective and practical use.

Page 42: The code allows for a range of heights from 2 to 6 storeys and need to be driven by context and suggests avoid clustering of tall buildings and significant height within the range proposed justified.

Proposed modifications

Page 40: Further text added in bullet 1 (musts) in the identity of home section of the code that states that it should allow for effective and practical use.

Representation dc8130d8-1d12-43a4-9acf-d3722863bc5d

Main issues raised in representation

I like the general approach.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 4 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 58328aca-3d74-4c52-844f-5d8ea60d4a05

Main issues raised in representation

None

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q5 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 577f3604-428c-4a3c-bc99-1d63a40e3136

Main issues raised in representation

Good

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 4 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ca96aef0-c644-4b59-99dd-2b9226c1b0e8

Main issues raised in representation

Good

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 4 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation bcee7ced-91b4-47e1-8432-349e8a2923e5

Main issues raised in representation

What is the point of this when the council don't listen to the public and continue with their unwanted vanity projects, bow down to the GCP and are overly influenced by CamCycle.

Councils' assessment

The resident consultee makes an observation criticising the value / outcomes of this current and previous council consultations. However the council does address each consultee's points and considers all comments at draft stage of consultations and has shown it has made amendments in previous planning consultations. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [7cbaa532-d62e-4334-b4a1-93f9014aa285](#)

Main issues raised in representation

You want to lock me inside my house. This is unacceptable and you should be ashamed for such proposal.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee refers to restricted access / connectivity from their home but does not explicitly describe what is restricting his / her movement and so it is difficult for the council to respond specifically.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [03f2d9b3-f2b2-45f1-ac33-4325834a5aef](#)

Main issues raised in representation

More broad-leaved trees and fruit trees would be welcome.

Councils' assessment

The consultee's comments are helpful and already included in the code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [43699e15-aede-4109-a2c6-7dd053689364](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Nature improves character. Visible policing prevents deterioration of character. Not art installations that are subjective.

Councils' assessment

The consultee emphasises the value of natural features and visible policing rather than public art for enhancing character. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b8f8fe29-d894-4ff2-aa24-0f4ae4b2eaec](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I support:

1. Promotion of hedges not fences in front gardens.
2. Quality use of materials and detailing - cost implication.
3. Engagement with the public from the outset absolutely essential, especially redevelopment and enhancement of existing residents areas. Residents must feel their wishes have been heard at each stage of the development process.
4. Promotion of roof gardens for new build designs.

Councils' assessment

The council has already incorporated the issues raised into the draft design code including costs and has specifically not prescribe specific materials.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [80c5890f-7790-4f69-bdbb-62c43e3a1fce](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Vast areas of paving, concrete, tar do little to enhance character.

Councils' assessment

Consultee is concerned about excessive concrete in public space to the detriment of character. This view is not in conflict with the design code which encourages open green spaces on page 36. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2329dd24-c555-4a85-8b27-04869ea00f26**Main issues raised in representation**

p39 - Not sure how much the designers and developers of the Meadows have been involved with the Design Code - meetings were held in the new Meadows Community Centre.

Councils' assessment

The developers of the Meadows are not involved in drafting the design code. Teams within Cambridge City Council have been involved as key stakeholders.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a96871a7-59e5-4e06-8d9f-18f1c139700d**Main issues raised in representation**

Agree

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 4 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c84c4b20-28f5-4d3c-8951-a27eb947a45b**Main issues raised in representation**

- Should avoid non-standard window and balcony designs or sizes so common issues can easily be resolved and doors etc exchanged from brand to brand if required

- Define garden more clearly with requirements

Councils' assessment

The consultee suggests avoiding non-standard window and balcony designs. However this would seem too prescriptive and not allow for some variety in appearance. The draft design guide provides guidance about character and home maintenance on page 43 on principles.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation e248f398-251b-4eae-b758-a1b76b54af9c**Main issues raised in representation**

We like the idea of using trees and larger buildings as focal points and visual variation in the architecture. The biggest areas for improvement could be supporting local businesses (i.e. regeneration of Arbury Court) and enhancing the green space

in the area, as we feel this is key to its character. Clearly genuinely affordable homes are important, including mixed homes for different generations (including accessible accommodation).

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principles 3 and 4. Additional text is included regarding multi-generational housing is referred to in placemaking opportunities section of the design code.

Proposed modifications

Additional text is included regarding multi-generational housing is referred to in placemaking opportunities section of the design code.

Representation 20b7e389-3142-438f-a223-ec6c59075f0a

Main issues raised in representation

Yes, but won't you end up pricing a lot of existing residents out?

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments here about the danger of gentrification and how an uplift of property values would make housing unaffordable for local residents. However, this is not the intention of the Design Code and sits outside the control of this project.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation b925dce0-8f96-49d2-8f48-e64e4967b6db

Main issues raised in representation

Long overdue. There is so much that can be done with careful thought, care and attention.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 4 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c1ceb903-c916-4381-bb12-db781add13fa

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q5 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f03f42ed-03cc-4899-9d51-a1ed9f5c93d3

Main issues raised in representation

Another techno babble, how many of your consultants have actually walked around these areas

Councils' assessment

The consultee queries how many of the consultants have walked around these areas. The council planning officers and its consultees have made several extensive walking trips around the 3 areas in the design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation cea30b44-bf9a-460a-9a6c-480a96d0c154

Main issues raised in representation

You can enhance the character of the area, by giving the area an identity. Politically it is King's Hedges. But it is also Arbury (Community Centre/Road signs[County Council]/Bus services); Arbury Town (Park); North Arbury (Chapple/social media). King's Hedges (School[County Council]/Road signs[County Council]/Rehedging <king's Hedges[City Council])

But most call it the forgotten area, the rubbish area, the dumping ground, the area with no name.

Not surprising considering the lack of cohesive design with respect to the name for the area.

Councils' assessment

The consultee remarks about how the names of Arbury and King's Hedges are confusingly referred to differently at political, for transport and for signposting which has created challenges for establishing clear identity for the area. However, the guidance in principle 4 should help enhance distinct identity in this respect. This is important in creating a brand for the neighbourhood but sits outside the scope of this project.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation abcc810b-d8b5-4445-8b8d-254a3fa75973

Main issues raised in representation

The retention of front and back gardens is to be applauded for several reasons. Damaging landscaping materials should also be restricted such as artificial grass. I am suspicious of memorable new builds being provided as part of developments. I do not rate the design or quality of build of most UK Developers, including many let loose in Cambridge - ruining the character of several Cambridge areas.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports the retention of front and back gardens highlighted on page 38. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code. It intends to create memorable buildings to enhance building character which isn't strong at the moment.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Q6: Do you have any comments to make about Principle 5: Increase sustainability?

Total representations received for this Chapter: 35

Representation 9e857770-aae5-488b-985f-150f2616c9d4

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q6 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [963101a1-70de-44ad-94ff-5ec377a092a9](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Anywhere you work on needs to be sustainable and easily managed.

Councils' assessment

General observation from the consultee about the importance of sustainability and maintenance. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [cae167e3-72d4-4247-8a57-65ea95fb2496](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Agreed, reuse materials where possible is the best way forward.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 5 which is welcome and incorporates reuse of materials.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [57ea90e8-4b15-4f89-acb7-34bd2f4afcab](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Definitely needs to be done!

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports principle 5 which is welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [8b4a3742-c4ae-48f3-96df-647c2897c870](#)

Main issues raised in representation

More concrete is not sustainable.

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes an observation about concrete as a material (for new building work) not being sustainable. However the draft Design Code provides guidance about sustainable materials on pages 37 and 49. The council has already incorporated the issues into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [58c13ba7-c1d5-4b1b-b0c6-7654e06f2b63](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Very good suggestions

Councils' assessment

The Consultee supports principle 5 which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [0c7d2c34-22b9-4fc2-963f-ab054bd6bbd1](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Make more provision for Public Transport including bus links to 'Cambridge North' Railway Station.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments that more provision should be made for Public Transport including bus links to 'Cambridge North' Railway Station. However Page 30 of the draft design code does write that "Public transport use can, where appropriately encouraged and facilitated, make a significant contribution to longer sustainable travel journeys and when linked with appropriate green infrastructure, make up the longer leg of a fully sustainable trip". Although the delivery of public transport is not within the scope of the code or planning service, further text will be added that bus routes that connect key destinations including Cambridge North need to be considered in the public transport section for stakeholders to consider.

Proposed modifications

Although the delivery of public transport is not within the scope of the code or planning service, further text will be added that bus routes that connect key destinations including Cambridge North need to be considered in the public transport section for stakeholders to consider.

Representation [7a0a7181-9f89-42b9-9b63-58f46c3396b1](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I live in a late 1950s ex-council house in Arbury and the biggest issue we've had in recent years is the roof and guttering reaching the end of its lifespan. This must be the case with the other houses in the area so there's a major opportunity to help residents invest in solar and connect roof water - but there needs to be support and investment. We signed up for the Solar Together Cambridgeshire scheme and had solar panels fitted, but had an appalling experience with Everyone's Energy who were appointed the contract. They were ready for the level of demand and had the worst customer service I've ever encountered with a contractor. There needs to be much more rigorous vetting for similar contracts in the future.

Councils' assessment

The consultee supports principle 5 but reports a bad personal experience with a PV roof installer company. The delivery of projects sits outside the scope of the design code

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [29067af4-b285-4f15-b02b-fd78b6422c17](#)

Main issues raised in representation

Sustainability is only sustainable, if it's sustainable. I'm all for it but have still after all these years seen little if it, which of course is why we find ourselves in this position ... again.

Councils' assessment

The consultee seems generally supportive but criticises previous (council) sustainability initiatives not being delivered without going into detail about these.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [9ecc5a8e-713a-446d-aa23-93f72ee7f90b](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I support this principle.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle, which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 3dbfd0ad-3c53-433c-bf42-fb117cd8a214**Main issues raised in representation**

Expensive and non effective

Councils' assessment

Consultee briefly criticises that the initiative would be expensive and ineffective. However, they do not point to a specific evidence to back up this view.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 28513a82-7910-43b8-94e7-4261d868b571**Main issues raised in representation**

Active travel, each street tree-lined. Underground bin system like Eddington. All newbuilds should have grey water harvesting where possible, and integral solar panels not bolt-ons. Community energy scheme? EV pool cars at a discounted rate. Pool cargo bikes - free.

Councils' assessment

There are some valid points made in the comments and consideration of underground bins, reducing water use with water saving devices, rainwater harvesting and reuse/recycling water is included in the highly sustainable new buildings section of the design code.

Proposed modifications

There are some valid points made in the comments and consideration of underground bins, reducing water use with water saving devices, rainwater harvesting and reuse/recycling water is included in the highly sustainable new buildings section of the design code.

Representation a4cee5e6-b27d-471b-a15b-349edf659dea**Main issues raised in representation**

Page 45: Is this EPC information better than for the map on page 15? The categorisation is different (D to G get lumped together) so maybe it is more accurate. There are two problems with trying to force existing homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient. First of all, the payback period needs to be relatively short, because if it is (say) twenty years, then probably it is not worth it. (Yes, the hucksters who push this policy claim very short payback periods, but they would.) Secondly, builders in this country have a terrible reputation, and there is no good way (except a recommendation from a friend) of knowing who will give sensible advice and do a decent job at a decent price. There are many stories of people who are trying to do the right thing by insulating their home better, and it ends up causing a damp problem and then they have to spend another small fortune getting rid of it. The people who run this country seemingly don't care about the first problem, and seem to be completely oblivious to the second problem, but that is the first thing that any householder will worry about.

Page 46: "All major developments should include post-occupancy evaluation (POE)". Maybe, but who will pay for it and who will carry it out, and will there be some sensible standard methodology, and will it turn out to be a meaningless bureaucratic exercise? It would have to be carried out by someone who is an independent expert, so not hired by the developer, and who doesn't have an axe to grind. And obviously it would increase the cost of housing (no matter who will nominally pay for it, ultimately it will be passed onto the homeowner). So it's not at all obvious that this is a good idea in practise.

Page 47: "Where Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) are visible from the street or other public spaces they must be appropriately screened". Really? Are they that ugly? More of a problem is the noise, but maybe that is what you mean by "screened".

Councils' assessment

Comment on Pg 45- The map has been updated to provide a clearer visual, a key and reference to the data has been added. Additional text is added to ensure up to date information is used to make assessment of EPC ratings of buildings. The code identifies opportunities for improvements that need to be explored further in accordance with the priorities set.

Comments on Page 46 - Additional text is added to the POE that seeks it to be done for 50 units and more and is identified as a should.

Comments on Page 47- Air source heat pumps when clustered together or even a single large unit can be insightful and detract from the design of buildings

Proposed modifications

The map has been updated to provide a clearer visual, a key has been added and reference to the data has been added in the sustainability opportunities section. Additional text is also added as follows: When improvement works or development is proposed to existing buildings, an up to date assessment of the building's energy performance should be carried out.

Additional text is added to the POE that seeks it to be done for 50 units and more and is identified as a should.

In response to the comment about noise, the council will incorporate that ASHPs must mitigate against noise on page 47 of the draft design code.

Representation [dc8130d8-1d12-43a4-9acf-d3722863bc5d](#)

Main issues raised in representation

I like the general approach.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle, which is welcome

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [58328aca-3d74-4c52-844f-5d8ea60d4a05](#)

Main issues raised in representation

None

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q5 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 577f3604-428c-4a3c-bc99-1d63a40e3136**Main issues raised in representation**

Where possible

Councils' assessment

Very Brief (2 word) response from consultee but they infer support for the principle "where possible" which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation ca96aef0-c644-4b59-99dd-2b9226c1b0e8**Main issues raised in representation**

Where possible

Councils' assessment

Very Brief (2 word) response from consultee but they infer support for the principle "where possible" which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation bcee7ced-91b4-47e1-8432-349e8a2923e5**Main issues raised in representation**

What is the point of this when the council don't listen to the public and continue with their unwanted vanity projects, bow down to the GCP and are overly influenced by CamCycle.

Councils' assessment

The consultee is dismissive of the value and impact of this consultation and previous consultations by the Council and mentions the influence of other local bodies (Camcycle). The purpose of the Design Code is explained on page 4. The consultation is an opportunity for residents to feedback on the draft Design Code and GCSP will endeavour to incorporate their views. There has been extensive consultation for this Design Code including 3 in-person engagement events on the Citizenlab platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/design-code>. The current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2024. It sets out how South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council will involve communities on a wide range of planning matters throughout the planning process.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 7cbaa532-d62e-4334-b4a1-93f9014aa285**Main issues raised in representation**

You want to lock me inside my house. This is unacceptable and you should be ashamed for such proposal.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee refers to restricted access / connectivity from their home but does not explicitly describe what is restricting his / her movement and so it is difficult for the council to respond specifically.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [03f2d9b3-f2b2-45f1-ac33-4325834a5aef](#)

Main issues raised in representation

So much new building are allowed without specifying sustainable features like PVs and air source heat pumps. Council houses could benefit from sharing heat sources among a group.

Councils' assessment

The design code is seeking to follow the energy hierarchy and incorporate on-site renewables including PVs and ASHP. Additional text is added in the opportunity section that seeks to explore opportunities to include sustainability measures at an area wide scale.

Proposed modifications

Additional text is added in the opportunity section that seeks to explore opportunities to include sustainability measures at an area wide scale.

Representation [43699e15-aede-4109-a2c6-7dd053689364](#)

Main issues raised in representation

It's usually an excuse to overspend. Build with the quality of the inter-war housing and you'll not be knocking them down in another 50 years.

Councils' assessment

The consultee seems to be in generally support for enduring, sustainable, high quality design quality with a caveat about building costs of sustainable features.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b0a82013-61ea-48d7-8d15-30d2a0fe146d](#)

Main issues raised in representation

'sustainability' is a folly. Build what works for everybody, is efficient for its purpose, and at the lowest cost to the council as possible.

Councils' assessment

The consultee dismisses the concept sustainability and recommends a focus on building efficiency and low cost to the council instead. However the code is being consistent with national and local policies including the climate and biodiversity emergency that the council has declared which should underpin future development.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation [b8f8fe29-d894-4ff2-aa24-0f4ae4b2eaec](#)

Main issues raised in representation

All look good.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 80c5890f-7790-4f69-bdbb-62c43e3a1fce

Main issues raised in representation

Less concrete, less tar, less paving, more grass, more plants, more evergreen trees, more water, more areas for wildlife where humans are excluded.that is what is required.

Councils' assessment

The Consultee supports less concrete, less tar, less paving, more grass, more plants, more evergreen trees, more water, more areas for wildlife. On page 48 of the Code, it writes "Minimise hard landscaping and use natural and improved street greening and shading during projects cool materials as much as possible". The council has already incorporated sustainable features and materials into the draft design code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 2329dd24-c555-4a85-8b27-04869ea00f26

Main issues raised in representation

Support the aim to increase sustainability.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle, which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a96871a7-59e5-4e06-8d9f-18f1c139700d

Main issues raised in representation

Agree

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation c84c4b20-28f5-4d3c-8951-a27eb947a45b

Main issues raised in representation

- ASHP screening requirements needs to be raised with ASHP companies to ensure this is not an unreasonable financial burden and will not impede function of the ASHP

- FORCE management companies / leaseholders/etc to allow community solar on the roof of any flat development in retrofit or otherwise.

- Ensure all fibre internet companies have the opportunity to install their networks to enhance competition between parties. Ideally all around the same time and with sustainability in mind by using existing ducting or by using ducting together, or to incorporate all this in the design. Make this futureproof by

- Make triple glazing a must, not a should.

- Is UK power networks sufficiently read into the ideas in this document? All great stuff, but the local network might need a complete retrofit to cope with increased solar, heat pump and EV demand.

Councils' assessment

The appropriate level of compliance regime (as should or must) is incorporated within the design code and includes ASHP screening, solar on roof, triple glazing. UK power will be consulted as part of the formal consultation process. The code is a policy document and any implementation aspects sits outside the scope of the code.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation e248f398-251b-4eae-b758-a1b76b54af9c

Main issues raised in representation

This is really important to us, not neglecting the need to improve existing housing stock (e.g. through improved insulation, installation of solar PV on all roofs where suitable, ASHPS where appropriate). We like the proposal for solar shading and solar PV. We were interested to note the Council guidance on retrofitting and would like to see that implemented as far as possible.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation 20b7e389-3142-438f-a223-ec6c59075f0a

Main issues raised in representation

Consider also district heating networks.

Councils' assessment

The consultee suggests adding district heating networks to the Design Code. Text has been added to consider opportunities to include sustainability measures at an area wide scale in the Sustainability opportunities section of the code.

Proposed modifications

Text has been added to consider opportunities to include sustainability measures at an area wide scale in the Sustainability opportunities section of the code.

Representation b925dce0-8f96-49d2-8f48-e64e4967b6db

Main issues raised in representation

Obviously this is a positive proposal.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle which is welcome.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation a5634c9d-837f-4199-a836-c63e58af531a

Main issues raised in representation

Ground source heating will be a growing market over forthcoming years. As such, Air-source heating should not be specified explicitly, but the code should allow for any low carbon heating options such as ground-source.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments that "Air-source heating should not be specified explicitly, but the code should allow for any low carbon heating options such as ground-source".

Proposed modifications

In response, the council will amend the text to just refer to 'heat pumps' in the Generating Clean Energy section of the design code.

Representation 6e579079-849f-4c9a-8555-ffc1d44b6120

Main issues raised in representation

Ground source heating will be a growing market over forthcoming years. As such, Air-source heating should not be specified explicitly, but the code should allow for any low carbon heating options such as ground-source.

Councils' assessment

The consultee comments that "Air-source heating should not be specified explicitly, but the code should allow for any low carbon heating options such as ground-source".

Proposed modifications

In response, the council will amend the text to just refer to 'heat pumps' in the Generating Clean Energy section of the design code.

Representation c1ceb903-c916-4381-bb12-db781add13fa

Main issues raised in representation

No

Councils' assessment

The consultee has not left any comments about Q6 for the council to respond to.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation f03f42ed-03cc-4899-9d51-a1ed9f5c93d3

Main issues raised in representation

In principle a good thing but not as a first concern, housing first.

Councils' assessment

Consultee supports the principle, albeit emphasising the primary importance of building new homes in the area. The code is based on the priorities expressed by residents but also follows the national and local policies and the climate emergency expressed by the city council.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

Representation abcc810b-d8b5-4445-8b8d-254a3fa75973

Main issues raised in representation

I hope that a solid retrofit plan will be rolled out to support this beyond new builds. I also don't think green roofs are that sustainable.

Councils' assessment

The consultee makes the observation that they hope that there will be a retrofit plan for the area beyond just new builds. The consultee doubts how sustainable green roofs are but doesn't refer to any particular evidence to support this criticism.

Proposed modifications

No proposed modification.

