

# Village Design Statements

## Types of buildings

What are the key buildings?  
Do they help orientate you or provide important focal points?  
What are the characteristics of houses and other buildings?

## Form of buildings

How many storeys?  
What shape - square, rectangular, tall, narrow or deep?  
Are they terraced (long, short, courtyard) or detached?  
What type of roofs do they have - flat pitched, hipped?  
Do they have dormer windows?  
Are the windows sympathetic to the building?  
Are the windows consistent along the street?  
Are extensions a common occurrence?  
Is the extension sympathetic to the building and neighbouring properties?  
Are porches a feature of the building?  
Are they consistent along the street?

## Layout and orientation

Are building frontages on the road or are they set back from the road?  
Do properties have front gardens, back gardens?  
Where do the cars park?  
What is the size of individual plots?  
Is the orientation of buildings a local characteristic?

## Types of materials

What materials have been used?  
Are the materials particularly characteristic?  
Do the materials appear to be more important than the size, shape, and proportion of the building?  
Are there timber-framed buildings?  
Red brick or yellow brick?  
Have they been painted, rendered, weather boarded?  
Are roofs slate, clay or thatch?  
How have modern materials been used?  
Could they be used more effectively?

## Building details

Are frontages all the same or do they differ?  
Is the positioning of windows and doors the same on all buildings?  
Are there distinctive noticeable features: windows, doors, chimneys or gable ends?  
What detailing exists on the buildings?  
Do the rooflines have particular characteristics?



# Village Design Statements

## What is in a Village Design Statement?

- Describes the distinctive character of the village and surrounding countryside clarifies what is special and unique  
Identifies the character and design elements:
  - the landscape setting of the village
  - the shape of the settlement
  - the spaces, streets and its furniture
  - the form and types of buildings
  - materials and details
- Provides design recommendations based on the above seeking enhancement of the environment



## What a VDS is not

The VDS group might conceive issues that are not appropriate for this document. These should still be noted and could well be pursued as part of other initiatives.

- It cannot create new planning policy
- It is not a "don't build here" document
- It is not an appraisal of social or economic issues
- It is not a history project



## What should you be looking for in your VDS?

- Simple to read, information easy to find
- Lots of sketches and illustrations with captions providing clarification
- Plenty of information on the style and character of your environment
- Guidance that is positive
- Evidence of comprehensive involvement from the local community

Approval of your VDS by the District Council

## The future is bright for Village Design Statements

- The Council is very supportive
- The Council will continue to approve VDS's
- An opportunity for the local community to provide the local detail to feed off local planning policy
- An approved VDS carries weight in the determination of planning application



# Village Design Statements

## Landscape character and setting

What does the surrounding countryside look like? What are its major elements?  
How do these contribute to the character of the area?  
Does the village harmonise with the landscape?  
Are there areas, which could be enhanced through landscape design?  
Are there notable or characteristic "views into" and "views out" of the village?  
Is there a sense of arrival?  
Are there landmarks or visual focal points?  
Do trees frame views, direct views or screen views?  
Do trees represent an important boundary for the area? Do they enclose spaces or act as incidental features in an otherwise open landscape?



## Spaces and landscape features

Does the village have one main space or lots of small spaces?  
Are these spaces contained or do they provide a connected route to the neighbouring countryside?  
What is the character of the open spaces - public and private?  
Are there green spaces or built spaces?  
What do these spaces contain?  
What is at their edge – trees, hedges, walls, fences, other boundary treatments?  
Are there any distinctive types of vegetation or wildlife in the area?  
Are there particular trees that are prominent or act as a focal point?



## Street furniture

What street furniture do you have and what is its impact?  
Does it maintain local distinctiveness?  
Are there pedestrian shelters at bus stops are they appropriately designed?  
Other street furniture - street lighting, signs, posts, guard rails, utility equipment - how have these been designed? Is there scope for improvement - for example are there redundant posts and signs, could lighting and signs be attached to buildings?



## Highway and other routes

What are the characteristics of the local roads?  
Are they narrow or wide, straight or bendy?  
Are there footways and kerbs or grass verges and drainage ditches?  
Are there features that make any road unusual or unique?  
Are there important or prominent footpaths, bridleways or cycleways?  
What materials have been used for surfaces?