



Courtesy: Louise Mansfield, Allies & Morrison

Working with Design Codes

21/10/2021

- **Evaluation and review of codes is needed when they are developed, when assessing schemes and in the longer term.** Ensure you set a clear vision with overall objectives at the outset and check back to this at each stage, asking questions about quality of the place. Keep looking out for signs that a code is working...or failing to work.
- **Work upfront on a code can save a great deal of time further along the process.** Think about the flexibility you are looking for and how the code could be used for a live scheme. Not everything can or should be coded, you can use the principles and precedents in your code to assess areas that are not covered. There is also a range of national guidance to help support decisions on code compliance, where an aspect is not completely covered by the code.
- **Choose a method to assess schemes against your code and think about how this can be used in practice.** Traffic light schemes can be easier for officers to assess than complex scoring systems.
- **Longer term evaluation of design codes is critical, to check that the vision is achieved.** Phase 1 of Meridian Water's design codes was evaluated on mix of use, layout, scale & massing, landscape, materials and the quality of accommodation.
- **Build in code evaluation from the start and decide how this will be assessed as part of the process from the beginning.** Think about the overall vision and the high-level objectives – are they being delivered? Involve your stakeholders in evaluation, with surveys, visits and workshops to think through whether you are delivering the high quality places your community needs, and use this learning to help both revise the existing code and to inform those that will follow.



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Speakers:

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Attendees: 73