



*Courtesy: The Design Companion for Planning and Placemaking, UDL 2017*

## Introduction to Placemaking: Housing Design

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- **Understanding what the context is and how it can inform new development is the starting point to placemaking.** New homes need to respond to the site as well as the culture and heritage of the wider area. The placement and amount of public space is also important to have the capacity to support the functions it needs to deliver within a housing scheme. It can also provide amenities and create a sense of safety by achieving a balance of accessibility with private spaces, establishing neighbourliness and ownership.
- **Edge to edge connectivity and connected movement networks are critical to improving people's health and wellbeing, as well as air quality.** Streets in particular need lateral movement to counterbalance movement along them, and active travel – walking and cycling – can be a preventative strategy for frustrated or complicated connectivity. Using evergreen hedges as a boundary treatment for air quality and movable street planters can restrict or allow appropriate vehicle movement in residential neighbourhoods.
- **The quality of life in housing is in the details and design coding guidance is all about making sure these details don't get lost in the process.** The key aspects to consider are functionality, comfort, affordability, safety, space, light, and privacy. It is also important to allow for flexibility, which will reduce the requirement for resources in the long term and create robust and manageable housing. A well thought out internal layout and a focus on health rather than appearance can also help deliver housing schemes for a better quality of life.



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## **Speakers:**

**Esther Kurland**, Director, UDL

**David Birkbeck**, Chief Executive, Design for Homes

**Attendees: 81**