



Assessing the Design Quality of Housing Applications

10/12/2019

- **Recognising quality is contingent on information at an appropriate scale.** Components of a planning application – plans, sections, elevations, bay studies, illustrative CGI's, material schedules and detailing etc. need to be well annotated and at a relevant scale that can demonstrate quality.
- **Get in early.** Assess schemes at pre-application stage. Insist on as much design information as you can for discussions and eventual planning submission. Nurture a culture of standards and shared expectations between designers, planners and developers at pre-application stage. Rather than react, proactively shape the scheme during the process before the application submission – this should lead to better design outcomes.
- **Collaboration.** Work well with planning officers, urban designers and others to deliver joined up advice which can lead to better social/environmental outcomes. Invest planning with 'empathy'; think of people over buildings and place them at the centre of the process.
- **Design Review Panel.** Know at what stage to involve the Panel and how to get the most from an independent review. Make sure case officers attend the sessions and contribute by providing an update on the planning process and requesting discussion on challenging topic areas. Use and develop recommendations from the Panel as part of the design and planning process.
- **'Upstreaming' the design quality of housing applications.** The panel's conclusions convey the importance of clarity in early, pre-app phases, setting the parameters of good-quality design that improves the character of built environments.

Speakers:

Rachel Jones, Training Manager, UDL
Ed Jarvis, Urban Design Manager, LB Camden
Kathy MacEwen, Design and Planning Consultant
Amanda Rashid, Urban Designer, LB Hounslow
Neil Deely, Co-Founder, Metropolitan Workshop

Attendees: 62