



Assessing the Design Quality of Housing Applications

05/03/2020

- **Policy on design quality is being strengthened and its direction of travel is ensuring good, high quality growth.** There's a whole suite of policy, including the new intend to publish London Plan and draft Supplementary Planning Guidance providing the tools (design codes, capacity studies etc.) to support good quality housing design.
- **Keeping buildings lower to the ground can unlock a number of areas of potential.** Designs of 3-4 storeys, with strong building edges and multiple, unambiguous entry-points, can be used creatively combined with minimal separation distances to maintain privacy. These types of housing then unlock strong connections to public and private spaces to enable children and the wider local community to thrive by enabling strong connections and use of outside space. The elimination of cores or corridors also minimise maintenance and management while keeping homes affordable.
- **Upstream your design expectations and standards.** Setting your design parameters with clients early, i.e. giving strong leadership through design codes and strategies including for visual or massing expectations will ensure proposals are more aligned to your vision for your borough and save you time, resources and effort later on for all parties.
- **Upstreaming your design vision requires working collaboratively.** Teams need to work together. Only through collaboration between designers, planners, case officers, heritage consultants and other specialisms can we deliver the holistic development assessments needed to ensure design quality.

Speakers:

Susan May, Head of Housing Design, Urban Design London
Phil Hamilton, Director, Peter Barber Architects
Paul Garret, Urban Designer, LB Croydon
Holly Hayward, Public Practice Associate, LB Camden

Attendees: 99