

Design Code Task Group Update

In April the Council appointed David Lock Associates, together with Feria Urbanism as the Consultants for the Spelthorne Design Code project. The Design Code Task Group, which reports to this Committee has also been established to support the ongoing engagement and involvement of Members with the project. The Task Group are being supported by Andy von Bradsky in the role of Critical Friend. The Task Group, Consultants and Lead Officers form the Project Board and meets on a monthly basis and is responsible for the oversight of the project and delivery of the Design Code.

The Design Code will be used to determine whether planning applications are acceptable in design terms, and will support the emerging Spelthorne Local Plan. It will contain simple, concise, illustrated design requirements for streets, open spaces and buildings. It will also set out expectations for good design process. It will be based on wide-ranging input including that from the local community, other stakeholders and wider understanding of the places within the borough, to ensure it is locally-supported, robust and can be used in practice.

Since its establishment, we have met (as part of the Project Board) to discuss a number of key facets of the project, including the development of a shared definition of a Design Code, the project programme and the engagement and training strategies for the project. Work on all of these areas is ongoing and outcomes will be reported to the Committee in due course.

This week has seen the launch of the [Spelthorne Design Code Hub](#); Members can view the hub via the link that was sent out this morning to all Councillors by Committee Services. This week will also see the first of a series of walking tours. This early research stage will comprise a series of walking tours around distinct locations across the borough that give the community the opportunity to tell the project team about the buildings, streets, and spaces that they like or dislike and why. A series of digital tours will also be held for those not able to attend in person. Details of the tours and booking a place is available through the Design Code Hub.

Following the community walking and digital tours there will be a Members Tour. This tour will take place on Friday 19 July 2024 and will be designed to take members to the most frequently referenced buildings and locations, with additional scope for you to nominate your own places that we should visit on the day. Photographs and video will be taken as part of the tour, to add to the evidence base for the Design Code. All Members will be invited to attend if they wish to. Further details and calendar invites will be sent in due course.