

Dunton Hills Garden Village Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Summary



CO-DESIGN

The council undertook an extensive stakeholder and community co-design process during 2020. This work informed preparation of design guidance for Dunton Hills Garden Village, consistent with policy that was emerging at that time in the council's Local Development Plan. This work informed a framework masterplan document for the site and a more detailed design guide that became the basis for a proposed Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The project was shortlisted as a finalist in the Planning Awards 2021 category for stakeholder engagement. This recognised the way that the co-design process formed a highly innovative and interactive process utilised as part of evidence gathering for the SPD. Findings from the engagement process were reflected in the draft SPD, shaping design guidance. This included continued collaboration with stakeholders and rising to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The SPD sets out guidance for how Dunton Hills Garden Village will come forward. It includes site-wide guidance such as height, density, road layouts, land use, through to detailed design elements such as landscape design, architectural design and public realm design.

Following the co-design engagement with stakeholders and the community, a draft version of the SPD was published for public consultation, which was run from 17 May to 1 July in 2021. The council's website and a dedicated Dunton Hills Garden Village website presented the document and more information about the consultation process. It was also shared with the wider community, statutory consultees and industry groups. Feedback from these groups was collected between March and July 2021.

Formal consultation responses were received from the following stakeholders:

Community	Statutory Bodies	Industry Groups
Nearby residents	Basildon Council	South Essex and Essex Housing Group
Young persons	Essex County Council	Crest Nicholson/ AECOM
Landowners	Essex Police	Bloor Homes/ Barton Willmore
Local community	Essex Wildlife Trust	CEG
Community groups	National Grid	HTA Design LLP
Future residents	National Highways	Savills
Community Forum	Sport England	
Local schools	Transport for London	
	Thurrock Council	

Several consultation events and activities were held to gather feedback from a variety of stakeholders.

The formal consultation process consisted of numerous events, including a technical workshop with practitioners and experts from fields relating to the built environment, several community engagement activities, workshops and surveys. The formal consultation was consistent with the co-design process in that it was organised into five key themes (a strong sense of place; design; landscape; a forward thinking village; and sustainable transport).

A summary of these events is provided below:

1. Technical Workshop (March 2021)

A technical workshop was held in March 2021, via Zoom, with several industry groups including developers, contractors and consultants from a variety of fields. The purpose of this workshop was to collaborate with a range of developers and relevant industry professionals that will ultimately implement the SPD to ensure that the document is deliverable and easy to use as the garden village is delivered.

Key Findings:

- The document should allow for flexibility
- Examples/ image provided in the SPD should reflect the local context of Brentwood
- SPD should provide clear guidance on building heights and densities

2. Landowner Consultation Event (March 2021)

A targeted landowner consultation event was held in March 2021 online via Microsoft Teams. Landowners were provided with updates on the draft SPD and future milestones. The landowners were then asked for their thoughts on the SPD and for thoughts on how it could be improved.

3. Live Event (May 2021)

A community consultation event was held in May 2021 online via Zoom. The event sought to collect further thoughts and feedback from the public on the draft SPD.

During the online consultation event, officers from Brentwood Borough Council and HTA Design LLP presented the draft SPD and asked participants for their thoughts on issues relating to the new village and their vision. Participants were given the chance to share thoughts both vocally and by text via a shared platform. Both forms of feedback were collected and analysed.

4. Targeted Surveys (May – July 2021)

Targeted community surveys were sent to the wider community groups. The intention of these surveys was to collect thoughts from the community on the draft SPD and to highlight areas of improvement.

Participants were asked specific questions relating to the five themes and to the guidance provided, which helped the design team edit the SPD so that it responds to the community's specific needs.

A general community survey was circulated, along with a young persons' survey to better understand the specific needs of different age groups:

- a. A General Community Survey:** a general survey which was based on the five key themes was shared with the wider community, to better understand their thoughts on the draft SPD. A number of mandatory and optional questions allowed members of the community to respond to the topics that were most significant to them.
- b. Young Persons' Survey (ages 11-18):** a targeted survey for young persons aged 11-18. This survey focused on topics of interest for younger persons such as outdoor spaces, sports provision and sustainability.

5. Young Persons' Engagement Tasks (April – July 2021)

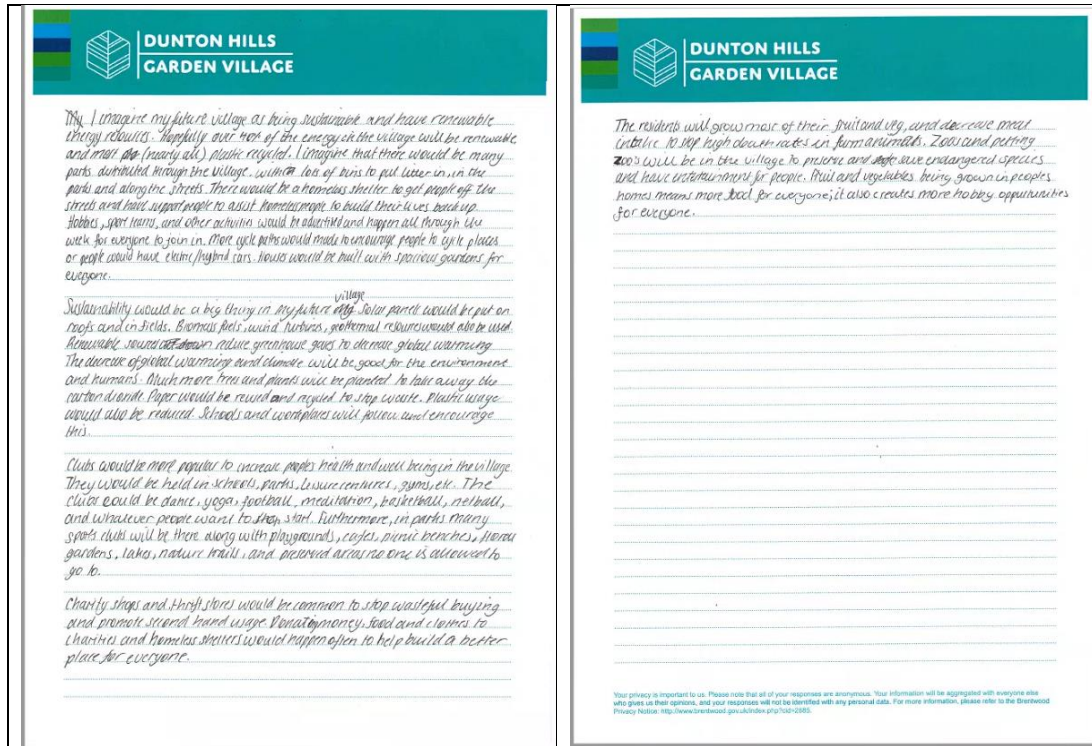
a. Primary School Drawing Tasks (ages 5-11)

A drawing exercise for primary school students was distributed to schools and was available for download on the Dunton Hills Website. The drawing exercise asked children to draw what they would imagine the new village (in particular growing spaces, the Market Square, schools, community centres, streets, bus stops, homes, playgrounds and sports pitches) will look like. They were also asked to suggest ways to fight climate change.



b. Secondary School Creative Exercise (ages 11-16)

A writing exercise was distributed to secondary schools and was available for download on the Dunton Hills Website. The writing exercise provided students with prompts relating to the five themes and guiding them to imagine what the new village will look like.



6. Dunton Hills Garden Village Website

The dedicated website for the garden village (www.duntonhillsgardenvillage.com), previously set up during the co-design process, was updated to provide a copy of the draft SPD alongside the latest surveys and engagement tasks. The website was regularly updated to provide the latest on the consultation process. The website also provided members of the public with a virtual community forum which hosted meaningful discussions.

FINALISING THE SPD

Following the formal consultation process, the feedback received from various stakeholders, including the wider community, statutory consultees and industry groups, was collated and analysed.

The findings then informed further revisions to the draft SPD during 2022, also informed by the adoption of the Local Development Plan. A final document has been published ahead of a decision on whether the council should adopt the SPD in February 2023.