

Design Principles, Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficiency

Objectives:

- **The design and quality of development will enhance the character and appearance of Mortimer while providing excellent quality of life**
- **Low carbon use will be supported throughout the parish**

The West Berkshire Local Plan talks about **Design Principles** in terms of:

New development demonstrates high quality and sustainable design that respects and enhances the character and appearance of the area, and makes a positive contribution to the quality of life. Development should contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place.

This means that development proposals will be expected to:

- Create safe environments, addressing crime prevention and community safety
- Make good provision for access by all transport modes
- Ensure environments are accessible to all and give priority to pedestrian and cycle access providing linkages and integration with surrounding uses and open spaces
- Make efficient use of land while respecting the density, character, landscape and biodiversity of the surrounding area
- Consider opportunities for a mix of uses, buildings and landscaping
- Consider opportunities for public art
- Conserve and enhance the historic and cultural assets of West Berkshire
- Provide, conserve and enhance biodiversity and create linkages between green spaces and wildlife corridors
- Make a clear distinction between public and private spaces and enhance the public realm
- Consider opportunities for including Home Zones where practicable

The West Berkshire Local plan talks about **Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficiency** in terms of

- All development proposals will be expected to seek to minimise carbon dioxide emissions through sustainable design and construction, energy efficiency, and the incorporation of renewable energy technology as appropriate
- As far as energy efficiency is concerned major development have to achieve minimum reductions in total CO2 emissions by using renewable energy or low/zero carbon energy generation on site or in the locality of the development, unless it can be demonstrated that such provision is not technically or economically viable

This means both Residential and Non-Residential development will be expected to meet the particular standards as set out in the Local Plan; the standard becoming higher over time.

In this context the NDP needs to formulate policies which:-

- Encourage good design
- Identify a 'Mortimer style' design standard
- Encourage development to meet the various sustainability standards