

PROPOSED COMMUNITY REFURBISHMENT AT ATHERSLEY SOUTH, Barnsley

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

Location and Description of the Area

This Design & Access Statement is to support the application for the proposed refurbishment of Athersley South in Barnsley.

The area consists of mainly Council owned social housing along with owner occupiers who have bought their ex council houses.

The houses themselves are mostly traditional brick bungalows, detached and semi-detached houses with tile roofs. Brickwork is generally red brick to external walls with a mixture of blue or red tiles roofs.

Community Refurbishment Scheme (CRS)

The Berneslai Homes Community Refurbishment scheme is an established and successful apprentice training programme providing basic construction skills to people not in employment or training with the specific goal of helping people gain a qualification, self respect and access to employment or full time training. The scheme is run as a partnership between Berneslai Homes, Barnsley Community Build and Barnsley College.

BCB are a local social enterprise providing access to employment and training to people who have not yet achieved their potential and have been excluded from mainstream education and the who have not committed to employment for a lengthy period of time. The trainees are people who have not faired well in a formal education setting so working on live construction projects on our estates provides a different learning environment for bot practical and life skills.

Barnsley College provides the formal training to achieve an NVQ level 2 in general construction or multi skills.

Berneslai Homes provides not just work experience but the supervisory support to turn work experience into a reality of getting a job and understanding what it is to be in a working environment – getting up on time, completing a task and working in a team.

The apprentices undertake environmental improvements on estates including boundary walls, fencing, drop kerbs, off road parking and hard & soft landscaping. These works have a major factor in the overall regeneration and sustainability of estates, and where linked to

other investment such as 'Decent Homes' work or new build activity, give a "complete package" feel to works in a local area.

Because the schemes cover whole estates and the work is with young and vulnerable people the pace of delivery is slower than a conventional building project and runs across several years. Over a five year period at two previous schemes in Darfield and New Lodge 350 apprentices were employed with 31% finding full time employment, 12% going on to further education and 20% to vocational training.

Positive Outcomes for the Community

The types of work undertaken as part of a scheme include general tidying up and clearance of open space, brick boundary walls, installation of metal fencing and gates, timber fencing, construction of footpaths and driveways in concrete, tarmac and permeable block paving, pavement crossings and dropped kerbs and minor/incidental landscaping works. The positive impact on the estate environment, where teams have been working has been dramatic with high levels of customer satisfaction, improved security and reduced on street parking congestion. In addition the wider community benefit is through the engagement of young people who are not involved in mainstream education, training or employment.

Areas are determined by identifying estate environments that require investment to address on street parking congestion, untidy property boundaries, property security which would follow on from a Barnsley Homes standards programme. Once the location has been identified the community are involved in discussing and agreeing the scope of works. Athersley South has been identified as such an area. The works will be completed in a rolling programme lasting approx. 5 years.