

Policy GD1 General Development

Proposals for development will be approved if:

- There will be no significant adverse effect on the living conditions and residential amenity of existing and future residents;
- They are compatible with neighbouring land and will not significantly prejudice the current or future use of the neighbouring land;
- They will not adversely affect the potential development of a wider area of land which could otherwise be available for development and safeguards access to adjacent land;
- They include landscaping to provide a high quality setting for buildings, incorporating existing landscape features and ensuring that plant species and the way they are planted, hard surfaces, boundary treatments and other features appropriately reflect, protect and improve the character of the local landscape;
- Any adverse impact on the environment, natural resources, waste and pollution is minimised and mitigated;
- Adequate access and internal road layouts are provided to allow the complete development of the entire site for residential purposes, and to provide appropriate vehicular and pedestrian links throughout the site and into adjacent areas;
- Any drains, culverts and other surface water bodies that may cross the site are considered;
- Appropriate landscaped boundaries are provided where sites are adjacent to open countryside;
- Any pylons are considered in the layout; and
- Existing trees that are to remain on site are considered in the layout in order to avoid overshadowing.

Supporting Text

6.7 Further detail on some of these issues is set out in Policy D1 Design which sets the overarching design principles for the borough, and associated Supplementary Planning Documents on Residential Amenity and the Siting of Buildings, Designing New Housing Development and Advertisements.

Living Conditions

6.8 We want to make sure that the living conditions and residential amenity of people are protected, that development is set within high quality landscaping and that land is used efficiently by making sure that new development does not reduce development opportunities on neighbouring land.

6.9 We will assess impact on living conditions and residential amenity in relation to:

- Noise, smell, dust, vibration, light, air, surface water, groundwater or other pollution and disturbance from any proposed activity, including traffic related noise and the comings and goings of visitors to premises particularly when late evening activity is involved.
- Planning conditions will be used to control the construction process;
- Overlooking and privacy;
- Outlook from dwellings including consideration of whether structures in close proximity to windows are considered visually over dominant. However, consideration does not extend to the protection of a person's particular view from a property as this is not a material planning consideration;
- Daylight/sunlight and overshadowing; and
- Landscaping and boundary treatments.

Landscaping and Boundary Treatments

6.10 Landscaping should be encouraged in all schemes as it has other benefits including biodiversity provision, climate change resilience and carbon absorption. Any new planting

should use a variety of native species which are of local provenance where possible as plants from local sources are better adapted to local conditions and using local sources reduces the risk of introducing diseases and pests. Nectar-rich plants and berry producing shrubs incorporated into planting schemes will be encouraged as they will provide valuable food sources for wildlife, and development of other habitats such as wildflower grassland and wetlands should also be considered.

6.11 Planting should, where possible, be designed to link habitats to form corridors for wildlife with existing hedgerows included within developments. Where they have become patchy or overgrown, existing hedgerows should be restored as part of new developments wherever possible. Green walls within developments will be encouraged.

Masterplan Frameworks

6.12 Where Masterplan Frameworks are being sought, they shall contain the following:

- Planning policy summary, site location and description, land ownership, a summary of the existing evidence, site evaluation (opportunities and constraints), land use framework, sustainable movement framework, protection of existing public rights of way routes and their incorporation within new development layouts, vehicular movement framework, green and blue infrastructure framework, place-making framework (including design guides for character and neighbourhood areas where applicable), sustainability and energy use, health and wellbeing, design evolution, conceptual masterplan, infrastructure and delivery phasing.
- Masterplan Frameworks shall be subject to public consultation and be approved by the Council prior to the determination of any planning applications on the affected sites. Each Masterplan will be bespoke and therefore will be considered on a case by case basis.

Policy D1 High Quality Design and Place Making

Design Principles:

Development is expected to be of high quality design and will be expected to respect, take advantage of and reinforce the distinctive, local character and features of Barnsley, including:

- Landscape character, topography, green infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features;
- Views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways; and
- Heritage and townscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form in the locality.

Through its layout and design development should:

- Contribute to place making and be of high quality, that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment;
- Complement and enhance the character and setting of distinctive places, including Barnsley Town Centre, Penistone, rural villages and Conservation Areas;
- Help to transform the character of physical environments that have become run down and are lacking in distinctiveness;
- Provide an accessible and inclusive environment for the users of individual buildings and surrounding spaces;
- Provide clear and obvious connections to the surrounding street and pedestrian network;
- Ensure ease of movement and legibility for all users, ensure overlooking of streets, spaces and pedestrian routes through the arrangement and orientation of buildings and the location of entrances;
- Promote safe, secure environments and access routes with priority for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Create clear distinctions between public and private spaces;
- Display architectural quality and express proposed uses through its composition, scale, form, proportions and arrangement of materials, colours and details;

- Make the best use of high quality materials;
- Include a comprehensive and high quality scheme for hard and soft landscaping; and
- Provide high quality public realm.

In terms of place making development should make a positive contribution to achieving qualities of a successful place such as character, legibility, permeability and vitality.

Supporting Text

13.1 As set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, the Government attaches great importance to the design and quality of the built environment, stating that 'it is important to plan positively for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes.

13.2 In terms of place making the quality of places has a major influence on the quality of life for people living and working in the borough. Through high quality and sustainable design developers should be able to create strong, locally-distinctive places that are safe, inclusive and accessible to all, that promote social interaction and a healthy and active lifestyle.

13.3 Inclusiveness and accessibility need to be considered from an early stage of design, preferably including consultation with a wide range of potential users.

13.4 The components of a development, including its integration with its surroundings and its mix, layout and form, will be assessed to ensure that development makes a positive contribution to achieving the qualities of a successful place.

13.5 Development should take account of the following design standards and guidance (and any future updates of these) which will be used (but not exclusively) to help assess the quality of design:

- Building for Life 12 (for residential developments of 10 or more dwellings).
- Secured By Design/ Safer Places- the Planning System and Crime Prevention.
- Manual for Streets (for residential developments).
- Manual for Streets 2- Wider Application of the Principles (which takes this guidance beyond just residential developments).
- The South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide.

13.6 The Public Spaces Strategy and the Building Heights Study provide additional evidence for design decisions in Barnsley Town Centre. Inset map 8 illustrates the strategy for tall buildings in Barnsley Town Centre.

13.7 Supplementary Planning Documents also provide guidance on specific design issues.

Policy BTC7 Gateways

Development on or next to the gateways identified on Inset Map 2 must:

- Create a strong distinctive visual gateway to the town centre and a sense of arrival;
- Be of high quality design and use the best quality materials;
- Be designed to welcome people into the town centre and create active street frontages;
- Not detract from important views or skylines;
- Include good pedestrian links through the site and to the town centre;
- Take the opportunity to create distinctive new landmark buildings;
- Improve public spaces in accordance with the Barnsley Town Centre Public Spaces Strategy; and
- Creating linkages to other areas adjacent to the town centre.

Supporting Text

16.58 The recent recession together with the changes in retailing such as a growing use of on line shopping combined with home delivery, has meant that many town centres, including Barnsley, have stalled redevelopment schemes. The Local Plan seeks to encourage landowners and developers to include the potential of phased or temporary activities with any redevelopment scheme programming. This is particularly important where a

redevelopment scheme will take several years to implement. Additionally it is considered that a continuing and supportive policy framework to temporary and or phased uses will play an important role in ensuring the town centre is refreshed with innovative attractions. This Markets District policy is complementary to policy GD2 of this Local Plan in dealing with temporary uses and buildings.

Policy T4 New development and Transport Safety

New development will be expected to be designed and built to provide all transport users within and surrounding the development with safe, secure and convenient access and movement.

If a development is not suitably served by the existing highway, or would create or add to problems of safety or the efficiency of the highway or any adjoining rail infrastructure for users, we will expect developers to take mitigating action or to make a financial contribution to make sure the necessary improvements go ahead. Any contributions will be secured through a planning obligation or planning condition.

Supporting Text

12.57 With over 3,000 killed or seriously injured on the UK's roads every year road safety is a major concern for communities across the UK. There were 5952 casualties in collisions on roads in South Yorkshire in 2007, a 4.7% decrease on the 2006 level. The emotional cost to families of serious and sometimes fatal injuries, and the pressure on local health resources are of particular concern.

12.58 Whilst all applications will be expected to meet the sustainable travel criteria in policy T3 there will be occasions where improvements to the existing highway network are also required. We are responsible for making sure the borough's streets are safe for everyone using them. When new developments are built, we make sure any new roads are up to standard and that people using the new development can do so safely and without negatively affecting existing roads. They must be designed and built to provide safe, secure and convenient access for all road users, which will include pedestrians, cyclists, people with special needs and people with mobility problems. In doing so we will support the long term aspirations of the South Yorkshire Road Safety and Casualty Reduction Strategy (delivered through the LTP) which focuses on the need to achieve further reductions in casualties, focusing on vulnerable road users including children and motorcyclists, and on local areas where road safety is a known problem.

12.59 If a development is not suitably served by the existing highway, or would create or add to highway safety problems (including at railway level crossings) or would adversely affect the efficiency of the highway we will refuse planning permission, unless the developer agrees to take full responsibility for any necessary improvements or measures to upgrade the highway network to a suitable standard. Under the Highways Act, the developer may need to create and maintain new roads or improve existing ones.

Policy Poll1 Pollution Control and Protection

Development will be expected to demonstrate that it is not likely to result, directly or indirectly, in an increase in air, surface water and groundwater, noise, smell, dust, vibration, light or other pollution which would unacceptably affect or cause a nuisance to the natural and built environment or to people.

We will not allow development of new housing or other environmentally sensitive development where existing air pollution, noise, smell, dust, vibration, light or other pollution levels are unacceptable and there is no reasonable prospect that these can be mitigated against.

Developers will be expected to minimise the effects of any possible pollution and provide mitigation measures where appropriate.

Supporting Text

23.4 An important consideration in the planning process is the precautionary principle. Where there is significant risk of damage to the environment planning and pollution controls will take into account the need to prevent or limit harm, even where there is no definite scientific knowledge.

23.5 Noise and vibration can be a serious cause of nuisance. Planning cannot control the noise or vibration from existing development. However it can try to make sure that new noisesensitive development such as housing and schools is not close to existing sources of noise, including industrial uses and noise created by vehicles and other forms of transport. It can also make sure that potential noise creating uses, including industrial processes or some recreational activities, are not in places where they would be likely to cause nuisance. In particular we will prepare a Supplementary Planning Document to provide further guidance on how we will deal with hot food takeaways.

23.6 We will not allow development that could damage the quality of surface water and ground water. We will consult the Environment Agency on these issues.