

East Leake Neighbourhood Development Plan Exercise 2: Townscape and landscape analysis, and strategies for village centre



CABE is now part of the Design Council

Purpose of the exercise.

This exercise will introduce you to the concept of 'townscape', which has been explained in the preceding presentation. In groups you will analyse the shopping centre of East Leake, and identify positive and negative features of the area. Following this you will identify strategies to improve the quality of the area and help to make the village centre more sustainable.

Part 1: landscape and townscape analysis

In your groups walk around the area indicated on the plan attached to this. Look carefully at the area and mark on your plan both positive and negative features of the area. These might include:

- Landscape features - slopes, watercourses, views
- Historical features, associations and memories
- Functions of different buildings and spaces
- Routes within and through the area, connections
- Accessibility – pedestrians, elderly, disabled, children, public transport, vehicles
- Layout and street pattern - openness and enclosure
- Form of the buildings – height, scale, style, character
- Distinctive buildings, landmarks, eyesores
- Building materials and appropriateness to area
- Public spaces – value, quality, attractiveness, materials, planting, safety, maintenance
- Landscape elements – vegetation and trees, street furniture, boundaries, steps, barriers

Decide what is important to the area and contributes to the character of the village, and those elements that detract from the quality of East Leake as a 'good place'.

Do not spend more than 45 minutes of the exercise, and return to the Baptist Church when you have finished.

Part 2: identifying strategies to improve the area

Working in groups back at your table, you will transfer your ideas onto paper in this part of the exercise. You will be provided with a larger plan of the shopping centre, tracing paper, flip chart paper and pens.

Mark up the key conclusions from your walk around on the plan. Indicate:

- good features that should be conserved
- areas where improvements are needed
- places where more radical changes are needed
- sites for possible new buildings

Where changes are desirable, or where opportunities for new buildings or activities exist, think about the principles that should apply. These are the things that might be included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. These might be design principles, or other guidance

or constraints to ensure successful changes. Mark these ideas on the plans, or write policies on flip chart sheets.

Think about the following:

- How do your proposals relate to the rest of East Leake and its wider context in the area?
- Do they improve getting about the village and access to facilities?
- Would the proposals make East Leake more sustainable as a place to live and work, and less of a dormitory village?
- Are there changes that could make East Leake a more enjoyable place to live in or visit?
- Are there changes that would make the village more useable by everyone, whatever their age, gender, disability, etc?
- Be creative! Think outside the box....

You will have about 45 minutes for this part of the exercise, and at the end one person from the group will be asked to report your ideas to the rest of the workshop. There will then be an opportunity to discuss how these ideas can be fed into the Neighbourhood Development Plan, what further work needs to be done to develop or fine tune the ideas, and how to gain wider support for them within the village.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan sub-group may also wish to consider whether similar exercises need to be carried out for different parts of the village.