

East Leake Neighbourhood Development Plan

Exercise 1: Building for Life evaluation of a housing scheme



CABE is now part of the Design Council

The purpose of the exercise:

To provide an introduction to the Building for Life (BfL) standard - the national benchmark for well-designed housing in England, and to use it to assess the design quality of two recent developments in East Leake. The standard is based on 20 criteria, divided into four categories:

- Character
- Roads, parking and pedestrianisation
- Design and construction
- Environment and Community

Justine Leach has given an introduction to BfL and the criteria. They are explained in detail on the ring bound BfL swatches together with the national policy that has been used to develop them: copies are available for to use for the exercise. In addition you have a copy of the simplified description of the criteria for rural schemes. For this exercise **omit criteria numbers 2, 3, 18, 19 and 20** – you will not have sufficient information to score them from just looking at the external appearance of the scheme.

Each group will evaluate a different scheme – one group will go to Osier Fields and the other to Walnut Gardens. You have a layout plan of your scheme attached to these instructions. You should leave Chapel by **10.45 am** and either walk (or go by car) to your scheme.

Evaluating the scheme:

We suggest your group walks all round the development initially, to get a feel for it and the overall design. As a group you should then go through the relevant points and form a view on how well the scheme meets each of the criteria.

You have been given a copy of the BfL assessment card in your pack and you should fill in comments on one of these while you look at the scheme in detail. When you have finished this, your group should return to the Chapel, aiming to get back by **12.00 pm**.

Scoring the scheme:

As a group, when you get back to your table in the Chapel, you should go through the selected criteria and complete your facilitator's evaluation card, scoring the criteria either 1 where you think the criteria has been met, or 0 if it has not. Try to form a consensus on each of the criteria. Where you think part of the scheme meets the criteria, and part does not, you can give a score of 0.5, and in this situation you should identify which part meets the criteria. Add up your final score.

Feedback

Every group should appoint a spokesperson to give a **2 minute** presentation on their evaluation of their scheme at **12.15 pm**. In this presentation they should describe the **criteria that they feel have been most successfully addressed in their scheme**, and the **worst criteria**, together with your group's overall score. There will be a site plan and photographs available on PowerPoint to assist in the presentation/feedback.