

East Leake Neighbourhood Development Plan

Exercise I: Characteristics of 'good places'



CABE is now part of the Design Council

PLACE QUALITY CHECKLIST

This is intended to start the process of thinking about what is good about an area, what does and doesn't work and how it can be improved. The checklist is not 'finite' and can be extended through use and experience in your own places.

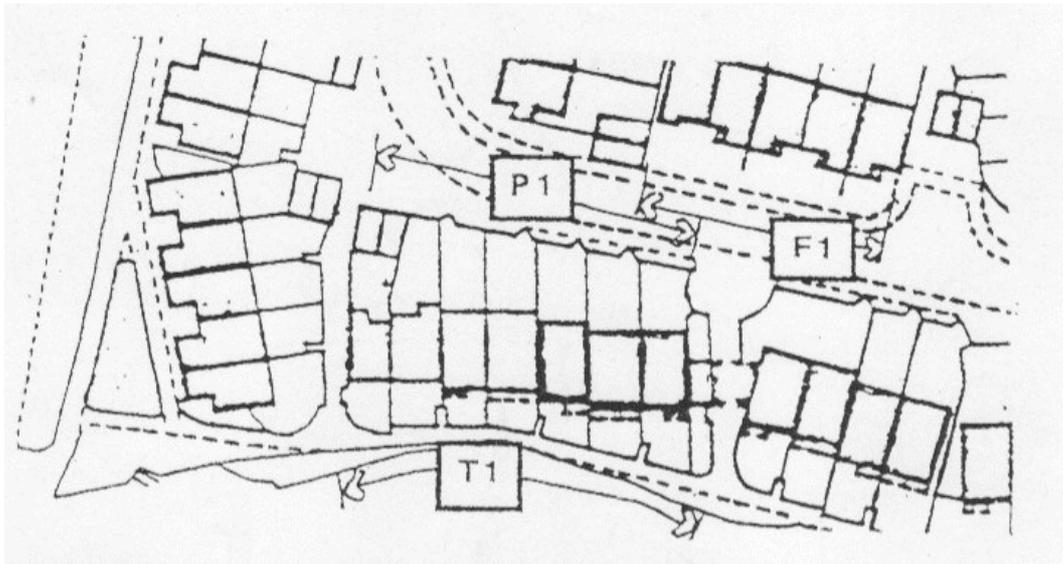
The checklist can be used for projects as well as existing environments with the qualities being assessed from drawings or models before the project is built.

Checklist copyright: Responsive Environments (2010)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXERCISE

Quickly walk through the area following the route set out on your plan. Each group should agree a response to each question set out below. Try to reach a consensus through discussion. If you cannot agree then take a vote.

Mark up the plan provided and make a note to remind you **why** your group selected a particular area. The marked up plans should look like the example of another piece of town shown below.



- **Connectivity and ease of movement**

Mark an area (C1) that is clearly connected to a network of other streets and public spaces and where you have a choice of routes from A to B. Mark an area (C2) which feels disconnected or where connections are not clear and where you have little or no choice of route from A to B. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Finding your way around**

Mark an area (L1) where you can find your way around easily and without back-tracking. Mark an area (L2) where you feel that you could easily get lost on a first visit or if you were unfamiliar with the area. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Pedestrian safety**

Mark an area or location that you feel is the safest for pedestrians (P1) and mark an area or location that feels unsafe or threatening to a pedestrian (P2), particularly at night. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Residents' privacy**

Mark an area or location (R1) where you feel that residents' privacy is protected. Mark an area or location (R2) where you feel that residents' privacy has been compromised, either in terms of private outdoor activities or over-exposed internal rooms. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Property security**

Mark an area or location (S1) where you feel that residents' or other property security is protected. Mark an area or location (S2) where you feel that property would be most exposed to burglaries or other unwanted intrusions. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Vehicular security**

Mark an area (V1) where you feel that vehicles could be parked safely in streets or public space. Mark an area (V2) where you feel that vehicles would be most vulnerable to vandalism or theft. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Social interaction**

Mark an area (F1) which you regard as the friendliest ie, which offer the most opportunities for residents or others to have chance meetings. Mark an area (F2) where you feel that there would be little chance of chance encounters or opportunities for social interaction. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Contact with nature**

Mark an area (T1) where you feel some interaction with nature, open spaces and the landscape. Mark an area (T2) where you feel there is no interaction with nature, open spaces and the landscape. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Visually attractive**

Mark an area (A1) which you feel is the most attractive. Mark an area (A2) which you agree is least attractive. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Memorable**

Mark an area or a location (M1) which you feel is memorable in a positive way. Mark an area or location (M2) which you feel is either memorable in a negative way (an eye sore rather than a landmark) or which is unmemorable and looks the same as many other places. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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- **Overall desirability**

Mark an area (D1) where you would most like to live or visit. Mark an area (D2) where you would least like to live or visit. Make a note why these areas were selected:

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References

Barton, H et al (2003) *Shaping Neighbourhoods*, Spon Press

Bentley, I et al (1985) *Responsive Environments: A manual for designers*, Architectural Press

DETR & CABE (2001) *By design: Better places to live*, Thomas Telford

English Partnerships & The Housing Corporation (2000) *Urban Design Compendium*, English Partnerships

English Partnerships & The Housing Corporation (2007) *Urban Design Compendium 2: Delivering Quality Places*, English Partnerships

Building for Life (2009) *National standard for well designed homes and neighbourhoods*