

1/ Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Design Guide is to ensure that all development within Ilminster is well designed and relates to the character of this unique market town. This guide has been prepared by Ilminster Town Council, in consultation with the community. It applies to all sites in the Town Council boundary area, be them small or large scale developments, green field, brownfield, conversions or extensions.

1.2 To ensure that this design guide is given maximum weight in the determination of planning applications, it is directly referred to in the Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan (INP) planning policies and forms an appendices to the INP. But this is also a stand alone Design Guide for Ilminster.

1.3 This document should be read in conjunction with relevant national, regional and local planning policy and supplementary documents and guidance.

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019) describes a design code as follows:
'Design code: A set of illustrated design requirements that provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development

of a site or area. The graphic and written components of the code should build upon a design vision, such as a master plan or other design and development framework for a site or area.'

1.6 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG, 2018) states (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 26-003-20140306):

'Local planning authorities should secure design quality through the policies adopted in their local plans. Good design is indivisible from good planning, and should be at the heart of the plan making process.'

1.7 The National Planning Policy Framework requires Local Plans to develop robust and comprehensive policies setting out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Local planning authorities will need to evaluate and understand the defining characteristics of the area as part of its evidence base, in order to identify appropriate design opportunities and policies.

1.8 These design policies will help in developing the vision for an area. They will assist in selecting sites and assessing their capacity for development. They will be useful in working up town centre strategies and in developing

sustainable transport solutions; all aimed at securing high quality design for places, buildings and spaces.

1.9 The National Design Guide (2019) defines the difference between a design guide and a design code as follows:

'A design guide: A document providing guidance on how development can be carried out in accordance with good design practice, often produced by a local authority.'

'A design code: A set of illustrated design requirements that provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area. The graphic and written components of the code should build upon a design vision, such as a masterplan or other design and development framework for a site or area.'

1.10 Based on these definitions Ilminster is providing a design guide.

1.11

The evidence base for this design guide comprises the following documents:

- The Character of Ilminster, INP Appendix A

- Consultation Statement, INP Appendix D comprising:

- 1/ The Character of Ilminster- A public walkabout and workshop (16.3.2019)
- 2/Workshops with Schools (June 2019)
- 3/Online survey (September 2019)
- 4/ Site selection workshop (26.9.19)
- 5/ Design Workshop 1 (17.10.19)
- 6/ Design workshop 2 (21.11.19) Workshop
- 5/ Design Workshop 1
- 6/ Design Workshop 2