

## Elmbridge Design Code Consultation

CDRA will be engaging with Elmbridge Council over the next few months to help protect the character of our environment here in Cobham and Downside we all enjoy and benefit from.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 Elmbridge Council commenced the first of three stages of consultation on the design codes that will define the quality, character and appearance of each part of Cobham, Downside and the whole borough.

<https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/design-code/>

When implemented it will be incumbent on developers to apply these standards to their new buildings. These codes are now required for all planning authorities in England as part of the Government's national 'build back better' and 'designing beautiful places' planning measures. They will cover the following:-

1. **Context** – local character and built heritage
2. **Movement** – design of the street network, active travel and public transport
3. **Nature** – design of green infrastructure, play spaces and the protection of biodiversity
4. **Built form** – density, built form and urban design
5. **Identity** – character of buildings
6. **Public space** – design of streets and public spaces
7. **Homes and buildings** – type and tenure of homes
8. **Uses** – mix of uses and active frontage
9. **Resources** – environmental design, renewable energy provision and low energy networks
10. **Lifespan** – management and adoption of standards

In Elmbridge they are immensely important to help control the impact of the increased housing densities we will experience in the new Local Plan due to be adopted in early 2023.

Elmbridge Councillors will consider the 'final draft' in March 2022 which will then go to examination in public by a Government planning inspector.

It is expected that at least 7,000 new homes will form the basis of the Local Plan, with the possibility that developers and land owners would attempt to raise this to over 10,000 during the Local Plan examination.

It is essential that exemplary design codes and guides specific to your local areas are put in place. CDRA maintain that each area with a distinctive character should have its own design guide. The Council have a duty to engage with residents to produce them.

The first stage consultation closes on 10<sup>th</sup> February and covers the ways residents wish to engage with the council to prepare the guides.

For specific guidance on CDRA's suggested responses to the first stage see our separate note headed 'Response to Stage 1 Design Code Consultation'

CDRA will be liaising with our local councillors and other local groups to help ensure that the right design codes for the right areas are produced in time for the Local Plan's adoption. We will keep residents up to date on progress.

### CDRA Response to Stage 1 Design Code Consultation

See the link below for the consultation.

<https://consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/DesignCode/consultationHome>

CDRA responses including the important additional comments :-

**Please select one or more of the following:**

- Social media: (Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor), as well as the council's website - these could include social media platforms or a dedicated webpage
- Via email: we will send you a regular email update on the Design Code process including surveys to gather responses
- Workshops: hands-on events to explore the challenges and opportunities of an area or analyse options at various stages
- 'Walking workshops': you will have the opportunity to walk around an area with our team and discuss aspects of the Design Code
- Community panels or forums: these could be face-to-face sessions or via video conferencing, giving you the opportunity to feed into the process. These would be held intermittently throughout the process
- Drop in events and exhibitions: to provide the opportunity to discuss the proposals with our team face-to-face. These would be held intermittently throughout the process
- Design review panels: face-to-face sessions held at key stages to test the content and application of the proposed Elmbridge Design Code. These would be held intermittently throughout the process

Please enter any additional comments

Specific meetings with local councillors and residents groups in each area are required to establish a coordinated leadership group for each area that requires a design code and to decide on the number and boundaries of that design code.