

## Planning Consultation (DPD)

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**From:** Gary Parsons <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 30 June 2020 14:38  
**To:** Planning Consultation (DPD)  
**Subject:** Mid Devon Design Guide - Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the draft Mid Devon Design Guide.

Sport England is the Government agency responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives. Maximising the investment into sport and recreation through the land use planning system is one of our priorities. You will also be aware that **Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields.**

The new Sport England Strategy 'Towards An Active Nation' (2016-21) identifies key changes in the delivery of the strategy:

- **Tackle inactivity:** more money and resources
- **Invest in children and young people** to build positive attitudes to sport and activity
- **Help those currently active to carry on**, but at a lower cost to the public purse
- Put **customers at the heart** of what we do/be **welcoming and inclusive**
- Help sport to keep pace with the **digital expectations** of customers
- **Encourage stronger local collaboration** to deliver a joined up experience for customers
- Working with a **wide range of partners**, using our expertise and investment to align
- Applying **behaviour change** principles to encourage innovation to share best practice

Sport England along with Public Health England have launched our revised guidance '**Active Design**' which we consider has considerable synergy the Plan. It may therefore be useful to provide a cross-reference (and perhaps a hyperlink) to <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design> . Sport England believes that being active should be an intrinsic part of everyone's life pattern.

- The guidance is aimed at planners, urban designers, developers and health professionals.
- The guidance looks to support the creation of healthy communities through the land use planning system by encouraging people to be more physically active through their everyday lives.
- The guidance builds on the original Active Designs objectives of *Improving Accessibility, Enhancing Amenity and Increasing Awareness (the '3A's)*, and sets out the Ten Principles of Active Design.
- Then Ten Active Design Principles have been developed to inspire and inform the design and layout of cities, towns, villages, neighbourhoods, buildings, streets and open spaces, to promote sport and physical activity and active lifestyles.
- The guide includes a series of case studies that set out practical real-life examples of the Active Design Principles in action. These case studies are set out to inspire and

encourage those engaged in the planning, design and management of our environments to deliver more active and healthier environments.

- The Ten Active Design Principles are aimed at contributing towards the Governments desire for the planning system to promote healthy communities through good urban design.

The **developer's checklist** (Appendix 1) has been revised and can also be accessed via the website.

Sport England would encourage development in Mid Devon be designed in line with the Active Design principles to secure sustainable design. This could be evidenced by use of the Active Design checklist.

Specific comments:

1. The draft Design Guide makes a lot of references to active design without making a reference to the publication Active Design. The final version should make reference to the documents that have influenced this guide.
2. The Design Guide is a very good and comprehensive document but it's more of a technical reference that is not easy to read to a number of readers. It is not customer focussed to meet the needs of its audience. We would suggest a reformat i.e. split into sections e.g. a single housebuilder will want different information to that of a volume housebuilder/masterplanner.
3. The final format could be a web based interactive tool rather than a published document/pdf. We would direct you to the Essex Design Guide for format not necessarily content <https://www.essexdesignguide.co.uk/>. However, the Essex Design Guide does include references to Active Design.

To bridge the gap between the high-level principles of **Active Design** and delivery in practice, we have worked with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to link the overarching **Active Design** principles with the individual scheme criterion in each of the BRE Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) family of schemes, including HQM, Communities and CEEQUAL. [This document](#) has been produced to help illustrate how active design can be implemented in developments in a practical way through the application of the BREEAM family of schemes. This mapping between the BREEAM schemes and our **Active Design** principles makes it easier for developers, planners and other stakeholders in the sector to understand and deliver the principles in practice – thereby creating healthy, vibrant and active neighbourhoods and communities for the future.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

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Planning Manager

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