

What aspects of a place are most important?

10 Most Important Aspects

The group discussed many aspects of a place that are considered most important to them, the following being the 10 most important. There was consensus on all of the following:

- Access to plants, green spaces and landscaping – including public and private open spaces.
- A mix of land uses to assist in creating a sense of place and promoting sustainable communities through reducing the need to travel.
- To look at the function and quality of streets and exploring opportunities for using them more creatively. This could include developing 'home zones'.
- Provision of, and access to, community facilities within communities.
- Space allocated for cars off the highway.
- Creating places that are happy and healthy.
- Appropriate detailing, appearance and materials.
- Leaving room for innovation and creativity and not over-planning through the SPD.
- Security and safety by design; creating a safe and legible/permeable street layout and urban form. This would encourage walking.
- Promotion of active frontages.

Top 3 Aspects (priority order)

The group then prioritised three of the identified aspects. In no particular order the following were considered to be most important:

- Access to plants, green spaces and landscaping
- The function and quality of streets
- Safety and security by design

WORKSHOP SESSION - Emerging Swindon Design Tool Kit SPD

Context and Character - Interpreting different character areas across the Borough

Discussion issue	Yes	No
<p>Do you agree with the approach taken to interpret different character across the Borough?</p> <p>Will this approach strengthen and improve character across the Borough?</p>	<p>Some members of the group felt that this is an appropriate way of ensuring future developments are in keeping with local character but with the caveat that the approach should ensure quality over uniformity.</p> <p>One delegate highlighted that the scope of this SPD could be vast, providing guidance on design for a house and for master-planning exercises for large-scale urban extensions.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the SPD should encourage mixed use within buildings.</p>	<p>Some members of the group felt that over-prescriptive and constraining design codes for different character areas could stifle creativity and innovative designs, resulting in homogenous developments. Care would need to be taken in this approach to ensure 'space is left for idiosyncrasy and unique designs, which create very interesting environments.</p> <p>The group identified that sometimes planning committee is not very positive towards innovative contemporary design, which proves a problem for those proposing such designs.</p>
<p>Should more tools, methods of assessment or questions be asked in order to analyse each area of study?</p>	<p>No comments.</p>	<p>No comment.</p>