

**DESIGN GUIDANCE  
CAR COURTS – A GUIDE FOR DESIGNERS  
(Report by Head of Planning Services)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This guidance note has been produced to assist with the detailed design of parking areas within residential developments.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to consider the document and approve it as Council policy.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The guidance note has been prepared to accompany and extend the advice provided in the Huntingdonshire Design Guide. Experience in the negotiation of both large and small housing schemes has given rise to the need for additional, detailed guidance on the design of car parking areas.

**3. THE GUIDANCE NOTE**

- 3.1 Efficient use of development land often leads to particular issues in the location and design of car parking areas. Often, suitable, discreet parking is provided for by way of car courts. Generally, these are located to the rear of properties and are shared by other users. The potential exists for these to become unpleasant and potentially unsafe places, particularly if they are allowed to become too large, poorly lit or constructed in poor quality materials.
- 3.2 The guidance note presents a series of design principles that should be taken into account when proposing car courts within a development scheme. These design principles will be used in the consideration of planning permissions.
- 3.3 The guidance note extends advice contained within the Huntingdonshire Design Guide. As a result, endorsement of its contents by Development Control Panel and adoption of the document by Cabinet is being sought so that it may carry some weight when making planning decisions. However, the amount of additional advice contained in the note (over and above that in the Design Guide itself) is relatively limited, so it is not suggested that the note should go through the lengthy process required if it were to be adopted as a supplementary planning document.

3.4 On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2005, the Development Control Panel endorsed the content of this guidance note and recommended it to Cabinet for adoption as Council policy.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 Production of Design Guidance is best practice and will help to secure the highest quality of design in a range of situations.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 That the Cabinet approves the Guidance Note as Council policy.

#### **Background papers**

Huntingdonshire Local Plan Alteration June 2002  
Huntingdonshire Design Guide SPG Sept 2004

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