



Respecting the past, shaping the future

Press release from
Suffolk Preservation Society
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Praise for district's affordable homes plan

Campaigners fighting for high grade affordable housing across Suffolk have praised a district council on its work towards securing good quality and sustainable schemes in the future.

Suffolk Preservation Society described Babergh District Council's affordable housing planning policy document as "concise and comprehensive", saying it was fully supportive of much of its content.

The society's comments come after the council held a public consultation on the new document, which gives detailed guidance on quality, design and materials against which planning permission for future affordable housing schemes should be decided.

Describing Babergh's approach as "refreshing", SPS has now called on more of Suffolk's local councils to follow the district's lead when producing their own policy documents.

"As a society, we would like to congratulate Babergh on this document," said Richard Ward, SPS director. "It is one of the most concise and comprehensive we have seen on the subject of affordable housing, and we are extremely supportive of the majority of the principles it outlines.

"The policy raises many important issues, such as ensuring any future schemes are as sustainable as possible and are fully integrated with the housing market as a whole. It also states that affordable housing should be of high quality in terms of materials, design, landscaping and privacy – which supports our own long-running campaign for better schemes across Suffolk."

The society has also welcomed Babergh's warning that sub-standard homes on the edge of built-up areas or the open countryside may adversely affect the character of the landscape.

"We are extremely pleased that Babergh has recognised the sensitivities of developing such sites, which raise their own very specific design problems and often need a unique solution," added Mr Ward.

"These issues are so often overlooked as many of our local councils seem to approve affordable housing schemes simply to meet demand – regardless of their

quality of location. It is refreshing to see that Babergh is taking a different approach, and we hope others soon follow their lead.”

Last year, the society spearheaded a scheme to build 26 exemplar affordable homes in Elmswell. The award-winning homes, which were developed by Orwell Housing Association, were designed to be truly sustainable and have been praised for their near-zero carbon footprint.

It is hoped the homes will set a precedent for high quality, sustainable development in the future.

Ends

Note to editors: SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county’s buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk’s future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county’s communities.

For more information please contact:

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