

UTTLESFORD QUALITY REVIEW PANEL

The Planning Inspectorate
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Temple Quay,
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16/08/23

The Uttlesford Quality Review Panel

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 62A Applications)

Planning Inspectorate Reference: S62A/2023/0019

Access to/from Parsonage Road between Weston Group Business Centre and Innovation Centre buildings leading to: 96 dwellings on Bulls Field, south of Prior's Wood, including associated parking, landscaping, public open space, land for the expansion of Roseacres Primary School, pedestrian and cycle routes to Smiths Green Lane together with associated infrastructure

At Land to the north of Roseacres, between Parsonage Road and Smiths Green Lane, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6NZ (Land known as Bull Field, Warish Hall Farm, Takeley, Essex)

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

We are working closely with Uttlesford District Council to provide bespoke Panels under the UQRP in order to ensure the Local Planning Authority has access to, and will have regard to, the outcome of the recommendations made by a Design Review Panel under paragraph 133 of the NPPF.

The Uttlesford Quality Review Panel was set up by Place Services on behalf of Uttlesford County Council to provide independent, objective, and expert design feedback to schemes in Uttlesford. It is run by, but is independent of, Place Services, and Panels are put together to include experts according to the specific issues which are highlighted in Planning consultations.

Support Nationally is given to the use of Independent Design Panels in Section 12 of the NPPF:

Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests.....

*...Local planning authorities should ensure that they have access to, and make appropriate use of, tools and processes for assessing and improving the design of development. These include workshops to engage the local community, **design advice and review arrangements, and assessment frameworks such as Building for a Healthy Life**. These are of most benefit if used as early as possible in the evolution of schemes, and are particularly important for significant projects such as large scale housing and mixed use developments. In assessing applications planning authorities should have regard to the outcome from these processes, **including any recommendations made by design review panels**.*

'Building for A Healthy Life' is very much part of this process. More information is available here:

[REDACTED]

In this case, as the Planning Inspectorate is the deciding authority, we recommend to you that an Independent Design Review is undertaken by the UQRP on this scheme to ensure the most thorough scrutiny as recommended under paragraph 133 of the NPPF.

In accordance with the NPPF and our guidance, we recommend the earliest possible engagement with the UQRP to provide the most useful feedback and to ensure Design Quality is raised.

This review should include briefings from the applicant and the Uttlesford District Council on the scheme in question.

More information on the UQRP Process is available here:

[REDACTED]

The output of this review will be a Panel Report which will be prepared by Place Services on behalf of the Panel, signed-off by the Panel chair and issued via the Uttlesford District Council. We strongly recommend that applicants and Planning authorities have regard to the outcome of all our Reports.

Should you or the applicant have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Jason Yates BA (Hons), PgDip, RIBA, RTPI (licentiate)
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EQRP Manager

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