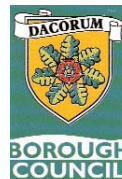


KINGS LANGLEY



Consultation Workshop



urban
practitioners



CONSULTATION

Kings Langley Urban Design Workshop, 22 June 2005

The Kings Langley Urban Design Assessment Day was held on Wednesday 22 June 2005 at Kings Langley Community Centre.

The purpose of the event was to explore the local resident's perceptions of Kings Langley and to record how people use the village in their daily lives. The event comprised three workshop sessions, each focusing on a different issue in relation to Kings Langley, from the character and textures that create a unique local identity, to personal perceptions of the village, to the mapping of each resident's commonly used routes and connections. In addition, Urban Practitioners gave a presentation on the 'elements of urban design,' to provide technical input to inform the debate.

The event was attended by 12 local stakeholders and Council officers and was introduced by Laura Wood, Senior Planner at Dacorum Borough Council. Helen Hayes of Urban Practitioners explained the programme for the workshop.

The format of the workshop involved three activity sessions, outlined within this consultation document.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The following people attended the event:

Saga Arpino, Urban Practitioners
Laura Badham, Dacorum Borough Council
Richard Blackburn, Local stakeholder
Pamela Coughline, Local stakeholder
Phil Farrer, Kings Langley Community Association
Helen Hayes, Urban Practitioners
Jennie Humphry, Dacorum Borough Council
Kenneth Jeffreys, Local stakeholder
Lynette Kaye, Urban Practitioners
Adam Lubinsky, Urban Practitioners
Paul Newton, Dacorum Borough Council
Simon Odell, Hertfordshire County Council
Douglas Walker, Local stakeholder
Laura Wood, Dacorum Borough Council



URBAN DESIGN ASSESSMENT DAY

Date Wednesday 22 June 2005
Time 2.30-5.30pm
Venue Kings Langley Community Centre

PROGRAMME

- 2.30 Registration and lunch**
- 2.50 Introduction**
Laura Wood, Senior Planning Officer
Helen Hayes, Urban Practitioners
- 3.00 What Surrounds Us? Neighbourhood Character and Textures**
- 3.30 Does It Work For Us? Neighbourhood Perceptions**
- 4.15 Break**
- 4.30 Where Are We Going? Routes and Connections**
- 5.15 Feedback**
- 5.25 Summing Up and Next Steps**
- 5.30 Close**





Workshop 1: What Surrounds Us? Neighbourhood character and textures



Urban Practitioners presentation about urban design



Workshop 1: What Surrounds Us? Neighbourhood character and textures

WORKSHOP I - WHAT SURROUNDS US?

How well do you know your village? Neighbourhood character and textures

An initial 'ice breaking' exercise was undertaken in the form of a quiz based on the textures, materials and landmarks in Kings Langley. Participants worked in small groups and were issued with a worksheet containing snapshots of photographs from around the village and asked to identify what these images were of and where they were located. Following this, participants were asked to identify whether a series of photographs were of publicly or privately-owned areas. Finally, participants were asked to identify local features and their function.

In the first section, all the teams were able to identify the location of the white railings and the Rose and Crown. Two out of three teams correctly identified the location of the park gate and sign at the entrance of the community centre. Fewer people were able to locate the clock and the red door. No one was able to identify the painted window, the road marker or the green panel. The green panel is part of the library building which has few distinctive features.

In the second part of the workshop, the groups were asked to identify whether particular spaces were public or private areas of the village, based on their appearance. One group correctly identified which category all of the areas fell into. Another group scored five out of six and the third group scored three out of six. Both of these groups considered that the image in photograph B1 (the steps on the corner of the High Street/Rectory Lane) were in private ownership when in fact they are publicly owned. Stakeholders were able to identify public features based on the materials with which were made. It became clear that certain materials were easily identifiable as 'public'. This often signified poorer quality as well.

The third section required the groups to identify the function of three local features. All of the groups were able to identify the footpath marker, the Spar shop sign and the Parish Council notice board. It was noted that villagers frequently used this notice board for all sorts of events and activities.

How well do you know your village?

Recognise these features?
Can you map them by their number?

Recognise these features? Are they public or private?

A 1.....
A 2.....
B 1.....
B 2.....
C 1.....
C 2.....

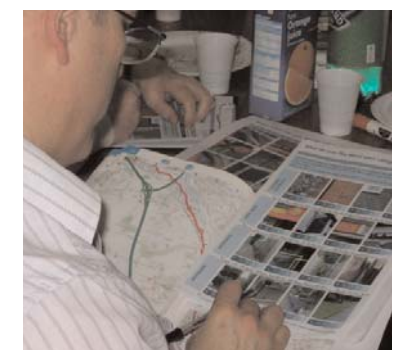
Recognise these features? What are their function?

1.....
2.....
3.....

practitioners



Workshop 1: What Surrounds Us? Neighbourhood character and textures



Workshop 2: Does it work for us?



Workshop 2: Does it work for us?

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

Neighbourhood perceptions

A short presentation was given to the group by Adam Lubinsky of Urban Practitioners about why certain aspects of the built environment have evolved in a particular way. The presentation examined the relationship between the built form and streetscape of an area and the paths that people chose to move around. In addition, the relationship between building density and street form, building heights and views were also discussed within the presentation.

Following the presentation, participants were asked to identify what they liked about Kings Langley by looking at a series of photographs examining building materials, shop signs, footpaths and boundaries. Participants were asked to consider four photographs under each heading and assign each one a mark between one and five to indicate which ones they liked the most (with five representing those that were liked the most). In addition, participants were asked to write a word or phrase to describe how they felt about the image.


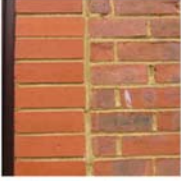














The following pages outline participants' responses to each of the images and the words that were selected to describe them. Beneath each image and the number scale are the total number of participants that allocated the image that particular score.


What do you like about your village? **DACORUM** URBAN DESIGN ASSESSMENT

KINGS LANGLEY

Consider the architectural elements and materials in the photographs below. Give each one a mark from 1-5, where 5 indicates those that you like most. Below each image write a key word to describe how you feel about it.

When you have completed the sheet, please return it to a member of the Urban Practitioners team

BUILDING MATERIALS				
	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1
SHOP SIGNS				
	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1
FOOTPATHS				
	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1
BOUNDARIES				
	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1

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WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

BUILDING MATERIALS

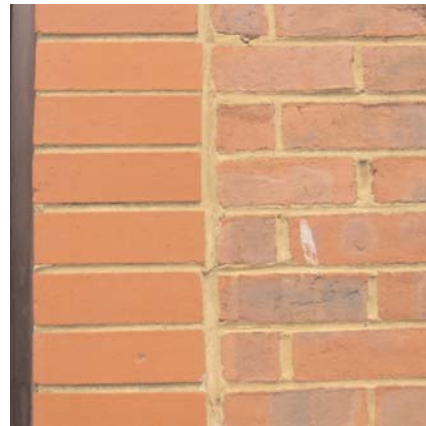


The majority of participants ranked this image of a traditional flint wall with a score of five, indicating that it was very popular. The lowest score that was allocated to the image was three and none of the participants assigned the image a score of one or two.

Words used to describe the image are outlined below and indicate that the overall perception is that the photograph reflects the historic character of Kings Langley:

COMMENTS

Interesting - young and old together
Historic
Old
Traditional
Attractive
High quality
In-keeping
Character
Attractive materials



The highest proportion of participants allocated this image of a new red brick wall with a score of three which indicates that people did not feel strongly about whether they liked or disliked the materials. No participants strongly liked the image, although one participant strongly disliked it.

The words used by participants to describe the image ranged from bland to poor and dreadful.

COMMENTS

Too neat
Bland
New old
Modern materials used poorly
Disjointed
Pleasant but dull
Poor
Dreadful
Traditional and warm, poor detailing



This image of a hanging tile detail was allocated a score of 3 by a high number of participants although the overall scores ranged from one to five. This indicates that a significant number of participants did not feel strongly in favour or against the image.

Participants used a variety of words to describe the image. Some participants considered that the image was cold, indifferent and twee whilst other participants thought the image was stylish and neat.

COMMENTS

Interesting
Twee
Neat
Negative impact
Stylish
Suburban
Cold
Indifferent
Dull and modern



This image of a brick and pebble dashed house was less popular with participants, and the majority allocated it with a score of between three and one. Only one participant strongly liked the image.

The scores are reflected in the comments that participants made concerning the photograph, indicating a general feeling that it was dull and plain.

COMMENTS

A bit too plain
Odd
Poor
Council-style
Mixed
Dull
Character (windows)
Dull and dirty, nice detailing around the windows

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

SHOP SIGNS



Participants were divided over this bright shopfront in Kings Langley. Whilst nobody ranked the photograph with a score of five, four participants allocated it with a score of four or three. Five participants did not like the image and assigned it with a score of one or two.

The wide range of scores is reflected in the comments made by participants at the event which included garish and brash to colourful, lively and bright.

- COMMENTS**
- Too loud
 - Garish
 - Garish
 - Intrusive colour scheme
 - Fun
 - Bright
 - Brash
 - Colourful
 - Lively



This traditional style sign was popular with participants and it was assigned a score of four or five by everyone at the event.

Comments received at the event reflected these scores and the sign was considered an appropriate style for Kings Langley.

- COMMENTS**
- Just right
 - Suitable
 - Attractive
 - Traditional style
 - Simple
 - Classy
 - Tasteful
 - Nostalgic
 - Traditional



This photograph of a shop sign was generally unpopular with participants and the majority of people allocated it a score of one. In addition, a number of participants assigned the image a score of two or three. No one liked the photograph sufficiently to allocate it a score of five or four.

The comments made by participants supported the low scores it received and ranged from bland and dull to garish and unkempt.

- COMMENTS**
- Looks unkempt
 - Messy
 - Cheap
 - Non traditional materials and design is poor - horrid
 - Garish
 - Bland
 - Boring
 - Dull
 - Dirty, plastic, London



The shop sign in this photograph was popular with many participants at the event and many people allocated it with a score of four or five. The image received one score of three and no one disliked the sign enough to give it a score of one or two.

Comments about the image highlight that participants considered that the sign is appropriate for the area and high quality in appearance.

- COMMENTS**
- Suitable
 - Interesting
 - Modern but not intrusive
 - Stylish
 - High quality
 - Interesting
 - Stylish
 - Simple, classy

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

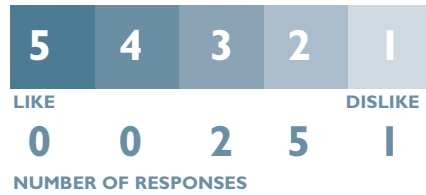
FOOTPATHS



This image was most frequently given a score of three or four by participants at the event indicating that many people either did not feel strongly about it or thought it was somewhat pleasant. One person strongly liked the image, assigning it with a score of five and another participant gave the image a score of four.

Words used by participants to describe the place reflected the average scores it received.

- COMMENTS**
- Good, well kept
 - Serviceable
 - Casual
 - Poor use of fencing
 - Wide-ish
 - Enclosed
 - Comfortable
 - Clean
 - Open, secure, poor boundary



Participants most frequently gave this place a score of two, and no one assigned it with a score of four or five. These scores indicate that participants did not like the use of materials at this place.

The comments used by participants to describe the image reflect the fact that the footpath looks unattractive and constrained.

- COMMENTS**
- Could be better
 - Ugly (x2)
 - Intrusive
 - Ugly
 - Blocked
 - Restrictive
 - Uninviting
 - Overgrown, not welcoming



This place was either disliked by participants who gave it a score of five, or neither liked or disliked, assigning it with a score of three.

Comments about the image reflected the untidy and overgrown appearance of the footpath.

- COMMENTS**
- Untidy (x2)
 - Relaxed
 - Narrow (x2)
 - Unappealing
 - Overgrown
 - Unsafe
 - Not secure, overbearing



The footpath in this photograph received mixed scores from participants. Two participants assigned the image a score of two, three and four and one participant scored the image one and five. These scores reflect the mixed opinions generated by the photograph.

The comments about the footpath were also varied although generally negative in outlook.

- COMMENTS**
- Not bad
 - Narrow
 - Neat
 - Enclosed
 - Odd
 - Claustrophobic
 - Oppressive
 - Uninspiring
 - Overbearing, dark, dingy

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

BOUNDARIES



The image of this residential driveway/boundary was most frequently assigned a score of three or four indicating that participants either did not feel strongly about the photograph or that they had a slight preference in its favour. No participants gave the boundary a score of one and only one participant allocated the photograph a score of two or five.

The comments about the boundary image referred to the green nature of the area.

COMMENTS
Could look better
Rural
Soft
Semi-rural
Mature
Overgrown
Untidy



This image of a front garden was unpopular with the majority of participants and the image was ranked by a score of four or five by all people attending the event.

The comments reflected the poor score that the boundary image received.

COMMENTS
Bad
Forced
Visually intrusive markings
Stark
Poor quality
Dreadful
Yuck



The image of this pavement boundary was popular with participants and it was allocated a score of four or five by everyone.

Many positive comments were made about the image.

COMMENTS
Good, well kept
Neat
Good
Neat
Pretty
Soft
Attractive
Well kept



This image was received positively by event participants and was allocated a score of four or five by all participants except one. No participants disliked the boundary image.

The comments about the boundary photograph reflected its positive score.

COMMENTS
Good, well kept
Attractive
Good
Well maintained
Neat
Manicured
Too neat
Posh

CONCLUSIONS

BUILDING MATERIALS

The first image of the flint wall was most popular with participants who liked this a great deal. Traditional, quality building materials appealed to many people and were considered representative of the village's character and distinctiveness.

MOST POPULAR IMAGES



SHOP SIGNS

The image of the traditional style dry cleaners sign and the Kinloch sign were strongly liked by participants. The views of the participants highlight that the most important elements in relation to shop signage are quality and diversity, rather than consistency. Individuality was considered a positive feature and there was a degree of apprehension towards 'garish' shopfronts. Signs that are perpendicular from the street were considered acceptable if their quality is high.



FOOTPATHS

The first and last images of footpaths were the most popular although a range of opinions were expressed about these. Well-kept, natural paths were popular with participants who also appreciated those paths with a rustic feel.



BOUNDARIES

The most popular image within this section was that of the planted boundary with flowers over spilling onto the pavement. In comparison, the image with a high concrete wall directly onto the pavement was the least popular with participants who felt it was stark and poor quality. The small landscaping elements across Kings Langley were considered to enhance the village's distinctive rural qualities.

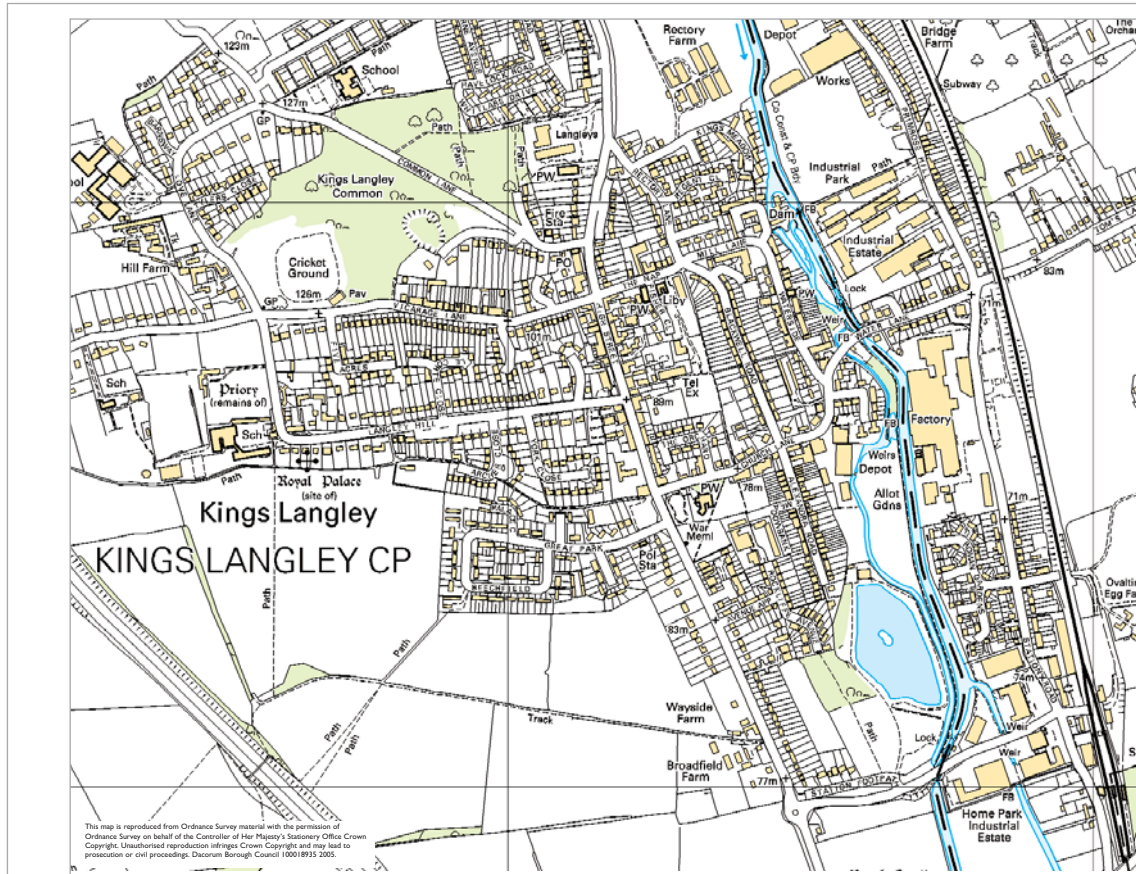


WORKSHOP 3 - WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Routes and connections

Participants again divided into small groups to discuss the routes that they use within the village and the barriers that they encounter on their journeys. Each group was provided with a large scale plan of Kings Langley and different coloured pens. Each participant took a turn to annotate the plan with the routes that they regularly take on foot, by car or by bicycle. Participants then marked the plans with areas where they encountered barriers or edges to their journey. Barriers to movement were identified as not only physical constraints but also psychological barriers that discourage people from visiting place or taking particular routes. These barriers could include graffiti that makes an area feel unsafe or traffic congestion on some roads during peak periods.

Next, participants used the pens to highlight the routes and connections that they would like to make within the village on foot, by car and by bicycle. Finally, they marked favourite views and places to visit.



Where do you live/visit?

Destination ●

What are your routes?

Walking —

Cycling —

Driving —

What are the barriers/edges you encounter?

Barrier XXXX

What other routes/connections would you like to make/take?

Walking ■■■■

Cycling ■■■■

Driving ■■■■

WORKSHOP 3 - WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Driving routes

In general, the routes accessed by car in Kings Langley were similar for all participants who drove. The High Street, Primrose Hill, Water Lane and Vicarage Lane are the most commonly used roads by drivers whilst Love Lane, Station Road, Rectory Lane, Common Lane, Waterside and Mill Lane were also popular.

Walking routes

A number of routes within Kings Langley are well used by pedestrians, in particular the High Street, the canal footpath and the footpath extending westwards from Church Lane. Other routes used by residents of Kings

Langley include Langley Hill, Station Footpath, Alexander Road, Rockcliffe Avenue, The Orchard, Church Lane, Water Lane, The Nap and Mill Lane. In addition, a number of residents used the footpaths outside the village, particularly to the south west by the Royal Palace.

Surprisingly few people used the footpath between Avenue Approach and the telephone exchange and along the canal.

Barriers

A number of barriers to movement were discussed and marked onto the plans of Kings Langley. Traffic on the

High Street at the junction with Rectory Road and in the area to the south of Great Park was considered as a threat to pedestrians. A number of people considered that the traffic conditions on the High Street were made worse by heavy vehicles using the street as a through route rather than using the bypass.

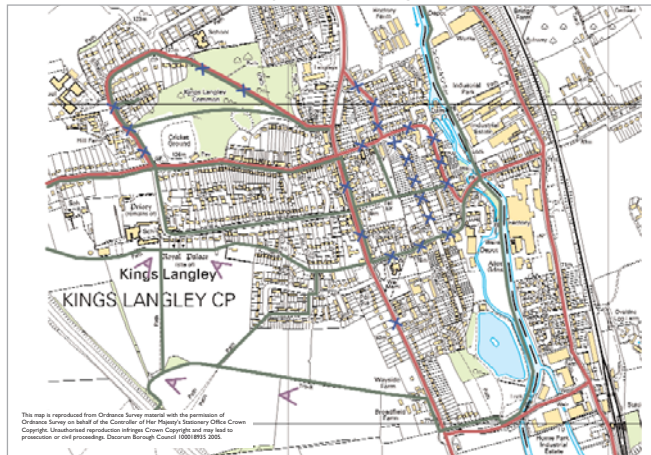
Other barriers to movement were identified as the traffic calming measures on Blackwall Road, The Nap, Mill Lane and Rectory Lane. In addition, some participants considered that Common Lane is very narrow and identified school traffic on Love Lane as an issue.

Favourite views and places

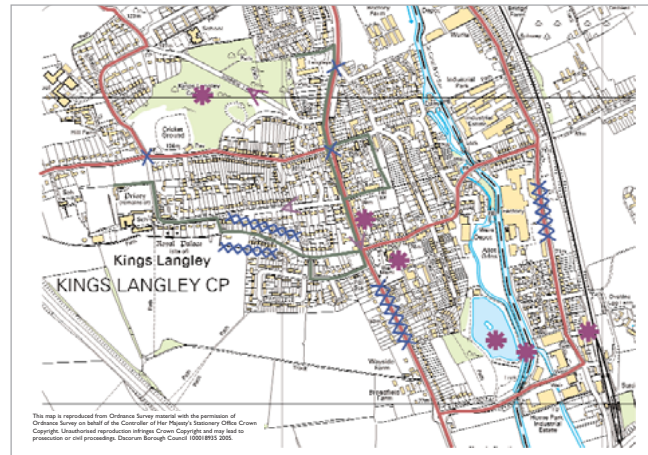
Popular places to visit included the Common, the canal, the pond and the war memorial gardens. Attractive views of area, identified by participants included the view south, along the High Street, west on Langley Hill and north west along Common Lane down across the valley.

Workshop 3 conclusions

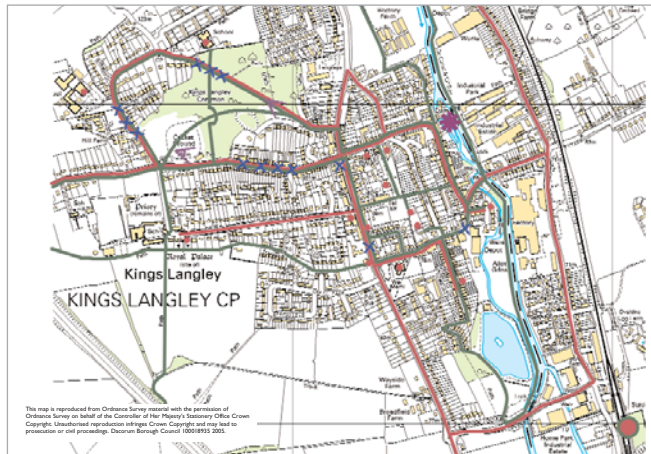
The High Street is the most popular route for both pedestrians and vehicles. Water Lane and Mill Lane were also popular routes. The most considerable barriers to movement by pedestrians and vehicles were identified as traffic and heavy vehicles on the High Street and traffic calming measures.



Group 1 emphasised the walks outside the village



Group 2 noted that traffic congestion along a number of streets acted as a barrier



Group 3 used the path along the canal as a frequent place to walk



- Key
- Destination
 - Routes**
 - Walking
 - Cycling
 - Driving
 - XX Barriers
 - Desirable routes/connections**
 - Walking
 - Cycling
 - Driving
 - A Key view
 - * Landmark