



Roads in Hertfordshire - Highway Design Guide

Every year, developers add around 20km of new highway to the Hertfordshire's road network, and Hertfordshire's highway authority carries out somewhere in the region of 200 improvement schemes. Ensuring quality and consistency in these works is vital if we are to ensure that developments in the county remain sympathetic to their surroundings, and sustainable in their use of natural resources.

Hertfordshire County Council's previous design guide for roads, produced back in 2001, provided advice for developers and highway designers on required standards for road design, according to current thinking, the latest research, and the county council's objectives of the time. For ten years, the guide has played a major part in maintaining the quality of Hertfordshire's built environment.

However, since then we have seen a massive volume of change. New legislation means local authorities have acquired more responsibilities, particularly around flooding and traffic management. Design innovation has shown us better ways of doing things. The government's 2005 Planning Policy Guidance 3, and the companion guide 'Better Streets, Better Places' have challenged local government and developers to think more imaginatively to achieve more attractive, neighbourly and safer developments. We have an increased understanding of the threat of climate change and a realisation that we must all do more to reduce carbon emissions. And, of course, Hertfordshire, like all other local authorities, has new and challenging targets for financial savings and carbon reduction.

This guide, which replaces the 2001 publication, reflects these changes. It incorporates the policy and legal framework for developments. It sets out how improvements to the highway network must be designed to follow a philosophy of sustainability. It recommends new ideas about shared use and designs with less domination by motorised traffic. Echoing the County Council's support of the Manual for Streets approach, it highlights a need for a more enlightened approach to highway design which will help the county meet its targets for financial savings and carbon reduction. It creates space for, and encourages, innovation, while continuing to protect the public interest. And it expects greater responsiveness to local issues.

This new design guide has been produced in conjunction with the county's ten districts, and in consultation with developers and other key stakeholders. It has been written with reference to Hertfordshire's 'Building Futures' to promoting sustainability in development, and is designed to complement the building guidance.

'Roads in Hertfordshire' is aimed at all new road construction; not just that delivered as part of development. As such, it is a key reference document, not only for developers, architects and scheme promoters, but for local authority planners and highway engineers as well.

By working together we can help ensure Hertfordshire's residents continue to enjoy a built environment that is safe, sympathetic to its surroundings, sustainable in its use of natural resources and supportive of an active and healthy lifestyle.

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January 2011