



Courtesy: Ben Hull, LB Newham

Managing Project Quality

15/10/2020

- **Design Review is a key way to demonstrate that an organisation cares about design.** Its history spans from the earlier part of the last century, through reviews by CABE and on into the current diverse range of review panels. Panels focus on a common set of key characteristics to ensure high standards of advice and operation.
- **Panel members ask the questions 'how will this benefit the public and the future?' and 'how could it be better?'** These are central to the drive for better design and ultimately better and more sustainable places.
- **Care is needed in the set up of a design panel - leadership have to support design review as when it comes; just from the ground up it is a difficult process to manage.** Criticism must be constructive and include what is good about a scheme as well as what needs to improve - reviews should not derail the design process but transform it and make it better.
- **There are creative ways to use independent advice in an organisation,** for example collaborative working by Brick by Brick's architects panel to review each others schemes and also inform the procurement process. Creative thinking is needed to unlock tricky sites which need development.
- **The ongoing 'nurture' of the panel in the way it is managed and run is essential in making it fit for purpose and enabling it to maximise the potential of a place.** The benefits go beyond individual schemes, helping an organisation's approach to design across multiple stages of the process, for example looking at inception stage reviews, engaging with staff and raising the aspirations of developer partners.
- **Design Review Panels have had a significant impact on the quality of schemes –** given the scale of development, it's essential that we provide great places for our communities.
- Report by Matthew Carmona (Place Alliance) on Design Review - <http://placealliance.org.uk/research/design-review/>



Courtesy: Ben Hull, LB Newham

Speakers:

Attendees: 45

Kathy MacEwen, Design Review Consultant

Tom Sykes, Quality & Design Team Lead, Commercial Development, TfL

Chloë Phelps, Head of Design and Commercial and Deputy CEO, Brick by Brick.

Jade Huang, Design Advisor, Design South East

Ben Hull, Strategic Design Manager - Major Development, Regeneration and Planning, LB Newham