



Courtesy: Hana Loftus, HAT Projects

Design Codes & Communities

26/04/2022

- **Good design codes are those that offer a solution to a specific problem, are practical and easy to implement, achievable, and can be improved over time.** Focus on what you want to achieve and don't try to cover too much. You need to know what the problem is or what problems might emerge. Think proactively and tackle the problem in a way that is manageable with the resources and skills available.
- **Design quality is a collective effort rooted in understanding, trust, and dialogue.** The process of developing a design code should involve all stakeholders, including staff, industry, and community members, and coordinated in a way that allows for effective communication and collaboration. Build mechanisms and links to contact and work with the community as well as professionals, which can also be done by using existing networks to plug into wider groups. Everyone brings something to the table.
- **Good design codes are understandable by everyone and are based on an understanding of the wants and needs of the community.** Industry specific terms should be shared or adapted, and the use of case studies is an important way in helping communities understand the potential impacts of development. Explore what people like about the area and what they would like to see replicated in future development. Invest in communicating ideas with different mediums and use a visually led approach and clear, consistent language.
- **There is no one way to engage however, in-person workshops and consultations are more successful than online.** Face-to-face works better in terms of engagement and getting people to think about detailed design. Engagement must include a combination of activities, age and community specific, across different parts of the development of the design code. This can include characterisation studies, public space development projects, play space or housing capacity studies.
- **It is important to involve a diverse range of people in co-design processes in order to get a true sense of the community's needs and wants.** Community panels should be representative of the wider community and design codes should respect and represent local knowledge. An inclusive co-design process will delve deeper into the local issues and help find solutions.



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Speakers:

Laura Alvarez, Senior Principal Urban Design and Conservation Officer, Nottingham CC

Hana Loftus, Director, HAT Projects

Sue Cook, Project Manager, LB Hackney

Attendees: 94