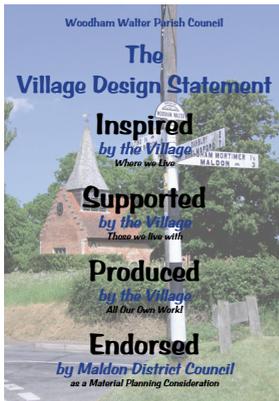


The Village Design Statement Explained

Part 15: Village Life

This, the fifteenth and last of a monthly series of articles, is aimed at explaining the Village Design Statement (VDS) principles when considering material changes to properties. If you are thinking about altering your property it is always best to consult a constructional professional such as a Chartered Architect or Chartered Surveyor as they will know their way around the complex regulations surrounding building projects whether permitted development rights or the full planning process is used. For those within the Conservation Area and/or with a Listed Building, it is important to consult with the Council's Conservation Officer at the design stage



The previous articles in this series illustrate how the VDS principles can be applied to individual aspects of our built environment. The VDS contents were gleaned from a 2014 village-wide survey and although some responses were strictly not design orientated they still impact on the design process and influence the visual characteristic of the village. Items included street furniture such as the Village Gateways, the proliferation of vehicle directional and enforcement signs, the iconic Sir Giles Gilbert Scott designed telephone kiosk and the Maldon Metalworks sign posts. The kiosk has been saved from removal by the Parish Council and the signposts are now in the Conservation Area. The defibrillator will be located in the kiosk when BT eventually remove the telephone gear.

Residents also raised other issues, again not strictly design orientated but impact on village life and amenity. These included action against speeding, indiscriminate parking on pavements and grass verges causing obstruction and blocking driveways. Recent action on speeding by the Community Protection Team has resulted in a significant number of 'captures' referred to by the Police. Parking continues to be a problem and again action by the Community Protection Team has resulted in a number of transgressors being spoken to and action taken.

The VDS also highlights the network of footpaths and Common Land that we are fortunate to have in and around the Village. Details of these can be found on page 43 of the document. These are closely monitored by the Parish Council's efficient Footpath Officer. Please make use of them, it will open up parts of the Village that you perhaps have not seen before. The VDS also highlights on page 21 the number of heritage buildings and sites that are within the parish boundaries. It is hoped that the schedule of Listed Buildings and Ancient Monuments will be supplemented by a second 'Local Listing' that will emanate from the Maldon District Council's Conservation Officer in due course.

All these elements come together to make our living environment so pleasant and the envy of many. It takes hard work to maintain what we have and every member of the community can play a role by applying the design principles of the VDS, being considerate in keeping the Village tidy and by complying with speed, parking and litter protocols.

The VDS document can be found on the Parish website or purchased from the Clerk.

Residents' enquiries arising from the VDS should in the first instance be directed to the Clerk.

Website: www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc