

Secondary School Creative Exercise

Welcome to the Dunton Hills Garden Village imagination task. Your views are really important to us to co-create the Village and help us to understand what you would like to see at Dunton Hills Garden Village in the future. We are seeking your views to ensure that we planned the village according to the needs of the community. We thank you in advance for completing this exercise.

Introducing Dunton Hills Garden Village

Dunton Hills Garden Village will be a new village proposed in the Borough of Brentwood which will provide much needed homes for the Borough. The new village built with and around nature and will be built in phases in the next 10 to 20 years. It will have:

- Up to 4,000 new homes;
- Job opportunities;
- Schools;
- Shops and leisure space;
- Community spaces; and
- Open spaces

Creating Design Guidance

To guide development in the new village and to ensure that it will be a beautiful place that people will want to live in for generations to come, we will need a design guidance which sets design 'rules'. The guideline will decide how the village will look and feel like.

Over the past year, we have asked for your views to help us create design guidance for the new village. We now have a draft of the design guidance (available [here¹](#)). We would now like to ask for your opinions on what we have proposed. We will then use your thoughts and suggestions to review the design guidance and to make sure that it reflects the wants and needs of the community.

We are seeking your feedback on the guidance for Dunton Hills Garden Village and whether or not we got it right. We will then use your feedback to amend and finalise the design guidance.

Once the design guidance is finalised and the council approves it, the document will act as guidance for all future builds on the site.

¹ <https://www.duntonhillsgardenvillage.com/storage/app/media/bbc-dgv-spd-draft-210323-low-res.pdf>

The village is located near Basildon and Herongate. The nearest station is West Horndon Station.



The Task: Imagining Dunton Hills Garden Village Together

Calling all young designers! We need you to review our proposals for Dunton Hills Garden Village. The proposals set out in the design guidance describe how the village will look and feel like in the future!

We need you to tell us if the guidance that we proposed reflects the wants and needs of the community and if there is anything that we missed that should be included. To see the full design guidance, you can follow this [link](#)².

We are therefore asking YOU to complete a task to help us do this:

The garden village will be planned around 5 themes. We would like you to pick one of the themes discussed below, and produce a short piece of writing, around 500-1000 words to explain your ideas for your chosen theme. You can use the questions to guide you. Please try to be as descriptive as you can about what you imagine to be there, are how it makes people feel, and why.

We can't wait to read and see what you think!

Below are the 5 key themes with questions to help you review our draft of the design guidance.

1- A strong sense of place

We imagined Dunton Hills Garden Village to be set in nature and respectful of the existing natural elements and historic buildings. We would want Dunton Hills to look and feel like a modern village that belongs in Brentwood.

The historic Farmstead will be preserved and buildings will be laid out to preserve views towards it. The building might be used for community uses and it will be surrounded by open spaces which include a space for growing food.

Dunton Hills will include a Village Centre and 3 neighbourhoods, each with its own primary school and local hub. The village centre will have shops, community spaces, restaurants and wide pavements for outdoor seating.

Each of the 3 neighbourhoods will be inspired by the nature of the area. The three neighbourhoods are:

- **Dunton Fanns:** this neighbourhood will be the first to be built and will include the village centre, jobs, shops and restaurants and community spaces. The area will include large streets with wide footpaths for outdoor seating. It will also include open spaces, including an open air market space and food growing areas.
- **Dunton Waters:** this neighbourhood will mostly include homes and the secondary school. It has wetlands and ponds which will be used by the community for outdoor activities. Homes in the neighbourhood will have beautiful views of the wetlands and will use materials that are symbolic of water and are calming.
- **Dunton Woods:** This neighbourhood will include homes and will have homes that are located near the woodlands. The homes will be shorter in height to preserve the calm nature of the woods. It will also include a number of parks and walking/ cycling trails. Homes will be built using materials that feel warm and remind residents of the woods.

² <https://www.duntonhillsgardenvillage.com/storage/app/media/bbc-dgv-spd-draft-210323-low-res.pdf>

Questions:

- Based on the information above, can you help us imagine exactly what the Village Centre or one of the neighbourhoods will look like? What will the community gathering spaces look like? How can they be inclusive for all residents?
- What can the historic Farmstead be used for, so that it becomes a place that will be enjoyed by all members of the community?
- What would Dunton Waters look like? What would the houses and buildings look like? What kind of activities could be included in the wetlands?
- What would Dunton Woods look like? What would the houses and buildings look like? How can we enhance the ancient woodlands (walking and cycling trails, information panels, etc...)?

2- Land Use and Design

The new village will have 3 primary schools, one in each neighbourhood and one secondary schools. It will also have a number of nurseries. Schools will be designed as beautiful spaces that encourage learning. They will be surrounded by pedestrian drop off-zones and will be within a walking distance from homes.

Questions:

- Based on the information above, can you help us imagine exactly what the schools will look like?
- What do you think we should include in the schools? What kind of spaces? This could mean a certain type of libraries, outdoor performance spaces, or spaces for indoor sports.
- What kind of outdoor spaces should we include?
- How can we create a strong connection to nature through schools?

3- Sustainable Movement

We imagined Dunton Hills to be a village that does not rely heavily on private cars. We would want people to walk, cycle or use public transportation.

To do so, we have designed the streets to have safe and wide footpaths that encourage walking. We also included separate cycle lanes to make sure that cycling is safe. Homes and buildings will have cycle parking. The village will also have a number of walking and cycling routes in nature for days out. The village will also include a mobility hub where residents and visitors can get advice on public transport and walking/cycling routes.

The village will also have an excellent bus network Buses will provide easy access to all parts of the village and to West Horndon Train Station. The Bus Network will be easily to access and residents will have to walk less than 5 minutes to reach a bus stop.

Dunton Hills will also include shared car options, where residents can share cars or borrow them for specific trips.

Questions:

- Please imagine how people will travel about in the new village.
- What modes of transport will they use?
- Where do they go and what do they see on their journey?
- What will the footpaths and cycle lanes look like?

4- A Forward Thinking Village

We want Dunton Hills to be a modern village that is environmentally friendly and that is adapted to climate change and increasing temperatures.

Homes will be designed to be flexible so that families can adapt their homes as their needs change without needing to change homes. This could include changes such as families growing, residents grow older, or even have new requirements such as work from home. This will reduce the need to demolish and rebuild homes which can be harmful to nature.

To reduce energy use, buildings at the village will be designed to allow passive cooling (i.e. without the use of mechanical ventilation or cooling devices) and will be designed to avoid overheating (due to absorbing heat from the outside during the hot summer days).

To do so, buildings will be designed to use shading devices, allow for natural cooling (using well-designed and well-located windows) and materials that reduce heat absorption.

Buildings will also be expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. This will be done by using renewable energy schemes (such as solar panels), energy saving technologies (such as LED lighting and energy monitors) and sustainable housing materials and insulation, which decrease the need for mechanical heating/ cooling.

Questions:

- Based on the information above, can you help us imagine exactly what these sustainable homes will look like?
- How can we make sure that homes reduce carbon dioxide emissions (for example include solar panels or perhaps energy and water usage measuring tools to reduce waste of energy/ water)?
- How can we design homes so that they can be used by generations to come?
- How can we make homes adaptable to changes like Covid-19?
- How can we make sure that residents can continue living in them as they age?

5- Landscape

We have proposed a number of open spaces throughout the village. These include:

- Market Square: an open space at the Village Centre which can be used for community events;
- The Village Green: a large open space surrounding the old Farmstead that can be used for community events and includes walking areas;
- A growing space: for members of the community to grow their own crops;
- Sports fields and pitches (soccer and cricket), which can be used by the community outside of school hours;
- Waters Avenue and Waters East: two community parks in Dunton Waters with outdoor exercise and play spaces. These parks will have access to ponds;
- Historic natural areas such as Nightingales Lanes and the Ridge which will be enhanced and will include accessible walking paths; and
- Play areas that include play that is integrated with nature and close to homes;
- Walking and cycling trails throughout the village; and
- Habitats for a different species like reptiles, bats, great crested newts and owls.

Questions:

- Based on the information above, can you help us imagine exactly what these open spaces will look like?
- What will the playing areas look like?
- How should we design the habitats for the different animals?
- What would the cycling and walking paths look like?
- What will the parks look like and what will they include?
- What should we have in the sports pitches so that young people like yourself would enjoy them?