Hurst Green Neighbourhood Development Plan
Placecheck Proforma

Background

What is a Placecheck?
A Placecheck is a widely used tool designed to provide local residents with the opportunity to study a place they know well, and to think about how to improve it. Participants question aspects of their locality to identify what it is about an area that they like, dislike and think could be improved.

Who undertakes a Placecheck?
Whilst it is possible for an outside organisation to identify and define general features of each area, it is preferable that those people who live and work there to undertake this exercise. The resulting intimate knowledge allows local residents to make the most effective contribution to decisions about the future of the area under review.

How should the Placecheck be done?
A key feature of Placecheck is that of the walkabout. Members of the Steering Group should be allocated an area within the parish in which to undertake their walkabout, typically in pairs. Members will be provided with the Placecheck Proforma below to which they should provide considered answers to the questions being asked. These are provided in a standard format that also contains prompts to aid the thought process but should not be considered exhaustive.

The questions cover four topics:
- A special place
- A well-connected, accessible and welcoming place
- A safe and pleasant place
- A planet-friendly place

Essentially, the exercise covers three basic questions which members are asked to consider whilst undertaking the walkabout:

1. What do we like about this place?
2. What do we dislike about it?
3. What do we need to work on?

It is also advisable to use photographs and/or maps to support the observations. The forms are to be completed by the Steering Group members, after which all of the responses will be compiled and analysed. The results will be collated in one document to be used as part of the suite of Evidence base documents to inform the production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Donna Moles